



THE UK'S SEED TREATMENT ASSURANCE SCHEME

Spring 2020 | Providing the seed sector with a marque of excellence

What is **ESTA**?

The European Seed Treatment Assurance standard "ESTA" is the quality assurance scheme for the application of plant protection products on seed. It also provides guidance for the handling and the use of treated seed.

- It is a risk based scheme which covers all treated seed
- 80% of treated seed is currently certified to ESTA
- Is used as a trading tool and opens continental markets
- Promotes safe handling on farm through NRoSO training



Benefits of **ESTA**

1



Assurance of top quality seed treatment application

2



Independent auditing to assure customers and the public

3



Securing the future supply of seed treatment products

4



Avoid implementation of costly regulations

5



Supporting the free movement of treated seed within the EU

Consequences of seed treaters not being an accredited member of **ESTA**



Potential loss of essential plant protection products or delays in new product approval through tighter regulation



The introduction of cumbersome and costly regulation by the authorities



A restriction of free trade for treated seed across Europe



Poor public perception of the seed treatment industry due to a lack of understanding of the benefits of seed treatment



The negative environmental impact that the loss of seed treatments would bring for lack of safer and higher performance alternatives, as well as the potential impact on farm income and food prices

Why **ESTA**?

- ESTA can secure crop quality, safety and yield using the minimum amount of pesticides.
- The seed industry has decided to act in creating a voluntary EU standard of good practice which addresses the entire seed supply chain, from seed cleaning to the seed in the field, resulting in quality products for the end user.
- It is important that the industry is seen to lead the way in its responsibility for the customer and the environment.

How does it work?

- The standard is based on the participant having a quality manual which covers quality systems (such as calibration of equipment and the response to customer complaints).
- The standard also requires the use of a **HACCP (Hazard, Analysis, and Critical Control Point)** which is a widely adopted form of risk assessment.
- As the standard is auditable, all records need to be maintained.
- It can be audited along side the **TASCC (the AIC's Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops)** scheme or as a stand alone audit.

Contacts

Further information can be found on the AIC web site on www.agindustries.org.uk or contact:



AIC are the UK Agent for the ESTA scheme

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