



MINNESOTA CROP
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

REQUIREMENTS— 99.5% NON-GMO SOYBEAN SEED PROGRAM

1900 Hendon Ave, Saint Paul MN 55108 • tel 612-625-7766 • fax 612-625-3748 • mncia@mncia.org • www.mncia.org

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this program is to provide independent, third-party verification to ensure seed lots are suitable to be used for non-GMO grain production. MCIA labels may be provided to identify qualified seed lots as 99.5% non-GMO seed.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Enrollment within the MCIA soybean field inspection program is required. *Fields must be applied for and inspected under a MCIA seed program (Certification or Quality Assurance).* Field inspection is necessary for non-GMO soybean seed to determine whether the seed is free of GMO seeds as well as identify possible sources of contamination, which may include mixed seed stock, previous crop volunteers, field mixture of varieties and/or other crops, and inadequate isolation. Application for field inspection for each field and variety/brand is required. Applications are available from MCIA and must include:

1. Name of variety/brand
2. Kind of previous crop (if soybeans indicate variety grown -must be same variety)
3. Identity of seed planted (indicate lot number)
4. Map indicating the location of each field
5. Signature on application verifying that all handling, conveying, planting, and other equipment used for planting the seed have been adequately cleaned prior to use

SEED SOURCE REQUIREMENTS

1. All seed must be from a known seed source.
 - a. The applicant must provide proof of seed source, which may include one of the following: an invoice including variety/brand name and lot number, seed tag, or certification tag or bulk certificate (if applying for Foundation, Registered, or Certified seed class).
 - b. For purchased seed, declaration by the seed supplier of the non-GMO status for each seed lot is recommended, but not required.
2. A non-GMO seed test confirming the status of the seed lot meets or exceeds the 99.5% standard is recommended, but not required.
 - a. A sample of each seed lot planted should be kept. If requested, this sample may be tested to verify any presence of GMO. MCIA will approve GMO testing methods.
3. A variety description including phenotypic characteristics and described variants of the variety/brand must be provided.

LAND REQUIREMENTS

Soybeans shall not be planted on land that has grown soybeans unless the previous crop was the same variety/brand.

FIELD REQUIREMENTS

1. Isolation:
 - a. A distance adequate to prevent mechanical mixture shall separate fields from any uninspected, non-qualifying soybean fields and any other GMO seed-producing crop.
2. Sample size: A minimum of 1,000 plants to be counted in each of 10 sample areas.
3. Field inspections: Fields must be inspected prior to harvest after 75 percent of the leaves have dropped and as pods have matured to determine if isolation distances are sufficient and to determine varietal purity.
 - a. Portions of a field not meeting standards will be rejected and cannot be labeled as seed.

SEED CONDITIONING & SAMPLING

1. Seed must be conditioned at an MCIA Approved Seed Conditioning Facility.
2. MCIA or approved personnel from an MCIA Approved Seed Conditioning Facility shall obtain representative samples of each lot.
3. Refer to MCIA Seed Certification Handbook for the maximum lot size for bag, tote, and bulk seed lots.

TESTING REQUIREMENTS

1. The MCIA Seed Laboratory must be used for germination and purity analysis testing.
2. MCIA will approve GMO testing methods to be used on the final sample for each seed lot. The approved GMO test must not exceed 6 pools as the maximum number of pools allowed.

FIELD STANDARDS *(maximum allowed)*

Factor	Foundation	Registered	Certified	QA
Other varieties	1:1,000 (0.10%)	1:500 (0.20%)	1:200 (0.50%)	1:200 (0.50%)
Inseparable other crop	None	1:5,000	1:2,000	1:2,000
Corn and sunflower plants bearing seed	None	None	None	None

SEED STANDARDS

Factor	Foundation	Registered	Certified	QA
Pure seed (minimum)	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%
Inert matter (maximum) ¹	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Weed seeds (maximum) ²	None	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%
Prohibited weed seeds	None	None	None	None
Restricted weed seeds	None	None	None	None
Total other crop seeds (maximum)	0.10%	0.25%	0.60%	0.60%
Other varieties (maximum)	0.10%	0.20%	0.50%	0.50%
Other kinds (maximum) ³	None	0.05%	0.10%	0.10%
Germination and hard seeds (minimum) ⁴	85%	85%	85%	85%
GMO contamination (maximum)	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%

***Note: total of GMO contamination and other varieties may not exceed 0.50%.

¹ Inert matter is not a factor used to determine non-GMO status.

² Weed seed maximum: Registered – 1 per pound; Certified – 2 per pound.

³ Other crop kinds shall not exceed 1 per pound in any class, with no corn or sunflowers allowed.

⁴ Germination and hard seeds is not a factor used to determine non-GMO status.

LABELING

1. Seed meeting standards may be identified with MCIA labels as 99.5% non-GMO soybean seed.
2. Contact agency for labeling options.