

Quality assurance programs are designed to serve the needs of companies or seed producers that desire third-party inspections and testing of seed products that are typically not certified, such as branded soybean or wheat varieties. Many program elements are similar to the certification process. To be eligible for the AOSCA QA logo for labeling field and seed standards must be equivalent to AOSCA Certified class standards for the crop being inspected. Service inspections may also be customized to the needs of the customer.

Eligibility Requirements

Customer eligibility for participation in the QA program is determined by the certifying agency. Products submitted for a QA program must have a statement of origin signed by the applicant and the product must be adequately described to make accurate and reliable field and seed evaluations. All seed must be labeled by variety name according to state seed laws and identified with brand designations. Public varieties currently marketed as certified seed are not eligible to be labeled under the QA program unless authorization is given by the originating institution.

Field inspection

Applications must be submitted to NDSSD, identifying the field(s) to be inspected along with an agronomic description of the variety. Products will be accepted as described. The same field inspection applications used for certification and QA programs. Field inspection will be performed using the same field sampling system used for certified seed production, to the company's standards as needed. General field conditions will be reported along with other information requested by the customer.

Lab Testing

Post-harvest samples must be submitted to NDSSD and tested for varietal purity, germination and physical purity. Variety ID testing is available for spring wheat, winter wheat, oats, barley and field peas.

Labeling

NDSSD can provide official AOSCA QA labels if desired, for seed meeting the QA field and laboratory guidelines for genetic purity. Official labels are green in color with the QA® logo to signify the product meets AOSCA program requirements.



AOSCA QA Program for Blends

- All seed used in QA blends must come from fields inspected under the QA program.
- All components of the blend must meet QA field and seed guidelines.
- The minimum percentages of components in a QA blend shall be the same as for certified blends.
- Representative samples of QA blends offered for sale must be submitted to NDSSD for analysis.
- Bulk seed movement and sales guidelines shall be the same as for certified seed.
- Approved conditioner guidelines (if applicable) shall be the same as for certified seed.