

Rule Change Proposal No. 6

Purpose

To clarify the standing of the publication entitled *The Uniform Blowing Procedure – Contribution No. 24 to the Handbook on Seed Testing* (AOSA Handbook 24) as a part of the AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds. The proposal also clarifies where this publication and calibration samples may be obtained.

Present Rule

2.11 Uniform blowing procedure

- a. **Handbook:** A publication entitled *The Uniform Blowing Procedure* (AOSA Handbook No. 24) is available from the AOSA Secretary. It describes the uniform blowing procedure in detail.
- b. **Purpose:** The uniform blowing procedure shall be used for separation of pure seed and inert matter in the following: Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), Canada bluegrass (*P. compressa*), rough bluegrass (*P. trivialis*), weeping alkaligrass (*Puccinellia distans*), Pensacola variety of bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*), orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), and side-oats grama (*B. curtipendula*).
- c. **Calibration samples:** Calibration samples for Kentucky bluegrass, orchardgrass, and Pensacola variety of bahiagrass are to be used to establish a blowing point prior to proceeding with the separation of pure seed and inert matter. Calibration samples for all three species with instructions are available on a loan basis from the Federal Seed Laboratory, AMS, USDA, Bldg. 306, Rm. 213, Beltsville, MD 20705. Kentucky bluegrass and orchardgrass calibration samples may be purchased through the AOSA Secretary-Treasurer.

Proposed Rule

2.11 Uniform blowing procedure

- a. **Handbook:** A publication entitled *The Uniform Blowing Procedure – Contribution No. 24 to the Handbook on Seed Testing* (AOSA Handbook No. 24) is available from the AOSA Business Office. It describes the uniform blowing procedure in detail.
- b. **Purpose:** The uniform blowing procedure shall be used for separation of pure seed and inert matter in the following: Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), Canada bluegrass (*P. compressa*), rough bluegrass (*P. trivialis*), weeping alkaligrass (*Puccinellia distans*), Pensacola variety of bahiagrass (*Paspalum*

notatum), orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), and side-oats grama (*B. curtipendula*).

- c. **Calibration samples:** The instructions stated in AOSA Handbook 24 shall be followed for calibration of the blower and maintenance of the calibration samples. Calibration samples for Kentucky bluegrass, orchardgrass, and Pensacola variety of bahiagrass are to be used to establish a blowing point prior to proceeding with the separation of pure seed and inert matter. Calibration samples for all three species with instructions are available on a loan basis from the USDA Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch, 801 Summit Crossing Place, Suite C, Gastonia, NC 28054-2193. Kentucky bluegrass and orchardgrass calibration samples may be purchased through the AOSA Business Office.

Harmonization

The Federal Seed Act does not specifically cite this publication. Section 201.51a (3) states that calibration samples and instructions are available on loan from the Federal Seed Laboratory.

The CFIA Methods and Procedures for Testing Seeds require the use of the instructions supplied in AOSA Handbook 24 for the calibration of the blower and the maintenance of the calibration samples.

The ISTA Rules do not clearly state how the calibration procedure is to be performed. However, upon request, the ISTA Secretariat will provide calibration instructions. These instructions follow the same general principals as those given in AOSA Handbook 24.

Supporting Evidence

The calibration samples and AOSA Handbook 24 are not available from the AOSA Secretary; they may only be obtained from the AOSA Business Office. The Federal Seed Laboratory has recently relocated and the address cited in the Rules needs updating.

Although the Rules currently refer to AOSA Handbook 24 under the section on the Uniform Blowing Procedure there is no specific reference to the required use of the information contained in this document with regard to the blower calibration or the proper maintenance of the calibration samples. These instructions are critical to the standardization of the Uniform Blowing Procedure among laboratories.

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Date Submitted: September 25, 2003