

The USA National Seed Health System. (C04-mcgee082153-Oral)

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Abstract:

The National Seed Health System (NSHS) is authorized by USDA-APHIS to provide specific standards for laboratory seed health tests and seed crop field inspections that may be used for the issuance of a Federal Phytosanitary Certificate to meet international regulations regarding export of seed from the USA. It was developed in response to the proliferation of phytosanitary regulations the last decade that has had a profound impact on all sectors of the worldwide industry due to increased costs of testing for pathogens and disruption of the orderly movement of seed in the export market. A major function of the NSHS is accreditation of non-government organizations to carry out procedures required for seed lots to receive phytosanitary certificates. The accreditation process requires that applicants meet defined standards for facilities, equipment, methods and training of personnel. The program is administered by the Seed Science Center , Iowa State University, Other functions of the NSH include resolutions of phytosanitary regulations that are scientifically unjustified; and research in development and standardization of seed health testing methods.

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