



SEED CERTIFICATION INFORMATION



SEED CERT 05/24
May 2024

To: Licensed Seed Companies, Licensed Seed Samplers, Licensed Crop Inspectors, Licensed Seed Testing Stations in England & Wales (by email only)

Cc: AIC, BSPB, NFU, NAAC, NIAB, PHSI, SASA, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and DAERA.

NOTIFICATION OF SEED CERTIFICATION FEE CHANGES

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to notify you of a number of planned changes to seed certification fees in England and Wales. These changes will take effect from 1 June 2024.

It is UK Government policy to charge for many publicly provided goods and services. The standard approach is to set fees to recover the full costs of service delivery and to review these fees on a regular basis (either annually or biennially as required). This relieves the general taxpayer of costs, so that they are properly borne by users who benefit from a service. This allows for a more equitable distribution of public resources and enables lower public expenditure and borrowing.

Plant Varieties and Seeds services, including seed certification, operate in line with this principle of full cost recovery. Plant Varieties and Seeds fees are reviewed regularly and adjusted to ensure no under, or over, recovery of costs.

There will be an increase to fees associated with NIAB's services, as set out in the table below. These changes are necessary because of increased input costs since the last fee changes in 2022.

The new fees are set out below.

New fees with effect from 1 June 2024

Table 1. Changes to **online** application fees.

	Existing Online Fee	New Online Fee	% Increase
CROP ENTRY FEE	Per Hectare	Per Hectare	
Licensed inspection (except early multiplication and late entered crops) (CS, C1, C2 and C3)	£7.03	£7.28	3.54%
Official Inspections Pre-Basic, Basic, early multiplication and late entered crops	Per Hectare	Per Hectare	
Cereal, Pulses, Linseed and Herbage (One inspection) Note: There is a reduced fee when a PB or B crop is inspected by a Higher Licensed inspector under the temporary experiment (see separate line below)	£93.70	£97.01	3.54%
Beet, Oilseed Rape, Mustard, Fodder Rape, Beet and Kale (Two inspections)	£148.36	£153.61	3.54%
Hybrid rape (Three inspections)	£203.02	£210.20	3.54%
Additional official inspection, all species	£54.66	£56.59	3.54%
All Crops - Temporary Experiment - Inspection of Pre-Basic and Basic crops by Higher Licensed inspectors only	£24.99	£25.87	3.54%
SEED LOT FEE	Per seed lot	Per seed lot	
Seed lot fee: final generation (this fee includes retests) 2H, 2L, CH, CL, C2 and C3 (when applicable)	£53.10	£54.98	3.54%
Seed lot fee: multiplication seed lots PB, B, 1H, 1L, C1, C2 (this fee includes retests)	£242.06	£250.62	3.54%

Table 2. Changes to **paper** application fees.

	Existing Paper Fee	New Paper Fee	% Increase
CROP ENTRY FEE	Per Hectare	Per Hectare	
Licensed inspection (except early multiplication and late entered crops) (CS, C1, C2 and C3)	£8.59	£8.89	3.54%
Official Inspections Pre-Basic, Basic, early multiplication and late entered crops	Per Hectare	Per Hectare	
Cereal, Pulses, Linseed and Herbage (One inspection) Note: There is a reduced fee when a PB or B crop is inspected by a Higher Licensed inspector under the temporary experiment (see separate line below)	£96.83	£100.25	3.54%
Beet, Oilseed Rape, Mustard, Fodder Rape, Beet and Kale (Two inspections)	£151.48	£156.84	3.54%
Hybrid rape (Three inspections)	£206.14	£213.43	3.54%
Additional official inspection, all species	£54.66	£56.59	3.54%
All Crops - Temporary Experiment - Inspection of Pre-Basic and Basic crops by Higher Licensed inspectors only	£24.99	£25.87	3.54%
SEED LOT FEE	Per seed lot	Per seed lot	
Seed lot fee: final generation (this fee includes retests) 2H, 2L, CH, CL, C2 and C3 (when applicable)	£65.59	£67.91	3.54%
Seed lot fee: multiplication seed lots PB, B, 1H, 1L, C1, C2 (this fee includes retests)	£257.68	£266.79	3.54%

Table 3. Changes to NIAB's Seed Testing Prices, training and ISTA testing fees.

	Existing Fee	New Fee	% Increase
LSTS Annual Fee	£2,144.50	£2,386.83	11.3%
Training and exam for new licensed samplers	£670.80	£746.60	11.3%
Licensed seed analyst - Basic Proficiency Certificate	£4,802.98	£5,345.72	11.3%
Licensed seed analyst - Additional testing categories	£2,806.78	£3,123.95	11.3%
Licensed seed analyst - Laboratory Management	£3,399.00	£3,783.09	11.3%
Orange International Certificate (OIC)	£144.48	£160.81	11.3%
Blue International Certificate (BIC)	£144.48	£160.81	11.3%

These changes are immediate measures to ensure that the full costs of the services provided are reflected in the fees. A wider review of seed certification fees in England and Wales is planned in the next few years to take account of the wide-ranging changes to this service. Seed certification fees will also be regularly reviewed (either annually or biennially as required) to ensure fees remain reflective of service delivery costs.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Brown

Plant Varieties and Seeds Team, APHA