



USDA Accredited Seed Laboratory (ASL) Program Specified Program Requirements – Appendix A

1. Purpose

This document sets forth the specified program requirements of the USDA Accredited Seed Laboratory (ASL) Program. The USDA ASL Program expands the choices for seed laboratories and provides an alternative program to current accreditations for U.S. laboratories. This document also provides the requirements used for the objective evaluation of a program submitted for accreditation and monitored by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Science and Technology (S&T), Seed Regulatory and Testing Division (SRTD).

The specified program requirements of the USDA ASL Program must be met through an approved USDA Process Verified Program. The requirements of the USDA Process Verified Program are defined in *S&T 1001 Procedure, Process Verified Program*. The USDA Process Verified Program ensures that the requirements of the USDA ASL Program are supported by a documented quality management system.

The USDA ASL Program is a voluntary, user-fee service available to seed testing laboratories. Accredited seed testing laboratories, as listed on the *Official Listing of Accredited USDA Process Verified Programs for Seed*, may represent themselves as a USDA Process Verified Program, USDA Accredited Seed Laboratory.

2. Scope

The USDA ASL Program applies to seed laboratories seeking accreditation under this Program. Accreditation is granted for germination and physical purity testing only and covers species contained within the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) *Rules of Testing Seed* and/or *Federal Seed Act*.

3. Specified Program Requirements

- 3.1. Eligible Seed Testing Laboratories must be:
 - 3.1.1. An AOSA-SCST member in good standing, employing Registered Seed Technologist (RST) with certification in purity and germination.

NOTE: Applications for accreditation will be reviewed by the AOSA-SCST administrative office to verify individuals or laboratories are members in good standing.



- 3.2. ASLs must employ a Registered Seed Technician (RST). In the event of personnel changes the laboratory must be actively seeking a replacement and obtain such within one (1) year to retain accreditation under this program. The ASL management must contact the Program Administrator immediately for individual consideration to continue to operate under the ASL system. No ASL claims or certificates may be issued until this written approval is given.
- 3.3. An ASL must be furnished with all items of sampling, measuring, and testing equipment required for the correct performance of tests.
 - 3.3.1. All equipment must be verified or calibrated to NIST standards when applicable.
- 3.4. Laboratory management must ensure that responsibilities and authorities are defined and communicated within the laboratory to include the person accepting technical responsibility for authorizing and signing test reports.
- 3.5. Samples must be uniquely identified and traceable to test reports and properly maintained for a minimum period of one year following the issuance of the report. For purity samples, impurities will be kept separate and maintained with the sample.
- 3.6. Both prior to, and after, acceptance into the Program, an ASL must participate in recognized physical sample proficiency testing in regard to its chosen scope of accreditation. A minimum of three proficiency tests is required per year. In addition, laboratories must complete at least one proficiency test for each of their selected crop groupings within a three-year period. Proficiency testing results must be submitted to the Program Administrator on an annual basis.
 - 3.6.1. If any proficiency test result falls below acceptable standards or is determined to be out of tolerance, the laboratory must document and implement a corrective action to address the deficiency.
- 3.7. ASLs must clearly identify the results of tests that fall within the accreditation guidelines in the seed laboratory report. The report must also identify as separate any tests that are outside the scope of accreditation. (Suggested statement: “Physical purity, noxious-weed and germination examination were conducted in accordance with the AOSA *Rules for Testing Seeds*. All other tests or test deviations listed on this report are outside the scope of the USDA ASL Program.”)
- 3.8. ASLs must adhere to all *Report of Analysis* requirements as specified by AOSA-SCST or as mandated under the Federal Seed Act.
 - 3.8.1. It is acceptable for ASLs to use the USDA Process Verified shield on a Report of Analysis, provided it is used in accordance with Section 6 of the S&T 1001 Standard.
- 3.9. ASLs will be accountable to test seed in accordance with AOSA *Rules for Testing Seeds* or the *Federal Seed Act*.

4. Reasons for Suspension

4.1. In addition to the reasons outlined in the S&T 1000 General Policies and Procedures, an ASL may be removed from the program for the following reasons:

4.1.1. Failure to remain a member in good standing in AOSA-SCST; and/or

4.1.2. Failure to employ a RST with certification in purity and germination.

5. Proficiency Test Groups

Crop Groupings of Proficiency Testing – USDA ASL Program

Kind	Species
Grasses	Agropyron, Agrostis, Alopecurus, Andropogon, Anthoxanthum, Arrhenatherum, Axonopus, Bothriochloa, Bouteloua, Bromus, Cenchrus, Chloris, Cynodon, Cynosurus, Dactylis, Echinochloa, Eragrostis, Ehrharta, Elymus, Elytrigia, Festuca, Holcus, Lolium, Melinis, Pascopyrum, Paspalum, Phalaris, Phleum, Pennisetum, Piptatherum, Poa, Pseudoroegneria, Setaria, Sorghastrum Urochloa, Zoysia
Cereals & Other Crops	Avena, Carthamus, Fagopyrum, Gossypium, Helianthus, Hordeum, Linum, Oryza, Secale, Sorghum, Triticosecale, Triticum, Zea
Legumes	Alysicarpus, Arachis, Astragalus, Cicer, Crotalaria, Cyamopsis, Desmodium, Glycine, Hedysarum, Indigofera, Lablab, Lathyrus, Lens, Lotus, Lespedeza, Lupinus, Medicago, Melilotus, Mucuna, Onobrychis, Phacelia, Phaseolus, Pisum, Pueraria, Securigera, Trifolium, Vicia, Vigna
Vegetables, Flowers, & Herbs	Abelmoschus, Allium, Anethum, Anthriscus, Apium, Arctium, Asparagus, Atriplex, Atropa, Bassia, Beta, Borago, Brassica, Camelina, Campanula, Capsicum, Carum, Chrysanthemum, Cichorium, Citrullus, Claytonia, Corchorus, Coriandrum, Cucurbita, Cucumis, Cuminum, Cynara, Daucus, Eruca, Foeniculum, Fragaria, Hyssopus, Ipomoea, Kochia, Lactuca, Lavandula, Lepidium, Levisticum, Lycopersicum, Marrubium, Matricaria, Melissa, Mentha, Nasturtium, Nicotiana, Nigella, Ocimum, Oenothera, Origanum, Papaver, Pastinaca, Petroselinum, Phacelia, Physalis, Pimpinella, Portulaca, Rheum, Raphanus, Ricinus, Rosmarinus, Rumex, Ruta, Salvia, Sanguisorba, Satureja, Scorzonera, Sesamum, Sinapis, Solanum, Spinacia, Stylosanthes, Taraxacum, Tetragonia, Thymus, Tragopogon, Tropaeolum, Valerianella
Trees & Shrubs	Abies, Acer, Betula, Calocedrus, Cedrus, Chamaecyparis, Cornus, Cupressus, Fraxinus, Larix, Liquidambar, Liriodendron, Malus, Nyssa, Picea, Pinus, Platanus, Populus, Prunus, Pseudotsuga, Pyrus, Quercus, Robinia, Sequoia, Sequiadendron, Thuja, Tsuga, Ulmus

REVISION HISTORY

Version #	Revision	Initial/Date
June 2026	- Updated header to current USDA approved letterhead. - Updated to recognize the AOSA/SCST merger including the use of CSA to RST. - Added section 3.3.1 to include verification of testing equipment. - Added specifications to proficiency testing section 3.6. - Added section 3.8 to state that reports of analysis should be according to AOSA or FSA. - Clarified section 3.9 (previously 3.8) by removing “when testing for OECD” - Removed previous section 3.9 and ‘Usage of Accredited Seed Lab USDA report of Analysis.’	ETS & EA 6/9/26