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Mexico

Post: Mexico

Mexico Proposes Seed for Planting Labeling Requirements

Report Categories:

Planting Seeds

Approved By:

Lloyd Harbert

Prepared By:

Alicia Hernandez

Report Highlights:

On April 7, 2015, the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food (SAGARPA) published a proposal in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register) establishing the criteria to be included in the quality certification label on packages of seeds for planting. That same day, SAGARPA published another proposal regarding the requirements for seed certifying agents.

Executive Summary:

On April 7, 2015, SAGARPA published a proposal in the *Diario Oficial* (Mexico's Federal Register) establishing the quality certification label requirements for packages of seeds for planting. Comments must be in Spanish and scientifically and technically based. They are due June 6, 2015 to SAGARPA.

Introduction: This report summarizes a proposal published in Mexico's *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register) on April 7, 2015 by the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food (SAGARPA). The proposal establishes the quality certification label requirements for packages of seeds for planting. Comments are due to SAGARPA by June 6, 2015. A related proposal on the requirements for seed certifying agents is also available for comment.

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: Proposal for the Official Mexican Norm PROY-NOM-002/SAG/FITO-2013 through which the Characteristics and Specifications that Must be Together on the Quality Certification Labels of Seeds for Plantings are Established.

General Information:

On April 7, 2015, SAGARPA published a proposal in the *Diario Oficial* (Mexico's Federal Register) establishing the quality certification label requirements for packages of seeds for planting. Comments must be in Spanish and scientifically and technically based. They are due June 6, 2015 to SAGARPA:

Comité Consultivo Nacional de Normalizacion Agroalimentaria
Municipio Libre No. 337, Piso 4^a
Colonia Santa Cruz Atoyac C.P. 03310
Del. Benito Juarez, Mexico, Distrito Federal

Telephone: 52-55-3871-1000 x. 33639

Contact email: manuel.chavez@sagarpa.gob.mx

The studies on which the labeling requirements are based are available from the Comité until June 6, 2015.

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

The certification label serves as proof of the quality of seeds for planting, providing certainty in the production process. The quality certification label is required on the seed packaging always and as long as the seeds comply with the minimum established standards in the Rules*. The quality certification label also facilitates the marketing of the seeds by guaranteeing the quality of the seed to the agricultural producer.

*Rules are defined as documents published by SAGARPA that specify the factors and field and laboratory levels to classify the genetic, physical, physiological, and sanitary quality of the seeds, the process for classifying the seeds, and the requirements for approval of seed categories with those in existence in other countries.

The current Norma Oficial Mexicana (Mexican Official Norm, or NOM) establishes the characteristics and specifications for quality certification labels on packages of seeds for planting, facilitating the inspection and compliance process for the responsible authorities. The objective of the NOM is to establish the characteristics and specifications that certified quality labels for seeds for planting must have, which guarantees that those seeds have been produced in Mexico in accordance with the established quality methods and specific criteria in the Rules for seed quality for each different plant species. This NOM is mandatory throughout Mexico for certifying organisms approved by SAGARPA to classify seeds.

General Regulations of the Certification Label

The quality certification labels must comply with the following:

- 1) Must be completely visible on the packaging 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. 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) No vague terms.
- 7) 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
- 8) Must remain on the packaging and cannot be reusable.
- 9) Must be from an authorized certification body.

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) 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 inscription “La semilla amparada por esta etiqueta, fue producida bajo supervision tecnica 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.

The authorized category must contain the following inscription “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) An inscription stating 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 norms because none exist.

For the approval of seed categories with other countries, please refer to the Rules for classifying seeds for each species as well as the applicable international regulations depending on the certification scheme or the agreed upon commercial requirements. The categories will be defined according to the quality tolerances more than the origin of the seed.

Enforcement

SNICs is responsible for enforcing this regulation.

Proposed Regulation on Requirements for Seed Certifying Agents

On April 7, 2015, SAGARPA also published a proposal in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register) establishing the requirements for seed certifying agents. The proposal is open for comments to SAGARPA via the contact information above until June 6, 2015. A copy of the proposed NOM is available at this [link](#).

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.