



## **NATIONAL SEED QUALITY STANDARDS FOR BASIC AND CERTIFIED SEED**

The ASA Technical Standards for the OECD and Australian Seed Certification Schemes prescribe minimum purity and germination standards for seed certified in Australia under both schemes and intended for marketing within Australia.

These standards apply to all varieties for which the variety maintainer has not specified higher standards.

A seed lot failing to meet the national quality standards cannot be marketed in Australia as Certified Seed and measures must be implemented to ensure that the seed lot is not released for sale until the certification labels are removed.

While the national standards must be applied for domestic sales, special provisions may be made on a case by case basis for seed intended for export markets.

Although physical seed quality is not strictly part of certification, the Australian seed industry has asked ASA to maintain quality standards as part of the certification process. The attached National Seed Quality Standards apply to all seed certified after 1 January 2011.

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CEO  
Australian Seeds Authority Ltd.  
13 December 2010

**NATIONAL SEED QUALITY STANDARDS FOR BASIC AND CERTIFIED SEED**  
**Effective for seed certified from 1 January 2011**

**NB: Please refer to the Explanatory Notes on Page 10 when using this document.**

Species	Class	Min % Pure Seed	Max % Other Seed	Min % Germ	Other Conditions / Comments	
<b>GRASSES</b>						
<i>Bothriochloa insculpta</i>	Creeping Bluegrass	Basic Certified	- 50.0	- 5.0	- 20	No varieties currently listed with ASA for certification in Australia
<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	Buffel Grass	Basic Certified	90.0 90.0	2.0 2.0	20 20	
<i>Chloris gayana</i>	Rhodes Grass (Diploid)	Basic Certified	80.0 80.0	4.0 4.0	20 20	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	Basic Certified	90.0 90.0	0.3 3.0*	75# 75#	Nominated species – see Table 1 & Note 3. #Including fresh ungerminated seeds *To include not more than 1.0% species other than <i>Lolium</i> spp. #Including fresh ungerminated seeds
<i>Ehrharta calycina</i>	Perennial Veldt Grass	Basic Certified	- 65.0	- 1.0	- 40	No varieties currently listed with ASA for certification in Australia
<i>Elytrigia elongata</i>	Tall Wheat Grass	Basic Certified	90.0 85.0	0.3 2.0	65 65	Nominated species –see Table 1 & Note 3.
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Lovegrass	Basic Certified	- 97.0	- 0.5	- 70	No varieties currently listed with ASA for certification in Australia Cv. Consol
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Tall Fescue	Basic Certified	99.0 96.0	0.3 3.0*	75# 75#	Nominated species –See Table 1 & Note 3. #Including fresh ungerminated seeds *To include not more than 1.0% species other than <i>Lolium</i> sp. #Including fresh ungerminated seeds
<i>X Festulolium</i>	Festulolium	Basic Certified	99.0 96.0	0.3 3.0*	75# 75#	Nominated species –See Table 1 & Note 3. #Including fresh ungerminated seeds *To include not more than 1.0% species other than <i>Lolium</i> sp. #Including fresh ungerminated seeds

Species		Class	Min % Pure Seed	Max % Other Seed	Min % Germ	Other Conditions / Comments
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Italian Ryegrass	Basic	99.0	0.3	75#	Nominated species – See Table 1 & Note 3. #Including fresh ungerminated seeds
		Certified	97.0	1.0	75#	#Including fresh ungerminated seeds
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	Basic	99.0	0.3	75#	Nominated species – See Table 1 & Note 3. #Including fresh ungerminated seeds
		Certified	97.0	1.0	75#	#Including fresh ungerminated seeds
<i>Lolium rigidum</i>	Annual Ryegrass	Basic	99.0	0.3	75#	Nominated species – See Table 1 & Note 3. #Including fresh ungerminated seeds
		Certified	97.0	1.0	75#	#Including fresh ungerminated seeds
<i>Lolium x boucheanum</i> [ <i>L. x hybridum</i> ]	Hybrid Ryegrass	Basic	99.0	0.3	75#	Nominated species – See Table 1 & Note 3. #Including fresh ungerminated seeds
		Certified	97.0	1.0	75#	#Including fresh ungerminated seeds
<i>Panicum maximum</i>	Guinea Grass	Basic	-	-	-	No varieties currently listed with ASA for certification in Australia
		Certified	40.0	0.7	25	
<i>Paspalum notatum</i>	Bahia Grass	Basic	60.0	2.0	60	
		Certified	60.0	2.0	60	
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	Kikuyu	Basic	95.0	1.0	60	
		Certified	95.0	1.0	60	
<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>	Pearl Millet	Basic	99.0	0.5	75	
		Certified	99.0	0.5	75	
<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	Phalaris	Basic	99.0	0.3	75#	Nominated species – See Table 1 & Note 3 #Including fresh ungerminated seeds
		Certified	97.0	1.0	75#	#Including fresh ungerminated seeds
<i>Setaria incrassata</i>	Purple Pigeon Grass	Basic	-	-	-	No varieties currently listed with ASA for certification in Australia
		Certified	80.0	3.0	40	
<i>Setaria sphacelata</i>	Setaria	Basic	60.0	1.2	20	
		Certified	60.0	1.2	20	

Species		Class	Min % Pure Seed	Max % Other Seed	Min % Germ	Other Conditions / Comments
<b>LEGUMES</b>						
<i>Aeschynomene americana</i>	Joint Vetch	Basic Certified	- 95.0	- 2.0	- 50	No varieties currently listed with ASA for certification in Australia
<i>Biserrula pelecinus</i>	Biserrula	Basic Certified	98.0 98.0	0.5 0.5	70 70	
<i>Lathyrus sativus</i>	Grass Pea	Basic Certified	98.0 98.0	0.5 1.0	75 75	
<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	Leucaena	Basic Certified	- 98.0	- 1.0	- 60	No varieties currently listed with ASA for certification in Australia
<i>Macroptilium atropurpurea</i>	Siratro	Basic Certified	97.5 97.5	1.0 1.0	70# 70#	# Including Hard Seed. # Including Hard Seed.
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Lucerne	Basic Certified	99.0 98.0	0.1 0.5	70# 70#	# Including Max 20% Hard Seed. # Including Max 20% Hard Seed.
<i>Medicago spp..</i>	Annual Medics	Basic Certified	99.0 98.0	0.2 2.0*	70 70	Nominated species – Burr medic (See Note 3) * To include not more than 0.5% seeds other than <i>Medicago polymorpha</i> (Burr medic).
<i>Ornithopus compressus</i>	Yellow Serradella	Basic Certified	90.0 90.0	1.0 1.0	75# 75#	#Including Hard Seed. #Including Hard Seed.
<i>Ornithopus pinnatus</i>	Slender serradella	Basic Certified	90.0 90.0	1.0 1.0	75# 75#	#Including Hard Seed. #Including Hard Seed.
<i>Ornithopus sativus</i>	French serradella	Basic Certified	90.0 90.0	1.0 1.0	75# 75#	#Including Hard Seed. #Including Hard seed.
<i>Stylosanthes guianensis</i>	Stylosanthes	Basic Certified	- 90.0	- 3.5	- 60#	No varieties currently listed with ASA for certification in Australia #Including Hard seed.

Species		Class	Min % Pure Seed	Max % Other Seed	Min % Germ	Other Conditions / Comments
<i>Stylosanthes hamata</i>	Caribbean Stylo	Basic	90.0	3.5	60#	#Including Hard Seed.
		Certified	90.0	3.5	60#	#Including Hard Seed.
<i>Trifolium alexandrinum</i>	Berseem Clover	Basic	99.0	0.2	80	Nominated species – other <i>Trifolium</i> spp. (See Note 3)
		Certified	98.0	1.0	80	
<i>Trifolium dasyurum</i>	Eastern Star Clover	Basic	98.0	1.0	65	Nominated species – other <i>Trifolium</i> spp. (See Note 3)
		Certified	98.0	1.0	65	
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	Strawberry Clover	Basic	99.0	0.3	70#	Nominated species – other <i>Trifolium</i> spp. (See Note 3) # Including Max 20% Hard Seed.
		Certified	98.0	1.0	70#	
<i>Trifolium glanduliferum</i>	Gland Clover	Basic	98.0	1.0	65	Nominated species – other <i>Trifolium</i> spp. (See Note 3)
		Certified	98.0	1.0	65	
<i>Trifolium hirtum</i>	Rose Clover	Basic	98.0	1.0	70	Nominated species – other <i>Trifolium</i> spp. (See Note 3)
		Certified	98.0	1.0	70	
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	Crimson Clover	Basic	98.0	1.0	65	Nominated species – other <i>Trifolium</i> spp. (See Note 3)
		Certified	98.0	1.0	65	
<i>Trifolium michelianum</i>	Balansa Clover	Basic	99.0	0.2	65	Nominated species – other <i>Trifolium</i> spp. (See Note 3)
		Certified	98.0	1.0	65	
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	Basic	99.0	0.2	60	Nominated species – other <i>Trifolium</i> spp. (See Note 3)
		Certified	97.0	0.5	60	
<i>Trifolium purpureum</i>	Purple Clover	Basic	98.0	1.0	65	Nominated species – other <i>Trifolium</i> spp. (See Note 3)
		Certified	98.0	1.0	65	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Basic	99.0	0.2	60	Nominated species – other <i>Trifolium</i> spp. (See Note 3)
		Certified	97.0	2.0	60	
<i>Trifolium resupinatum</i>	Persian Clover	Basic	99.0	0.2	60	Nominated species – other <i>Trifolium</i> spp. (See Note 3)
		Certified	98.0	1.0	60	

Species		Class	Min % Pure Seed	Max % Other Seed	Min % Germ	Other Conditions / Comments
<i>Trifolium spumosum</i>	Bladder Clover	Basic	99.0	1.0	70#	Nominated species – other <i>Trifolium</i> spp. (See Note 3) # Including Max 20% Hard Seed.
		Certified	98.0	1.0	70#	# Including Max 20% Hard Seed.
<i>Trifolium semipilosum</i>	Kenya White Clover	Basic	-	-	-	No varieties currently listed with ASA for certification in Australia
		Certified	97.0	1.0	50	Nominated species – other <i>Trifolium</i> spp. (See Note 3)
<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	Subterranean Clover	Basic	99.0	0.1	70#	# Including Max 20% Hard Seed.
		Certified	98.0	0.5	70#	# Including Max 20% Hard Seed.
<i>Trifolium vesiculosum</i>	Arrowleaf Clover	Basic	99.0	1.0	60	Nominated species – other <i>Trifolium</i> spp. (See Note 3)
		Certified	98.0	1.0	60	
<i>Vicia</i> spp. (other than <i>V. faba</i> )	Vetch (incl. Purple and Woolly Pod)	Basic	99.0	0.5*	65	*To include not more than 0.1% seeds other than other <i>Vicia</i> spp.
		Certified	99.0	1.0*	65	*To include not more than 0.5% seeds other than other <i>Vicia</i> spp.

Species		Class	Min % Pure Seed	Max % Other Seed	Min % Germ	Other Conditions / Comments
<b>FIELD CROPS &amp; OTHER SPECIES</b>						
<i>Avena sativa</i>	Oats	Basic	99.0	10/kg	85	Nominated species – See Table 2
		Certified	98.0	15/kg	85	Nominated species – See Table 2
<i>Brassica napus</i> var. <i>oleifera</i>	Canola	Basic	99.0	10/kg	85	Nominated species – See Table 2
		Certified	99.0	20/kg	85	Nominated species – See Table 2
<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i>	Safflower	Basic	-	-	-	No varieties currently listed with ASA for certification in Australia
		Certified	99.0	15/kg	70	Nominated species – See Table 2
<i>Cicer arietinum</i>	Chick Peas	Basic	99.0	10/kg	70	Nominated species – See Table 2
		Certified	98.0	15/kg	70	Nominated species – See Table 2
<i>Gossypium spp.</i>	Cotton	Basic	99.0	15/kg	80	
		Certified	98.0	15/kg	80	
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Sunflower	Basic	97.0	0.2	75	
		Certified	97.0	0.2	75	
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	Barley	Basic	99.0	10/kg	85	Nominated species – See Table 2
		Certified	98.0	15/kg	85	Nominated species – See Table 2
<i>Lens culinaris</i>	Lentils	Basic	99.0	10/kg	70	Nominated species – See Table 2
		Certified	98.0	15/kg	70	Nominated species – See Table 2
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	Linseed (Incl. Linola)	Basic	-	-	-	No varieties currently listed with ASA for certification in Australia
		Certified	99.0	20/kg	85	Nominated species – See Table 2
<i>Lupinus spp.</i>	Lupins	Basic	99.0	10/kg	70	Nominated species – See Table 2. In WA – Bitter lupins Max 1/10kg. CMV testing is mandatory – infection level to be reported.
		Certified	98.0	15/kg	70	Nominated species – See Table 2. In WA – Bitter lupins Max 1/10kg. CMV testing is mandatory – infection level to be reported.

Species		Class	Min % Pure Seed	Max % Other Seed	Min % Germ	Other Conditions / Comments
<i>Phaseolus radiatus</i>	Mung Bean	Basic Certified	99.0 99.0	0.4 0.4	85 85	
<i>Pisum sativum</i>	Field Peas	Basic Certified	99.0 98.0	10/kg 15/kg	70 70	Nominated species – See Table 2 Nominated species – See Table 2
<i>Raphanus sativus</i> var. <i>oleiformis</i>	Fodder Radish	Basic Certified	97.0 97.0	1.0 1.0	80 80	
<i>Secale cereale</i>	Ryecorn	Basic Certified	99.0 98.0	10/kg 15/kg	85 85	Nominated species – See Table 2 Nominated species – See Table 2
<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	Sorghum	Basic Certified	99.0 98.0	10/kg 15/kg	85 85	Nominated species – See Table 2 Nominated species – See Table 2
<i>Sorghum sudanense</i>	Sudan Grass	Basic Certified	98.0 98.0	0.4 0.4	70 70	
<i>Sorghum sudanense</i> x <i>S. bicolor</i>	Hybrid Sorghum	Basic Certified	98.0 98.0	0.4 0.4	85 85	
<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	Wheat	Basic Certified	99.0 98.0	10/kg 15/kg	85 85	Nominated species – See Table 2 Nominated species – See Table 2
x <i>Triticosecale</i>	Triticale	Basic Certified	96.0 96.0*	10/kg 15/kg	85 85	Nominated species – See Table 2 *Including max. 2.0% broken seed. Nominated species – See Table 2
<i>Vicia faba</i>	Faba Beans	Basic Certified	99.0 98.0	10/kg 15/kg	70 70	Nominated species – See Table 2 Nominated species – See Table 2
<i>Vigna mungo</i>	Black Gram	Basic Certified	99.0 99.0	0.4 0.4	85 85	
<i>Zea mays</i>	Maize & Sweet Corn	Basic Certified	- 99.0	- Nil	- 85	No varieties currently listed with ASA for certification in Australia



**Table 1 – NOMINATED SEEDS – REJECT LEVELS FOR BASIC SEED OF GRASSES**

SPECIES	NOMINATED SEEDS (Maximum number/kg)					MAXIMUM TOTAL NOMINATED SEEDS No/kg
	NB: ISTA tolerances should be applied to all number counts. A one-way test at the 5% probability level is recommended.					
	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	<i>Lolium</i> spp.	<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	<i>Setaria</i> spp.	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	n/a	50	50	50	50	200
<i>Elytrigia elongata</i>	50	50	50	50	50	200
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	50	n/a	50	50	50	200
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	50	50	n/a	50	50	200
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	50	50	n/a	50	50	200
<i>Lolium rigidum</i>	50	50	n/a	50	50	200
<i>Lolium x boucheanum</i>	50	50	n/a	50	50	200
<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	50	50	50	n/a	50	200

**NB: Refer also to Explanatory Note 3.**

**Table 2 – NOMINATED SEEDS – REJECT LEVELS FOR BASIC & CERTIFIED CLASS SEED OF FIELD CROPS**

SPECIES	NOMINATED SEEDS										TOTAL OTHER SEED No/kg (Includes Nominated Seeds)	
	Other Cereals		Other Grain Legumes		Wild Oats		<i>Lolium</i> and <i>Phalaris</i> spp. (in total) Max No/kg		Vetch (all species) Max No/kg			
	Max No/kg		Max No/kg		Max No/kg		Max No/kg		Max No/kg		Cert	Basic
	Cert	Basic	Cert	Basic	Cert	Basic	Cert	Basic	Cert	Basic		
BARLEY	1	Nil	3	1	2	2	5	5	3	1	15	10
OATS	1	Nil	3	1	2	2	5	5	3	1	15	10
RYE	1	Nil	3	1	2	2	5	5	3	1	15	10
TRITICALE	1	Nil	3	1	2	2	5	5	3	1	15	10
WHEAT	1	Nil	3	1	2	2	5	5	3	1	15	10
CHICK PEAS	2	1	1	Nil	3	3	5	5	1	Nil	15	10
FABA & FIELD BEANS (including Broad Beans)	2	1	1	Nil	3	3	5	5	1	Nil	15	10
FIELD PEAS	2	1	1	Nil	3	3	5	5	1	Nil	15	10
LENTILS	2	1	1	Nil	3	3	5	5	1	Nil	15	10
LUPINS	2	1	1	Nil	3	3	5	5	1	Nil	15	10
CANOLA	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	20	10
<b>Canola Basic &amp; Certified Class: NIL <i>Brassica juncea</i>, <i>B. hirta</i>, <i>B. tournefortii</i>, <i>B. oxyrrhina</i>, <i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>, <i>R. rugosum</i> &amp; <i>Sisymbrium</i> spp.</b>												
COTTON	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.2%	0.1%
SORGHUM	2	1	1	Nil	2	2	5	5	3	1	15	10

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

1. All tests are to be carried out in accordance with the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Rules for Seed Testing 2011 or as amended from time to time.
2. The words “Pure Seed”, “Other Seed”, “Germination”, “Hard Seed” and “Fresh Ungerminated Seed” shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the ISTA Rules for Seed Testing 2011 or as amended from time to time.
3. Basic Seed – Other Seeds to include not more than 200 seeds /kg in total of Nominated Seeds and not more than 50 seeds/kg of any one Nominated Seed, unless otherwise stated. For all *Trifolium* spp. the maximum number of seeds of other *Trifolium* spp. is 200/kg. ISTA tolerances should be applied to all number counts. A one-way test at the 5% probability level is recommended.
4. Minimum germination standards for legume species exclude Hard Seed unless otherwise stated.
5. Minimum quality standards for Basic Seed may be waived where the quality of the Basic Seed to be used will not affect the genetic integrity of the crop or impede the ability of the crop to achieve certification, or where it is the only supply of Basic Seed available or likely to be available. Certification Agencies are required to consult with the CEO of ASA regarding the use of Basic Seed of a lower quality than the applicable quality standard contained in the ASA Technical Standards. If the seed does not meet the minimum germination standard, the CEO of ASA may seek advice from the breeder of the variety, or other recognised expert, to confirm that using seed of a lower germination standard will not compromise the genetic integrity of the resultant seed crop.

***Compiled by the Australian Seeds Authority Ltd – December 2010. Amended March 2013***