



**POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE (NPC)**

Reg. no. 1995/005404/08 | Vat. no. 4300 153 790  
De Havilland Crescent 6, Perseus Technopark, Pretoria, 0020  
Private Bag X 135, Pretoria, 0001 | Tel: +27 (0) 60 716 2607

13 April 2026

**POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE AND  
INDEPENDENT CERTIFICATION COUNCIL FOR SEED POTATOES**

Private Bag X135  
**PRETORIA**  
0001

**STATEMENT – VALOR POTATO VARIETY**

Dear Seed Grower

1. The potato variety VALOR has been planted in South Africa since 1997.
2. The potato variety Valor's Plant Breeder's Right expired in December 2018.
3. Since then, several VALOR clones, originating from the latest clone imported into South Africa, 2018.4 has since been established in South Africa by private entities.
4. The establishment of clones and incorporation into the Scheme is guided by a PCS developed SOP, consisting of 13 distinct steps to ensure that all proposed new clones adhere to the requirements of the Scheme.
5. There is currently several VALOR clones planted in South Africa. These clones are:
  - 2009
  - 2018.4
  - 2019.1
  - 2019.4
  - 2021.1
  - 2021.3
  - 2021.5
6. PCS received two formal requests from two different seed growers in two different production areas in March 2026 for a determination of the clones that were planted in the previous two seasons by themselves due to a complaint regarding the performance of the variety, that of tubers not bulking after initiation.
7. The clones for these two growers were then traced from the database and the information provided to the growers.
8. Subsequent to this communication, PCS initiated an informal survey to the 35 growers that planted VALOR in the previous two seasons.
9. Eleven growers responded and provided responses regarding the performance of the variety during the previous two seasons, relating both to performance and marketability.
10. There is currently no empirical evidence available to PCS to indicate a specific clone that can be correlated to the issue of tubers from VALOR clones not bulking during the past two seasons.
11. PCS also conducted a literature search of peer-reviewed articles on the possible causes for potato tubers not bulking after initiation, which indicates the cumulative effect of higher-than-average day and night temperatures as a possible contributing factor to potato tuber, in general, not bulking sufficiently after initiating.
12. PCS currently does not have a clear, formal directive received from seed growers to proceed with any specific additional action.
13. PCS does not have a mandate for doing research, such as field trials for instance, which is the mandate of Potatoes SA.

**DIRECTORS**

**Gerhard Posthumus**, Chairperson (Western Region) | **Jakkie Mellet**, Vice-Chair (Northern Region) | **Gavin Hill**, Non-Executive Director (Eastern Region)  
**Johan van Greunen**, Non-Executive Director (Southern Region) | **Dr. Ansa van Vuuren**, Managing Director (Potato Certification Service)

14. However, PCS does have the mandate under the Scheme to conduct investigations and gather information to support investigations.
15. PCS did not and will not make definitive statements regarding a specific issue relating to the lack of bulking of VALOR clones during the past two seasons being attributed to a specific and singular aspect, without irrefutable evidence.
16. The certification of potatoes does provide assurances regarding the health and variety purity of a particular seed lot within the confinements of the Scheme and Protocol (2021).
17. The certification of seed potatoes does not provide any guarantees relating to the performance of a variety relating to yield, and / or any specific yield component.
18. PCS understands the serious implications of the non-performance of a variety in the industry value chain and as such will support seed growers with investigations and data excerpts from the database as and when formally requested.
19. PCS remain committed to production of good quality, healthy seed potatoes and the support of seed growers with excellent value-added services.

Regards



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**Dr. Ansa van Vuuren**  
**MANAGING DIRECTOR**  
**POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE**

Save as: Sharepoint/PCS/Head Office-Documents/AvV/Letters & Formal Notifications/AvV0273  
Copy to: André Wessels | Technical Manager  
Jacqui Olivier | Office Administrator

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