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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2000 No. 56**

**Vegetable Seeds (Amendment)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000**

**Amendment of the Vegetable Seeds Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994**

3.—(1) The principal Regulations shall be amended in accordance with the provisions of this regulation.

(2) In regulation 3(1), after the definition of “the Act” there shall be inserted—

““breeder”—

- (a) in relation to a variety which has not been entered in the National List or the Common Catalogue, includes any person lawfully multiplying (on his own account) seed bred by another; and
- (b) in relation to a variety which has been so entered, means the maintainer of the variety; “breeder’s confirmation” means a document issued by the Department in accordance with Schedule 2A containing in respect of the seed to which it relates the particulars specified in Schedule 3A;”.

(3) In regulation 3(2)—

(a) in the definition of “Uncertified Pre-basic Seed” in paragraph (a) for the words—

“in the United Kingdom by or under the responsibility of the maintainer”

there shall be substituted the words—

“by or under the responsibility of the breeder”;

(b) for the definition of “Pre-basic Seed” there shall be substituted—

““Pre-basic Seed” means seeds of a generation earlier than that of Basic Seed which—

- (a) have been produced by or under the responsibility of the breeder;
- (b) are intended for the production of Pre-basic Seed, Basic Seed or, with the written authority of the breeder and the Department, Certified Seed; and
- (c) satisfy the requirements for Basic Seed set out in Schedule 4 and in respect of which—
  - (i) an official certificate has been issued in accordance with Schedule 2; or
  - (ii) a breeder’s confirmation has been issued in accordance with Schedule 2A;”;

(c) in the definition of “Basic Seed”—

(i) in paragraph (a) for the words—

“by or under the responsibility of the maintainer”

there shall be substituted—

“by or under the responsibility of the breeder”; and

- (ii) for paragraph (c) there shall be substituted—
  - “(c) satisfy the requirements for Basic Seed set out in Schedule 4 and in respect of which—
    - (i) an official certificate has been issued in accordance with Schedule 2; or
    - (ii) a breeder’s confirmation has been issued in accordance with Schedule 2A.”; and
  - (d) in the definition of “Certified Seed” for the word “maintainer” there shall be substituted the word “breeder”.
- (4) In regulation 5(1)(a) (marketing of seeds) after the words “Certified Seed” there shall be inserted the words “in respect of which an official certificate has been issued”.
- (5) In regulation 6 (official certificates)—
  - (a) for paragraph (1)(a) there shall be substituted—
    - “(a) shall be made in writing to the Department in such form and manner, and shall include such information, records, illustrations, material and seeds, as the Department may require; and”;
  - (b) after paragraph (4) there shall be added—
    - “(5) A breeder may apply to the Department for the issue of an official certificate in place of a breeder’s confirmation once the seed of that variety may be marketed in accordance with regulation 31 of the Seeds (National Lists of Varieties) Regulations 1982(1).
  - (6) An application under paragraph (5)—
    - (a) shall be made in writing to the Department in such form and manner, and shall be accompanied by such documents, as the Department may require; and
    - (b) shall be made not later than the thirty-first day of December of the year following the year of harvest of the crop from which the seed lot is obtained or within such other time as the Department may allow.
  - (7) The Department shall issue an official certificate in the circumstances described in paragraph (5) provided it is satisfied that—
    - (a) the seed is the seed in respect of which the breeder’s confirmation was issued;
    - (b) the breeder’s confirmation has not been withdrawn pursuant to regulation 6A(3); and
    - (c) there is no reason why the breeder’s confirmation should be withdrawn pursuant to regulation 6A(3).
  - (8) Schedule 2 shall not apply to an application for an official certificate made under paragraph (5).
  - (9) Where an official certificate is issued under paragraph (7) in respect of any seed, a person shall not market the seed unless it has been re-labelled with a label which complies with regulation 9.”.
- (6) After regulation 6 (official certificates) there shall be inserted—

**“Breeder’s confirmations**

- 6A.—(1)** An application for the issue of a breeder’s confirmation in respect of a seed lot—

- (a) shall be made in writing by the breeder to the Department in such form and manner, and shall include such information, records, illustrations, material and seeds, as the Department may require;
  - (b) shall be made not later than the thirty-first day of December of the year following the year of harvest of the crop from which the seed lot is obtained or within such other time as the Department may allow; and
  - (c) shall be made only for seed of a variety when an application has been made to add the variety to the National List (or to an equivalent list in another member State).
- (2) Where an application for the issue of a breeder's confirmation is made to the Department in accordance with paragraph (1) the Department shall deal with the application in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 2A.
- (3) A breeder's confirmation which has been issued by the Department may be withdrawn by him in respect of either the whole of a seed lot or any part of a seed lot and any seeds from which a breeder's confirmation has been so withdrawn shall be deemed not to have had a breeder's confirmation if—
- (a) the results of an official examination of the seeds in respect of which the breeder's confirmation has been issued are deemed null and void in accordance with paragraph (2) of regulation 7, or
  - (b) information has been received by it which, if known to it before the breeder's confirmation was issued, would have resulted in the application for its issue being refused on the grounds that the seeds did not meet the requirements of the seeds regulations.”.
- (7) After regulation 8 (sealing of packages) there shall be inserted—

**“Sealing of packages — breeder's confirmation**

**8A.**—(1) A person shall not have in his possession any package of seed in respect of which a breeder's confirmation for Pre-basic Seed or Basic Seed has been applied for unless it has been sealed in accordance with this regulation by or under the supervision of a person authorised by the Department in that behalf in such manner that when the package is opened the sealing device will be broken and cannot be re-used.

(2) Sealing under paragraph (1) shall take place not later than at the time of sampling or, in the case of seed that is wholly or partly re-packaged, the sealing of the original package shall take place no later than that time.

(3) A person shall not open a package of seed which has been sealed in accordance with paragraph (1) except—

- (a) for the purpose of sowing all the seed;
- (b) where—
  - (i) any action carried out in relation to the package is done immediately after opening;
  - (ii) some seed remains in the package after that action has been done; and
  - (iii) the package is re-sealed under paragraph (4) immediately after the completion of that action; or
- (c) for the purpose of re-packaging and re-sealing all of the seed.

(4) If a package of seeds which has been sealed in accordance with paragraph (1) shall (in accordance with paragraph (3) or otherwise) have been opened neither it nor any other package containing any of those seeds may be sealed, re-sealed or further re-sealed (as the case may be) except by or under the supervision of a person authorised by the Department in that behalf.

(5) If the details on any label required by regulation 9A cease to be correct as a consequence of any action of the kind described in paragraph (3) the label shall be replaced, by or under the supervision of a person authorised by the Department in that behalf, at the time the package is re-sealed under paragraph (4).”.

(8) After regulation 9(1) (labelling of packages) there shall be inserted—

“(1A) In the case of a package of seeds in respect of which the Department has issued an official certificate under regulation 6(7), paragraph (1) shall apply as if the words “not later than at the time of sealing” were omitted.”.

(9) After regulation 9 (labelling of packages) there shall be inserted—

**“Labelling of packages — breeder’s confirmation**

**9A.**—(1) A person shall not have in his possession any package of seed in respect of which a breeder’s confirmation for Pre-basic Seed or Basic Seed has been applied for unless it has been, not later than the time of sealing under regulation 8A, labelled, inscribed or otherwise dealt with in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (9).

(2) Subject to the exception in paragraph (3), packages of seeds shall have affixed on the outside an official label containing, as appropriate to the seeds, particulars of the matters specified, and being at least the size and of the colour also specified in Part I of Schedule 6 and over-stamped “not certified”, which shall be either an adhesive label or a label secured to the package by a sealing device approved by the Department.

(3) The official label referred to in paragraph (2) shall not be required when all of the particulars to be included therein are included in the official inner label placed in the package in accordance with paragraph (5) and the package is sufficiently transparent to enable such particulars to be readily legible through it.

(4) If in accordance with paragraph 2 of Schedule 2A (applications for breeder’s confirmation) a breeder’s confirmation shall have been issued in respect of seed of a lower percentage of germination than that specified in Schedule 4 the fact shall be stated on the official label and where possession of the package is transferred to another person, the transferor shall affix a label to the outside of the package containing a statement of the germination of the seeds together with his name and address and the reference number of the lot.

(5) A package shall contain an official inner label which shall be of the same colour as, and in addition to the official label affixed to the outside of the package in accordance with paragraph (2); and the official inner label shall contain particulars of the reference number of the lot and of the kind of seed and the variety, except that if such particulars are printed indelibly on the outside of the package or if the official label is an adhesive or tear-resistant label an official inner label shall not be required.

(6) If a package of seeds shall have been re-sealed in accordance with regulation 8A(4) this fact shall be stated on the official label, together with the month and year of re-sealing and the name of the authority responsible for the re-sealing.

(7) If any seeds have been subjected to any chemical treatment this fact and the nature of the treatment or the proprietary name of the chemical used in the treatment shall be stated either—

(a) on a separate label,

(b) on the label referred to in paragraph (2) or (4) or

(c) where paragraph (3) applies, on the official inner label referred to in that paragraph, and also, except where the information prescribed by this paragraph is given on an adhesive or tear-resistant label, either on the outside of the package or in a statement enclosed in the package.

(8) The particulars and information given in accordance with this regulation shall be given in one of the official languages of the Community.

(9) For the purposes of this regulation, references in Schedule 6 to the “Certifying Authority” shall, in the case of a breeder’s confirmation, be taken to be references to that authority as issuer of the confirmation.

(10) Subject to the provisions of these Regulations, a person shall not wilfully reproduce, remove, alter, deface, conceal or misuse in any way any label affixed to, contained in or marked on any package of seeds or which is to be so affixed, contained or marked, except as may occur in the course of opening the package for the purpose of sowing or for any other lawful purpose.”.

(10) After Schedule 2 (official certificates) there shall be inserted—

“SCHEDULE 2A

Regulations 3(1) and (3), and 6A(2)

### **Breeder’s Confirmations**

1. On receipt of an application made in accordance with regulation 6A(1) for the issue of a breeder’s confirmation in respect of a seed lot, for Pre-basic Seed or Basic Seed, the Department shall, subject to paragraphs 2 and 3 and to the payment of any fees payable under seeds regulations, issue in respect of such seed lot a breeder’s confirmation containing the particulars specified in Schedule 3A.

2. The Department shall refuse to issue a breeder’s confirmation in respect of a seed lot unless—

- (a) an application has been made to the Department, at such time as it may require, for registration by it of—
  - (i) the seed lot or seed lots to be used for the production of the crop or crops from which the seed lot is to be obtained, and
  - (ii) the crop or crops from which the seed lot is to be obtained;
- (b) an official examination of the crop or crops from which the seed lot was obtained has shown that the crop or crops meet the standards appropriate to the category and the level set out in Part I of Schedule 4; and
- (c) an official examination of a sample of the seed lot has shown that the seeds meet the standards appropriate to the category and the level set out in Part II of Schedule 4;

except that paragraph 2(c), in so far as it relates to standards of germination set out in Part II of Schedule 4, shall not apply in relation to the issue of a breeder’s certificate for Pre-basic Seed or Basic Seed in respect of seeds which attain a lower percentage of germination than that specified in Schedule 4.

3. An application under paragraph 2(a) shall be in writing in such form and manner as the Department may require and shall be accompanied by such information and records as it may require in order to satisfy itself as to the identity of the seed lot or lots or crop or crops to be registered.

4. The Department may refuse to issue a breeder’s confirmation in respect of a seed lot if it appears to it—

- (a) a sample of the seed lot taken for the purpose of an official examination in order to ascertain whether the seed lot meets the appropriate standards set out in Part II of Schedule 4 has not been taken in accordance with the requirements contained in Schedule 5;
- (b) an official examination of a plot sown with a sample of the seed lot sown in the field shows that the crop does not meet the appropriate standards set out in Part I of Schedule 4; or
- (c) there has been a breach of seeds regulations in relation to the seed lot in respect of which application for a breeder’s confirmation has been made.”.

(11) After Schedule 3 (particulars to be specified in an official certificate) there shall be inserted—

“SCHEDULE 3A

Regulation 3(1)

**Particulars to be Specified in a Breeder’s Confirmation**

- (i) Name and address of issuing authority
- (ii) Applicant’s name, address and registered number
- (iii) Seed lot reference number
- (iv) Kind/variety/category
- (v) Net weight of seed lot and number of containers
- (vi) Seed treatment (if applicable)
- (vii) Statement that the breeder’s confirmation does not constitute an official certificate and does not permit marketing of the seed”.

(12) For Schedule 4, Part I, paragraph 2 (varietal identity and varietal purity) there shall be substituted—

“2. The characteristics for the determination of varietal identity and varietal purity shall be—

- (a) in respect of an official certificate, those recognised as those of the variety for the purposes of the National List or the Common Catalogue; and
- (b) in respect of a breeder’s confirmation, those recognised as those of the variety used in testing for the purposes of the National List or an equivalent list in another member State.”.