



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

FOR DISCUSSION

MEMORANDUM TO: Dale Adolphe, Bill Leask, Jim McCullagh

Seed Section is hoping to circulate the attached document for consultation. However, we would appreciate your feedback on this document before proceeding to a broader consultation.

NOTICE TO INDUSTRY Guidelines on Maximum Lot Sizes

Domestic seed production in Canada does not currently have enforceable maximum lot sizes. Only seed certified pursuant to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Seed Schemes or tested under the International Seed Testing Association Rules is required to adhere to maximum lot sizes (see below). The CFIA is now joining the Canadian Seed Institute, as outlined in their Technical Manual for Approved Conditioners and Bulk Storage Facilities, in recommending maximum lot sizes for domestic purposes.

The Canadian Seed Institute recommends maximum lot sizes provided by the Association of American Seed Control Officials (AASCO) in their sampling handbook. However, these lot sizes are in imperial measurement rather than the metric system used in Canada. In general, CFIA has converted these measurements to metric with rounding off. In addition, the CFIA has added additional recommendations for species for which no recommendations were made by the AASCO.

Seed producing fields are not consistently uniform and large seed lot sizes only increases the potential for heterogeneity. Smaller lot sizes allow for more representative samples and increased confidence that seed lots are accurately graded. Following recommended lot sizes also reduces the risk to an approved conditioner or vendor when a complaint on seed grade is made to the CFIA. If the CFIA draws a sample from a lot and it does not meet the required standards, the whole lot can be detained. If smaller lot sizes are in use by the company, less of an economic impact will be sustained due to the detainment.

The following table provides the maximum lot sizes recommended by CFIA. As previously stated, these are not mandatory requirements, but are practices which will maintain the credibility of our seed production system by allowing for samples that are more representative of the quality of the lot.

CFIA Recommended Maximum Lot Sizes

Crop	OECD maximum lot size (kg) for certified seed	CFIA recommended maximum lot size (kg)	AASCO recommended maximum lot size (lb)
Corn	40000	70000	150000
Soybeans	30000	70000	150000
Wheat, Barley	30000	70000	150000
Oats, Rye, Triticale	30000	50000	100000
Lentils, Lupins, Peas, Beans, Fababeans,	30000	70000	NA
Sorghum, Sudangrass	30000	50000	NA
Vetches, hairy, Hungarian, common	30000	70000	NA
Sunflower, Safflower	25000	50000	100000 (sunflower)
Canola, Mustard, Oilseed Radish	10000	20000	100000
Buckwheat, Canaryseed	10000	35000	NA
Flax, Hemp, Camelina	10000	25000	NA
Large seeded grasses	10000	35000	75000
Small seeded grasses	10000	25000	55000
Grass Mixtures	NA	12000	25000
Vetches, crown, kidney, cicer milkvetch	10000	25000	NA
Sainfoin	10000	25000	NA
Small seeded forage legumes	10000	12000	55000
Coated, Pelleted Seeds, Mats, Tapes, etc.	NA	1 billion seeds where the coating material/tape/mat does not exceed 42000 kg	1 billion seeds where the coating material/tape/mat does not exceed 42000 kg

Please send your comments to: Louise Duke
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by: February 28, 2011