

# GRASS SEED

## GENERAL

This evaluation procedure outlines the Tennessee Department of Transportation approval process for Grass Seed Producers.

## BACKGROUND

This procedure is necessary to ensure that all seed Producers included on TDOT's Producer List meet consistent quality standards as outlined by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDOA). By requiring certification and up-to-date seed test reports, TDOT ensures that only approved and reliable seed products are used in projects, which helps maintain the integrity of environmental and agricultural practices. Additionally, the procedure helps streamline the approval process and ensures accountability through regular, verified documentation, making it a critical tool for both compliance and quality control.

For the purposes of this procedure, a Producer is described in TCA 43-10-118 as every seed seller whose name appears on the analysis label, bulk container, or shipping invoice for sale of seed to a non-labeler.

## PROCEDURES

The producer must contact TDOT and provide the necessary documentation for approval:

- **Obtain a Seed Seller License** – The producer must submit an application to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's (TDOA) Seed Seller Program to receive a Seed Seller License, which is renewed annually.
- **Submit License to TDOT** – The producer must submit a valid Seed Seller License from the TDOA to TDOT as part of the approval process to be placed on the Producer List. This must be done before July 1st each year to avoid removal from the list.
- **Provide Seed Test Reports** – For each type of seed to be approved, the producer must submit a certified laboratory report showing the analysis of the seed. The report must be from a Society of Commercial Seed Technologists (SCST) accredited commercial seed laboratory or a State seed laboratory. The report must be signed by a Registered Member of the SCST.
- **Monitor Report Expiration** – Ensure that the seed test reports are valid for up to nine months from the date of testing (excluding the test month). If the report expires or the seed lot is depleted, the producer must submit a new report to keep the seed on the list in accordance with TCA 43-10-109 (B).
- **Ongoing Compliance** – Submit an updated Seed Seller License to TDOT by July 1st each year. Failing to meet this deadline or submit new test reports will result in removal from the list, and the producer will need to reapply following the outlined procedures.

All submittals must be sent to Headquarters Materials and Tests Division at the contact listed below.

Joseph Kerstetter

[Joseph.Kerstetter@tn.gov](mailto:Joseph.Kerstetter@tn.gov)

Headquarters Materials and Tests Division

6601 Centennial Boulevard

Nashville, Tennessee 37243

## **REFERENCES**

TDOT Standard Specification 918.01 – Grass Seed

Rules of TDOA Division of Marketing Chapter 0080-05-06

Tennessee Code Annotated 43-10-118