

Comparison of AOSA and ISTA Seed Testing Rules

	AOSA Rules	ISTA Rules
Research and develop standardized testing protocols to enhance trade and movement of seed	yes	yes
Seed analyst accreditation	yes	no
Seed analyst accreditation exam fees	\$300 to \$500	n/a
Laboratory accreditation	no*	yes
Laboratory audit accreditation fees (due every 3 years)	n/a*	\$12,898
Proficiency testing mandatory	no	yes
Test results can be used to meet minimum labeling requirements for U.S. Federal and State seed laws	yes	no
Classification of contaminating seed species found in seed lots either weed or crop.	yes	yes**
Rules recognized by AOSCA and the OECD Seed Schemes	yes	yes
Rules accepted and used in many countries	yes	yes
Annual cost for one electronic copy of current rules	free (members)*** \$100 (non-members)	free (members)**** \$198 (Associate Members) \$446 (non-members)
Voting authority on seed test rules	AOSA—one vote per laboratory members vote SCST-- members vote	One vote (government) per country.

* Optional accreditation available to AOSA and SCST members under the USDA Accredited Seed Laboratory (ASL) Process Verified Program. Laboratory audit accreditation cost approximately \$3500 (audit fees due every 3 years).

** Reported at the request of the customer or to meet the importing country requirements

*** One electronic copy free to members. First print license free to members; each additional print license \$25

**** Free to ISTA Personal and Laboratory members. Introduction and chapters 1, 2, and 7 are free to the public.

Notes:

AOSCA -- Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies.

OECD -- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Organizational Comparison of AOSA/SCST and ISTA

	AOSA/SCST	ISTA
Proficiency tests provided by organization	AOSA (no) SCST (yes)	yes
Proficiency testing required for members	AOSA (no*) SCST (no)	yes
Assist in enforcement of appropriate seed legislation at U.S. State and Federal levels	yes	no
Official certificates available for reporting results	no	yes**
Associated costs to issue official certificates	n/a	\$1,214**
Annual yearly fee for organizational membership	\$300 per individual \$1000 per laboratory	\$212 Associate \$1,041 Personal \$5,173 per laboratory
Number of member countries	2	76
Membership categories	<p style="text-align: center;">AOSA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. official laboratories 2. allied laboratories 3. associate member 4. honorary member <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">SCST</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. registered seed technologist 2. registered genetic technologist 3. certified genetic technologist 4. certified viability technologist 5. purity technologist 6. research member 7. associate member 	<p style="text-align: center;">member laboratory personal member associate member industry member</p>

* Mandatory proficiency testing is in the implementation stage for AOSA.

** ISTA members may chose optional accreditation to issue ISTA certificates (Orange or Blue). Certificates cost \$3.49 per sheet.

Notes:

AOSA – Association of Official Seed Analysts

ISTA – International Seed Testing Association

SCST – Society of Commercial Seed Analysts

Listed fees for ISTA based on CHF to USD conversion on 03/16/2015.