

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL SEED POTATO COMMITTEE



CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL SEED POTATO COMMITTEE

1. NAME

The committee shall be known as the National Seed Potato Committee.

2. STATUS

2.1 The National Seed Potato Committee is a committee of Potatoes South Africa representative of the South African seed potato industry and is administered by the company Potato Certification Service.

2.2 The powers, competencies and responsibilities of the National Seed Potato Committee are as determined by the Seed Potato Growers' Forum from time to time.

2.3 The members of the National Seed Potato Committee have decision-making powers and resolutions passed by the National Seed Potato Committee are, with due consideration of the powers, competencies and responsibilities of the Committee, applicable to all registered seed potato growers.

3. OBJECTIVES

3.1 To consider matters related to the seed potato industry, with due consideration of the recommendations and resolutions of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum and to pass resolutions, with due consideration of the interests of the potato industry as a whole, in this regard in the interest of the seed potato industry, including:

3.1.1 Demand for seed potatoes and the trading in / exportation of seed potatoes;

3.1.2 Identification and prioritising of research projects to address the needs of the seed potato industry;

3.2 To make recommendations to the Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes in connection with-

3.2.1 Needs in respect of the certification of seed potatoes;

3.2.2 Amendments to the South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme;

3.3 To refer recommendations and resolutions of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum and own recommendations and resolutions to the relevant bodies and committees involved in the seed potato industry.

3.4 When the Seed Potato Growers' Forum is not in session the National Seed Potato Committee is responsible for the activities of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum.

4. COMPOSITION

4.1 The members of the National Seed Potato Committee consist of the Chairmen of the different regional Seed Potato Committees and the additional members of those regional committees who qualify in terms of the directives of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum and who shall be a registered seed potato grower or their chosen representative; provided that the representatives shall be directly involved in the registered cultivation of seed potatoes, as well as two primary table producers who are appointed every second year at the Board of Directors' meeting of Potatoes South Africa (PSA) following the Potatoes South Africa Congress and who will also serve on the Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes (ICCSA).

4.2 The Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall determine the criteria for the designation of the members of the National Seed Potato Committee.

4.3 The members of the National Seed Potato Committee shall be designated by the Seed Potato Growers' Forum every second year with due consideration of the recommendations of the respective regional Seed Potato Committees and the official confirmation of the appointment of the members of the National Seed Potato Committee shall take place at the meeting of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum.

4.4 The composition of the seed potato grower members of the National Seed Potato Committee shall be based on the following:

A seed potato production region shall qualify for one member of the National Seed Potato Committee if the region complies with **two** of the following criteria:

- The region certifies 50 000 x 25 kg units and more in terms of the Scheme for at least two consecutive years;
- The region registers 100 hectares and more for seed potato production in terms of the Scheme for at least two consecutive years;
- Five and more seed potato growers in the region register for seed potato production in terms of the Scheme for at least two consecutive years.

Membership of the National Seed Potato Committee lapses automatically, if the region concerned complies with less than two of the afore-mentioned criteria for two consecutive years.

A second representative of a region can be appointed as member of the National Seed Potato Committee if:

- The number of certified 25 kg units exceeds one million and the number of registered hectares exceeds 2 000 for two consecutive years.

The membership of the second member of the National Seed Potato Committee shall lapse automatically if the region does not register 2 000 hectares and certify one million x 25 kg units for two consecutive years.

The afore-mentioned criteria, as well as any further criteria, may be changed or determined from time to time in terms of a resolution of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum.

4.5 The Chairman of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum is *ex officio* also the Chairman of the National Seed Potato Committee for the period for which this person acts as Chairman of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum and represents the seed potato industry on the Board of Directors of Potatoes South Africa and the National Council. In order to avoid a situation of divided interest, the Chairman of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum may not be a Chairman of a Potatoes South Africa Regional Management Committee or a table producer.

4.6 The Vice-Chairman of the National Seed Potato Committee is appointed during the first meeting of the Committee to take place after the Forum.

4.7 If the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Committee are absent at the time of a scheduled meeting of the Committee, the members present shall appoint a chairman for the duration of the meeting concerned from their ranks.

4.8 The Secretary of Potato Certification Service shall be responsible for the secretarial duties of the National Seed Potato Committee.

4.9 Should a vacancy occur on the National Seed Potato Committee, the Secretary of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum must be informed without delay. The Seed Potato Growers' Forum shall fill the vacancy upon receipt of such notification or within a reasonable period thereafter by appointing a person designated by the production area concerned.

4.10 The Chairman of the Seed Potato Traders' Forum or the elected representative of the Seed Potato Traders' Forum attend the meetings as observer provided that the representative is a member of the Seed Potato Traders' Forum or is directly involved with a member of the Seed Potato Traders' Forum.

4.11 The Chief Executive Officer and staff of the company Potato Certification Service have a seat in the meeting and are responsible for the administration of the activities of the National Seed Potato Committee.

4.12 Only registered producer members or representatives of registered producer members and the table producer members have the right to vote.

5. FUNCTIONING OF THE NATIONAL SEED POTATO COMMITTEE

5.1 The Constitution of the National Seed Potato Committee and amendments thereto shall be revised by the Seed Potato Growers' Forum annually.

5.2 The National Seed Potato Committee shall report to the Seed Potato Growers' Forum.

5.3 The National Seed Potato Committee shall convene three times annually and one of these meetings shall be held directly after the Seed Potato Growers' Forum in order to implement the resolutions of the Seed Potato Growers' Forum and to refer such resolutions to the relevant bodies/committees within the potato industry, as well as to appoint the Vice-Chairman.

5.4 The National Seed Potato Committee shall always convene in Pretoria, except in the case of the meeting which takes place directly after the Seed Potato Growers' Forum at the same venue as the Forum.

5.5 Matters shall be decided upon by means a majority of votes (50% plus 1) of members or representatives present at the meeting and in the case of an equality of votes the matter shall stand over to the next meeting. Should there again be an equality of votes, the matter shall be rejected.

5.9 The Chairman only has a deliberative vote and not a casting vote.

5.9 A minimum of two-thirds of the members of the National Seed Potato Committee must attend a meeting in person to establish a quorum.