



USA Accredited Seed Sampling Program (ASSP) Specified Program Requirements - Appendix B

1 Purpose

This document sets forth the specified program requirements of the USA Accredited Seed Sampling Program (ASSP). 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 Poultry (L&P) Program, Quality Assessment Division (QAD).

The specified program requirements of the USA ASSP must be met through an approved USDA Process Verified Program (PVP). The requirements of the USDA PVP are defined in QAD 1001 Procedure: *USDA Process Verified Program*. The USDA PVP ensures that the requirements of the USA ASSP are supported by a documented quality management system.

The USA ASSP is a voluntary, user-fee service available to seed sampling entities or individuals. Accredited seed samplers, as listed on the [Official Listing of USDA Approved Accredited Seed Entities](#), may represent themselves as a USDA Process Verified Program, USA Accredited Seed Sampler.

2 Scope

The ASSP applies to seed samplers or sampling entities seeking accreditation under this program.

3 Specified Program Requirements

- 3.1 Accredited seed samplers must sample seed in accordance with the AASCO Seed Sampling Handbook, the OECD Authorization Guidelines, or the Federal Seed Act.
- 3.2 Accredited seed samplers are audited to determine expertise and implementation during actual sampling activities.
- 3.3 A portion of the seed lots entered for official certification for OECD shall be check-sampled by official seed samplers. That portion shall be at least 5 percent. Check sampling shall not apply to seed lots that have been sampled by approved automatic samplers.

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