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Global Agricultural Information Network

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Final Norm for Seeds for Planting Labeling Requirements

Report Categories:

Planting Seeds

FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

On December 1, 2015, the Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA) published an announcement in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register) containing the final Mexican NOM-002-SAG/FITO-2015 through which the Characteristics and Specifications to be met on the Quality Certification Labels of Seeds for Planting are Established. It enters into force 60 days after publication (January 30, 2016).

General Information:

Introduction: This report summarizes an announcement by the the Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA) published in Mexico’s “*Diario Oficial*” (Federal Register) on December 1, 2015, setting the requirements for quality certification labels for planting seeds.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

Title: Mexican Official Norm [NOM-002-SAG/FITO-2015](#), through which the Characteristics and Specifications to be met on the Quality Certification Labels of Seeds for Planting are Established.

Executive Summary:

On December 1, 2015, SAGARPA published the final regulation NOM-002-SAG/FITO-2015, to establish the characteristics and specifications to be met by quality certification labels of seeds for planting to guarantee that such seeds have been produced in Mexico according to the criteria established in SAGARPA’s Rules for Seed Qualification. The certification label serves as proof of the quality of the seeds, facilitating the marketing of the seeds and providing assurance to the agricultural producer. This NOM is mandatory throughout Mexico for certifying organisms approved by SAGARPA to classify seeds. The draft NOM was first reported in GAIN report [MX5016](#) on April 14, 2015, and the final version is nearly identical.

Mexico’s Servicio Nacional de Inspeccion y Certificacion de Semillas (National Service of the Inspection and Certification of Seed, or SNICs) is responsible for this regulation, in conjunction with other Mexican government agencies and seed industry representatives.

General Regulations of the Certification Label

The quality certification labels must comply with the following:

- 1) The label must be completely visible on the packaging and attached in such a way that it cannot fall off.
- 2) All inscriptions, graphics, or designs must be visible and easily legible, and avoiding the use of language that can confuse the user.
- 3) The language must be clear and without language exaggerating the quality of the seed. Advertising logos are not permitted. The design must be pre-approved by SNICs.
- 4) The units of measurements must be expressed according to the General System of Measuring Units in Mexico.
- 5) The label and all inscriptions must be in Spanish, unless the seeds are destined for export, in which case they can be in the language of the country of destination.
- 6) The label must not contain vague terms.

- 7) The label information must correspond at all times to the seed in the package.
- 8) Must conform to the following color schemes: a) Basic Category – green label, b) Registered Category – purple label, c) Certified Category – blue label, d) Authorized Category – yellow label.
- 9) Labels must be made with materials that can be sewed or glued to the package, and will not be destroyed through handling or transit.
- 10) Labels cannot be reusable.
- 11) SNICS is the authorized certification body that issues the record number for the labels.

Specifications

The format of the quality certification label must comply with the following:

- 1) Be proportional to the packaging, visible and legible.
- 2) Must contain an inscription indicating the category of the seeds for planting that are certified.
- 3) Must include technical and commercial information: a) crop, b) plant species, c) name of the variety, d) weight/number of seeds, e) lot number, f) origin, g) producer, h) essential analytical data, i) date of the analysis used for the certification
- 4) Must contain the logo or acronym of SNICs or the certifying agent.
- 5) The symbol of a skull with an X over it and the warning “NO APTA PARA CONSUMO HUMANO O ANIMAL”/Not suitable for human or animal consumption.
- 6) A record number including the year of the certification label followed by a consecutive number issued by SNICs.
- 7) The following statement must appear: “La semilla amparada por esta etiqueta, fue producida bajo supervisión técnica de (incluir el nombre del organismo de certificación autorizado) en campos e instalaciones que satisficieron las condiciones necesarias para asegurar la calidad genética, física, fisiológica, y sanitaria de las semillas en la fecha de su certificación.”/The seed covered by this label was produced under the technical supervision of (name of authorizing agent) in the field and laboratories that satisfy the necessary conditions to ensure the genetic, physical, physiological, and sanitary quality of the seeds on the date of certification.

For seeds in the “Authorized Category,” the label must contain the following statement: “La semilla amparada por esta etiqueta, fue producida bajo supervisión técnica de (incluir el nombre del organismo de certificación autorizado) tanto en campo como en beneficio; sin embargo **no cumple totalmente** con alguna de las características de calidad de semilla.”/ The seed covered by this label was produced under the technical supervision of (name of authorizing agent) in the field and as a crop; however, **it does not completely comply** with some of the characteristics of the seed quality.

- 8) A statement indicating that the authorized certification labels comply with the criteria and specifications established in this norm.

Genetically Modified Organisms

In the case of genetically modified organisms, the label must indicate that the seeds are in compliance with the applicable biosecurity regulations.

International Norms

The norm does not coincide with international standards because none exist.

Enforcement

SNICs is responsible for enforcing this regulation.

Important Dates

1. Publication Date: December 1, 2015.

2. Effective Date: January 30, 2016 (sixty calendar days after publication)

For More Information

FAS/Mexico Web Site: We are available at <http://www.mexico-usda.com.mx> or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at www.fas.usda.gov for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx, the equivalent of the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.economia.gob.mx, and the equivalent of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (SALUD) can be found at www.salud.gob.mx. These web sites are mentioned for the reader's convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.