

ENQUIRY DRAFT

Specification for Labelling of commodities - Part 18: Labelling of seeds

Guyana National Bureau of Standards

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Foreword

This Draft Standard is the first revision of GYS 9-18: 2005 'Specification for Labelling of commodities-Part 18: Labelling of seeds'. This standard was revised by the Guyana National Bureau of Standards through the Technical Committee- Crops (TC 1).

It was revised to update the requirements for applicability in the current market and assist farmers and gardeners in the selection of good quality seeds. The standard provides seed suppliers, seed packagers and seed vendors with guidelines for the selection of suitable seeds for trade and for labelling them.

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Specification for Labelling of commodities - Part 18: Labelling of seeds

1 Scope

This standard sets out the requirements for seed package labels, including the information that shall be included on the labels and the manner in which that information shall be displayed.

2 Definitions

For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions shall apply:

2.1 country of origin

The country where the plants from which the seeds were produced, were grown.

2.2 germination percentage

The percentage of seeds capable of producing normal seedlings under favourable conditions.

2.3 hard seeds

The percentage of seeds which because of hardness or impermeability do not absorb moisture or germinate but remain hard during the period of germination.

2.4 hybrid

The first-generation seed of a cross produced by controlling the pollination and by combining:

- (a) two or more inbred lines;
- (b) one inbred or a single cross with an open-pollinated variety; or
- (c) two varieties of species except open-pollinated varieties of corn (*Zea mays*).

The second generation and subsequent generations from such crosses shall not be regarded as hybrids. Hybrid generations shall be treated as variety names.

2.5 inert matter

All matter which is not whole seeds.

2.6 kind

One or more related species or sub-species which singly or collectively are known by one common name, for example, 'cabbage', 'tomato', 'beans', 'carrot', and 'ginger'.

2.7 label

Any label, mark, symbol, device, imprint, stamp, brand, ticket or tag applied to, placed on, accompanying, sold with, distributed with or referring to any package of seeds.

2.8 live seed

A seed that is capable of germination.

2.9 net contents

The quantity of seeds contained in a package and expressed in metric units.

2.10 other seeds

Other seeds are seeds of agricultural crops that differ from the crop seed being offered for sale and occur in the seed lot as impurities.

2.11 package

Any container, whether fully enclosed or not, in which seeds are packed and are displayed for sale.

2.12 packager

The person or organisation responsible for the packaging of seeds in consumer packs.

2.13 pure live seed

That portion of any lot of seeds that consists of pure seeds capable of germination.

2.14 pure seeds

Seeds conforming to the characteristics of the kind and/or variety of the seed as stated on the label.

2.15 seed

Seeds includes seeds of all plants, and also bulbs, bulblets, corms, roots, cuttings and other propagative material.

2.16 seed certifying agency

The competent authority authorized by the laws of the country to officially certify seeds.

2.17 sell

- (a) offer for sale, expose for sale, have in possession for sale; or
- (b) display in such a manner as to invite an offer to treat.

2.18 treated

Treated (of seed) having received an application of a substance or having been subjected to a process designed to reduce, control or repel disease organisms which attack seeds.

2.19 variety

A sub-division of a kind which is characterised by growth, plant, fruit, seed and other characteristics by which it can be differentiated from other sorts of the same kind, for example, tomato variety, floradel variety, fireworks.

3 Labelling requirements

3.1 The labelling of seed packages shall comply with the requirements of the latest version of GYS 9-1, "Labelling of Goods – Part 1 : General requirements".

3.2 Language: The information given on the label shall be in the English Language and shall be indelible and legible. For international trade purposes, the language shall be that of the country importing the seeds.

3.3 Information to be given

3.3.1 The following information shall be included on the label of every seed package:

- (a) the kind and variety of the seeds, and if the package contains seeds of more than one kind, these shall be stated;
- (b) the hybrid component, if any, to be included with the kind and variety of the seeds;
- (c) whether the seeds are certified and if so, the name of the certifying agency shall be stated;
- (d) the country of origin of the seeds;
- (e) the name, address, and contact number of the producer and packager, importer or distributor;
- (f) the minimum germination percentage and the date of the germination test;
- (g) minimum possible germination period;
- (h) percentage weed (if any);
- (i) percentage of hard seed and inert matter (if any);
- (j) percentage of pure seeds;
- (k) name and percentage of other seeds;
- (l) the substance used for treating the seeds if they have been so treated, in the form “treated with....”
- (j) the skull and crossbones with a square surround and to be accompanied by the word “poison” if the treatment substance is toxic to human beings and other vertebrate animals. The word “poison” shall be in bold type common, black letters, on orange background, or alternatively, red or white background. **(See Appendix A)**;
- (k) the instruction, “Warning, not to be used for food or feed” if the treatment substance is not toxic to humans or other vertebrate animals; and
- (m) the minimum net contents of the package shall be stated.
- (n) lot number
- (o) date packaged
- (p) best before date

NOTE Seeds are often treated with a pesticide and/or a fungicide to prevent insect, mould or vermin attack. The common name or trade name of the pesticide or fungicide shall be inserted after “treated with....”; for example, “treated with 85 percent Sevin”.

3.3.2 Kind and variety of hybrid

The kind and variety of hybrid seeds shall be indicated by names commonly used in Guyana. In addition, proper botanical names shall be used.

3.4 In addition to 3.3, the following information may be included on the label:

- (a) Descriptions and graphic representations: Descriptions and graphic representations of seeds, seedlings, plants and vegetables which appear on a label shall be truthful and not misleading.
- (b) Sowing and cultivation: Wherever there are suggestions and/or recommendations for sowing of the seeds, planting of the seedlings, cultivating the plants or harvesting and packaging the produce derived therefrom, they shall be truthful and not misleading.
- (c) Warranties and guarantees: Any warranties and guarantees declared on a label shall be honest and the seed vendor shall be prepared to honour them.

4 Precautionary labelling of treated seeds

5.1 Required warning and precautionary statements concerning toxicological, physical or chemical hazards shall be specified on the label.

5.2 Warning marks shall be bold and stated in either black on an orange background, or, red on a white background .

5.3 Additional warning labels may also be added on seed packages such as:

- (a) Do not shake.
- (b) Do not use for food, feed or oil purposes
- (c) Keep out of reach of children, livestock and wildlife
- (d) Always use gloves and mask when handling treated seeds
- (e) After planting treated seeds, wash your hands and face before eating, drinking, smoking or going to the toilet
- (f) Do not leave any treated seed on the soil surface. Clean up spilled seed and cover it with soil to prevent wildlife from eating it.

5 Packaging

Seeds shall be packed in containers that provide adequate protection and preserve the seeds' compositional characteristics and viability.

Appendix A

(Informative)

Suggested Labelling format for seed packages

Lot No:

Crop Species:

Variety:

Pure Seed.....(Min):

Germination.....(Min):

Hard Seeds.....(Min):

Other Seeds.....(Min):

Net Weight:

Caution:

TREATED WITH(name of substance)

DO NOT USE FOR FOOD, FEED OR OIL

Packer:

(Address)

'A Seed Testing Analysis Certificate is available on request.'

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