

Seed Sector Review

March 2005

MODERNIZING CANADA'S SEED STANDARDS

Circular 6 revision streamlines process, reduces costs and seizes opportunities.

The Seed Sector Review is acting on one of the primary recommendations of its 2004 report: to improve regulatory flexibility and timeliness. One improvement relates to the standards associated with pedigreed seed production in Canada. Across the country seed growers are very familiar with these standards and regulations. A number of factors driving the need for a modernized set of standards are:

- the food industry's demand for enhanced tracking and traceability · the food industry's demand for enhanced tracking and traceability
- variety-specific products for niche markets
 - organic seed market opportunities
 - ISO standards and HACCP based principles are all becoming the new norm for international agri-food trade.

These standards are a critical part of Canada's international competitiveness. To that end, these seed standards, known as Circular 6, have been updated to provide a technical platform to the opportunities Canadian growers have in many value-added crop innovations. The last time these standards were revised was in 1994. Responding directly to the challenges of greater crop diversification, new crop development technologies, international rules and regulations outlined in the Seed Sector Review report, an updated Circular 6 was recently distributed to all seed growers and key stakeholders across the country.

What's new in the latest Circular 6?

The **Canadian Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production** *Circular 6-2005/ Rev.01-2005*, issued on January 8, 2005, contains all edits and updates made to the regulations since the last Circular 6 was published in 1994, as well as four new changes which were approved in 2004 for implementation in 2005.



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Circular 6 has also been reformatted to provide a more streamlined presentation of information, requirements and references. Features include:

- charts, tables and text format designed to clarify interpretation of the Regulations, a quality manual and ISO document format to expedite growers' audit requirements
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- a quick reference index for all major seed crops
- an expanded Appendix of CSGA forms and documents to reduce administrative delays and prepare for expansion of electronic data transfer

The various sections and appendices of the new Circular 6-2005 is available for download from the Canadian Seed Growers Association (CSGA) website www.seedgrowers.ca. The Seeds Act and its Regulations recognize the standards set by the CSGA as the cornerstone of the pedigreed seed crop certification system. They provide for the necessary crop inspection, oversight and standards that must be met by individual seed growers.

The Seed Sector Review will continue with other aspects of regulatory flexibility and timeliness as the national round table process continues.

We encourage and welcome your feedback. We encourage and welcome your feedback.

Partners

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