

Seed Potato Workshop

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Department of
**Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**

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Seed Potato Certification

First introduced in 1918

Minimum Standards

**Varietal Purity
Disease**

Legal Basis

**EU Directive 2002/56/EC
SI No. 532 of 2011**

Seed Potato Certification

**Restricted to 'White Label' Seed
(High Grade Seed Area)**

**Minitubers produced in Tops, Potato Propagation
Centre, Raphoe**

Generational System

Seed Potato Multiplication Process

| | Year | Grade | Category | |
|--------------------------|------|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Seed Multiplication ↓ | 1 | Minitubers | Basic Seed (White Label) | Increasing Disease Levels ↓ |
| | 2 | Pre-Basic | | |
| | 6 | Super Elite | | |
| | 9 | Elite | | |
| | 12 | Class H | | |
| | 12+ | | Certified Seed (Blue Label) | |

Conditions for Growing Seed Crops

Land tested free from PCN

Adequate rotation

Crop isolation

Division between varieties/classes

Accurate records

Proper roguing procedures

Hygiene

Spray regime

Machinery

Store

Labelling in store

Main DAFM Activities

Testing of land for PCN

Inspection of growing crops and leaf sampling for virus

Inspection of tubers after harvest

Sealing and labelling of certified seed

Growing samples of seed tubers in trial plots (post controls)

Crop Inspection

3 Crop Inspections:

1st Inspection – Plants close to or meeting in rows
(Verification of crop details, virus, groundkeepers ,etc)

2nd Inspection – At or about flower bud stage
(Purity and disease status)

3rd Inspection – Pre-dessication
(Further disease development, remaining rogues)

Tuber Inspection and Sealing

Checks on labelling

Checks for compliance with official tolerances for size, diseases, damage or defects

Correct details on labels

Proper sealing of containers

Crop Inspection Tolerances

| Faults/Diseases | PBTC | Pre Basic 1 to 4 | Super Elite 1 to 3 | Elite 1 to 3 | Class H |
|--|------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Purity | Nil | Nil | 0.05% | 0.05% | 0.10% |
| Leafroll and severe mosaic virus | Nil | Nil | 0.01% | 0.10% | 0.40% |
| Mild mosaic virus | Nil | Nil | 0.05% | 0.50% | 0.80% |
| Total virus | Nil | Nil | 0.05% | 0.50% | 0.80% |
| Blackleg | Nil | Nil | 0.25% | 0.50% | 1.00% |
| Dickeya species | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

New Legislation

Harmonised nomenclature

Minimum standards for seed potatoes

Directive 2013/63/EU

(Minimum conditions for seed potatoes and lots of seed potatoes)

Directive 2014/20/EU

(Determining Union grades of basic and certified seed potatoes and conditions applicable to such grades)

Directive 2014/21/EU

(Determining minimum conditions and Union grades for pre-basic seed potatoes)

New Union Grade System

| | Pre Basic | Basic | | |
|---------------|-----------|-------|----|---|
| Current grade | PB | SE | E | H |
| New grade | PB | S | SE | E |

Marketing will be restricted as follows:

- For seed production, potatoes that fulfil the conditions for Union Grades S and SE
- For potato production, potatoes that fulfil the conditions for Union Grades S, SE and E

Number of Generations

**Pre-Basic Category: PBTC
PB (four possible generations)**

**Basic Category: S Grade (up to field generation 5)
SE Grade (up to field generation 6)
E Grade (up to field generation 7)**

A maximum of 7 generations is allowed

Union Grade Crop Tolerances

| Faults/Diseases | Pre Basic | | Basic | | |
|------------------|-----------|------|-------|-----|-----|
| | PBTC | PB | S | SE | E |
| Not true to type | 0 | 0.01 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Blackleg | 0 | 0 | 0.1 | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Virus | 0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.8 |

- Standards for the lowest basic Grade E are the same as the current Class H Grade
- Relaxation of virus tolerances across all grades
- Virus is counted as a single fault rather than severe mosaic, mild mosaic and leafroll
- There is now a tolerance for virus at the PB Category
- Tightening of blackleg tolerance at Grade S (compared to the current Class SE)
- Purity has been set at a uniform level of 0.1% for Basic
- There is now a tolerance of 0.01% for purity in Pre-Basic

Additional Voluntary Standards

| Crop Tolerances | PBTC | PB | S | SE | E |
|----------------------|------|----|------|-----|-----|
| Total Virus | 0 | 0 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.8 |
| ** PVA, PVY, PLRV | 0 | 0 | 0.02 | 0.1 | 0.4 |

** Applies for production within Ireland only and not for marketing

Union Grade Lot Tolerances

Main changes:

The introduction of a wet rot tolerance (0.2%)

A 2.5% tightening of the surface allowances for black scurf and powdery scab

A tolerance for shrivelled tubers has been introduced (0.5% for PB and 1% for Basic)

Seed Production Challenges

Dual Cropping/Late burning off

Growing of ware and seed crops together

Hygiene

Disease susceptible varieties

Irrigation

Plant Health Requirements

Seed Potatoes (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 2010

'To protect the health status of Irish potato crops and ensure traceability in the event of a disease outbreak'

- **Notification of imports (>10kg)**
- **Planting of seed restricted to certified pre-basic or basic seed potatoes or one year's progeny of such potatoes, provided the direct progeny was grown by themselves**
- **Retain official labels as well as a sales note, delivery note, invoice or similar documents for at least two years**

Record Keeping

Registration of Potato Growers and Potato Packers Regulations 2001

Seed potatoes for planting

(Quantity and date acquired as well as variety, class, grower's number and country of origin)

Seed and ware potatoes grown

(Area planted and yield of each variety grown)

Sales

(Quantity, sale date and purchaser name and address for each variety sold)