**P(Seed)1A Explanatory Leaflet - 2024**

**CERTIFICATION OF SEED POTATOES**

The requirements relating to the certification of seed potatoes are set out in The Seed Potatoes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016. The conditions outlined in this leaflet are without prejudice to all of the Regulations.

**1. APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION**

1.1 Application for inspection must be made on a P(Seed)1 application form and forwarded to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), Plant Health Inspection Branch, Ground Floor Clare House, 303 Airport Road West, Sydenham Intake, Belfast BT3 9ED ***to arrive not later than 30 May 2024*** - see Condition 2.1(b). **Proof of postage is not accepted as proof of receipt. It is your responsibility to ensure that the Department receives your application form before the closing date otherwise “late” fees will apply**. The Department reserves the right not to accept late applications after 12 June 2024.

NB. Receipt of application forms will be acknowledged by the Department. If such an acknowledgement is not received within one week from the date of posting the applicant should contact the Department.

1.2 Applications for the inspection of crops which are grown from seed obtained outside Northern Ireland or seed which was certified in someone else's name or grown by another grower (or contract grower) in Northern Ireland in 2023 must be accompanied by:

**OBTAINED OUTSIDE N.I.** - one plant passport (label) per tonne of seed planted together with an invoice or similar sales document. Note that seed potatoes imported into Northern Ireland should be notified in advance to DAERA.

**N.IRELAND SEED** - one plant passport (label) per tonne of seed planted together with a sealing document (SD1).

**ONE TONNE BAGS** - for crops planted with seed supplied in bags weighing 1 tonne or more, 1 label per **5 tonnes of seed** is required. The requirement for other documentation is as above.

All remaining plant passports and either invoices, sales notes or delivery notes must be retained for at least two years for inspection.

1.3 Full details of all potato crops grown directly or under contract for the applicant as required on the application form must be furnished whether such crops are grown on the applicant's own land or on land taken in conacre. All farm and field numbers should be given and the area planted shown in hectares (Section 7 of P(Seed)1 form).

1.4 Where the grower of a stock remains the same as in the previous year but the applicant changes an SD1 should be provided by the new applicant with their P(Seed)1 form. This SD1 indicates that the applicant in the previous year consents to this arrangement.

1.5 **Please include the Crop Number for all seed planted on the P(Seed)1 Application Form.** Crop Numbers will be on the seed potato label or the Growing Crop Certificate when planting your own seed.

1.6 Please record the telephone number you wish to have published in the Register of Seed Potato Crops on the first page of the P(Seed)1 form.

1.7 **The Department reserves the right not to accept an application as lodged if:**

(i) the details on the application are incomplete; **or**

(ii) the correct number of plant passports is not attached; **or**

(iii) the invoice or sales document or SD1 is not supplied; **or**

(iv) the remaining plant passports are not produced for inspection; **or**

(v) imported seed was not notified in advance to DAERA;

(vi) Section 8 of the application has not been signed and dated by the applicant.

**2. INSPECTION FEES**

2.1 Applications for field grown pre-basic and basic seed potatoes will not be processed unless accompanied by a remittance for the full amount of the inspection fee payable according to the following scale:

(a) (i) where the total area of the crop does not exceed 1 hectare - a minimum fee of £46.00;

(ii) where the total area of the crop exceeds 1 hectare - £23.00 per half hectare or part of a half hectare.

(b) In the case of applications received after 30 May 2024, the minimum late inspection fee is £56.00. Where the area exceeds 1 hectare, the "late rate" is £28.00 per half hectare or part of a half hectare.

(c) A request to withdraw a crop will only be considered if submitted prior to any inspection being carried out, otherwise the fee may be retained.

2.2 Inspection fees for Pre Basic Tissue Culture (minitubers) are calculated on an hourly basis and are currently charged at £40 per hour.

2.3 A table showing the inspection fees payable for various areas has been included with the application form.

**3. CHOICE OF LAND**

All seed potatoes must be grown on land:

3.1 which, by laboratory examination of samples during the 6 months prior to planting, has been found to be free from potato cyst nematode;

3.2 where potatoes have not been grown in any of the previous 4 years, or in the case of pre-basic, 6 years; and

3.3 in which no notice has been served declaring the land to be infected with wart disease, potato brown rot, potato ring rot, potato cyst nematode or *Dickeya solani*;

If a certificate has been issued and potato cyst nematode is subsequently found in the land on which the potatoes were grown, the crop certificate will be withdrawn.

1. **CHOICE OF SEED**

Only crops planted with Union Grade SE seed or above may be entered for classification as seed. Crops grown from Union Grade E are not eligible for classification.

The seed must be of a variety currently listed in accordance with the United Kingdom National List of Potato Varieties or the Common Catalogue of the EC and otherwise acceptable by the Department for classification.

Seed which has been packed for sale at retail outlets such as garden centres will not be permitted to be used to grow a crop that is to be entered for certification.

Since October 2023 **GB Seed** (Scotland, England and Wales) can once again be imported into Northern Ireland. Crops planted with GB seed can be entered for certification and the resulting tubers marketed locally, to GB or to the EU including the Republic of Ireland.

Growers should note however that any surplus GB seed must not be marketed outside Northern Ireland. Crops inspectors will check that GB seed purchased to plant the 2024 crop has been grown on the farm of destination.

1. **FIELD GENERATIONS**

Growers should note that seed which is older than field generation 6 cannot be planted to produce a certified crop. When buying seed to produce a certified crop **the Field Generation should be included on the label**. If the Field Generation is not included on the label the Department must assume that the field generation is the lowest permitted for that grade. For example if the Union grade is PB then the Department will assume that the field generation is 4 if this is not stated on the label. Similarly if the Union grade is S then it will be assumed that the field generation is 5 if it is not recorded on the label.

## 6. PLANT BREEDERS’ RIGHTS

Growers should note that it is their responsibility to ensure that they have received the necessary consent for producing a crop of any variety which is subject to Plant Breeders’ Rights. The Department will, on receipt of a request from the holder of the Rights or his agent disclose information about crops entered for certification and classification.

## 7. SEPARATION OF VARIETIES

For the 2024 crop, at least one drill width should be left unplanted between different varieties and grades planted in the same field.

Where two or more varieties are grown in the same field, growers should ensure that they adhere to the standards above. Good, clear separations between stocks eliminates potential mixing at harvest, reduces the spread of virus diseases and gives a good impression to potential buyers of Northern Ireland seed potatoes.

If end rigs are planted with a different variety an adequate space must be left between the end of the main drill and the start of the end rig. Carry over of a different variety into the end rig may result in the rejection of the end rig for seed.

Seed potatoes must be sufficiently isolated from ware crops.

## 8. WEED CONTROL AND OTHER SPRAYS

Potato crops can only be inspected for classification if weed control has been effective. Improper use of chemicals and sprays can severely affect, stunt, distort or discolour normal foliage and in such cases the crop cannot be classified.

## 9. ROGUING

Roguing prior to inspection is not permitted in Pre Basic crops. However growers may carry out routine roguing in Basic seed potato crops before crop inspection. This should be done as soon as is practicable and at least before the plants meet along the drill. Potato inspectors should be advised of the timing of this work.

Blanking in the crop should not be excessive.

## 10. BURNING OFF

In recent years the department has not set or enforced a burn off date for seed crops. Growers are however reminded than an early burn off date will reduce the possibility of late virus spread and facilitate an early harvest. Some of the virus issues in crops in recent years can be traced back to failure to burn off in good time the previous season.

## 11. SEPARATION OF SEED POTATOES

Seed potatoes of one class and variety should be kept separate from seed potatoes of any other class or variety, or from any other potatoes. The produce of crops of different classes or varieties must be stored separately and identity must be maintained at all stages. The Department may refuse to issue a certificate or may withdraw a certificate after it has been issued if separation at all stages of production and storage is not adequate.

**12. DICKEYA SOLANI**

Legislation allows the Department to reject crops which are found to have the type of blackleg known as *Dickeya solani.* Any seed crops found with this disease will be rejected for seed and measures put in place to prevent the disease spreading and becoming established.

This serious disease is quite common in other parts of Europe but has never been found in crops grown from seed originating in Northern Ireland or Scotland. Growers intending to bring in seed from outside Northern Ireland must notify DAERA as required by the legislation prior to landing the seed in Northern Ireland. This will allow DAERA to test stocks well in advance of planting to ensure that infected stocks are not planted.

## 13. INSPECTION TOLERANCES

All field-grown crops must meet the conditions above regarding land (condition 3), separation of varieties (condition 7) and roguing (condition 9). Crops will be inspected at least twice during the growing season and will be graded according to the table below;

**Maximum level of faults and diseases permitted for each Union Grade of seed potatoes.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Faults/diseases and parent stock** | **PBTC** | **PB** | **S** | **SE** | **E** |
| Planted with | Approved Nuclear Stock | PB, FG3 seed or above | S, FG4 seed or above | SE, FG5 seed or above | SE, FG6 seed or above |
| Virus Y, Virus A and Leafroll virus | Nil | Nil | 0.02% | 0.1% | 0.4% |
| Total virus (includes Virus X,Virus S etc | Nil | 0.1 | 0.2% | 0.5% | 0.8% |
| Rogues and off-types | Nil | 0.01 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Blackleg caused by pectobacterium spp | Nil | Nil | 0.1% | 0.5% | 1.0% |
| Blackleg caused by Dickeya spp | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

**14. REGISTER OF CERTIFIED SEED POTATO CROPS**

A register is published annually giving the names, addresses and telephone numbers of applicants with details of their crops certified in that year. Every effort is made to ensure that the register is complete but the Department does not guarantee that all crops are included. The Register will be made available on the DAERA website at [www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk).

**15. SEED FOR WARE PRODUCTION**

Ware growers should note it is permissible to plant only Basic Seed (inspected and sealed by an authorised inspector) or one year’s home saved seed from a crop grown from Basic Seed.

Ware growers should ensure that they retain **labels, invoices, SD1s and where appropriate, growing crop certificates** **for 2 years** to demonstrate that seed used for ware production complies with this requirement.

**16.**  **PRIVACY NOTICE PLANT HEALTH**

Privacy Notice (Plant Health Directorate)

This Privacy Notice provides information about Plant Health Directorate’s processing of personal information in relation to delivery of our functions. Plant Health Directorate also processes personal information in relation to delivery of our Forest Service functions – a separate Privacy Notice for these functions is available at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/forest-service-privacy-notice>

Data Controller Name: (Forest Service – An Agency of) The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

DAERA Data Protection Officer Telephone: 028 9052 4316 Email: dataprotectionofficer@daera-ni.gov.uk

Why are we processing your personal information? We process your personal information for a range of purposes in line with our legislative responsibilities for Plant Health, Crop Certification and Bee Health.

 The Plant Health (Official Controls and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 (S.R. 2020 No. 293) (as amended)

 Bees (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 (1980 No. 869 (N.I. 7))

 Noxious Weeds (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 (1977 No. 52 (N.I. 1))

 Seeds Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 (Chapter 22) (as amended)

 The Bee Diseases and Pests Control Order (Northern Ireland) 2007 (2007 No. 246) (as amended)

 The Marketing of Fresh Horticulture Produce Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 (2010 No. 198) (as amended)

 The Marketing of Fruit Plant and Propagating Material Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 (S.R. 2017 No. 119) (as amended)

 The Marketing of Ornamental Plant Propagating Material Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 (1999 No. 502) (as amended)

 The Marketing of Vegetable Plant Material Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (1995 No. 415) (as amended)

 The Olive Oil (Marketing Standards) Regulations 2014 (SI 2014 No. 195) (as amended)

 The Plant Health (Wood and Bark) Order (Northern Ireland) 2006 (2006 No. 66) (as amended)

 The Seed Potatoes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (2016 No. 190)

 The Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 (S.R. 2011 No. 438) (as amended)

 The Marketing of Potatoes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989 (S.R. 1989 No. 221) (as amended)

 Marketing of Potatoes Act (Northern Ireland) 1964 (Chapter 8) (as amended)

 The Seed Marketing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (2016 No. 244) (as amended)

 The Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 (S.R. 2019 No. 73)

 The Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (Wood and Bark) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 (2005 No. 380)

 The Seed Potatoes (Crop Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (S.R. 2009 No. 59) (as amended)

 The Seed Potatoes (Tuber Inspection Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (2006 No. 187) (as amended)

 The Marketing of Bananas Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 (S.R. 2019 No. 66) (as amended)

 The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (S.R. 2016 No. 54) (as amended)

In addition, we may process your personal information for other legitimate purposes in line with the Data Protection Act 2016, Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004. We may also process personal information supplied to us in the course of any claim, customer complaint, legal action or any other business transaction.

Where do we get your personal data from?

 We will collect your information primarily from applications for services and subsequent information that you provide to us, as the data subject, in relation to the provision of these services. We may also collect additional information from other agencies that is necessary to provide the services requested. We will also maintain and update your data with any information you subsequently share with us in order to ensure your data is factual, accurate and up-to-date.

Do we share your personal data with anyone else?

 Any personal information you supply will be processed by our staff in Forest Service principally for the purpose for which it has been provided. However, Forest Service is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided for this purpose. We may also share this information with:

Other bodies responsible for law enforcement and the audit or administration of public funds, in order to prevent and detect crime or fraud;

Tax and customs authorities, when requested by them to do so;

NI Direct;

Third party ICT systems to support contractors who maintain our ICT systems which hold your personal data.

Do we transfer your personal data to other countries?

 Should it be necessary to transfer personal information overseas, any transfers made will be in full compliance with all aspects of the General Data Protection Regulations (2016).

How long do we keep your personal data?

 We will retain your data only for as long as necessary to comply with legislation, and/or where there is a business need to do so (i.e. for the administration of your application and/or payment). Your data will be kept in line with our Retention and Disposal Schedule.

Changes to this Privacy Notice

 We will make changes to this notice from time to time, particularly when we change how we use your information or the services we provide. You can always find an up-to-date version of this notice on our website at:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/forest-service-privacy-notice>

 You can also contact the DAERA Data Protection Officer should you require further information (contact details given below).

What rights do I have?

 You have the right to obtain confirmation that your data is being processed and to access your personal data.

 You are entitled to have personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete.

 You have a right to have personal data erased and to prevent processing, in specific circumstances

 You have the right to ‘block’ or suppress processing of personal data, in specific circumstances

 You have the right to data portability, in specific circumstances

 You have the right to object to the processing, in specific circumstances

 You have rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling

How do I complain if I am not happy?

If you are unhappy with how any aspect of this privacy notice, or how your personal information is being processed, please contact Department Data Protection Officer at:

DAERA Data Protection Officer Ballykelly House 111 Ballykelly Road Limavady Londonderry BT49 9HP

Telephone: 028 9052 4316 Email: dataprotectionofficer@daera-ni.gov.uk

If you are still not happy, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO):

Information Commissioner’s Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5Tel: 0303 123 1113 Email: casework@ico.org.uk

**17. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Complaints can be made by e-mail to phib.admin@daera-ni.gov.uk. Often the person you have been dealing with can deal with the complaint informally and quickly. However if you prefer, or are still not satisfied, please refer to the Complaints procedure which can be found at:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/how-do-i-make-complaint-if-i-am-unhappy-quality-service-i-received>

Alternatively, go to [www.daera-ni.gov.uk/](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/)

And type “Complaints” into the search facility.

**18. ADVICE**

Further information on the certification and marketing of seed potatoes is available from your local potato inspector or Plant Health Inspection Branch, Ground Floor Clare House, 303 Airport West, Sydenham Intake, Belfast, BT3 9ED, telephone (028) 9052 4168.

Advice on potato production including general husbandry, weed and aphid control, blight control, mechanical handling, storage and financial management may be obtained from Department of Agriculture Development Advisers who may be contacted at your local DAERA Direct Office.

Issued by: Plant Health Inspection Branch

Ground Floor Clare House,

303 Airport Road West,

Sydenham Intake,

Belfast

BT3 9ED

April 2024

cc: All seed potato growers