

2021 Rule Change Proposal 1

(Renumbered)

Purpose of Proposal: To added seed format definitions for seed mats and seed tapes.

Present Rule and Proposed Rule: (proposed changes indicated in red text)

2.1 Definitions

d. Seed formats:

- (1) **Coated or encrusted seed:** seed that has been covered by a layer(s) of materials that obscure the original shape and size of the seed resulting in a substantial weight increase. The addition of biologicals, pesticides, identifying colorants or dyes, and/or other active ingredients including polymers can be included in this process. Refer to sections 3.8 and 6.8 l.
- (2) **Film-coated seed:** film-coated seed retains the shape and the general size of the raw seed with a minimal weight gain. The film coating may contain polymers, pesticides, biologicals, identifying colorants or dyes, and other additives. The coating should result in a more or less continuous covering that eliminates or minimizes product dust-off.
- (3) **Inoculated seed:** seed that has received a coating of a commercial preparation containing a microbial product, e.g. *Rhizobium* sp.
- (4) **Pelleted seed:** seed that has been covered by a layer(s) of materials that obscure the original shape and size of the seed resulting in a substantial weight increase and improved plantability or singulation. The addition of biologicals, pesticides, identifying colorants or dyes, and/or other active ingredients including polymers can be included in this process. Refer to sections 3.8 and 6.8 l.
- (5) **Raw seed:** seed that is free of any applied materials.
- (6) **Treated seed:** seed with a minimal covering of various materials whose primary objective is to reduce or control certain disease organisms, insects or other pests attacking the seed or seedlings growing therefrom and that contains identifying colorants or dyes.
- (7) **Seed Mat:** broad sheets of material, such as paper or other degradable material, with seeds placed throughout the material randomly or in organized rows or groups. The addition of biologicals, pesticides, identifying colorants or dyes, and/or other active ingredients including polymers can be included in this process.
- (8) **Seed Tapes:** Narrow strips of material, such as paper or other degradable material, with seeds placed randomly, in groups of two or more seeds, or in a single file line. The addition of biologicals, pesticides, identifying colorants or dyes, and/or other active ingredients including polymers can be included in this process.

Harmonization and Impact Statement:

Seed mats and seed tapes are available in the marketplace and have the potential to be submitted for regulatory seed testing; therefore, it is important to have standard definitions for such seed formats and methods for testing the quality of such products. The Federal Seed Act (FSA) does not have specific definitions for seed mats or seed tapes, although these two items could possibly fall under the FSA definition of coated seed (see under supporting evidence). The Canadian Methods and Procedures (M&P) for Seed Testing provides a definition of coated seed similar to that of the FSA. Grading of seed must be completed prior to coating; therefore, the M&P does not provide methods for testing coated seed other than a reference to the AOSA Rules if such testing is needed (see M&P section 3.10). The proposed definitions are similar to those used by the ISTA Rules (2020) to describe seed mats and seed tapes (see supporting evidence).

Supporting Evidence:

Seed mats and seed tapes are available in the marketplace and yet the AOSA Rules do not recognize these seed formats. The purpose of this proposal is to provide standard definitions for these two seed formats. Below are the general definitions for coated seed provided in the FSA and the Canadian M&P. Neither of these documents provide definitions for specific seed formats such as encrusted seed, pelleted seed, seed mats, or seed tapes. Also given below are the definitions found in the ISTA Rules (2020) for specific types of 'coated seed' including seed mats and seed tapes.

Federal Seed Act (2020) definitions for coated seed and coating materials:

§201.2 Terms defined.

(q) *Coated seed.* The term "coated seed" means any seed unit covered with a coating material.

(nn) *Coating material.* The term "coating material" means any substance that changes the size, shape, or weight of the original seed. Ingredients such as rhizobia, dyes, polymers, biologicals, and pesticides are not coating material for purposes of this part.

Canadian Methods and Procedures for Testing Seed (M&P) (2016):

3.10.1 Definition

Coated seed (includes pelleted and encrusted seed units) is a seed unit covered with any substance which changes the size, shape, or weight of the original seed. Seeds coated with ingredients such as, but not limited to, rhizobia, dyes, and pesticides are excluded.

ISTA Rules (2020) definitions for seed mats and seed tapes:

Chapter 2: Sampling

2.2 Definitions

2.2.13 Coated seeds

Coated seeds are seeds covered with material in such a way that in most cases the seeds cannot be identified without removing the covering material. The material may contain pesticides, fungicides, biologicals, identifying colourants, dyes or other additives. The following types of coated seeds are defined:

Seed pellets. More or less spherical units, usually incorporating a single seed with the size and shape of the seed no longer readily evident.

Encrusted seed. Units more or less retaining the shape of the seed with the size and weight changed to a measurable extent.

Seed granules. Units more or less cylindrical, including types with more than one seed per granule.

Seed tapes. Narrow bands of material, such as paper or other degradable material, with seeds spaced randomly, in groups or in a single row.

Seed mats. Broad sheets of material, such as paper or other degradable material, with seeds placed in rows, groups or at random throughout the sheets.

Additional proposals will be submitted with regards to the sampling and testing of seed tapes and seed mats.

Submitted by:

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