



SEED CERTIFICATION INFORMATION



SEED CERT 01/23
January 2023

To: Licensed Seed Companies, Licensed Seed Samplers, Licensed Crop Inspectors, Licensed Seed Testing Stations in England & Wales (by email only)

Cc: AIC, BSPB, NFU, NAAC, NIAB, PHSI, SASA, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and DAERA.

NOTIFICATION OF SEED CERTIFICATION FEE CHANGES

Dear Sir/Madam,

On Monday 17th October 2022, I wrote to notify you of a six-week engagement period on a number of planned changes to seed certification fees in England and Wales. The notification letter was sent to around 1400 stakeholders across England and Wales, with a total of 5 responses received.

The new fees will come into effect from Monday 9th January 2023. Plant Varieties and Seeds services, including seed certification, operate in line with the principle of full cost recovery, as per UK Government policy (Managing Public Money, HM Treasury, March 2022). The fees are being increased to ensure no under recovery of costs.

The main points raised in response to the notification letter were:-

Proposal for phased implementation of the seed certification fee changes

Some responses proposed a phased implementation of the seed certification fee changes to reduce the effect on the industry and UK farmers and allow for time for AHPA and the industry to work together to investigate other areas for potential cost savings.

The proposal has been considered; however, phased implementation would lead to an under-recovery of costs which is not in line with UK Government policy (Managing Public Money, HM Treasury, March 2022).

Plant Varieties and Seeds services, including seed certification, operate in line with the principle of full cost recovery to relieve the general taxpayer of costs, so that they are properly borne by users who benefit from a service. The current fees create a subsidy to users of the service and a cost to the taxpayer.

Improved timing and regularity of fee changes

Some responses commented on the fact that seed certification fees had not been changed in several years.

A full review of seed certification fees in England and Wales is planned in the next two years, through which businesses and stakeholders will have the opportunity to further engage and provide feedback on changes to this service.

Following this full fees review, we plan to regularly examine seed certification fees (currently reviewed every two years in similar policy areas) to ensure fees remain reflective of service delivery costs.

Improvements to IBM Electronic Seeds Programme (ESP)

IBM ESP, the online application system for seed certification services, has been included in the fees to relieve the general taxpayer of costs. This means these costs are properly borne by users who benefit from a service, thereby allowing a more equitable distribution of public resources and enabling lower public expenditure and borrowing.

APHA acknowledge industry frustration with the reliability of IBM ESP, which is why we have successfully bid for funding to replace the current online application system over the next 4 years.

Support measures

UK Government have put in place a number of operational measures to provide support to seed businesses during this time. These include:-

- The [Movement Assistance Scheme](#) (MAS), which provides dedicated helpdesk support to those wishing to move plants and plant products (and other agri-food goods) from Great Britain to Northern Ireland and covers the associated inspection and certification costs.
- No charge for OECD certification.

- In England and Wales, PHSI carry out an audit at seed firms of licenced seed samplers to ensure they are conducting their work correctly. This system is comparatively cheaper than other countries, where official samplers are required.

UK Government continues to engage with businesses and stakeholders on these support measures and to collect feedback on what further assistance could be beneficial.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Brown

Plant Varieties and Seeds Team, APHA

- **See Appendix I (following pages) - New fees with effect from Monday 9th January 2023**

Appendix I - New fees with effect from Monday 9th January 2023

Table 1: Online application fees

	New Online Fee
CROP ENTRY FEE	Per Hectare
Licensed inspection (except early multiplication and late entered crops) (CS, C1, C2 and C3)	£7.03
Official Inspections Pre-Basic, Basic, early multiplication and late entered crops	Per Hectare
Cereal, Pulses, Linseed and Herbage (One inspection) Note: There is a reduced official fee when a PB or B crop is officially inspected by a Licensed inspector	£93.70
Beet, Oilseed Rape, Mustard, Fodder Rape, Beet and Kale (Two inspections)	£148.36
Hybrid rape (Three inspections)	£203.02
Additional official inspection, all species	£54.66
All Crops Temp Experiment	£24.99
SEED LOT FEE	Per seed lot
Seed lot fee: final generation (including retests) 2H, 2L, CH, CL, C2 and C3 (when applicable)	£53.10
Seed lot fee: multiplication seed lots PB, B, 1H, 1L, C1, C2 (including retests)	£242.06

Table 2: Paper application fees

	New Paper Fee
CROP ENTRY FEE	Per Hectare
Licensed inspection (except early multiplication and late entered crops) (CS, C1, C2 and C3)	£8.59
Official Inspections Pre-Basic, Basic, early multiplication and late entered crops	Per Hectare
Cereal, Pulses, Linseed and Herbage (One inspection) Note: There is a reduced official fee when a PB or B crop is officially inspected by a Licensed inspector	£96.83
Beet, Oilseed Rape, Mustard, Fodder Rape, Beet and Kale (Two inspections)	£151.48
Hybrid rape (Three inspections)	£206.14
Additional official inspection, all species	£54.66
All Crops Temp Experiment	£24.99
SEED LOT FEE	Per seed lot
Seed lot fee: final generation (including retests) 2H, 2L, CH, CL, C2 and C3 (when applicable)	£65.59
Seed lot fee: multiplication seed lots PB, B, 1H, 1L, C1, C2 (including retests)	£257.68

Table 3: NIAB Seed Testing Prices, training and ISTA testing fees

	New Fee
LSTS Annual Fee	£2,144.50
Training and exam for new licensed samplers	£670.80
Licensed seed analyst - Basic Proficiency Certificate	£4,802.98
Licensed seed analyst - Additional testing categories	£2,806.78
Licensed seed analyst - Laboratory Management	£3,399.00
Orange International Certificate (OIC)	£144.48
Blue International Certificate (BIC)	£144.48