

# The Journey to Seed Certification and Marketing

Seed certification underpins the health and purity status of the major arable crops in the UK. It offers an independent benchmark of quality on which seed buyers, and their customers depend. This compliance roadmap ensures certified seed production, from registering a new variety through to final marketing. This system operates under the Seeds Marketing Regulations 2011, which are based on the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964.



## Start

1

### Check if Your Varieties Are Listed

Only varieties on the Great Britain or Northern Ireland Variety List can be certified and marketed. Plant breeders rights must be obtained through the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

2

### Get Licensed

Businesses must be licensed by APHA and the British Society of Plant Breeders (BSPB) to market and certify seed of protected varieties.

3

### Enter Your Crops

Growers must notify National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) about crop production intended for seed.

4

### Assign Identity

Each seed crop gets a unique Seed Crop Identity Number.

5

### Royalty Rate Notification

BSPB notify licence holders of the certified royalty rates. Farm Saved Seed (FSS) payment rates are published on the BSPB website.

6

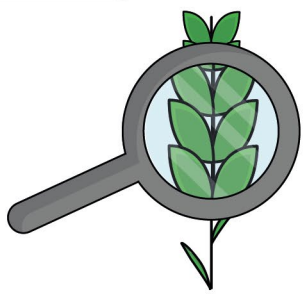
### Use a Contract

Seed production typically uses Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) standard contracts.

7

### Crop Inspection

Crops are mandatorily inspected by official APHA inspectors or licensed seed inspectors.



15

### Trait Protection

Innovative new varieties are the intellectual property of breeders. Royalty payments capture the value of these genetic traits, enabling breeders to continue developing new varieties.

16

### Keep Records

Records of all transactions, treatments, and inspections must be retained for 3 years to facilitate the auditing of licensed merchants and seed processors.



17

### Collection of FSS Remuneration

FSS use is monitored to identify the sowing of protected varieties; remuneration is then collected from processors and farmers and distributed to the owner of the variety.

13

### Pack and Label

Seeds must be packed under supervision and labelled with the appropriate APHA label.

12

### Apply Seed Treatments

Seed treatments protect seeds and support healthy crops. Use must be advised by BASIS-qualified advisors, with only approved treatments applied. Businesses can certify under the European Seed Treatment Assurance Scheme (ESTA) for added assurance.

11

### Sample and Test

Seeds are tested prior to movement on the farm; samples are taken at intake and for final certification, all of which are officially logged with NIAB by licensed laboratories.

8

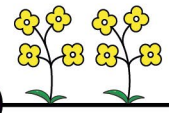
### After Crop Inspection

The inspector confirms that standards have been met, including the level at which the crop was entered. Particularly for cereals, or certain fodder crops, where a higher voluntary standard (HVS) may apply.

9

### Control Plot Testing

NIAB grow control plots to verify varietal identity.



10

### Process the Seed

Following strict certified standards, seeds are cleaned and prepared post-harvest.

