

# Sampling Frequency Card

**TABLE 1\***

**Seed in SACKS, or similar sized containers, containing at least 15kg but not more than 100kg of seed.**

Number of containers in the lot	Minimum number of primary samples to be taken
1 – 4	3 primary samples from each container
5 – 8	2 primary samples from each container
9 – 15	1 primary sample from each container
16 – 30	15 primary samples, 1 each from 15 different containers
31 – 59	20 primary samples, 1 each from 20 different containers
60 or more	30 primary samples, 1 each from 30 different containers

The containers to be sampled shall be selected systematically or at random and primary samples drawn from the top, middle and bottom of containers, but not necessarily from more than one position in any container. The position from which seed is taken shall be varied from container to container.

(Note: 1,000kg = 1 tonne)

## Sampling from SMALL containers

For sampling seed lots in containers holding **less than 15kg** of seed a 100kg weight of seed shall be taken as the basic unit and the small containers shall be combined to form sampling units not exceeding this weight (e.g. 10 packages of 10kg, 8 packages of 12kg). For sampling purposes each unit shall be regarded as one notional container and the sampling procedures prescribed in Table 1 opposite shall be used. Examples are as follows:

(i) a seed lot consists of 3.84 tonnes (**320** × 12kg packages)  
 $8 \times 12\text{kg} = 96\text{kg}$  (i.e. one sampling unit)  
 $320 \div 8 = 40$  containers  
 (i.e. number of packets ÷ packets in sampling unit)  
 Therefore the number of primary samples = 20

(ii) a seed lot consists of 2.5 tonnes (**250** × 10kg packages)  
 $10 \times 10\text{kg} = 100\text{kg}$  (i.e. one sampling unit)  
 $250 \div 10 = 25$  containers.  
 (i.e. number of packets ÷ packets in sampling unit)  
 Therefore the number of primary samples = 15

When seed is in moisture-proof tins or plastic containers, the opened or pierced containers must be adequately closed or the residues from sampling transferred to new containers sealed and labelled. When seed is in very small packets (100g or less) each packet may be considered as a primary sample and sufficient packets shall be taken at random to obtain a submitted sample of at least the minimum size prescribed in the regulations.

**\*The sampling frequencies in Table 1 and Table 2 are from the current ISTA Rules.**

CERT 14 (Rev. 03/17)

**Table 2\***

**Sampling from LARGE containers or seed in BULK**

Lot weight	Minimum number of primary samples to be taken
Up to 500kg	At least five primary samples
501 – 3,000kg	One primary sample for each 300kg but not less than 5
3,001 – 20,000kg	One primary sample for each 500kg but not less than 10
20,001kg and above	One primary sample for each 700kg but not less than 40

For sampling containers holding more than 100kg of seed, and for seed in bulk, primary samples must be taken from different horizontal and vertical positions systematically selected or at random and the above sampling frequencies shall be regarded as the minimum.

(Note: 1,000kg = 1 tonne)

When sampling a lot of up to 15 containers, regardless of their size, the same number of primary samples shall be taken from each container.

## Automatic sampling from a seed stream

Samples may be drawn from a seed stream during processing using an approved automatic sampling device, which must uniformly sample the entire cross-section of the seed stream when a sample is taken. Portions of seed shall be taken at regular intervals throughout the processing of the lot using the same intensity as for seed in bulk. (See Table 2 opposite).

e.g. The throughput of a processing plant is 5 tonnes per hour.

A 25 tonne seed lot of wheat is to be sampled using an approved automatic sampler.

Table 2 specifies 1 sample for each 700kg, but not less than 40.

$25,000\text{kg} \div 700\text{kg} = 35.7$  samples.

Therefore the minimum of 40 samples applies.

The seed lot weighs 25 tonnes and the throughput of the processing plant is 5 tonnes per hour so it will take 5 hours to process the lot (i.e. 25 tonnes ÷ 5 tonnes per hour = 5 hours).

5 hours = 300 minutes

Therefore 300 minutes ÷ 40 samples = 7.5 minutes

Remember to:

1. check the CERT 5 and labels before sampling
2. check that containers are properly labelled, sealed and of the same size and type
3. check that sampling equipment is correct for the seed lot to be sampled
4. check that sampling equipment is clean
5. despatch the official sample to an LSTS or OSTs immediately.

**\*The sampling frequencies in Table 1 and Table 2 are from the current ISTA Rules.**

CERT 14 (Rev. 05/25)