



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Explanatory guide to the Seed Potato Classification Scheme and Approved Stock Scheme 2023 to 2024

April 2023



© 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/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

Data Protection:

For information on how we handle personal data visit www.gov.uk and search Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter.

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at 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

1 Introduction	1
2 Applications	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 grade	3
4 Field Generation (Fg)	4
4.1. Generation limits	4
4.2. Generation control	4
5 Entry conditions	5
5.1 Growing areas	5
5.2 Statutory pests and diseases	5
5.3 Eligible varieties	5
5.4 Eligible parent stocks	6
5.5 Rotation	6
5.6 Isolation (from other potato stocks)	7
5.7 Stocks planted with multiple parent stocks	7
6 Crop inspections	7
7 Inspection tolerances	8
7.1 Field tolerances	8
7.2 Downgrading seed stocks	8
8 Conditions for growing seed potatoes	9
9 Haulm destruction	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 Storage of tubers	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	15
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	17
18.4 Fees	17
18.5 The protected region	17
18.6 Aphid control	17
18.7 Voluntary tuber virus testing	17
18.8 Chemical treatments on growing crop	18
18.9 Plant breeders' rights	18
19. The SPCS register of growers & 'Sole traders'	18
20. Disclosure of information	18

Appendix 1 - SPCS Isolation Requirements	18
Appendix 2 APHA PHSI email and office addresses for paper applications.....	20

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 (as amended) and the Seed Potatoes (Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended). Under these Regulations, it is an offence to market any seed potatoes that have not been officially certified in accordance with specified requirements. The Plant Health (Phytosanitary Conditions) (Amendment) (EU exit) regulations 2020 (as amended) also set conditions for regulated non- quarantine pests (RNQPs) related to seed potato production and movement.

If you are in doubt about any aspects of the SPCS please contact your local Plant Health and Seed Inspector (PHSI). 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 [Legislation.gov.uk 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, which are available to crop applicants (and where permitted, growers) are based upon visual symptoms. As well as the mainstream SPCS which covers the majority of seed potato production and sales; there are two additional and parallel tracks to facilitate other aspects of seed potato production as per the chart below.

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.

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

Comparison of the 3 tracks for the English and Welsh SPCS

SPCS Standard Scheme	Approved Stock Scheme AS	Conservation Varieties Scheme
<p>Covers the growing and marketing of the majority of commercial and retail seed potatoes in England and Wales. All varieties must be on the GB National list</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>This aspect of the scheme determines all the key criteria for the SPCS.</p>	<p>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 controls with regard to the AS; the certifying authority will inform you of any applications that are affected by these.</p>	<p>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.</p>

2 Applications

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 on-line at <http://edomero.defra.gov.uk/> Contact your local Inspector for details on registration if you wish to use the on-line option.
- Alternatively, legacy application forms can be downloaded from GOV.UK:
- http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/519200/form-spcs2.pdf

Note: This is a legacy form as almost all stocks are now applied for online so some parts are out of date. The current rules outlined in this guide still apply.

- Completed forms should be sent to the address given at 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.
- A planting plan should be provided showing the where individual seed stocks and any ware crops within 50m of the seed have been planted. If possible, the official field map sent with the soil sampling certificate should be used.
- Applications – “Authority to apply for labels” and Applicant Printers – Where applicants wish to allow “Delegated Label Printers (DLPs)” to print the labels for a stock, it is essential that “Other” is selected on the application form and details of the DLP entered. If they are not included, then they 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 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 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.

Maximum field generation for each 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.

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, which is 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. See 18.5
- **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 ring rot or brown rot or any other quarantine disease. Contact APHA for further information.

5.3 Eligible varieties

- **SPCS:** Only varieties on the *GB National List of Plant* 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 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 (as amended).

5.4 Eligible parent stocks

Seed 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 →	PB TC Fg0	PB Fg1	PB Fg2	PB Fg3	PB Fg4	S	SE	E	A	B
Eligible ↓										
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 EU 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 stocks)

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 by a blank isolation row. We will no longer accept posts and markers at both ends of the fields. 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 10.4.

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 destroyed within 21 days of final inspection
- Stocks subject to compulsory haulm destruction 21 days after the final inspection
- 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.

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

8 Conditions for growing seed potatoes

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 crops 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 be carried out. This is particularly important in the period between the final official inspection and haulm destruction.
- 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.

All seed crops:

- Seed crops should be desiccated as soon after the final official inspection as possible. Any regrowth before harvest should be destroyed.
- It is recommended that stocks be voluntarily pre-harvest tuber virus tested.
- Growers should avoid planting seed and ware crops in close proximity. In situations where the isolation requirements allow ware crops to be grown with 10m of seed stocks, the ware crop will be inspected to assess the level of virus within it and this may affect the certification of the seed crop. Where an adjacent ware crop is being grown by a third party it will be the responsibility of the applicant to arrange access to the ware crop with the grower. If access cannot be obtained, the seed stock maybe downgraded. See appendix 1.

9 Haulm destruction

For all crops you are advised to desiccate the foliage as soon as possible after final inspection. There are specific requirements as follows:

- **Pre-basic (field grown):** stocks must be completely desiccated, without re-growth, within 21 days after the second inspection. A haulm destruction inspection will be made and if the stocks haulm has not been completely destroyed or any green haulm remains, it will be downgraded to S.
- **Other Grades.** Compulsory haulm destruction will be required where the virus found exceeds one third of the grade tolerance. The tolerances are listed 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%
E	0.13%	0.26%
A	0.66%.	0.66%.
B*	2%	2%

Note: Applicants and growers will be notified by the PHSI if individual crops require haulm destruction to meet grade standards. If all the haulm has not been completely destroyed 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 will be 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
- Fails outright

Copies of the inspection results and the final certificate will be emailed to the addresses on the stock application form (applicants must ensure all parties they wish to be notified have their emails included on the application).

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 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 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 inspections

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

Colorado Beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*)

Ring Rot (*Clavibacter michiganensis*)

Brown Rot (*Ralstonia solanacearum*)

Potato Cyst Nematode (*Globoderra pallida* and *rostochiensis*)

Wart Disease (*Synchytrium endobioticum*)

Potato Spindle (Tuber Viroid)

Root Knot Nematode (*Meloidogyne fallax*)

Zebra Chip (*Candidatus liberibacter*)

Potato Flea Beetle (*Epitrix Cucumeris*)

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	N/A	0.2	0.5	0.5
Wet Rot not above	N/A	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	N/A	0.5	1	1
Skin Spot	12.5	0.2	0.5 (S,SE) 2 (E)	2
Damage	N/A	3	3	3
Soil	N/A	1	1	2
PVYTN necrosis	N/A	0	0.1	0.1
Total of above Faults	N/A	6	6	8
Over or Undersize	N/A	3	3	3
Varietal purity	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 by email. Where APHA prints 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 for pre-basic, basic and certified seed potatoes is 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 that they 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 and must not be marketed unless they carry official labels and are correctly sealed. The official label is also the UK plant passport.

There will be a fee covering the label and seal as per the current 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. 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

- v. Labels are buff coloured

Container Sealing

- vi. 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 email 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. This includes spoilt/wasted labels and labels returned where new/amended labels have had to be produced. All labels must be accounted for. 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 when requested.

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 accompanied by a plant passport. In these cases, the owner of the potatoes must apply for registration and authorisation to issue plant passports. In some circumstances (eg 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

If seed potatoes have been chemically treated at any time between harvesting and marketing a trade label providing all relevant product information must be attached to each bag. This information is no longer included on the official label.

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/ varieties).
- 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.
DL-APHA-SPCS-Inspectors

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. Inspections cannot be delayed to allow for roguing. Roguing will only improve the quality of the stock where the tubers have been removed, if this is not evident inspectors will factor this in to their findings.

Note: Pre-basic crops cannot be rogued before first inspection - see section 8.

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 which are not 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 strongly encourages all seed potato growers to voluntarily test tubers for virus particularly for seed intended for further multiplication.

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

18.8 Chemical treatments on growing crop

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.

18.9 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, however 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 bear's full responsibility for the actions of the business.

www.gov.uk/guidance/the-seed-potato-classification-scheme

20. Disclosure of information

Requests to Defra / Welsh Government for disclosure of information relating in any way to the SPCS will be considered in accordance with current Data Protection legislation.

Appendix I - 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*
All other potato crops	50m	50m	50m	50m	50m

grown with unidentified seed.					
--------------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--

* SEE N1, 2 3 and 4 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.
- iv. N4: Where there is insufficient isolation up to 50m of the adjacent seed crop will be downgraded to ware.

Appendix 2 APHA PHSI email and office addresses for paper applications

Email applications to spcslabels@apha.gov.uk

Or post to:

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