

Sampling Seed in Bulk Containers

From the *Association of American Seed Control Officials* (AASCO) handbook on seed sampling.

1. Review the label information for lot number, kind, variety and seed treatment, if any.
2. Determine the lot size by either total weight of amount of seed in the storage facility.
3. Determine the sample size according to a similar quantity in 50-pound bags.
4. Select the proper trier by making sure it reaches all portions of the bulk container, if possible.

Selecting and using a trier:

A trier shall be used for sampling free-flowing seed in bags, mini-bulk containers or bulk. The tier should be long enough to reach all portions of the container or quantity being sampled. The width of the slot openings should be at least two times the maximum diameter of the seed being sampled. See Appendix 9 for guidelines to select the proper trier for sampling different kinds of seeds in various types of containers.

Non-free-flowing seed, such as chaffy grasses, uncleaned seed, large fragile seed or screening that are difficult to sample with a trier, may be sampled by thrusting the hand into the seed and withdrawing representative portions (see Hand Sampling, page 12).

To order the AASCO handbook, go to:

http://www.seedcontrol.org/pdf/handbook_order_form_2013.pdf

5. A minimum of seven primary samples are to be taken from uniformly distributed parts of the quantity using the following guidelines:
 - a. Do a visual inspection of each primary sample to determine uniformity.
 - b. Stop the sampling if non-uniformity is identified or enter a remark in the sampling report.
 - c. When drawing samples, approximately equal amounts of seed are to be taken for each primary core.
 - d. Combine the primary samples to form a composite sample; and
 - e. If the entire composite sample is not submitted, it must be blended before divided by using a standard method and equipment.
6. Ensure that enough seed is sampled to meet sample size requirements (see Appendix 3).
7. Make sure that all bulk containers are properly sealed, if applicable.
8. Complete the sampling report and cross reference it with the sample.
9. If the seed is treated, the sample container and sampling report must show the name of the treatment product (see Appendix 10).
10. Forward the sample and sampling report to the laboratory or other designated location using packaging appropriate for secure and timely shipping.