

**To: All Licensed Seed Merchants, Processors & Packers**

Our Ref: SC 177

15 January 2024

## UK Spring Oat Seed Derogation

1 The Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) has submitted a request to the National Authorities in Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Government for a derogation to market spring oat seed not meeting the required germination standard. The dry / cold spring, along with very intermittent weather patterns, have resulted in the harvest being later this year, and hindering the quality results overall.

2 Consequently, to allow businesses to meet the expected market demand and contractual obligations for seed this spring, Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Government have approved the request from AIC to market **4260 tonnes** of C1 and C2 spring oat seed varieties - WPB Isabel and Merlin at a reduced germination level of 75%. This list of varieties is not exhaustive and other varieties suitable for spring sowing in the UK may also be considered.

3 The purpose of this letter is to invite interested businesses to bid for a proportion of the specified quantity. AIC will coordinate allocations on a GB basis, considering bids from AIC and non-AIC members alike. If total bids exceed the available quantity, pro-rata reduction will be applied across the board.

4 All bids should be directed to Ed Baker at AIC, stating company name, quantity required, and the variety. Company names and allocations will be included in a formal authorisation document to be prepared by Defra and a General Licence by Scottish Government. Only those companies named in the schedule will be authorised to place on the market for the first time the allocated quantities of derogated seed. If you are submitting a bid to AIC on behalf of your company but intend to allocate quantities to other companies, AIC will require the names of those other companies. Bids must reach AIC by e-mail to [ed.barker@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:ed.barker@agindustries.org.uk); no later than 18:00 on 19 January 2024.

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6 To avoid duplication (and to limit the possibility of having to scale back the final allocation amount), **applications should be made by the business which will be certifying the seed.** However, where the business eventually certifying the seed is not known, applications may be made by as-grown wholesalers, but this must be clear in the application to ensure traceability at the point of certification.

7 No spring oat seed may be marketed below the minimum germination capacity of 85%, as prescribed in the Cereal Seed (Scotland) Regulations 2005, until formal authorisation has been issued. The authorisation will specify conditions for marketing, including labelling requirements. AIC will aim to inform companies of their allocations, and to provide information about the formal authorisation conditions as soon as possible  
Yours sincerely



**MICHAEL PARKER**  
***Head of Seed Certification***

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