

Dear Seed Service Testing Customer:

Effective April 15, 2002, the hourly rate for testing and issuing Federal Seed Analysis Certificates will be \$52.00 per hour. The voluntary seed inspection program is conducted as authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA). The fee ensures that the program is self-supporting as required by the AMA.

A fee schedule for commonly requested tests for a number of crops, as well as the minimum sample size specified by International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Rules, is enclosed. Fees are based on an hourly rate for testing typical samples. Unusually difficult samples are charged based on actual time required.

In addition to hourly rate for testing and issuing certificates, the cost of issuing duplicate certificates is \$13.00 per certificate. Duplicate certificates should be requested at the time the sample is submitted. Any additional certificate besides the original and two copies issued to the applicant (customer to be billed) is considered a duplicate. Preliminary test reports will be issued upon request for a fee of \$13.00.

Under the program, Federal Seed Analysis Certificates are issued on seed samples submitted for analysis. Samples are tested for the factors requested by the applicant for the service. The following tests are offered: purity, germination, noxious weed seed examination, moisture, seed count, tetrazolium viability, standard vigor tests (conductivity, cold germination, accelerated aging), variety (growth chamber and field), and tests for certain seed-borne diseases. For ISTA moisture determination, please submit 100 grams of seed in a moisture-proof container in addition to the ISTA minimum size sample submitted for other tests.

Written authority must be obtained from a company being billed for the service if that company is different from the company submitting the sample. Completed certificates will be sent to the company billed for the service unless otherwise specified by that company.

The information accompanying submitted samples needs to be as complete as possible. In an effort to expedite the testing of seed samples and the issuance of Federal Seed Analysis Certificates, as well as reduce the cost to the applicant, we ask that the following information accompany the submitted seed samples:

- Scientific name and complete common name;
- Seed lot number and other identifying marks;
- Type of tests requested (such as purity, noxious-weed seed, germination, moisture, etc.);

- Which rules for testing: ISTA, AOSA, or FSA (for samples to be exported, ISTA Rules would usually be specified);
- For a noxious weed seed examination, provide a list of the noxious weeds in the country of destination where possible;
- Quantity of seed the sample represents (pounds or kilograms) and/or size of shipment (if the shipment size is less);
- Country of destination (to which country the seed is to be exported);
- Name of seed treatment; treated seed samples must be submitted in sealed plastic bags;
- Complete name, address, and telephone number of applicant, including signature of the individual authorizing the testing;
- Any special instructions for sending completed certificates, such as by overnight courier service (include account number); unless otherwise specified, certificates are sent by regular mail;
- Request for duplicate certificates if needed.

We appreciate your attention to these requests. Testing of your samples may be delayed if the required information outlined above is not received with the seed sample. Your cooperation will enable us to provide you better service.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Payne  
Chief