

Third party participation in seed quality

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INTRODUCTION

Third party definition

A technical body or entity acting under official delegated authority to undertake specific activities associated with seed certification on behalf of the Designated Authority.

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Introduction cont'd

Note: *Designated Authorities retains overall accountability for the operation of the system and the delivery of seed certification.*

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Introduction cont'd

- ▶ Authorized Third Party Seed

Inspection Organization” where appropriate, can:

- carry out official assessments of competence for authorization of seed persons and / or laboratories;

Introduction cont'd

- ensure that seed sampling and / or seed testing is done according Seed Certification Schemes Rules and methods as indicated as required
- Provide seed certification labels to seed companies with authorized seed samplers and any other authorized person within the company.

Introduction cont'd

- ▶ The Designated Authority must ensure regular surveillance and audits laboratories and / organizations

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AUTHORISATION OF THIRD PARTY SEED ORGANISATION

- ▶ To qualify for authorization, the Third party seed organization must:
- ▶ Be independent
- ▶ Have sufficiently trained
 - qualified manager who is technically competent in seed certification requirements;

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AUTHORISATION OF THIRD PARTY SEED ORGANISATION

- enough qualified seed certification staff
- be situated in appropriate premises and have appropriate equipment
- work according to the Rules of the Seed Schemes

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Competency assessment of ATPSO

- ▶ The following methods may be used to assess the competency of applicants:
 - Examination of the manager's knowledge and understanding of the seed certification rules
 - Seed certification examination for all seed inspection, sampling, testing and auditing staff:

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Competency assessment

- ▶ Re-examination in case of recognised deficiencies of the authorised Third Party Seed Organisation's seed certification staff.

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Conditions for maintaining knowledge and skills

- ▶ Authorised Third Party Seed Organisations need to ensure that their staff maintain their knowledge and skills by :
 - undertaking regular seed certification work
 - keeping up-to-date the documentation and being familiar with the appropriate operating procedures and methods based on Seed Certification Schemes

Conditions for maintaining knowledge and skills

- ▶ participating in periodic retraining, if required.

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Surveillance and audit procedures

- ▶ Designated Authority should carry out:

- *Check-inspections*

- *Inspection Audits*

- *Re-examination*

- *Documentation*

- *Use of pre- and post-control plot assessment results*

Thanks
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