



Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies

Proposed Changes to Standards/Guidelines

Date Submitted March 24, 2021

Change to AOSCA: Standards X Guidelines _____

Crop Kind: White Clover AOSCA Commodity Committee Alfalfa/Small Forage Legumes

Proposal Sponsor Oregon, Idaho

Proposal Origination: AOSCA _____ Region _____ Agency X Other _____

Location in the AOSCA Standards/Guidelines (give specific citation):

Clover certification standards, seed standards table (Handbook page 40) White and Alsike.

Text of the original and amended portion of the Standards/Guidelines:

In the current version of the seed standards table, the minimum pure seed for the all class of white and alsike clover is 99.00%, and the inert matter is 1.00%. Weed seed for Registered class is 0.25%.

Proposal: Amend the table to state 98.00% minimum pure seed and 2% inert for all classes. Amend the weed seed standard at the Registered class to allow 0.30%

Brief summary about the background, purpose, and intent of this change:

Oregon is the primary producer of certified white clover seed. Ten of the last eleven years Oregon has produced certified white clover seed. In the same time, Idaho is the other AOSCA agency to report any acres of certified white clover seed. There were four years of production in Idaho that ceased after the 2015 crop. The Oregon white clover standard is 98% pure seed and 2% inert for all classes of certified seed and the tolerance for weed seed at the Registered seed class is 0.30%. During a review of certified seed standards at the local level, this discrepancy was noted. The intent is to align the AOSCA standard with the Oregon standard, which has been acceptable to that industry.

Narrative addressing seed industry impact/support/concern/other:

As the primary producer of this seed, the Oregon clover industry has requested AOSCA to make this change to ensure that the AOSCA standards are in line with the Oregon standards, which has been acceptable for certified seed customers for many years. If the producers are required to change from their current standards, they will suffer increased cleanout losses of genetically pure seed to meet the inert standard, which has not been a concern of the industry purchasing certified white clover seed. The change to the Registered class weed standard is minimal but will be consistent with the Oregon standard.

This standard is coupled together with the alsike clover standard on page 40. Canada is the most recent AOSCA organization to report acres of production, last certifying seed in 2012. The two standards may need to be separated if the alsike clover standards are not to change.

Summary of discussion(s) held by AOSCA and Seed Certifying Agencies:

Oregon and Idaho have briefly discussed the topic and are in agreement that the standard change warrants support. If a state wishes to have a more restrictive standard, they maintain the ability to do so.

Timeline and plan for the proposal: The draft proposal will be reviewed by seed certifying agencies prior to the regional meetings to be held in April 2021, with the goal of Council discussion and action at the 2021 AOSCA annual meeting.

Final disposition: