



Canadian Seed Growers' Association

Association canadienne des producteurs de semences

Variety Certification Eligibility APPLICATION (CSGA Form 300) **to Enter NEW Unregistered Varieties into CSGA Certification**

Attached is a revised *Variety Certification Eligibility APPLICATION (CSGA Form 300_2008)*, to enter NEW unregistered varieties into CSGA certification, that replaces all previous versions.

Amendments to federal Seeds Regulations on April 15, 1997, which exempted corn from official variety registration, also reduced the number of crop kinds (from 50 to 31) that are subject to official variety registration by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). For most varieties of field crops, CSGA has traditionally used variety registration to officially verify the eligibility of new varieties entering the pedigreed crop certification system. Demand for this *APPLICATION (Form 300)* originated with requests to CSGA from the corn industry to continue certifying the varietal identity of seed corn crops even after amendments in 1997 exempted corn from variety registration.

The April '97 Amendments also introduced new exemptions for several “types” of crop kinds. New varieties of these “types” are now entered into certification using this *APPLICATION (Form 300)*. Examples of some crops, other than corn, that are now exempt from variety registration, include chickpeas, non-“oilseed-type” flax (eg. fibre-types) and soybeans (eg. natto, miso, or tofu), non-“forage-type” alfalfas, fescues, ryegrass and timothy (eg. reclamation or turf-types) and non-“grain-type” lentils, oats or peas (eg. forage-types). The attached copy of the actual Amendments lists all the crop kinds that still require variety registration.

This *APPLICATION (Form 300)* is only required once and is usually submitted to CSGA, by a recognized plant breeder, either with or before the first *Application for Crop Inspection* of a new variety:

- of a crop kind exempt from registration or a variety that will not be sold in Canada;
- that has not previously entered official certification in Canada; **and**
- that will require labelling with official seed certification tags.
 (ie. This *APPLICATION (Form 300)* is NOT required for experimental strains or breeder lines that will not be issued Foundation, Registered or Certified official pedigreed class crop certificates.)

The *Variety Certification Eligibility APPLICATION (Form 300)* requires a \$300.00 submission fee and does NOT replace the *Application for Crop Inspection* submitted annually to CSGA with field maps and inspection fees before the CSGA's crop inspection *Application Deadline Dates*.

For an outline of specific requirements and responsibilities for “OECD” certification, the original background information package for the *Variety Certification Eligibility APPLICATION (Form 300)*, that was sent to all seed corn variety owners in April '97, is available upon request from the CSGA office.

Variety description requirements for this *Variety Certification Eligibility APPLICATION (Form 300)* are similar to the distinguishing characteristics required for variety registration applications. Specific variety description requirements are available for corn, industrial hemp, pulse crops, and soybeans.

Additional copies of the *Variety Certification Eligibility APPLICATION (Form 300)* are available from the CSGA office and website or you may copy the attached.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to call the CSGA office.