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Seeds Canada



QUALITY ASSURANCE

for Canadian Food Grade Soybeans



BUILDING ON CANADA'S STRENGTHS AS A TRUSTED SOYBEAN SUPPLIER



Canada is a world leader in the supply of non-GMO food grade soybeans. Our regulatory system, producers, processors and exporters have earned the confidence of discerning soybean buyers around the world.

The Canadian soybean industry builds on these strengths through two important quality assurance programs:

- The Canadian Seed Certification System, which guarantees the varietal purity of the seed used to grow non-GMO Identity Preserved soybeans in Canada, and
- The Canadian Identity Preserved Recognition System (CIPRS), a premium quality assurance service offering comprehensive process controls, audits and traceability from the port right back to the grower and seed provider.

Both of these systems are national programs, endorsed and enforced by Canada's federal government, seed production industry and soybean value chain. This national scope and support means buyers can count on a consistent approach to quality assurance, with the flexibility to meet the specific requirements of each customer.

Quality assurance is reinforced by industry-wide support for continuous improvement and expansion of Canada's non-GMO food grade supply. Ongoing investments keep the Canadian soybean industry at the leading edge of varietal development and best agronomic practices, and in tune with the requirements of international soybean buyers.

Partners in quality assurance

Canada's approach combines the strengths of government regulators, the seed industry and the entire soybean value chain. Each of these partners plays a key role in maintaining the integrity and reliability of Canadian quality assurance programs:

Soy Canada is the soybean industry's national association, representing every part of the soybean value chain.

The Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) regulates grain handling in Canada, establishes and maintains science-based standards of quality for Canadian grain and manages research, programs and services help support Canada's reputation as a reliable source of high-quality grain.

The Canadian Seed Growers Association oversees certification of crops grown for use as pedigreed seed, establishes varietal purity standards and ensures that seed crops meet these standards.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

is the regulatory agency responsible for seed certification, registration of seed establishments, licensing of seed graders and accreditation of seed testing laboratories.

Seeds Canada represents and advocates for the advancement of the Canadian seed industry.

Canadian seed certification and CIPRS



Enhancing quality assurance and marketability in CIPRS SCRS four ways:

- 1. Varietal identity assured through use of certified seed
- 2. Process controls verified by CGC-accredited auditors
- 3. **Documentation enhanced** to support accurate labeling and marketplace differentiation
- 4. Certificate of Recognition awarded to verify that a company's CIPRS process is operating as it should and meeting the CGC standard



CANADA'S SEED CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

The first strong link in Canada's quality assurance chain

CIPRS certification means non-GMO food grade soybeans have been grown from seed that has been produced and verified under the rigorous, multi-level quality controls of the Canadian Seed Certification System.

Canada's traceable and internationally acceptable method of seed production programs guarantees varietal purity and seed quality throughout the seed multiplication process.

Our system is based on the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) system for domestic production and uses ISO-based document control, HACCP principles and officially recognized standards, inspections procedures and personnel.

Strict controls prevent contamination in all phases of planting, processing and handling, while quality management processes control the presence of weeds and plant diseases to ensure viability and grading standards are met.

Third-party inspections in the field and plant verify that all processes are consistently followed. These controls are reinforced by seed testing to verify the quality, origin, consistency and purity of the seed.

Canada's strict standards for certified seed provide many tangible benefits for both buyer and seller, including truth in labelling and a written statement of assurance that segregation and containment requirements have been met within an audited, documented quality management system.

Oversight by government and industry

The Canadian seed industry is governed by Canadian law under *The Canada Seeds Act*. This legislation designates the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as the regulatory agency responsible for seed certification. CFIA registers seed establishments, licenses seed graders and accredits seed testing laboratories, in conjunction with Seeds Canada.

CANADIAN IDENTITY PRESERVED RECOGNITION SYSTEM

The world's most fully integrated quality assurance process

CIPRS controls and tracks the production and processing of non-GMO IP soybeans at every stage, ensuring that the right traits are delivered to the right customer, every time.

How CIPRS works

The Canadian Identity Preserved Recognition System (CIPRS) is a national voluntary program involving every step of the production chain.

To earn CIPRS certification, a company must have a quality management system that includes validated processes tailored to the requirements of each contract. Buyers specify what must be delivered, including requirements for seed variety, special growing methods, pesticide use and more. Based on the buyer's requirements, Canadian companies direct the necessary processes to fulfill the terms of the contract, including specific on-farm practices.

All of the requirements for testing, production, handling and transportation are defined in the company's CIPRS Quality Manual, including:

- Personnel responsibilities, authorities and training plans
- Product quality requirements
- Varietal purity
- GMO testing methods and sensitivity
- Location of testing in supply chain
- Crop production and handling plans
- Transportation plan
- Non-conforming product plan





Audited and certified

The integrity of CIPRS program is verified through conformity audits conducted by Seeds Canada – Centre of Systems Integration, which is accredited by the Canadian Grains Commission. Based on these third-party audit reports, CGC determines if a program should be officially recognized as meeting the CIPRS standard. Once approved, CGC issues the CGC Certificate of Recognition and authorizes the company to use the CIPRS certification mark – the buyer's assurance that a company follows the strict CIPRS process.





CIPRS soybeans are grown by Canadian producers who are contracted by grain elevators to deliver a specific product for a specific customer.

The contract between the producer and grain elevator outlines the procedures that must be followed when seeding, growing, harvesting and storing the crop. Producers agree to these requirements in writing and keep records to demonstrate the procedures followed.

The contracting or purchasing elevator follows a documented internal audit process to verify that these processes have been completed, as well as documented procedures for corrective actions that will be taken to address non-conforming products.

	REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURES	AUDITS	ADDITIONAL BEST PRACTICES recommended by Soy Canada
SEED SELECTION	Producers plant only certified seed as specified in the production plan.	The grain company's internal audit report is reviewed to verify the use of certified seed.	IP seed should be stored separately.
PLANTING	 Non-GMO IP soybeans must not be grown on a field that was planted with GMO soybeans the previous year. Seeding equipment is thoroughly cleaned and inspected before an IP field is planted. There must be at least 3 metres of isolation distance between an IP soybean crop and any other soybean or pulse crop. Producer must keep maps and records of these practices for every IP field for the current and previous year. 	The grain company's internal audit process is reviewed to ensure that producer field maps are assessed for correct isolation distance. CIPRS auditors require access to crop history and equipment clean-out records.	IP fields should be planted before the equipment is used on other soybean fields. At least three years of field maps or field history should be recorded.
GROWING	The producer inspects fields throughout the growing season to ensure proper control of volunteer weeds and uniformity of the crop. The producer must provide the contracting elevator with either a field inspection report or a report on any IP problems with IP fields. The elevator has a documented procedure in place to address any non-conforming product.	The contracting or purchasing grain elevator must be able to provide the field inspection reports and records of any corrective actions taken.	Contracting elevator companies should have documented processes outlining the criteria growers should use when evaluating crops.
HARVESTING & ON-FARM STORAGE	Before IP fields are harvested, producers ensure the combines, trailers, unloading equipment and storage bins are thoroughly cleaned and inspected. Any contaminated crop is disposed of as indicated in the crop production plan.	The contracting or purchasing grain elevator provides cleaning and inspection reports.	IP crops should be harvested, transferred and stored before the equipment is used on other soybean fields.
TRANSPORT FROM THE FARM	Transportation vehicles are thoroughly cleaned and inspected before use. Producers record and sign a truck inspection report verifying that the truck/hopper was cleaned prior to loading. This record is presented to the elevator when the crop is delivered. If a custom trucker is used, the producer provides the trucker with a report identifying themselves and the IP soybean variety being delivered. This report is provided to the elevator at time of delivery. The same cleaning and inspection requirements apply.	The contracting or purchasing grain elevator provides the cleaning and inspection records, and shipping documentation provided by the trucker or producer at delivery.	The vehicle and equipment should only transport clean substances, like grain or food items for at least three loads before the IP soybeans. The truck or hopper should be covered. The trucker should have a completed bill of lading, signed by the producer, trucker and receiver.

O CIPRS: AT THE ELEVATOR

Grain elevators receiving IP soybeans must have documented procedures to track and trace all soybeans through all stages of unloading, storage, handling and loading for transport to port.

These processes include measures to preserve IP quality and prevent co-mingling with other products. At every grain handling destination, personnel must follow defined processes for cleaning and flushing the facility before receiving IP soybeans.

For each load delivered, the elevator must verify producer eligibility. Samples are taken and stored, and information on the source is recorded. The elevator is responsible for identifying, verifying and tracking incoming loads of both IP and non-IP soybeans.

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	REQUIREMENTS & PROCEDURES	AUDITS	ADDITIONAL BEST PRACTICES recommended by Soy Canada
RECEIVING	Before IP soybeans are received, the elevator pit, conveyors and legs are cleaned, inspected and documented. The elevator keeps detailed records for both IP and non-IP soybeans received into the elevator. Scale tickets indicates variety name and unloading/storage details. The elevator takes a sample from each load of IP soybeans and labels each sample for traceability.	The elevator provides records documenting cleaning procedures, including the date and name of the employee who conducted the inspection.	Upon request, the elevator should provide half of the delivery sample to the grower.
STORAGE	The elevator identifies and document all bins and silos used to store IP soybean varieties and crush soybeans. Before IP soybeans are loaded and unloaded, IP storage bins and silos are cleaned, inspected and documented.	 The elevator provides records documenting: Cleaning procedures, including the date and name of the employee who conducted the inspection Detailed bin and silo maps, schematics and/or data indicating the crop and variety stored in each bin 	
PROCESSING	All processing equipment is cleaned, inspected and documented before processing an IP crop. The elevator records all movements of IP soybeans from raw bins through to processed storage bins, including transfers through the facility and from site to site.	 The elevator provides records documenting: Cleaning procedures, including the date and name of the employee who conducted the inspection All movement of IP soybeans from raw bins 	
LOADING	 Before IP soybeans are loaded, all containers, trucks and railcars are cleaned, inspected and documented. The elevator has clear criteria for determining whether a conveyance is acceptable for food use, and procedures to be followed for rejection of a conveyance. The elevator also has a documented process for recording all movements of IP soybeans from the processed bins to the shipping conveyance. 	 The elevator provides records documenting: Cleaning procedures, including the date and name of the employee who conducted the inspection Processing bin from which every IP and non-IP soybean shipment was sourced Container, truck or railcar identification number Grain identification Quantity loaded 	

CONTACTS

To learn more about quality assurance programs for Canadian soybeans

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