Proper Labeling of Certified Seed

Proper labeling of certified seed in retail or wholesale transactions is important. Certification of the seed can be lost if the seed moves improperly or with no label. In addition, applicable state and federal seed laws are in place to protect the purchaser of the seed as well as the certification of the seed. Below is a short guideline to labeling certified seed.

While paper forms may differ in appearance among agencies, all should bear an agency seal. Actual labels will be white/black for foundation class seed, purple for registered class seed and blue for certified class seed.

Wholesale Bagged Seed (purchase with intent to retail)

If bags, whether small or jumbo/totes are sealed and properly labeled they may be purchased and resold as long as the seed and the container remain in condition and unopened. If, however, one is purchasing unlabeled certified seed in bags (agency approved receiver only), then that seed would essentially be moved as bulk, then properly labeled for retail. It is expected that each bag or container would be identified by a lot number and a statement such as "not labeled for retail sale" until properly labeled.

We don’t see it much but there are instances where a "two-tag" system is used. Here the certification information is on an official label, and the retailer’s information and seed analysis is on a separate white label, both applied by the certifier. The retailer is responsible for keeping test date current.

In-Program Transfer and Resale of Bulk Seed (purchase with intent to retail)

Bulk seed can move as a Transfer of inspected seed or as a Resale of seed that has completed certification. Transfers require a paper form while resales are generated within the Seed Lot Management Dashboard.

Seed from a field passing inspection may be transferred via an In-State Transfer of Inspected Seed in Bulk form to Cat 1 Approved Conditioners and Cat 1 growers who will be responsible for completing certification in their name.
In-State Transfer of Inspected Seed in Bulk

Seller to submit KCIA copy within 5 business days.

Producer/Seller

Name
Address
Email
Phone

Buyer

Name
Address
Email
Phone

Inspected seed is seed from fields that have passed field inspection but for which certification has not been completed. The buyer must condition the seed and submit the appropriate samples to complete certification prior to any resale or retail movement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Crop/Kind</th>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Net Weight (lbs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Registered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Certified</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Treated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Untreated</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plant Variety Protection (check only one)

0. Not a Protected Variety.
1. Unauthorized Propagation Prohibited – For Testing (or Increase) Only.
3. Unauthorized Propagation Prohibited – U.S. Variety Protection Applied For Specifying That Seed Of This Variety Is To Be Sold By Variety Name Only As A Class Of Certified Seed.
5. Unauthorized Propagation Prohibited – To Be Sold By Variety Name Only As A Class Of Certified Seed – U.S. Protected Variety.

Container Condition:  Clean  Contaminated  Unknown  Comment: 

Field Number(s) of Seed Origin

Testing

When submitting samples for testing identify the seed as: 1Y - 2 3 4 5 , where Y is the year designation.

Additional Comments/Information:

The seller warrants only that the seed complies with all applicable Kansas certification standards and is labeled as labeled above; gives no warranty, expressed or implied as to productiveness of this seed and will not be responsible for the resultant crop in any way. It is mutually agreed that liability is limited to the purchase price of the seed. The buyer agrees that this certificate is evidence of the seed transaction stated and assumes all responsibility to maintain the integrity of the seed.

Date Seller Signature

Date Buyer Signature

Copy Distribution:  White: KCIA  Yellow: Buyer  Pink: Seller

Kansas Crop Improvement Association makes no warranty of any kind, expressly or implied, including merchantability or fitness for purpose, or otherwise, which extends beyond the certification that the seed inspected met the regulations of the agency.
Out-of-State seed coming into Kansas as either a transfer or resale and seeking a Kansas label needs a sign-off by the exporting state agency as proof that the seed does indeed exist and is certifiable. The Interstate Transfer Certificate of Bulk Seed - Eligible for Resale Pending Certification Verification in Receiving State form must be completed along with any documentation provided by the exporting state.
Retail Bagged Seed Sales

Seed is properly bagged when it is sealed and labeled in such a way that the bag cannot be opened and reclosed without showing signs of tampering. It is to be sold as a unit and not subdivided. Bagged seed may be in the form of the typical paper seed bag, jumbo/tote bag or box.

Generally, a self-adhesive combination (contains both certification and mechanical information) label is used on bags. For jumbo/totes, KCIA supplies jumbo kits that consist of blue cable ties for sealing and card stock to which the self-adhesive label is applied. Another means of applying a label to a jumbo/tote is to attach the label to the placard and staple the placard inside the pouch on the jumbo/tote, but the tote still must be properly sealed in a manner that tampering is evident. A placard without an official label is not valid for certified seed.

All labels and transfer/resale forms must list the state of origin of the seed, or in other words, the state in which the seed was produced. As an example, if seed came into Kansas from Nebraska, then the origin is Nebraska. If KCIA performed the seed analysis so as to issue Kansas Certified seed labels, then the statements on the label below are appropriate:

This is called an "inter-agency" certification and is one way certification agencies of different states cooperate with each other.
Retail Bulk Seed Sales

Bulk Kansas certified seed may be sold using the Bulk Retail Sale Certificate or a Bulk Invoice Label.

Bulk retail sale certificates are self-generated and printed from within the growers account in the Seed Lot Management Dashboard and completed at the time of retail sale.

KANSAS CERTIFIED SEED

The rules of the Kansas Crop Improvement Association provide that the foundation, registered and certified class of WHEAT, OATS, BARLEY, RYE and SOYBEANS may be sold in bulk and certification retained. The certification of the seed designated below will be void if this seed is resold.

Labeled By: KANSAS CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSN - Rossville, KS

Class, Variety, & Crop: Certified, KS Western Star, Wheat

Purity: 99 %  Germination: 90 %  Certification No: D04050
Inert: 0.98 %  Hard seed: 0 %  Date Tested: 06/22/2023
Other Crop Seed: 0.01 %  Amount: pounds sold ______ lbs
Weed Seed: 0.01 %  Origin: Kansas
Noxious Weeds: None  This seed is: [ ] TREATED [ ] UNTREATED

The seller gives no warranty, expressed or implied as to productiveness of this seed and will not be responsible for the crop in any way. Liability is limited to the purchase price of the seed.

By signing below, I agree that this Certificate is evidence of the seed transaction stated.

Date, Date of transaction: ______ Signed, Seller or agents signature ______ Signed, Buyer or agent's signature if possible ______

The Kansas Crop Improvement Association makes no warranty of any kind, expressly or implied, including merchantibility or fitness for purpose, or otherwise, which extends beyond the certification that the seed inspection met the regulations of the agency. This certificate is void if not dated within nine months of "Date Tested" shown above.
**Bulk Invoice labels** are the equivalent of a self-adhesive bag label minus the weight. *The absence of the weight makes it an incomplete label until it is attached to an invoice or a scale ticket listing the variety and the weight.*

One advantage of the bulk invoice label over the bulk retail sale certificate is that it is simply peeled off and applied to the invoice at time of sale, rather than completing a certificate. The disadvantage is that they are seed lot specific and if actions such as consolidating seed lots occurs must be re-ordered.

### Labeling Blends

There are no certified blends, only blends of certified varieties. Blending is done only after all components have completed certification. All components of a blend must be certified. You cannot blend certified seed wheat, for instance, with non-certified seed wheat. The owner/developer of a variety may restrict that variety’s use in a blend although most have not.

A blend implies that the components have been mixed, or blended, to uniformity. A blend is not the same as selling a farmer three different varieties and dumping all three in the truck, which is better described as co-mingling.

Seed law dictates that all components of a blend greater than 5% be listed on the label in descending order of amount present in the blend. Ideally, a seed quality analysis should be done on the blend, but in lieu of that, the most restrictive value for each component is used for the final label.

For example, let’s say we have a three-component blend. Of the three, the lowest germination percentage is 90. The highest inert of the three is 0.98, highest other crop is 0.10; highest weed is 0.1, and none for noxious weed seed. Then these would make up your blend analysis.

Since our certification standards require a Plant Variety Protection statement, we usually put the most restrictive of the three. For example, if two components are level 2 and one is level six, we feel it is appropriate to put level 6 on the label.

Based on the above then, the label, bulk retail certificate, bulk invoice label, transfer or resale form, or whatever, will list the variety as:
Class; highest % variety name; second highest % variety name; third highest % variety name; the word “Blend” and Type

So, if we had a 34%, 33%, 33% blend of three certified wheat varieties the label would read: “34% Variety 1 33% Variety 2 33% Variety 3 Blend Wheat”.

If one or more components of the blend were produced in another state, all states of origin are listed. If one or more components of the blend were certified by another state, all agencies involved are listed.

Origin: KS and NE

A statement like “Kansas seed field inspected by Kansas Crop Improvement Association, Nebraska seed field inspected by Nebraska Crop Improvement Association. All seed tested by Kansas Crop Improvement Association” or, a similar descriptive statement should be applied.

The rest of the label is completed as any other. A Bulk Retail Certificate would be completed with the same information.

**Labeling Brands**

Kansas Seed Law dictates that seed of wheat, oat, barley, and soybean be labeled by the actual variety name. VNS (variety not stated) is not allowed.

Likewise, seed of the above crops may not be sold under a brand name unless the brand name is clearly distinguishable from the variety name. Proper labelling of a branded wheat seed would be thus:

SuperStreak 4867 Brand Variety Name Wheat
In Conclusion

Don’t overlook the importance of providing a label to your customers. It is the law and it also is a statement that the seed is something more than just bin-run grain. Strut your stuff!

Labeling is what distinguishes legal seed sales from the illegal brown bagging of grain by unscrupulous persons. Labels are a written guarantee to the farmer that all reasonable steps have been taken to give them best seed available of the variety selected. A label is the mark of a professional seeds producer.

Remember, you are required to give a label to your customer even if the customer doesn't want the label. You are the one who will be held liable for failing to comply with the labeling laws.

Contact the KCIA office to order labels, transfer forms, and interstate forms.