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*Status: Point in time view as at 01/10/2005.*

**Changes to legislation:** There are outstanding changes not yet made to Council Decision of 16 December 2002 on the equivalence of field inspections carried out in third countries on seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of seed produced in third countries (Text with EEA relevance) (2003/17/EC). Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

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Council Decision of 16 December 2002 on the equivalence of field inspections carried out in third countries on seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of seed produced in third countries (Text with EEA relevance) (2003/17/EC)

*[<sup>F1</sup>Article 1*

Field inspections concerning the seed-producing crops of the species specified in Annex I carried out in the third countries listed in that Annex shall be considered equivalent to field inspections carried out in accordance with Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 2002/54/EC and 2002/57/EC provided that they:

- (a) are carried out officially by the authorities listed in Annex I, or under the official supervision of those authorities;
- (b) satisfy the conditions laid down in point A of Annex II.

**Textual Amendments**

- F1** Substituted by [Council Decision of 8 November 2005 on the equivalence of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties carried out in certain third countries and amending Decision 2003/17/EC \(2005/834/EC\)](#).

*Article 2*

Seed of the species specified in Annex I, produced in the third countries listed in that Annex and officially certified by the authorities listed in that Annex shall be considered equivalent to seed complying with Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 2002/54/EC and 2002/57/EC, if it satisfies the conditions laid down in point B of Annex II.]

**Textual Amendments**

- F1** Substituted by [Council Decision of 8 November 2005 on the equivalence of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties carried out in certain third countries and amending Decision 2003/17/EC \(2005/834/EC\)](#).

*Article 3*

1 Where equivalent seed is ‘relabelled and refastened’ in the Community, within the meaning of OECD Schemes for the Varietal Certification of Seed moving in International Trade, the provisions of Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 2002/54/EC and 2002/57/EC concerning the reclosing of packages produced in the Community shall apply by analogy.

The first subparagraph shall be without prejudice to the OECD rules applicable to such operations.

2 Where relabelling and refastening in the Community of equivalent seed is necessary, EC labels shall be used only:

- a if seeds produced in Member States and seeds of the same variety and category produced in third countries are blended in order to improve the germination capacity, provided that:
  - the blend is homogeneous, and
  - the label mentions each country of production; or

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b for small EC packages within the meaning of Directives 66/401/EEC or 2002/54/EC.

*Article 4*

Amendments to the Annexes, with the exception of those concerning column 1 of the table in Annex I, shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 5.

*Article 5*

1 The Commission shall be assisted by the Standing Committee on Seeds and Propagating Material for Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry.

2 Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 4 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply.

The period laid down in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at one month.

3 The Committee shall adopt its Rules of Procedure.

*Article 6*

This Decision shall apply from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2007.

*Article 7*

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

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