



**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY**  
**MIKE STRAIN DVM**  
**COMMISSIONER**



June 10, 2020

RE: Industrial Hemp Program Seed Acquisition Requirement Changes

Louisiana Industrial Hemp Licensees:

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The Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry (LDAF) will begin requiring industrial hemp (hemp) seed quality analysis reports and product labeling information be submitted with the Seed Acquisition Request form. Both seed quality analysis testing and product labeling are required by the Louisiana Seed Law and rules & regulations and the Louisiana Industrial Hemp Law and rules & regulations. This requirement that the industrial hemp seed quality report and product label information be included as an attachment to the hemp seed acquisition request form is being implemented to ensure that Louisiana's hemp producers receive the highest quality of planting seed available, and to assist in preventing the spread of harmful noxious weed seeds in Louisiana.

Act 164 of the 2019 Louisiana Legislative Session recognized hemp as an agricultural commodity in Louisiana. Consequently, hemp seeds are subject to the agricultural seed requirements of the Louisiana Seed Law and rules & regulations in addition to the Louisiana Industrial Hemp Law and rules & regulations, as also stated in LAC 7:XIII.1321(D).

LAC 7:XIII.1321(E) states:

"The guarantor of industrial hemp seed, except persons exempt pursuant to the authority of R.S. 3:1445, and who sells, transports, distributes, or offers or handles for sale agricultural, or vegetable seed, shall have a complete analysis test performed on the seed by a registered seed technologist or an official state seed analyst prior to the seed being sold, distributed or offered or handled for sale in Louisiana."

Additionally, La. R.S. 3:1436(2)(a-i) requires the following minimum information on each container of agricultural seed:

- Except as otherwise provided herein, the commonly accepted name of the kind and variety<sup>1</sup> of each agricultural seed component in excess of five percent of the whole, and the percentage of weight of each in the order of its predominance.
- The number or other lot identification.
- The origin<sup>2</sup> of the seed. If the origin is not known, that fact shall be stated.
- The percentage by weight of all weed seeds.
- The name and number per pound of each kind of noxious weed seed.
- The percentage by weight of crop seeds other than those required to be on the label.
- The percentage by weight of inert matter.
- For each named agricultural seed: the percentage of germination, exclusive of hard seed<sup>3</sup>; the percentage of hard seed<sup>3</sup> when present; and the calendar month and year the test was completed to determine such percentages.
- Name and address of the person who labeled said seed or who sells, offers, or exposes said seed for sale within this state.

<sup>1</sup> Variety or strain

<sup>2</sup> State or country of origin

<sup>3</sup> Hard or dormant seed

Pursuant to the above mentioned authority, industrial hemp seeds are required to be labeled and have a complete analysis test performed. Hemp licensees are now required to provide to LDAF, in addition to the THC certificate of analysis, 1) a report of analysis from the seed quality testing laboratory, showing the seed being acquired has been tested for germination and purity quality, and the presence of noxious weed seeds, and 2) a seed product label that is in compliance with the above requirements.

**The report of analysis and label should be requested from your seed supplier prior to purchasing the seed.** Once obtained, licensees must forward this information, along with the THC certificate of analysis, and completed Seed Acquisition Request form to LDAF for approval.

Please note that upon receipt of your approved hemp seed, and at your request, LDAF Seed Testing Laboratory staff can provide a purity, germination and noxious weed seed quality check and label compliance review.

For complete seed testing and labeling requirements, refer to the Louisiana Seed Law and rules & regulations. The law and regulations can be found on the LDAF website by clicking [here](#) .

For questions concerning these new requirements, please contact us by phone at 225-925-4733 or by email at [seed@ldaf.state.la.gov](mailto:seed@ldaf.state.la.gov).

Respectfully,

Lester Cannon, Director  
Seed Programs Division

cc. Mike Strain, DVM Commissioner  
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