A. The Seed Certifying Agency

The New York Certified Seed Growers' Cooperative, Inc. is a non-profit organization of seed growers and distributors. This organization is designated by the Commissioner of Agriculture as the official seed certifying agency in the State of New York. The New York Certified Seed Growers' Cooperative, Inc. works in cooperation with the New York State College of Agriculture, the New York State Experiment Station, and the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets in carrying out the purposes of seed certification. It is not a seed growing or seed distributing organization but serves to coordinate the seed certification program.

B. The Purpose of Seed Certification

The purpose shall be to maintain and make available to the public, through certification, high quality seed and propagating material of superior crop varieties so grown and distributed as to insure genetic identity and purity. The word "seed" or "seeds" as used in these standards shall be understood to include all propagating material.

C. Eligibility Requirements for Certification of Crop Varieties

Certification is limited to those crop varieties as are approved by the New York State College of Agriculture Seed Committee and by the Certifying Agency.

D. Restrictions of Number of Varieties per Farm

Only one variety of the same crop with indistinguishable seed shall be grown for seed production on a farm without prior approval of the Certifying Agency.

E. Classes and Sources of Certified Seed

Four classes of seed shall be recognized in seed certification; namely, Breeder's, Foundation, Registered, and Certified. These classes are defined as follows:

1) Breeder's seed - is seed or other vegetative propagating material directly controlled by the originating, or in certain cases, the sponsoring plant breeder or institution and which provides the source for the initial and recurring increase of Foundation seed.
2) **Foundation seed** - is seed so handled as most nearly to maintain specific genetic identity and purity as designated by the originating or sponsoring experiment station.

Production of Foundation seed must be carefully supervised or approved by representatives of the Agricultural Experiment Station. Foundation seed shall be the source of all "Certified" seed either directly or through Registered seed.

3) **Registered seed** - is the progeny of Foundation or Registered seed. Registered seed is so handled as to maintain satisfactory genetic identity and purity and is so Certified by the New York Certified Seed Growers' Cooperative, Inc. This class of seed is of quality suitable for the production of Certified seed.

4) **Certified seed** - is the progeny of Foundation or Registered seed that is so handled as to maintain satisfactory genetic identity and purity and is Certified by the New York Certified Seed Growers' Cooperative, Inc. Only under conditions specified by the Certifying Agency may Certified seed be used as planting stock in the production of Certified seed. Certified seed is the class of seed distributed primarily for general farm use in the growing of crops.

F. **Requirements for Training Seed Producers**

Only growers or firms whose application for membership in the New York Certified Seed Growers' Cooperative, Inc. has been accepted by the Board of Directors shall be eligible to produce Certified seed. Acceptance of such application is based on suitability of land for seed production, ownership or access to acceptable seed processing equipment, aptitude and integrity of growers, etc. The Seed Certifying Agency in cooperation with the College of Agriculture conducts educational programs to aid producers in the successful production and processing of Certified seed.

G. **Handling of Crop Prior to Inspection**

Roguing of off-type plants, objectionable crop plants, and weeds is required prior to field inspection. Field boundaries shall also be designated prior to field inspection.

H. **Establishing the Source of Seed**

In those cases where the seed planted for the production of Foundation, Registered, or Certified seed is obtained from another person, documentary evidence, such as a certification tag, sales record, etc., must be submitted to the Certifying Agency at the time of application for field inspection to establish source of seed.

I. **Qualifications for Inspectors**

Inspection work requiring technical training shall be performed only by men who have been trained for the job. Such training shall be conducted under the supervision of the College of Agriculture.
J. Management

Every field for which certification is requested shall show evidence of good management and shall show that reasonable precaution has been taken to control contaminating crops and varieties and objectionable weeds, the seeds of which are indistinguishable or inseparable in available cleaning equipment from seed of the particular crop being inspected.

K. Seed-borne Diseases

Every field for which certification is requested shall show evidence that reasonable precaution has been taken to control seed-borne diseases. The field at the time of inspection shall not contain beyond established tolerances of injurious seed-borne diseases which are enumerated in the individual crop standards. The representative sample of the finished seed crop shall be subjected to laboratory examination for diseases.

L. Seed Treatment of Disease-resistant Varieties

When seed resistant to a seed-borne organism is distributed because of its resistance to this organism, and a seed treatment is available which may be applied to seed in quantity, it is desirable that all seed of this variety sown to produce Certified seed be treated.

M. Samples and Sampling of Seed

a. A representative sample of each lot of seed as it is offered for sale shall be obtained by the Certifying Agency.

b. The sample shall be taken from and be truly representative of the entire lot of seed which has been recleaned and is in condition for sale. Such sample shall not be considered as being representative for any seed which is recleaned later.

c. Sampling procedure:

1. In order to secure a representative sample, equal portions shall be taken from evenly distributed parts of the quantity of seed to be sampled.

2. A probe or trier long enough to sample all portions should be used for free-flowing seed in bags or in bulk.

3. Seed moving by conveyors should be sampled at intervals, approximately each 5th bag.

4. Non-free-flowing seed, such as certain grasses and other seeds difficult to sample with probe or trier, shall be sampled by thrusting the hand into the bulk and withdrawing representative portions.

5. Bulk sampling - Bulk seeds shall be sampled by inserting a long probe or thrusting the hand into
the bulk, as circumstances require, in at least 7 uniformly distributed parts of the quantity being sampled.

6. Bag sampling - In quantities of 5 bags or less; each bag shall be sampled. In quantities of more than 5 bags but less than 50, at least every 5th bag, but not less than 5 bags shall be sampled. In the case of large lots of seed, sampling shall be adequate to be representative of the seed.

7. If there appears to be a lack of uniformity, the samples shall not be combined, but shall be retained separately for laboratory analysis. If they appear uniform, they shall be blended and a final sample taken from the composite.

d. Size of sample:

   (a) Small grains, oats barley, wheat, rye - 1/2 peck
   (b) Field beans, soybeans - 5 lbs.
   (c) Corn, open-pollinated, and hybrid - 2 lbs.
   (d) Birdsfoot trefoil, alfalfa, red clover, Ladino - 1/2 lb.
   (e) Timothy - 1/2 lb.
   (f) Other grasses - 1 lb.

N. Seed House or Bin Inspection of Seed

One or more inspections of harvested lots of seed from inspected fields may be made at any one time by authorized persons who shall have authority to recommend to the Certifying Agency the rejection for certification of any lot not properly protected from mixture, or improperly identified.

O. Seed Testing

Analyses and tests of samples of seed, and definitions of analytic terms, shall be in accordance with the rules of the Association of Official Seed Analysts.

P. Tags and Seals

   a. All seed stocks, when sold as Certified seed, shall have an official tag properly affixed to each container. Sealing requirements will depend upon the crop and methods of handling.

   b. The official seed certification tag attached to the bag shall clearly show the class of Certified seed contained therein; e.g., Foundation, Registered, or Certified.

   c. A sealing device which cannot be removed and reattached is added protection to the final planter 'or' consumer that seed received is that originally Certified.

   d. All official certification tags and seals must be secured from the New York Certified Seed Growers' Cooperative, Inc and must be affixed to the seed containers, either by the
Q. Substandard Seed

It is recognized that certain lots of seed that may be desirable for the advancement of crop improvement would be lost if regular certification standards are adhered to. Therefore, under such circumstances, seed failing to meet certification standards other than those affecting genetic purity may be Certified. The certification tag attached to such seed shall clearly show the respects in which the seed does not meet the regular certification standards. The maximum tolerance for certification of substandard seed shall be specified for each crop in the specific standards for that particular crop.

R. Complying with Federal and State Seed Laws

Responsibility for any obligations relating to proper labeling of seed, other than those concerned with certification, (e.g., proper techniques in establishing genetic identity of seed) arising from the sale or shipment of seed which has been Certified rests with the grower or subsequent handler making the sale or shipment.

S. Seed Held Over

Seed held over more than 12 months beyond the original date of certification shall not be recognized as Certified. However, it shall be eligible for recertification, provided a representative sample of regular size be submitted which meets the current certification requirements.