

September 8, 2026

Proposed Circular 6 Update: Notification of Proposed Provisional Standards for NMS Hybrid Wheat

The Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA) is providing notice of a proposed update to Circular 6 to introduce **Provisional Standards for Nuclear Male Sterile (NMS) Hybrid Wheat**. These standards are being implemented on an interim basis and will be reviewed by August 31, 2029, at which time they may be extended, amended or withdrawn pending the availability of additional data, operational experience, or regulatory direction.

In 2025, the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA), with some assistance from CSGA, developed standards for Nuclear Male Sterile (NMS) hybrid wheat. In fall 2025, two companies planning to produce pedigreed seed of NMS hybrid wheat in Canada within the next few years approached CSGA to request the development of Canadian standards.

In response and recognizing that the AOSCA standards could serve as a template, CSGA established an NMS Hybrid Wheat Working Group (NMS HWWG) in January 2026 to develop Canadian standards. The working group included representatives from the companies developing this technology (including participants from the United States and France), a member of the Cereal Working Group who is a former member of the Regulatory Services Committee and a producer, as well as a representative from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

The NMS HWWG met twice in February 2026, to develop a draft guideline document for NMS hybrid wheat and finalize the draft certification requirements and standards prepared by CSGA staff based on the AOSCA standards. Given that there are currently no widely established standards globally, and limited experience with the production of pedigreed seed of NMS hybrid wheat, the NMS HWWG recommended that the proposed standards be adopted as provisional standards, subject to a 45-day notification period.

The draft guidelines and standards were presented to the Cereal Working Group at its March 2026 meeting and then to the Regulatory Services Committee for review at its April 2026 meeting.

With the support of the Regulatory Services Committee and the CSGA Board of Directors, the **Provisional Standards for NMS Hybrid Wheat** are proposed to be added to the *Canadian Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production* (Circular 6), **effective February 1, 2027**. In addition, **several consequential revisions will be made to the existing standards for CMS hybrid wheat in Sections 2 and 12**, to clarify the type of hybrid wheat to which each standard applies. All proposed additions and revisions are highlighted in yellow in the linked documents.

In accordance with CSGA's *Provisional Standards Policy*, CSGA is providing this formal notice of the proposed change and has posted the proposed standards on its website for a 45-day stakeholder comment period.

The associated **guideline document**, which includes the new NMS hybrid wheat guidance and revisions to the CMS hybrid wheat section, can be [found here](#).

For questions about these new provisional standards, please contact [Gail Harris](#)

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