

CSGA Standards Development

As Canada's national seed crop certification authority, CSGA establishes and maintains seed crop certification standards for all agricultural crop kinds, except potatoes.

OUR PRINCIPLES



Science-Based

Standards are based on scientific analysis of reliable research and data.



Multi-Stakeholder Participation

CSGA standards are developed by the seed sector for the seed sector. Our independent committees include growers, companies, inspectors, analysts, end users and government representatives.



Transparent & Accessible

The process for the development and maintenance of standards is clear. Standards are readily available to the seed sector.



Timely Access

Standards are developed in a timely manner and support the competitiveness of the Canadian seed sector.



No Crop Kind Left Behind

The standards development process supports all crop kinds, including new, innovative, and niche crops.



Consensus-Based

Sector consultation is an essential element of standard development and maintenance.



Incorporate New Technology

Technology is used to streamline, create new opportunities while upholding the integrity and credibility of the system.



6 Circular 6

The Canadian Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production (Circular 6) establishes the requirements a seed grower and a seed crop must meet for seed crop certification. CSGA has delegated authority under Canada's Seeds Act and Seed Regulations to establish standards for varietal purity and to determine the varietal purity of seed crops.



Accreditation

CSGA has been ISO 9001:2015 accredited since 2009a testament to CSGA's desire for continual improvement and quality control across the organization.



International Harmonization

Recognizing Canada's reliance on global trade, CSGA ensures Canada's standards are internationally harmonized and competitive. CSGA supports the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) at the OECD Seed Schemes and represents Canada at AOSCA.

OUR PROCESS



Any stakeholder may identify the need for a new or revised standard.



2 Evaluation

The proposal is reviewed by CSGA's Regulatory Services Committee (RSC) which decides on a path forward.

3 Drafting

The Committee directs one of its Crop-Specific Working Groups, comprised of technical experts, to review the proposal, draft standards, and ensures alignment with international standards, fit for purpose and best management practices.

4 Review

The RSC reviews and approves the draft standard for public consultation.

6 Analysis

The Crop-Specific Working Groups and the RSC review feedback and revise the draft standard.

COLLABORATE -

CONTRIBUTE]

5 Consultation

Stakeholders are invited to comment on the draft standard.

7 Approval

The draft standard is submitted to the CSGA Board of Directors for approval. Subject to Board consensus, the standard is approved and becomes effective February 1.

8 Publication

The new standard is included in CSGA's Circular 6 and a Notice of Change is posted to the CSGA website and circulated to stakeholders.

9 Maintenance

Standards are reviewed within three years of approval to determine if adjustments are required.





CSGA Framework for **Developing Standards**

CSGA's robust standards development process ensures that Canadian pedigreed seed production requirements and standards are science-based, stakeholder consulted, trusted, transparent, and internationally competitive.

Board of Directors

Responsible for final approval of standards recommended by the Regulatory Services Committee.



Our Board is comprised of experienced grower directors, a science advisor, and provincially appointed government advisors.

Regulatory Services Committee

Reviews recommendations from the working groups.

Develops draft standards for consultation and recommends standards to the Board of Directors for approval.

Crop Specific Working Groups

Provide independent, crop-specific, expert advice on regulatory and technical aspects related to standards development and maintenance.

Our eight Crop Specific Working Groups are:



Canola





Cereal

Mustard



Corn

Pulses



W Forage and Turf

Sovbeans

Ad Hoc Working Groups

Formed when a broader or "deep dive" approach to standard development and maintenance is required, which may impact several crop kinds.

Who They Are

Our Regulatory Services Committee and Crop Specific Working Groups are comprised of technical experts, including seed growers, seed companies, variety developers, plant breeders, seed analysts, seed crop inspectors, the CFIA, and provincial government representatives.



Get involved!

CSGA is always looking for subject matter experts to volunteer for our working groups and provide feedback during our consultations.

Your participation helps bring transparency, trust, and diverse perspectives to the CSGA framework for developing standards.