



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

# Explanatory Guide to the Seed Potato Classification Scheme and Approved Stock Scheme 2020/21

March 2020



© Crown copyright 2020

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.3. To view this licence visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/) or email [PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

Data Protection:

For information on how we handle personal data visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter.

This publication is available at [www.gov.uk/government/publications](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications)

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

Lynne Bradley [lynne.bradley@apha.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.bradley@apha.gov.uk) or Tom Nixon [thomas.nixon@apha.gov.uk](mailto:thomas.nixon@apha.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha)

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

## Contents

Introduction .....	1
2 Application .....	2
3 Seed Categories and Grades .....	3
3.1 Pre-basic TC (tissue culture) and pre-basic (field grown).....	3
3.2 Basic grades .....	3
3.3 Certified grades .....	3
4 Field Generation (Fg).....	3
4.1 Generation limits .....	3
4.2 Generation control.....	4
5. Entry conditions .....	4
5.1 Growing areas.....	4
5.2 Statutory pests and diseases .....	5
5.3 Eligible varieties .....	5
5.4 Eligible parent stocks .....	5
5.5 Rotation.....	6
5.6 Isolation (from other potato crops).....	6
5.7 Stocks planted with multiple parent stocks.....	7
5.8 Brown rot and ring rot testing .....	7
6 Crop inspections .....	7
7 Inspection tolerances .....	8
7.1 Field tolerances .....	8
7.2 Downgrading seed stocks .....	8
8 Particular conditions for growing.....	9
9 Burning off .....	9
10 Classification, administrative and procedural details .....	10

10.1 Stock number .....	10
10.2 Stock certificate .....	10
10.3 Production of register .....	11
10.4 Bulking stocks .....	11
11 Tuber storage .....	11
12 Tuber inspections.....	11
13 Size and variety .....	13
14 Official labelling and sealing .....	13
14.1 Containers, label details and sealing.....	13
14.2 Label printing.....	14
14.3 Movement of as grown seed .....	14
14.4 Declared chemical treatments .....	15
15 Records .....	15
16 Separate particulars to purchasers .....	15
17 Complaints.....	16
18 General .....	16
18.1 Roguing seed crops .....	16
18.2 Varietal purity .....	16
18.3 Organic seed production.....	16
18.4 Fees .....	16
18.5 The protected region .....	17
18.6 Aphid control .....	17
18.7 Voluntary tuber virus testing.....	17
18.8 Rhizomania protected zones .....	17
18.9 Chemical treatments on growing crops .....	18
18.10 Plant breeders' rights .....	18

19 The SPCS register of growers and sole traders' ..... 18

20 Disclosure of information ..... 18

Appendix 1 – SPCS isolation requirements ..... 19

Appendix 2 – APHA PHSI office addresses for paper applications.....20

# 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](#).

Copies of the Regulations may be purchased from HMSO or are available on the [HMSO website](#).

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 are available](#).

The SPCS provides 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 the 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.

A 'Dear Grower Letter' will be sent in the spring detailing any changes to the scheme for that season.

## Comparison of the 3 tracks for the English & Welsh SPCS

SPCS Standard Scheme	Approved Stock Scheme (AS)	Conservation Varieties
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, 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 Application

Applications for an 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 online at <http://edomero.defra.gov.uk>. Contact your local Inspector for details on registration to use this option.
- Alternatively, application forms can be downloaded from GOV.UK: [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/519200/form-spcs2.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/519200/form-spcs2.pdf).
- Completed forms should be sent to the address given in Appendix 2.
- Each crop application must be accompanied by a label (or colour scan of the label) taken from the parent seed stock. A label is not required where the seed will be grown from a stock produced by the same applicant and grower, and no labels were issued.

- Applications “Authority to apply for labels” and Applicant Printers: Where applicants wish to allow “Grower printers” to print the labels for a stock, it is essential that “Other” is selected on the application form and details of the “Grower printer” entered. If they are not included, applicants will not have access to print labels for a stock they are not the applicant for and this cannot be amended at a later stage.

Paper applications will incur an administration charge per application.

## **3 Seed Categories and Grades**

There are three Categories of seed potatoes – pre-basic, basic and certified. These categories can be sub-divided 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 grades**

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 entered into the scheme is vital if it is to be correctly entered. This information must be on the official label and no other documentation will be accepted in place of this.

Seed with no field generation on the label will be entered at the maximum field generation for its grade. Certified seed with no field generation on the label will not be eligible for entry.

#### Category - grades

Pre-basic	Basic	Basic	Basic	Certified	Certified
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.

For example, 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) or,
- Contaminated with *Rhizomania*, ring rot, brown rot or any other quarantine disease.

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.

## 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 plant and tuber identification, as well as admixture risk.
- **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 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	P B T C F	PB Fg1	PB Fg2	PB Fg3	PB Fg4	S	SE	E	A	B
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.

## 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 Stocks planted with multiple parent stocks

Entering stocks with multiple parent stocks is **no longer permitted**. Each stock entered can only be planted with seed from a single parental source. If a stock is planted with seed of the same variety and grade but with more than one parent stock then each input parent stock must be grown separately in the field. Each stock must be separated from the adjacent stocks in the field. This would preferably be by a blank isolation row, but if this is not possible then each stock must be clearly identified using posts and markers at both ends of the field before the first inspection. Planting plans should also indicate where the different parent stocks have been planted. If each individual stock cannot be identified certification may not be possible. Each stock must be entered into the scheme as an individual unit and will be inspected separately and certified on its own merit. This may impact on the other stocks next to it.

Stocks that pass at the same grade can be bulked together following the procedures at para 10 point 6.

## 5.8 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 must be completely burnt off within 21 days of final inspection.
- 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	0%	0.1%	0.5%	1.0%	2.0%	4.0%
Virus Y, A Leaf roll ***	0%	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 the 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 stock must not exceed the tolerance of the higher grade stock.

If a stock is downgraded all adjacent stocks within 10 m of it will be downgraded in their entirety. The option of partial downgrading of stocks has been removed. See Appendix 1.

## 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 only 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 must be found free from all potato viruses A, Y, leafroll, and blackleg and within tolerances for all other mosaic viruses, as well as deviations of variety and type at all official growing crop inspections. 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 the 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.

**Virus % at any inspection, above which compulsory burn-off is required**

Grade	PLRV, Y or A	Other Mosaic virus
S	0.006%	0.06%
SE	0.03%	0.16%

Grade	PLRV, Y or A	Other Mosaic virus
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

### 10.1 Stock number

Each stock entered into the scheme will be allocated a unique stock reference number prefixed by the year.

### 10.2 Stock certificate

Entered stocks will receive a certificate after the final inspection which will show whether the crop:

- Met the standards at which it was entered,
- Met the standards of a lower grade, or
- Fails outright.

Copies of the inspection results and the final certificate will be emailed to the addresses on the stock application form.

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.

The stock will be eligible for marketing at the grade indicated on the certificate, but will require a pre-marketing tuber inspection before it is finally certified.

## 10.3 Production of register

In order to minimise administrative costs, the Register will be produced exactly as per the crop entry details as 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 entered exactly as you wish them to appear on the register. For protected varieties this includes obtaining any necessary permission from the variety maintainers.

## 10.4 Bulking stocks

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 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.

## 11 Tuber storage

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 inspections

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 Sindle 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
<b>Total of all rots</b>	N/A	0.2	0.5	0.5
<b>Wet Rot not above</b>	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.2
<b>Black Scurf</b>	10	1	5	5
<b>Common Scab</b>	33	5	5	5
<b>Powdery Scab</b>	10	1	3	3
<b>Shriveled Tubers</b>	N/A	0.5	1	1
<b>Skin Spot</b>	12.5	0.2	0.5 (S,SE) 2 (E)	2
<b>Damage</b>	N/A	3	3	3
<b>Soil</b>	N/A	1	1	2
<b>PVYTN necrosis</b>	N/A	0	0.1	0.1
<b>Total of above faults</b>	N/A	6	6	8
<b>Over or Undersize</b>	N/A	3	3	3
<b>Varietal purity</b>	N/A	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 done 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 and variety

- 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 Containers, label details and sealing

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, 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:**

#### **Main SPCS**

- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| i. Pre-basic           | White with a diagonal violet line. |
| ii. Basic S, SE, E     | White.                             |
| iii. Certified A and B | Blue.                              |

#### **Approved Stocks**

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| iv. Stocks under the EU Test and Trials scheme | Orange. |
| v. All other Approved Stocks                   | Yellow. |

**Note:** 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**

- |                               |
|-------------------------------|
| vi. Labels are buff coloured. |
|-------------------------------|

## Container Sealing

### vii. Small bags (25 or 50kg)

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 plastic pull tie seals.

Plastic pull ties can be obtained from your Inspector

## 14.2 Label printing

14.2.1 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.

14.2.2 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.

14.2.3 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 official 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. As from 2021/22 this information will not be included.

## 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 (ies).
- 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 complaints 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:** pre-basic 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. From October 2019 in England and November 2019 in Wales fees have changed with new fees for paper crop applications, crop inspections, soil sampling, tuber inspections and labels. Crop applicants are invoiced after the first field inspection and after the first marketing inspection(s).

England: SCHEDULE 5 Seed potatoes: fees

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/1257>

Wales: SCHEDULE 5 Seed potatoes: fees

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/1378>

-

## 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.

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

## 18.8 Rhizomania protected zones

If seed potatoes are to be moved to one of the *Rhizomania* protected zones (Ireland, Northern Ireland, Brittany, Finland, Azores) 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 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 on growing crops

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 un-inspectable 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 Plant breeders' 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 License.

## 19 The SPCS register of growers and 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 themselves without the use of a company structure or partners and alone bears full responsibility for the actions of the business ([www.gov.uk/guidance/the-seed-potato-classification-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-seed-potato-classification-scheme)).

## 20 Disclosure of information

Requests for disclosure of information will be considered in accordance with current Data Protection legislation, 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 license 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 1 – SPCS isolation requirements

### Isolation between seed stocks

The isolation is based on the grade of input seed planted irrespective of grade entered for certification.

Grade*	PBTC/PB	S	SE	E	CERTIFIED A or B
PBTC/PB	1 Row	1 Row	10m	50m	50m
S	1 Row	1 Row	1 Row	10m	50m
SE	10m	1 Row	1 Row	10m	50m
E	50m	10m	10m	1 Row	10m
A or B	50m	50m	50m	10m	1 Row

Examples:

The isolation between a PB stock and an SE planted stock (be it to produce SE, E, A or B) is 10m.

The isolation between an E stock and an E planted stock (be it to produce E, A or B) is 1 row.

Downgrade distances:

When a stock is downgraded for virus this has implications for adjacent stocks.

When stocks of different grades are planted alongside each other the virus levels in the lower graded stock must meet the tolerances of the higher graded stock. If it fails to do so the higher graded stocks up to 10m away will be fully downgraded.

### Isolation between seed stocks and ware crops

Grade of seed stock entered for certification at:

Ware crops planted with	PB	S	SE	E	CERTIFIED A or B
PB S SE	50m	50m	10m*	10m*	10m*
E	50m	50m	50m	10m*	10m*
A or B	50m	50m	50m	50m	10m*



Ware crops planted with	PB	S	SE	E	CERTIFIED A or B
All other potato crops grown with unidentified seed.	50m	50m	50m	50m	50m

\* SEE N1, 2 and 3 below.

- i. 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.
- ii. N2: Where a ware crop is within 50m of a seed crop 1000 plants (10 x 100 plants) in the ware crop will be inspected for virus. If virus is in the ware crop the level found will be used to determine the grade of the adjacent seed crop as if the ware crop had been entered for certification.
- iii. N3: It is the applicant's responsibility to arrange access to any adjacent ware crops. Failure to do so will prevent inspection of the seed crop.
- iv. N4: Where there is insufficient isolation up to 50m of the adjacent seed crop, it will be downgraded to ware.

## Appendix 2 – APHA PHSI office addresses for paper applications

Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Plant Health  
SPCS CROP APPLICATION  
Foss House, Kings Pool  
1-2 Peaseholme Green  
York  
YO1 7PX

Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Plant Health  
SPCS CROP APPLICATION  
Spa Road East  
Llandrindod Wells

Powys  
LD1 5HA