



USA Accredited Seed Conditioning Program (ASCP) Specified Program Requirements - Appendix D

1 Purpose

This document sets forth the specified program requirements of the USA Accredited Seed Conditioning Program (ASCP). It also provides the requirements for the objective evaluation of a program submitted for accreditation and monitored by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Livestock and Seed (LS) Program, Audit, Review, and Compliance (ARC) Branch.

The specified program requirements of the USA ASCP must be met through an approved USDA Process Verified Program. The requirements of the USDA Process Verified Program are defined in *ARC 1001 Procedure, Process Verified Program*. The USDA Process Verified Program ensures that the requirements of the USA ASCP are supported by a documented quality management system.

The USA ASCP is a voluntary, user-fee service available to seed conditioning entities. Accredited seed conditioners, as listed on the *Official Listing of Accredited USDA Process Verified Programs for Seed*, may represent themselves as a USDA Process Verified Program, USA Accredited Seed Conditioner.

2 Scope

The ASCP applies to seed conditioning entities seeking accreditation under this Program.

3 Specified Program Requirements

- 3.1 Must include seed conditioning procedures.
- 3.2 Process Verified Points must be specified for the scope and methods that will be claimed; and must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - 3.2.1 Adherence to a recognized standard that is not otherwise required by industry or regulations.
 - 3.2.2 A unique production or handling practice.
 - 3.2.3 A service with unique characteristics for that type of operation or outside normal business practices.
 - 3.2.4 A quantifiable characteristic such as size, weight, age or grade.
 - 3.2.5 Documentation, monitoring, or auditing that is unique to the company and outside normal business practice.
 - 3.2.6 A characteristic, practice, or requirement that is specifically requested by a customer or consumer.
- 3.3 **Must comply with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) blending requirements for Refuge in a Bag (RIB), if applicable.**

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3.4 Minimum **blending** requirements are:

- 3.4.1 Must conduct trait purity check on seed lots prior to RIB blending;
 - 3.4.2 Must maintain Standard Operating Procedures for the RIB blending process including traceability, conditioning flow, and product carryover procedures;
 - 3.4.3 Must conduct calibration of RIB blending and weighing equipment;
 - 3.4.4 Must maintain records and data retention records for RIB seed blend products, including calibration records and blending proportion records (weight and kernel based as specific to RIB process). Records must be maintained at the blending facility and must be available to the EPA for review upon request.
 - 3.4.5 Must ensure that germination testing for blending conformance is conducted by an ASL, ISTA, or Official Laboratory.
- 3.5 In addition to the requirements outlined in *ARC 1005 Procedure*, accredited seed conditioners must submit annually at least 5% of the conditioning records for the RIB process, as applicable.
- 3.6 Accredited seed conditioners are audited to determine expertise and implementation during actual conditioning activities.