



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Dear Sir/Madam,

INFORMATION ON SEED CERTIFICATION FEE CHANGES AND ENGAGEMENT PERIOD

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 9 January 2023. A six-week engagement period has been launched ahead of this.

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 bi-annually as required) to relieve 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. For various reasons, a review of seed certification fees has not been conducted since 2014. Therefore, in line with government policy the fees must be adjusted to ensure no under, or over, recovery of costs (Managing Public Money, HM Treasury, March 2022).

Please send any comments on the planned fee changes to seed.cert@apha.gov.uk by 28 November 2022.

Comments provided in response to this letter and the Seed Certification Fees Refresh Information Paper, including personal information, may be made available to the public on request, in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If you do not wish your response, including your name, contact details and any other personal information, to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you submit your comments. Please note that if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for the information under freedom of information legislation. However, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

The new fees are set out below.

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)	£4.50	£7.03	56%
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 official fee when a PB or B crop is officially inspected by a Licensed inspector	£60.00	£93.70	56%
Beet, Oilseed Rape, Mustard, Fodder Rape, Beet and Kale (Two inspections)	£95.00	£148.36	56%
Hybrid rape (Three inspections)	£130.00	£203.02	56%
Additional official inspection, all species	£35.00	£54.66	56%
All Crops Temp Experiment	£16.00	£24.99	56%
SEED LOT FEE	Per seed lot	Per seed lot	
Seed lot fee: final generation (including retests) 2H, 2L, CH, CL, C2 and C3 (when applicable)	£34.00	£53.10	56%
Seed lot fee: multiplication seed lots PB, B, 1H, 1L, C1, C2 (including retests)	£155.00	£242.06	56%

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)	£5.50	£8.59	56%
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 official fee when a PB or B crop is officially inspected by a Licensed inspector	£62.00	£96.83	56%
Beet, Oilseed Rape, Mustard, Fodder Rape, Beet and Kale (Two inspections)	£97.00	£151.48	56%
Hybrid rape (Three inspections)	£132.00	£206.14	56%
Additional official inspection, all species	£35.00	£54.66	56%
All Crops Temp Experiment	£16.00	£24.99	56%
SEED LOT FEE	Per seed lot	Per seed lot	
Seed lot fee: final generation (including retests) 2H, 2L, CH, CL, C2 and C3 (when applicable)	£42.00	£65.59	56%
Seed lot fee: multiplication seed lots PB, B, 1H, 1L, C1, C2 (including retests)	£165.00	£257.68	56%

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

	Existing Fee	New Fee	% Increase
LSTS Annual Fee	£1,745.00	£2,144.50	22.9%
Training and exam for new licensed samplers			
Training and exam for new licensed samplers	£650.00	£670.80	3.2%
Licensed seed analyst - Basic Proficiency Certificate	£4,654.05	£4,802.98	3.2%
Licensed seed analyst - Additional testing categories	£2,719.75	£2,806.78	3.2%
Licensed seed analyst - Laboratory Management	£3,293.60	£3,399.00	3.2%
Orange International Certificate (OIC)	£140.00	£144.48	3.2%
Blue International Certificate (BIC)	£140.00	£144.48	3.2%

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 bi-annually as required) to ensure fees remain reflective of service delivery costs.

More details on the changes are provided in the attached information paper.

Yours sincerely

Michael Brown