

December 2015

IGWG on Alternative Service Delivery

Program Description for the licensing of non-3rd party

Authorized Seed Crop Inspection Service (ASCIS)

for the Inspection of Seed Crops of Hybrid Corn & Hybrid Canola

The main goals established for alternative service delivery of seed crop inspection in 2014 were:

- To maintain the integrity and reputation of Canada's seed certification system
- To foster a competitive environment and choice of ASCIS
- To create an environment in which seed crop inspection services are available to all growers

These main goals continue to apply regardless of the crop inspection model.

Definitions:

For the purposes of this paper, non-3rd party means that an entity does not meet the definition of 3rd party established for the Authorized Seed Crop Inspection Program (Quality System Procedure 142.2, section 3.4), i.e., the entity may be considered the grower of the seed or may be the assignee and/or may not have an arm's length relationship with the seed grower.

Principles:

- The introduction of non-3rd party ASCIS will not put seed growers at additional risk of not getting an inspection.
- No crop kind will be deemed to be exclusively under non-3rd party seed crop inspections.
- An ASCIS employee responsible for managing and preparing a specific seed crop for seed crop inspection must not be the seed crop inspector inspecting that field.
- Seed crop inspection must always be completed by a licensed and competent LSCI.

Overarching criteria:

- ASCIS can either be licensed to perform non-3rd party inspections or 3rd party inspections; they cannot be licensed for both.
- An ASCIS must meet Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) licence requirements.
- An ASCIS must meet Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA) reporting requirements.

Crop Specific Criteria:

- Hybrid corn and hybrid canola are the only crop types for which non-3rd party ASCIS may have LSCI conduct seed crop inspection.
- For hybrid corn and hybrid canola, non-3rd party ASCIS can only inspect fields planted with Foundation seed certified by an Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies member agency, OECD Seed Schemes Pre-Basic or Basic seed or Breeder seed approved by the CSGA.
- For the foreseeable future, non-3rd party ASCIS will not be licensed to provide inspection services for CSGA Circular 6 section 2 and 3 crops.

The CFIA will license an entity as an ASCIS to inspect seed crops of hybrid corn and hybrid canola where the ASCIS is not an independent, 3rd party in respect of the seed crop to be inspected provided:

- The ASCIS meets all of the requirements set out in the CFIA's Quality System Procedure 142.2 and the terms and conditions of its licence, including having a quality system manual that clearly describes roles, responsibilities, procedures and accountabilities for the delivery of accurate, unbiased seed crop inspections in conformity with the CFIA's Specific Work Instructions.
- The ASCIS is responsible and accountable for the management of the seed crop including selection of fields, the detailed, preparatory inspections prior to and during flowering of the crop, rouging of off-types, de-tasseling of corn inbred lines and co-ordination of the synchronization of the flowering of canola inbred lines.
- The individual LSCI who inspects the field is not the same individual who managed the field prior to seed crop inspection.

A non-3rd party ASCIS licence:

- Will be crop kind specific and may be Region specific.
- Will specify that LSCI have a minimum 10% check inspection rate.
- Will not require the non-3rd party ASCIS to accept a minimum number of inspections per Region before refusing an application as these minimums apply only to CSGA Circular 6 sections 2 and 3 crop types.

Additionally:

- ASCIS should have a companywide, documented quality management system that clearly shows the separation of responsibilities for the management and preparation of the seed crop from the inspection of the seed crop.