



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 • (360) 902-1800

Concise Explanatory Statement
for amendments to
Chapter 16-303 WAC

Seed assessment, fees for seed services and seed certification.

On June 24, 2025, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) held a hearing remotely using Microsoft Teams conference line to accept testimony on its proposal to amend chapter 16-303 WAC by:

- Increasing the following fees under WAC 16-303-340 (a), (e) and (g):
 - Application fee per variety per grower from \$25 to \$100.
 - Special field inspection fee per acre from \$2.60 to \$4.15.
 - Late application fee from \$50 to \$200.
 - Minimum reinspection fee from \$45 to \$100.
- Adding the crop “quinoa” to the title of 16-303-340 WAC.

Reasons for Adopting the Rule

RCW 15.49.370 requires the department to adopt and enforce regulations for certifying seeds; adopt and enforce regulations for inspecting, grading, and certifying growing crops of seeds; inspect, grade, and issue certificates upon request; and fix and collect fees for such services. The department designated the Washington State Crop Improvement Association (WSCIA) as the director’s duly authorized agent Page 2 of 13 for the purpose of certifying seed of buckwheat, chickpeas, field peas, lentils, millet, soybeans, small grain, and sorghum in WAC 16-302-010. WSCIA funds the cost for certifying these seed crops through the collection of fees in WAC 16-303-340.

Beginning in 2022, WSCIA staff and its board of directors assessed the need for possible fee increases to account for rising operational costs (including web portal development and maintenance) and increased demand for services. WSCIA’s overhead costs for providing these services have risen dramatically over the last several years, however the fees in this section have not been revised since 2012. After a thorough budget review, the WSCIA Board of Directors have determined that they cannot continue to provide certifying services at the current fee rate and must revise the fees in this section to more accurately recover the cost for these services.

In 2023, WSDA received a petition from WSCIA to initiate rulemaking to increase fees to more accurately recover the cost for these services. WSDA has determined that the proposed changes are necessary based upon the requirements and conditions of the industry and will

serve to promote the well-being of purchasers and users of seed as well as members of the seed industry.

Summary of Comments and the Department's Response

The public comment period ran from May 7, 2025, until the close of business on June 24, 2025. During that time, zero (0) written and oral comments were received regarding the proposed amendments.

Differences Between the Proposed and Adopted Rule

None.