

## Specific Certification Standards Tobacco

### I. Explanation of General Standards as Applied to Tobacco

A. The General Seed Certification Standards as adopted are basic and together with the following specific standards constitute the standards for certification of tobacco seed.

B. The General Standards are further defined as follows to apply specifically to tobacco:  
Section VIII: Definitions

1. Type refers to burley, flue-cured, dark, etc.

Section XI: Handling of crop prior to inspection

1. Pollen may be collected and male-sterile plants may be pollinated prior to inspection, but failure to meet isolation and/or varietal purity requirements may necessitate pollen disposal or seed head destruction.

2. Seed pods picked or seed heads harvested prior to inspection automatically become ineligible for certification.

3. Care shall be taken at all times to prevent the mixing of seeds, plants, and pollen during seeding, transplanting and pollinating. Plants of other varieties and off-types must be destroyed as soon as found.

4. Plants with symptoms of Tobacco Ringspot Virus must be destroyed as soon as found. Plants with symptoms of Tobacco Mosaic Virus (TMV) must be destroyed or identified and isolated as soon as found. Plants of the female or seed-source variety (component) of TMV-resistant hybrids that have symptoms of TMV virus will have to be destroyed.

Section XVIII Bags, Tags and Labels

The seller or producer to the Association each year must submit samples of all labels used on the tobacco containers along with all advertising material.

### II. Land Requirements

A new plant bed must be used each year unless the bed is sterilized with soil fumigant prior to seeding. Good sanitation practices should be followed at all times in and around the plant bed. Care should be taken at all times to prevent mixtures of seeds and/or plants around the plant beds, greenhouses, and fields.

### III. Field Standards

A. Isolation

1. Self-pollinated varieties: Varieties within a field (any class of seed) shall be separated by either of these methods.

- 150 feet
- bagging of the flowers prior to pollen shedding
- separated by four rows of male-sterile tobacco not to be used for seed purposes
- four rows of each variety, between each variety, shall be allowed to bloom and set seed, but shall not be harvested for seed
- Isolation between varieties of different types shall be least 1,320 feet

2. Parental varieties of hybrids

a. Male-fertile parental varieties (pollen producing parent): These varieties shall adhere to one of the following isolation requirements.

- varieties producing pollen of the same type shall be separated by at least 50 feet
- protected from cross pollination by bagging
- separated by four rows of male-sterile tobacco not to be used for seed purposes

- in fields where two or more self-pollinated varieties of the same type are grown side by side, four rows of each variety, between the two varieties, shall be allowed to bloom and set seed, but shall not be harvested for seed
- b. Male-sterile parental varieties: These varieties shall adhere to the following requirements.
- varieties of the same type shall be isolated from all the pollen producing plants by at least 150 feet, with the exception of the male-fertile parental variety being used to pollinate the male-sterile parental variety of a hybrid
  - male-sterile varieties of the same type require no isolation from each other
  - different types of male-sterile varieties must be separated by at least 660 feet
  - male-sterile varieties and pollinators of different types must be separated by at least 1,320 feet

**B. Inspection**

Inspection of tobacco seed fields shall be made when the plants are in the flower bud stage or later. No other varieties or off-types are allowed. No plants with symptoms of Tobacco Ringspot Virus are allowed. No plants with symptoms of Tobacco Mosaic Virus (TMV) are allowed. Plants of the female or seed-source variety (component) of TMV-resistant hybrids that have symptoms of TMV virus will have to be destroyed. Plants of the male or pollen-source variety (component) of TMV-resistant hybrids that have symptoms of TMV virus will not have to be destroyed, but sanitation measures to prevent transfer of virus are recommended.

**IV. Seed Standards**

**A. Raw seed**

Factor	Standards for each Class		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Pure seed (minimum)	98%	99%	99%
Inert matter (maximum)	2%	1%	1%
Total weed seeds (maximum)	None	None	None
Total other crop seeds (maximum)	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Other varieties (maximum)	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Other kinds (maximum)	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Germination	80%	80%	80%

**B. Pelleted or Primed and Pelleted Seed**

1. All pelleted or primed and pelleted seed must have met the standards as stated in Section IV (A) before being pelleted.
2. Pelleted seed will vary in the amount of pure seed and inert material based on the amount of coating material (which must be stated on the certification tag).
3. Seed must be retested for germination after pelleted.
4. Primed tobacco seed is only eligible for sale within five months of germination test date, excluding the month of the test.