

# Fall 2025 Standards Consultation

## Isolation Requirements for Industrial Hemp Seed Crops

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### Current status: Open

This consultation period opened on September 8, 2025, and will close on November 3, 2025.

### About the consultation

#### Focus of Consultation:

- Sections 10 & 11, Industrial Hemp Seed Crops, of the [Canadian Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production](#) (Circular 6)
- Minimum isolation distances required between an inspected hemp seed crop and other hemp crops, e.g., distance required between a pedigreed seed crop and different varieties of industrial hemp or non-pedigreed industrial hemp.

The purpose of this consultation is to gather stakeholder feedback on a proposal to adjust isolation requirements for **Foundation**, **Registered**, and **Certified** status hemp seed crops. The proposal focuses on the minimum isolation distances required between an inspected seed crop and other hemp crops, as reported during seed crop inspection. The requirements under consideration apply to both monoecious and dioecious types.

### Issues

CSGA is proposing adjustments to the isolation requirements for hemp seed crops. Currently, dioecious hemp plots must be at least three (3) meters from another plot of the same variety, while monoecious plots must be at least five (5) meters from another plot of the same variety.

It is generally acknowledged that monoecious seed crops are at greater risk of contamination from dioecious pollen than vice versa, and the proposed changes will continue to reflect that. However, there are opportunities to simplify and harmonize the requirements at the same time.

### Background

Certification requirements for hemp seed crops currently differ by plant type (dioecious vs. monoecious) and by seed class (Foundation, Registered, and Certified). These differences apply to previous land use, isolation distances, and maximum impurity standards. Isolation requirements vary based on both the type of hemp being produced and the type of adjacent crop.

### Considerations

CSGA's isolation requirements for hemp are more stringent than those set by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Seed Schemes. Under OECD standards, the required isolation distance for dioecious varieties is 800 meters for Basic seed production and 400 meters for Certified seed production. The required isolation distance for monoecious varieties is 2000 meters for Basic seed production and 1000 meters for Certified seed production.

In contrast, the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) has historically maintained hemp isolation requirements that mirror those of the CSGA, and this alignment continues today.

### Progress To Date

CSGA's Hemp Working Group reviewed hemp certification requirements, including isolation standards, in spring 2024. Based on this review, the Group developed recommendations that were endorsed by the Regulatory Services Committee in October 2024 and approved for consultation by the CSGA Board of Directors the following month.

To ensure alignment across jurisdictions, CSGA then advanced the proposed changes through AOSCA. The revisions received strong support at AOSCA regional meetings in spring 2025 and were unanimously endorsed by the AOSCA Certification Requirements and Standards Council at its annual meeting in Kansas City in June 2025. CSGA is now seeking your feedback on these proposed changes. With Canadian stakeholder support, they will be incorporated into the 2026 AOSCA Seed Certification Handbook.

To read more about CSGA's standard development process [click here](#), and to learn more about our Standards Development Policy framework [click here](#).

### Recommendation

To simplify the isolation requirements for hemp while ensuring they continue to be sufficient to ensure that pedigreed seed continues to be fit for purpose.

For a brief description of the proposed revisions, and the revised requirements with tracked changes, see [Appendix A](#). To simply see a draft of the revised isolation requirements with tracked changes, see [Appendix B](#).

### Who is the focus of this consultation?

This consultation will be of interest to those involved in the seed sector value chain, including but not limited to:

- seed growers
- crop certificate assignees and seed companies contracting pedigreed seed production
- plant breeders
- authorized seed crop inspection services (ASCIS) and licensed seed crop inspectors (LSCI)
- agriculture organizations, including councils, associations, and commissions with interest in cereal crops

We also welcome comments and feedback from the broader Canadian agriculture sector, including the grain industry, government, or other organizations or individuals.

### How to participate

Stakeholders may provide written comments by email to [Mike Scheffel](#) and [Gail Harris](#) by November 3, 2025. Please use the words "hemp isolation consultation" in the email's subject line.

### Consultation activities

CSGA is informing stakeholders about the consultation through the consultation webpage and announcements in CSGA's newsletter, Seed Scoop. Key stakeholders will also be notified. CSGA will meet with interested parties if requested.

## Next steps

Stakeholder feedback will be shared with the Regulatory Services Committee when they meet in late November. The RSC will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors for consideration at their next meeting. If there is support, revisions will be made to Circular 6 on February 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2026 crop production season.

## Related Information

- [\*Canadian Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production\*](#)
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Seed Program Documents
  - [Specific work instructions \(SWI 142.1.1\): Pedigreed seed crop inspection](#)
  - [Specific work instructions \(SWI 142.1.2-7\): Special crops and new crop inspection procedures](#)
- [OECD Seed Schemes Rules and Regulations 2025](#) (see page 81)

## Contact Us

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