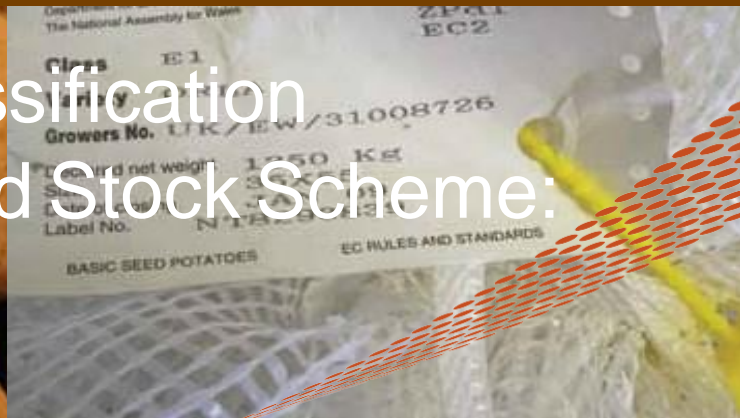




Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Explanatory Guide to
The Seed Potato Classification
Scheme and Approved Stock Scheme:
for 2018/19.



Contents

1	Introduction	4
2	Applications	5
3	Seed categories and Grades	6
	3.1. Pre-basic TC (tissue culture) and Pre-basic (field grown)	6
	3.2. Basic grades	6
	3.3. Certified grade	6
4	Field Generation	7
	4.1. Generation limits	7
	4.2. Generation control	7
5	Entry conditions	9
6	Crop inspections	9
7	Inspection tolerances	
8	Particular conditions for growing pre basic (TC and field grown) stocks	10
9	Burning-off	10
10	Classification; administrative and procedural details	11
11	Storage of tubers	11
12	Tuber inspection	12
13	Size and variety	12
14	Official labelling and sealing	13
	14.1. Label details and standards	13
	14.2. Label printing	13
	14.3. Movement of as grown seed	14
	14.4. Declared chemical treatments	14

15	Records	14
16	Separate particulars to purchasers	15
17	Complaints	15
18	General	15
	18.1. Roguing seed crops	15
	18.2. Varietal purity	15
	18.3. Organic seed production	16
	18.4. Fees	16
	18.5. The Protected Region	16
	18.6. Aphid control	16
	18.7. Voluntary tuber virus indexing service	16
	18.8. Rhizomania Protected Zones	16
	18.9. Chemical treatments	16
	18.10. Labelling of chemical treatments	17
	18.11. Plant Breeders' Rights	17
	18.12. The SPCS Register of Growers & 'Sole Traders'	17
	18.13. Disclosure of information	17
	Appendix I - SPCS Isolation Requirements	18

1 Introduction

This is a guide to the Seed Potato Classification Scheme (SPCS) and much of the guidance is taken from the relevant legislation, in accordance with which the scheme operates and growers in England and Wales have their seed potato crops classified. For the full details and legal requirements, you should refer to, currently, The Seed Potatoes (England) Regulations 2015 and the Seed Potatoes (Wales) Regulations 2016. Under these Regulations, it is an offence to market any seed potatoes that have not been officially certified in accordance with specified requirements.

If you are in doubt about any aspects of the SPCS please contact your local Plant Health and Seed Inspector, if you do not have their contact details please contact the appropriate Senior PHSI. From the details see <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>

Copies of the Regulations may be purchased from HMSO or are available on the HMSO website at <http://www.hmso.gov.uk>

The official certification bodies in England and Wales are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Welsh Government. In practical terms, the SPCS is administered on behalf of Defra and the Welsh Government by The Animal and Plant Health Agency APHA – further details about the scheme can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-seed-potato-classification-scheme>

The SPCS provides for certification at various grades depending on the grade and field generation of the parent seed, the health of the crop at the field inspection and of tubers after harvest. Results of inspections are based upon visual symptoms and the results of all inspections are available to crop applicants and, where permitted, growers. As well as the mainstream SPCS which covers the majority of seed potato production and sales; there are 2 additional and parallel tracks to facilitate other aspects of seed potato production as per the chart opposite.

Charges apply for all SPCS work as per the current published scale of charges which are subject to change.

See paragraph 18.4 for current fees in England and Wales.

If you have any problems or comments about any aspect of the administration of the SPCS you should in the first instance speak to your local Inspector.

Comparison of the 3 tracks for the English & Welsh SPCS		
SPCS Standard Scheme	Approved Stock Scheme AS	Conservation Varieties Scheme
Covers the growing and marketing of the majority of commercial and retail seed potatoes in England and Wales. All of which are either on the UK National list or EC Common catalogue.	This aspect of the scheme is to officially approve promising new varieties to facilitate their multiplication in the early stages of selection and for test and trial purposes or whilst they are undergoing national listing evaluation.	Seed potatoes may be classified in the conservation category if they have some conservation value because they are naturally adapted to the local and regional conditions or are threatened by genetic erosion.
This aspect of the scheme determines all the key criteria for the SPCS.	Where approved stocks carry an SPCS classification the AS operates to the same criteria and grades as the main scheme which thereby facilitates the movement of such AS material into the mainstream scheme as soon as all necessary testing and listing criteria have been met. There are some additional EC controls with regard to the AS; the certifying authority will inform you of any applications that are affected by these.	The conservation varieties scheme is operated to the same standards and criteria as the main SPCS. See Commission Directive 2008/62/EC for further details.

2 Applications

Applications for SPCS entry may be made by growers or by holders of plant breeders' rights who wish to enter crops produced either by themselves or by others on their behalf. All applications will be verified before being approved and if any errors are found the applicant will be contacted and may be requested to resubmit the application.

- Applications should be made on-line at <http://edomero.defra.gov.uk/> Contact your Inspector for details on registration to use this option.
- Alternatively application forms can be downloaded from the APHA website at
- www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/519200/form-spcs2.pdf
- Completed forms should be sent to the address given in the current 'Dear Grower' communication.
- Each crop application must be accompanied by a label (or colour scan of the label) taken from the parent seed stock*.
- *except where the seed will be grown from a stock produced by the same applicant and grower, and no labels were issued.
- Paper applications will incur an administration charge of £14.76 per application.

3 Seed Categories and Grades

There are three Categories of seed potatoes – Pre-basic, basic and certified. These categories can be subdivided into seven Grades.

3.1. PRE-BASIC TC (TISSUE CULTURE) AND PRE-BASIC (FIELD GROWN)

Pre-basic material may be produced for a maximum of five years (maximum of four years in soil) from the original source material. Pre-basic TC material must be grown in isolation from soil.

3.2. BASIC GRADES

S
SE
E

3.3. CERTIFIED GRADE

A
B

4 Field Generation (Fg)

4.1. GENERATION LIMITS

The maximum number of generations of seed potatoes that can be grown is limited to nine.

For each grade there is a field generation maximum after which the seed automatically drops to the next grade.

Having the field generation of seed to be entered into the scheme is vital if it is to be correctly entered. This information should be on the official label.

Seed with no field generation will be entered at the maximum field generation for its grade.

Category					
Pre - basic	Basic			Certified	
Grades					
PB	S	SE	E	A	B
Fg4	Fg5	Fg6	Fg7	Fg8/9	Fg8/9

4.2. GENERATION CONTROL

Seed can be entered for any grade providing that it does not exceed the field generation maximum for that grade.

If field generations are skipped either at the applicant's choice or as a result of a field downgrade the additional field generations may be used until the maximum for that grade is reached.

e.g. Planting Pre-basic Fg3 to produce S Fg4 would allow a further year at S Fg5 (assuming field standards are met)

A maximum of two generations of certified seed can be produced irrespective of the field generation reached.

5 Entry conditions

5.1. GROWING AREAS

- **Pre-basic TC:** Multiplication of micro-plants must take place in a laboratory acceptable on both technical and administrative grounds to Defra or Welsh Government and under the supervision of a Plant Health and Seeds Inspector. This material may then be grown on under protection or in the open air to produce Pre-basic TC but must be isolated from soil.
- **Pre-basic (Field grown), Basic S, SE, E:** May be grown in any part of England and Wales.
- **E Fg7:** Cannot be entered in the Protected Region
- **Certified A and B:** May be produced in any area of England and Wales except the Protected Region.

5.2. STATUTORY PESTS AND DISEASES

You must not grow crops for certification on any land which is subject to a statutory notice declaring it to be:

- contaminated with or in a safety zone for potato wart disease or,
- contaminated with potato cyst nematode (PCN).
Land is eligible for entry if it has been satisfactorily tested within 4 years prior to the crop and no potatoes or other PCN host crops have been grown on it since the last certificate was issued. For details of official soil sampling, fees and, where in doubt, to ascertain the status of the land, contact APHA.
- contaminated with rhizomania, ring rot or brown rot or any other quarantine disease. Contact APHA for further information.

5.3. ELIGIBLE VARIETIES

- **SPCS:** Only varieties on the *UK National List of Plant Varieties* or in the *European Community Common Catalogue* are eligible. Contact APHA for clarification on particular varieties. Varieties very similar in appearance may not be grown on the same holding due to the difficulties of identification of plants and tubers and risk of admixture.
- **AS:** In addition to those above, varieties awaiting National Listing or entry in the EC Common Catalogue may be entered into the AS Scheme. Approved stocks on either Yellow or Orange labels are acceptable for entry into the Approved Stock scheme. Details of the country and National List trial reference number must be supplied when making an AS application.
- **Conservation varieties:** Those varieties which have been listed as conservation varieties in accordance with the Seeds (National List of Varieties) (Amendment) Regulations 2009.

5.4. ELIGIBLE PARENT STOCKS

Seed from any member state may be entered into the SPCS to produce progeny as below providing that the maximum field generation for the grade will not be exceeded:

Parent Stock → Eligible ↓	PB Fg1	PB Fg2	PB Fg3	PB Fg4	S	SE	E	A	B
1 PB TC									
PB Fg1									
PB Fg2	✓								
PB Fg3	✓	✓							
PB Fg4	✓	✓	✓						
S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
SE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Seed potatoes which have been bagged and labelled for retail sales are not eligible for entry into the SPCS, as reproduction for commercial purposes is not a 'retail activity' and the provenance and integrity of such seed potatoes cannot always be guaranteed.

Approved Stocks produced in other Member States are eligible for entry into the Approved stock scheme and can move across to the main SPCS on achieving National Listing. Contact APHA for advice.

5.5. ROTATION

Seed potatoes may only be classified if the land upon which they are grown has been potato-free for the following, minimum, period:

Pre basic	7 years
Basic S SE E	5 years
Certified A B	4 years

5.6. ISOLATION (FROM OTHER POTATO CROPS)

See Appendix I - SPCS: Isolation Requirements.

5.7. BROWN ROT AND RING ROT TESTING

Seed potatoes produced in other EU countries intended for use in producing crops for entry into the SPCS must be tested for potato brown rot and potato ring rot.

Please notify APHA before planting if you intend to enter any stocks from other Member States.

6 Crop inspections

Seed stocks will be inspected as follows:

- Pre-basic, S SE, E, – twice, with a gap of approximately 2 weeks between.*
- Certified A and B – once.

Additional inspections will be made where:

- PB stocks or stocks under compulsory burn-off that have to be burnt off by a set date.
- Stocks have been rogued to meet grade standard and have been re-inspected.

*If for any reason stock applications are delayed and the crop has grown beyond a point at which two effective inspections can be made the crop may only be inspected to a certified grade irrespective of the grade entered.

7 Inspection tolerances

7.1. FIELD TOLERANCES

Crops must meet the following tolerances at field inspections:

Defect /disease	Pre-Basic	S	SE	E	A	B
Not true to type*	0.01%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%
Blackleg	Nil	0.1%	0.5%	1.0%	2.0%	4.0%
Virus Y, A and Leafroll**	Nil	0.02%	0.1%	0.4%	2.0%	6.0%
Other mosaic virus	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%	0.8%	2.0%	6.0%
Total virus	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%	0.8%	2.0%	6.0%

Note: For pre-basic stocks all the tolerances above apply to both first and second inspections. For other grades, the virus tolerances apply to all inspections whilst all other tolerances apply at the final inspection only.

* Ground keepers, planted rogues, bolters, semi bolters, undesirable deviations from the variety and wildings.

** For seed grown in the UK a tighter tolerance will apply for potato viruses Y, A and Potato Leafroll. Plants infected with any other virus will be scored at the “Other mosaic virus” tolerance.

7.2. DOWNGRADING SEED STOCKS

When a stock exceeds any of the above tolerances it will be downgraded to the next appropriate grade.

For virus this applies after first inspection and after the final inspection for all other defects.

If stocks of different grades are planted with only a blank isolation row the virus found in the lower graded crop must not exceed the tolerance of the higher grade crop. If it does either all the higher grade crop or 10m may be downgraded.

In this situation your Inspector will explain the options open to you.

8 Particular conditions for growing Pre-basic stocks (TC and field grown)

- Randomly selected samples may be grown on by the Defra or the Welsh Government to assess varietal type. However, it may not be possible for pre-basic material grown under protection to be certifiable/approved to variety.
- The growing crop must be kept free from aphids at all times and all reasonable husbandry practices for the prevention of the occurrence, development or spread of pests and diseases must have been carried out.
- Roguing of any diseased plants is not permitted prior to the first inspection. Roguing is permitted between the first and second inspections to maintain the health status of the stock.
- The mother plants must have been kept free during the propagation period from Blackleg spp. Potato leafroll virus, potato viruses A,M,S,X and Y.
- Pre-Basic stocks are found to be free at all official growing crop inspections from potato viruses A, Y, leaf-roll and blackleg and within tolerance for all other mosaic viruses, and deviations of variety and type. Any finding in excess of any tolerance at any inspection will result in the stock being downgraded to the appropriate lower grade.

9 Burning off

For all crops you are advised to burn down the foliage as soon as possible after final inspection. However, there are specific requirements as follows:

- **Pre-basic (field grown):** stocks must be completely burnt off, without re-growth, within 21 days after the second inspection. A burn-off inspection will be made and if the stock hasn't been burnt down or any green haulm remains it will be downgraded to S.
- **Other grades.** Compulsory burn – off will be required where the virus found exceeds one third of the grade tolerance as listed below. See note below.

Grade	Virus %, at any inspection, above which compulsory burn off is required	
	PLRV, Y or A	Other Mosaic virus
S	0.006%	0.06%
SE	0.03%	0.16%
E	0.13%	0.26%
A	0.66%	0.66%
B*	2%	2%

Note: Applicants will be notified by the PHSI if individual crops are required to be burned down to meet grade standards. If the haulm has not been completely burnt off by the required date the crop will be downgraded to the next lower grade or, in the case of a B grade crop, no certificate is awarded.

10 Classification; administrative and procedural details

1. Each stock entered in the scheme/s will be allocated a unique stock reference number prefixed by the year.
2. Entered stocks will receive a certificate after inspection(s), which will show whether the crop:
 - Met the standards at which it was entered.
 - Met only the standards of a lower grade.
 - Fails outright.
3. The stock will be eligible for marketing at the grade indicated on the certificate, but will require a pre-marketing tuber inspection. A register of all SPCS stocks certified will be published on GOV.UK - www.gov.uk/guidance/the-seed-potato-classification-scheme in the early autumn.
4. In order to minimise administrative costs, the Register will be produced exactly as per the crop entry details, the scheme cannot finance the costs of subsequent changes to grower, applicant or any other details. Consequently it is essential that the entry details are exactly as you wish them to appear on the register. For protected varieties this includes obtaining any necessary permission from the variety maintainers.
5. Stocks entered into the AS scheme will receive an AS letter. Approved stock approval will be withdrawn if the application for National Listing is withdrawn.
6. Stocks of the same variety, grown on the same holding and entered and classified at the same grade and with the same national parentage can be bulked together for grading and marketing. Applications for bulking can only be made by the applicant and must be made immediately on receipt of the classification certificates. A revised stock number for the bulked stock will be issued. This number that will appear in the register, so all bulking applications must be received before the register is published. Subsequent applications for labels must quote the bulked stock number.
7. Copies of certificates will be emailed to the address provided on the application form.
8. A letter will be sent out in Spring each year to all known seed potato growers and applicants with details of this seasons requirements.

11 Storage of tubers

All stocks must be stored separately, clearly labelled and handled so as to avoid admixture with other seed stocks and stored separately from ware stocks.

Seed tubers must not be stored in any container or building where growth regulating chemicals have been applied.

12 Tuber inspection

There is a nil tolerance for the following Group 1 diseases on all classes of seed potatoes;

Colorado Beetle	Ring Rot	Brown Rot
Potato Cyst and Tuber Nematodes	Wart Disease	Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid

Graded lots of seed potatoes for marketing must comply with the minimum standards set out below:

	Surface area % tolerance	PB	Basic S, SE and E	Certified A and B
Total of all rots		0.2	0.5	0.5
Wet Rot not above		0.2	0.2	0.2
Black Scurf	10	1	5	5
Common Scab	33	5	5	5
Powdery Scab	10	1	3	3
Shriveled Tubers		0.5	1	1
Skin Spot	12.5	0.2	0.5 (S,SE) 2 (E)	2
Damage		3	3	3
Soil		1	1	2
PVYTN necrosis		0	0.1	0.1
Total of above Faults		6	6	8
Over or Undersize		3	3	3
Varietal purity		0.01	0.1	0.2

To enable the official inspection of tubers, growers or applicants printing their own labels must inform their local PHSI or the PHSI in whose area the stock is being graded when the first lot of any stock is labelled and ready for marketing. Ideally this should be by email. Where APHA print the labels the printing office will notify the local inspector via eDomero. The subsequent marketing of lots from a stock is dependent on the inspection findings and growers will be notified by the PHSI of the necessary subsequent inspection requirements.

Note: Tubers with surface diseases are included as infected when, in the case of:

- Skin spot, 1/8th of the surface area is covered, with at least 2 eyes unaffected.
- Powdery scab, 10% of the surface area is covered, with at least 2 eyes unaffected. However, all tubers are included when they exhibit the cankerous form of the disease.
- Black scurf, 10% of the surface area is covered, with at least 2 eyes unaffected.
- Common scab, 1/3rd of the surface area is covered, with at least 2 eyes unaffected.

13 Size

- The minimum size of pre-basic, basic and certified seed potatoes are 25mm. Sizes over 35mm must be stated in multiples of 5mm.
- The maximum variation between tubers in a lot is 25mm.
- To meet current industry practices a permissible derogation is available to market seed potatoes with a wider size range than specified in the current regulations. This is only available with the approval of the PHSI and is only permitted where the customers are in the UK and have given agreement to accept this size range and will not move them on for further marketing.

14 Official labelling and sealing

14.1. LABEL DETAILS AND STANDARDS

Bags and containers of seed potatoes must be either new and unused or cleaned and disinfected to the satisfaction of the local Plant Health and Seeds Inspector and must not be marketed unless they carry official labels and are correctly sealed. The official label is also an EU plant passport for trade with and within EU countries.

Labels will be charged for as from April 2018 in England and in Wales following agreement of the fees legislation.

Label colours are as follows:

Main SPCS

- Pre-basic are white with a diagonal violet line.
- Basic S, SE, E are white.
- Certified A and B are blue.

Approved Stocks

- Stocks under the EU Test and Trials scheme are orange.
- All other Approved Stocks are yellow and applications for AS labels will be printed on yellow labels unless we are notified that a stock has been entered under the EU test and trial scheme.

Conservation Stocks

- Labels are – buff coloured.

Sealing

- For small bags the label must be stitched into and through the mouth of the bag.
- For large bags, boxes and bulk loads, the label must be attached with a separate seal.
- Plastic pull ties can be obtained from your Inspector

14.2. LABEL PRINTING

- Growers or applicants can apply to become a Delegated Label Producer DLP and print their own labels. Those who have already done so have found it has brought significant advantages in speed and flexibility. Anyone who wishes to do this should contact their local PHSI who will provide details of the Label Printing Protocol which lists the conditions that have to be met.
- For growers and applicants who are unable to arrange to print their own labels APHA can produce labels to order: Applications should be made on-line, allowing 5 working days for delivery. www.gov.uk/government/publications/spcs-application-for-official-labels
- Applications can be submitted by post or fax using the details on form SPCS3.

You must maintain a record of each block of labels used and make this available for inspection by APHA. Where the month(s) of 'Date of closing' is printed on the labels they will be valid during that period only. Where the label is issued with no pre-printed 'Date of closing', it remains a marketing condition that this is entered on to the label before marketing can take place. Defra or the Welsh Government will remain the owner of official labels after they have been issued and all unused labels must be returned to the appropriate office.

14.3. MOVEMENT OF AS GROWN SEED

Where final grading of a stock for marketing is not taking place, seed from stocks entered into the SPCS/ AS may be moved in an 'as lifted' state by the owner to other premises for storage/grading, provided they are plant-passported. In these cases, the owner of the potatoes must apply for registration and authorisation to issue plant passports. In some circumstances (e.g. where the distance is less than 50km and no plant health risk is involved) these movements may be exempt from the passporting requirement. Please contact APHA if you are in doubt about this requirement.

14.4. DECLARED CHEMICAL TREATMENTS

It is permissible to include any applied chemical treatments on the label. The label should state; Declared Chemical Treatment 'and then give the name of the active ingredient. By including this information on the label the certifying authority is simply stating the declared information given by the person applying for the labels and no guarantee is given with regard to the efficacy or safety of the declared treatment. These matters are entirely the responsibility of the seller of the seed potatoes.

15 Records

You must keep records for at least 2 years of purchases and sales of seed potatoes. They should show:

- Date of purchase/sale.
- Name and address of supplier/consignee.
- Variety(s).
- Label/clone reference number(s) of seed purchased.
- Certificate number(s)/approval number(s) of stocks sold.
- The amount of each stock and variety.

Growers of Pre-basic (TC) material should ensure that sufficient evidence of the source of the original material is retained and that stocks kept in micro-propagation are fully labelled and referenced.

Requests to examine records may be made by APHA at any time.

16 Separate particulars to purchasers

You must give purchasers of classified stocks a sale note, delivery note, invoice or similar document providing the following information:

- Seller's name and address.
- Net weight.
- Species (for Pre-basic).
- Variety.
- Pre-basic, basic or certified seed potatoes.
- Class(for Pre-basic).
- Grade (if appropriate).
- Size (except Pre-basic).

- Producer's identification number.
- Particulars of any chemical treatment.
- Field generation if requested

Note: If a variety has been genetically modified, this must be stated on the sale note. This statement must be given within 14 days of sale or, if the seed potatoes are not delivered at the time of sale, within 14 days of delivery.

17 Complaints

If you have any complaint about a stock of seed potatoes you have received, please contact your local Plant Health and Seeds Inspector for advice within 14 days of delivery.

18 General

18.1. ROGUING SEED CROPS

Crops may be rogued during the growing season to keep them free from disease and deviations. However, a growing crop certificate/approval may be refused if roguing appears to have been excessive.

Note: PB crops cannot be rogued before first inspection - see section 7.

18.2. VARIETAL PURITY

Growing crop classification/approval will be based solely on the foliage as seen during the growing season. If classified/approved crops are sold as being of one tuber colour (whether the normal colour of the established variety or of a variant), it is the seller's responsibility to dress out tubers not of that colour.

18.3. ORGANIC SEED PRODUCTION

Stocks produced organically must meet the same tolerances at field and tuber inspections as other stocks. Organic crops will be identified as such in the SPCS Register of Growers if you provide details of your Accreditation Provider.

18.4. FEES

Fees are payable for crop and tuber inspections. As from April 2018 the fees in England have changed and new fees apply for paper crop applications, soil sampling and labels. Fees in Wales will be revised during 2018. Crop applicants are invoiced after the first field inspection and after the first marketing inspection(s).

England www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/289/made/data.pdf

Wales www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382574/spcs-fees.pdf

18.5. THE PROTECTED REGION

The Protected Region effectively comprises Scotland and the counties of Northumberland (excluding the districts of Blyth Valley and Wansbeck) and Cumbria (excluding the districts of Barrow-in-Furness and South Lakeland). If you are unsure if land you intend to plant falls within the protected region, contact APHA.

18.6. APHID CONTROL

Crop certificates are based on the crop as it was when inspected. Unless measures are taken during the whole growing season to prevent the spread of virus disease by aphids any subsequent crops from that seed may be severely affected by virus. Failure to control aphids could result in certification being withdrawn.

18.7. VOLUNTARY TUBER VIRUS TESTING

APHA encourages all seed potato growers to voluntarily test tubers for virus particularly for seed intended for further propagation.

Growers can take representative samples of tubers from the field or post harvested and to submit them to a laboratory for testing.

Note: Test results obtained under this service will not contribute to the certification process.

18.8. RHIZOMANIA PROTECTED ZONES Ireland, Northern Ireland, Brittany Finland

If seed potatoes are to be moved to one of the rhizomania protected zones listed above they must meet the qualifying criteria. These are confirmed when the soil sampling application is made. If a field to be on a farm where rhizomania is known to occur a soil test to qualify the potatoes for ZP-d1 status will be required unless they are washed free of soil. Contact APHA for details of the soil test, if it is necessary or if marketing to an EC Rhizomania Protected Zone is anticipated.

18.9. CHEMICAL TREATMENTS

Chemicals that alter the normal growth and appearance of plants must not be used. Crops, which at growing season inspection appear to have been treated with such chemicals, may be considered uninspectable and classification/approval refused. It is an offence to market any seed potatoes that have been treated with a product that is produced primarily as an application for inhibiting germination.

18.10. LABELLING OF CHEMICAL TREATMENTS

If seed potatoes for marketing have been treated with any chemical product, the proprietary name, the type and function of the active ingredient of that product must be clearly stated. Whilst the active ingredient name may be included on the official label (see section 13.4) other information will need to be provided separately, either on a separately attached label or printed on the package or container. Suitable chemical labels should be obtained from chemical product suppliers.

18.11. PLANTBREEDERS' RIGHTS

As applicant, you are reminded that it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained all necessary consents to grow varieties of potato that are subject to Plant Breeders' Rights. You should not enter crops for classification at any class other than that permitted by your Plant Breeder's Licence.

18.12. THE SPCS REGISTER OF GROWERS & 'SOLE TRADERS'

At the close of the inspection season, a register will be published giving names and addresses of those whose stocks have been granted growing crop certificates. Every effort will be made to ensure that the register is complete but Defra and the Welsh Government do not guarantee that all such growers and stocks have been included. Sole traders should indicate on the crop application form if they do not want their name and address to appear in the Register. In such cases the Register entry, for the individual's crop, will be limited to variety, area and grade. The definition of a sole trader is a person who trades by himself/herself without the use of a company structure or partners and alone bears full responsibility for the actions of the business.

18.13. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

Requests for disclosure of information will be considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Environmental Information Regulations and the Data Protection Act, which may in some cases require us to disclose information. Without limiting this general approach, where crops of protected varieties are entered for classification we will make available to holders of the Plant Breeders' Rights

and their representatives the name and address of the applicant, as well as the variety, grade and area entered, either where applicants have given Defra/Welsh Government explicit consent to release this information to the BSPB under the terms of their licence or where, even without consent, this is in accordance with the law (for example, where it is clear that disclosure would be necessary to pursue an infringement of Plant Breeders' Rights). Again without limiting our general approach, in the case of requests concerning the eligibility of stocks for the Potato Council's Safe Haven Scheme, the certificate number of the relevant parent stock (i.e. the stock that was first entered into the SPCS) will be provided, to allow the stock's provenance to be traced.

Appendix I - SPCS Isolation Requirements

	PB TC	PB	S	SE	E	A and B
(b) From seed potato stocks entered to produce lower classes (N2) (N3)		BL from S 50m all other classes	BL from SE BL from E if crop planted with seed classified at S or SE. 50m all other classes	BL from E if crop planted with seed classified at S or SE. 50m all other classes	10m A B	
(BL = Blank row or sufficient to give adequate separation at harvest)						
(c) From ware crops planted with PB, S or SE seed (N1)		50m	10m	10m	10m	10m
(d) From ware potato crops planted with E seed (N1)		50m	50m	50m	10m	10m
(e) From ware potato crops planted with A or B seed (N1)		50m	50m	50m	50m	10m
(f) From all other potatoes including ware crops planted with ineligible or unknown origin seed in neighbour's fields, gardens, allotments etc.		50m	50m	50m	50m	50m

- N1: For ware crops grown from basic or certified seed within 50m of a seed production crop, proof of acceptability must be presented in the form of a classified seed label and an invoice, delivery note or similar proving that sufficient seed was available to plant the area in question.
- N2: Where any crop is grown with only harvest separation from another crop entered to produce a higher grade, that crop must attain the virus standards for the higher grade otherwise 10m of the higher grade crop will be downgraded to the lower grade.

- N3: In determining the appropriate isolation distance from another seed crop, the grade at which the parent crop was assessed in the field is the important factor as regards risks from virus.
- Therefore, in cases where the 'field' grade is available and this is different to the grade on the label, the higher grade may be used for isolation purposes only.

