

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE
PROCEDURES FOR OPERATING THE OECD SCHEME FOR THE
CERTIFICATION OF FOREST REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL MOVING IN
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is an United Nations sponsored international agency with memberships limited to national governments. The Forest Service, acting on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has established the following guidelines for carrying out the requirements and procedures of the OECD Scheme for the Certification of Forest Reproductive Material Moving in International Trade.

1. The Forest Service has been assigned the responsibility to implement the OECD Forest Reproductive Materials Scheme in the United States in cooperation with the official state seed certifying agencies.
2. The legally authorized seed certifying agency in each state may participate in the OECD Certification Scheme after negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Forest Service. Under the terms of the MOU the official state seed certifying agency accepts responsibility for determining that Forest Reproductive Materials produced under the OECD Scheme (a) comply with the requirements and procedures of the OECD Forest Reproductive Materials Scheme and additional standards as may be adopted by OECD, (b) meet the applicable production standards of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA), and (c) are tested when requested or required in accordance with the rules of the Association of Official Seed Analysts of America (AOSA) and/or the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA).
3. The official state certification authority negotiating the MOU with the Forest Service may designate an agency or organization to represent it in carrying out the provisions of the OECD scheme.

The Cooperative Forest Management Staff, State and Private Forestry, National Seed Laboratory, will represent the Forest Service.

4. Each state agency may print its own supply of approved OECD labels or it may purchase them from a reserve which will be maintained at a central location to be designated.
5. Labels will be prepared according to the specifications for labels in the OECD scheme.
6. The certifying agency's name and address shown on the OECD label must be that of the agency attaching the labels.

7. An OECD certification label may be attached to a Forest Reproductive Materials container bearing a state certification label provided that the categories of material in the two schemes concur. When similar or identical terms have different meanings in the two schemes this procedure should be used with caution in order to prevent misunderstandings.

When the OECD label is attached to Forest Reproductive Materials by an agency other than the one whose name appears on the state label, the interagency certification procedures of the AOSCA shall be followed.

8. A certificate for the certification of each lot of Forest Reproductive Material produced under the OECD Scheme will be used by the state certifying agency. Supplies of the certificates are available from the Forest Service. The original copy will be issued to the producer-owner of the Forest Reproductive Material; the second copy to the Forest Service, National Seed Laboratory; and third and fourth copies will be used by the certifying agency.
9. Annually each participating certifying agency must provide the Forest Service with the following information on each lot of Forest Reproductive Material produced under the OECD scheme:
 - a. Genus, species, sub-species, botanical variety or cultivar name.
 - b. Weight of seeds, number of cutting, seedlings, scions, or other types of reproductive material produced.
 - c. OECD reference numbers
 - d. Forest Reproductive Material category
 - e. Sequence of serial numbers
10. Every precaution must be taken to avoid errors.

11. Questions or comments pertaining to the OECD scheme should be directed to:

USDA Forest Service
National Seed Laboratory
5675 Riggins Mill Road
Dry Branch, GA 31020

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