



APPROVED AIC CONTRACT NOTE FOR THE GROWING OF PULSE SEED
To be read in conjunction with Seeds 11/21 (Effective from 1 February 2021)

1. Species and Field(s)

- (i) The Grower shall grow under the terms of, and so as to meet the seed certification standards as set out in The Seed Marketing Regulations 2011, or any amendment thereof, and associated documentation.
- (ii) It is a condition of this agreement that the agreed area/field(s) shall not be exceeded or reduced, nor any other substituted, without The Merchant's previous consent in writing, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.

2. Supply of Seed

- (a) For the purpose of sowing the contract area The Merchant shall sell and deliver to The Grower in reasonable time for sowing the contract area, the quantity of seed at the agreed price specified in Seeds 11/21. The Merchant will ensure that the seed lot reference numbers are declared on the invoice and whenever possible on the delivery note. The seed may be used for no other purpose than that of sowing the area specified in this Contract.
- (b) In the event of the seed supplied for this Contract not being sown by the agreed date as specified in Seeds 11/21, The Grower must inform The Merchant immediately.
- (c) The Grower shall ensure that no seed other than that supplied by The Merchant under this Contract is drilled as part of the crop.
- (d) The Merchant shall comply with any requirements of the relevant legislation for the time being in force with regard to diseases and harmful organisms.
- (e) Except by previous agreement with The Grower, in the case of the germination percentage of pre-basic and basic seed, the percentage of germination, analytical and varietal purity of the seed for sowing shall not be less than the minima prescribed by the appropriate Seeds Regulations current as at the date of the Contract. Wherever possible, if The Grower so requests, details of the purity analysis shall be made available to them.
- (f) The Merchant shall be responsible for ensuring that the analytical and varietal purity standards of the seed, when delivered, are adequate to produce a crop of the contract standard.
- (g) Provided that the seed delivered for sowing has complied with the provisions of (e) and (f) above, The Merchant shall not be responsible in any way for failure or loss of the subsequent crop.
- (h) This contract is additionally subject to, where incorporated, the Merchant's normal conditions of sale so far as they are not consistent with the terms herein. Where there is a conflict the Merchant's normal conditions of sale will prevail.

3. Contract Price

The Contract Price and terms of payment are set out in Seeds 11/21

4. Partial Option

Where it is agreed that a fixed tonnage shall be on a firm contract, only The Merchant has the option to purchase and use the balance for seed as specified in Clause 4 Seeds 11/21.

The Merchant shall inform The Grower by the date agreed in Clause 4 Seeds 11/21 that they intend or does not intend to take up the balance of the crop.

In the event that the balance is not taken up, The Grower shall have the right to dispose of the crop other than for seed purposes.

5. Special Terms

Any special terms are outlined in Clause 5 Seeds 11/21.

6. Documentation

The Grower is required to complete, sign and return to The Merchant within 14 consecutive days of receipt any documentation relating to the crop, including any documentation relating to any UK/EU legislation currently in force and ensure that detailed records are kept of all species/varieties on The Grower's farm.

7. Crop Identity Number(s)

The Crop Identity Number(s) shall remain the property of the Contracting Merchant.

8. History and Condition of Selected Fields

(a) The Grower shall ensure that the previous cropping is in accordance with the current rules of the relevant Scheme in that the field must not have carried a crop of peas, beans, vetches, lupins or a dredge corn crop containing legumes during the preceding two years, and The Grower shall make a very thorough investigation to ensure that the fields do not contain impurities that may result in the rejection of the crop.

(b) The Grower shall sow the whole of the seed on the fields stated under Clause 1 Seeds 11/21, with equipment thoroughly cleaned before use.

(c) The Grower shall grow the crop according to the practices of good husbandry and adhere to any Codes of Conduct currently in force.

9. Crop Failure

(a) The Grower shall report promptly to The Merchant all instances of failure of the crop so that when possible a resowing can be made.

(b) Subject as hereinafter mentioned The Grower shall not plough up or destroy the crop or any part of it without the written consent of The Merchant, which should not be unreasonably withheld.

(c) If The Grower is of the opinion that for any reason whatsoever the crop or some part of it should be ploughed up or destroyed, they shall notify The Merchant by telephone and confirm in writing by recorded delivery of their intention to do this and if within 5 business days after dispatch of such notification The Merchant fails to object, then The Grower shall be entitled to carry out their intention.

10. Isolation

(a) For cross pollinated field bean species, there shall be the following minimum distances throughout the period of flowering of the crop from sources of foreign pollen likely to cross fertilise with the crop.

(i) Basic Seed and Certified Seed 1st generation

Up to 2 hectares	200m
Over 2 hectares	100m

(ii) Certified Seed 2nd generation

Up to 2 hectares	100m
Over 2 hectares	50m

or as specified in "The Seed Marketing Regulations" for the year in which the crop is harvested.

(b) In all cases seed crops shall be isolated by a physical barrier (e.g. a continuous hedge, fence, ditch or road) or 2 metres of fallow from any other crop likely to cause problems of contamination of the seed.

11. Retention of Seed Labels

(a) In accordance with the rules of seed certification, The Grower shall retain labels, from each seed lot sown, in an envelope clearly marked with the Field Name or Ordnance Survey Number. The envelope and its contents shall be shown to the Field Inspector on request.

(b) Immediately after drilling, one label from each seed lot sown, waterproofed, should be securely attached to a stake in a prominent position in the crop, or attached to the gate of the field in which the crop is grown.

(c) Failure to carry out the requirements of Clauses 11(a) and 11(b) above may result in the crop being ineligible for certification.

12. Weed Control

The Grower shall at their own expense take every practical measure to ensure the eradication of those weeds whose seed might contaminate the harvested seed crop.

13. Growth Regulators and Other Chemicals

Before using any chemical on the growing or harvested crop which might jeopardise approval and certification, The Grower shall first seek and receive in writing the agreement of The Merchant. Provided such chemical has approval under The Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (or any amendment thereof), the Manufacturer's instructions are strictly observed and there is no available current evidence that it has a deleterious effect on seed crops, such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld. However, the application of any such chemicals and their effect on the final seed crop shall remain the responsibility of The Grower.

14. Access to Land and Premises

The Grower shall on reasonable notice:

- (a) Permit The Merchant or their representatives to enter upon The Grower's land or premises to inspect the sowing, growing, cultivation, harvesting and conditioning of the seed and to draw samples.
- (b) Permit Official Representatives of the Certifying Authority to enter upon The Grower's land or premises to carry out their responsibilities as laid down in the relevant legislation.
- (c) Permit the Breeder or any duly appointed Agent of the Breeder (upon giving notice to the Contracting Merchant) accompanied by The Merchant or their representative to enter upon The Grower's land to inspect the sowing, growing and cultivation of the crops, and any records relating to it, where the variety is protected by Plant Breeders' Rights under the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964 and/or the Plant Varieties Act 1997.

15. Roguing

If required by The Merchant, The Grower shall undertake to rogue the crop, or if The Merchant so desires shall permit The Merchant's representatives to do so especially in relation to varietal purity. When roguing has been carried out The Grower shall not harvest the crop without giving The Merchant sufficient warning to permit re-inspection.

16. Field Inspection

If the crop fails to meet the certification standards on field inspection after reasonable opportunity has been given for roguing to take place, this Contract at The Merchant's option shall be terminated forthwith.

17. Harvesting the Seed Crop

- (a) The whole of the crop produced shall be properly harvested according to the accepted practices of seed growing.
- (b) The Grower shall ensure that the combine harvester, containers, bags, each and every bulk vehicle and/or bins used and any other equipment used for handling the crop is thoroughly clean before use.
- (c) The permission of The Merchant which shall not be unreasonably withheld, must be obtained if any of the above crops are to be harvested by contractors' combines and/or any other harvesting equipment not under The Grower's direct control.

18. Conditioning and Storage

- (a) The Grower must ensure that the seed does not at any stage whilst in their care and/or possession come into contact direct or indirect with any substance which may have a deleterious effect on the seed, its ability to germinate properly or its subsequent growth.
- (b) The Grower shall ensure that if the seed crop is cleaned, dried or stored by them all pits, elevator conveyors, cleaning and drying plant, bulk bins, sacks and any other equipment are thoroughly clean before use. The Grower shall take all reasonable care to prevent contamination of the seed. If the seed is dried this shall be according to the accepted practices and maximum temperatures for seed production.
- (c) The Grower will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the seed is conditioned (according to the practices of good husbandry) to the standards required in Clause 21 of this Contract by the date specified in Seeds 11/21. Should The Grower fail in this obligation and The Merchant be prevented from marketing the produce for seed purposes, then The Merchant may reject the produce and The Grower shall be responsible for any reasonable additional costs incurred by The Merchant.
- (d) As the goods to which this Contract refers may, in part or in whole, be used for human consumption or incorporation into animal feedingstuffs, all loads must meet the quality, pesticide residue and salmonella clauses of the AIC Grain/Pulses Contract No. 1/21 or its successors. A current copy of the AIC Contract can be found on the member part of the AIC, NFU and NFUS websites.

19. Identification of Seed Crop

The Grower shall ensure that each bulk container or bag, whilst in store, and when loaded onto transport, is clearly labelled with the variety, grade and species of the crop and the Field Name or Ordnance Survey Number. The Grower or their agent, if required, shall complete and hand to the driver of the vehicle collecting the seed a form supplied by The Merchant, giving the details specified in the previous sentence.

20. Sampling

- (a) Before delivery of the bulk of the seed crop, and not later than the date specified in Seeds 11/21, The Grower shall take and submit to The Merchant a separate representative sample of approximately 2 kg of the harvested seed taken from each part of the seed as stored separately.
- (b) The Merchant shall have the sample tested to determine its suitability for seed under this agreement and shall notify The Grower within 14 consecutive days of the results of these tests.
- (c) If the test results indicate that the seed crop cannot meet the Contract standards, or if the sample contains ergot, injurious weeds or mature seeds of other weeds or other species or inert matter which in the reasonable opinion of The Merchant could not be removed during normal cleaning processes to reach the Certification standards specified in Clause 1 then The Merchant may reject the crop for seed in situ.
- (d) If The Grower wishes to dispute the results of the tests carried out above, they shall notify The Merchant in writing within 14 consecutive days from notification and a further sample shall be drawn by an independent licensed sampler acceptable to both parties and the sample shall be independently tested. Costs incurred by this resampling procedure shall be for The Grower's account if the independent sample is found to be substandard under this Contract, otherwise for The Merchant's account.

21. Quality Standards

Each and every load delivered by The Grower or collected by The Merchant shall meet the following standards:

- (a) Germination shall not be less than the percentage specified in Seeds 11/21.
- (b) The content of ergot, injurious weed seeds, other seeds and inert matter shall not be such that in the opinion of The Merchant normal cleaning processes cannot bring the delivery to the certification standard specified in Clause 1 Seeds 11/21.
- (c) Moisture content to be measured according to ISTA standard for pulses shall not exceed and shall not be less than the percentages specified in Seeds 11/21.
- (d) Seed-borne diseases. The produce from the crop shall comply with the disease standards laid down in the Seeds Regulations currently in force.
- (e) The seed shall be of good colour and appearance consistent with the season and free from infestation, mould and objectionable smell or taste.
- (f) Any additional standards are set out in Seeds 11/21.

22. Drying

If the moisture content of the seed crop as collected or delivered exceeds the maximum figure specified in Clause 21, The Merchant may have the option to accept it, but dry it at The Grower's risk and on The Grower's behalf and in such case the cost of drying to Contract level with the resultant loss in weight shall be charged to The Grower's account. In such cases, property in the seed crop shall not pass to The Merchant until such time as all tests have been carried out on the dried sample and the results show that the crop complies with the provisions of Clause 28.

23. Delivery

The seed crop (less any quantity that The Merchant is not accepting under this contract) shall be delivered to The Merchant in bulk (or in clean containers or clean sacks by agreement between The Merchant and The Grower) during the period specified in Seeds 11/21 free of charge on lorry on hard standing at the farm. The Merchant shall give reasonable notice of not less than 24 hours of requiring delivery; The Grower shall not withhold delivery beyond 5 business days following such notice. Quantity tolerances shall be as specified in the AIC Grain/Pulses Contract 1/21 or its successors.

If after the final date stipulated in Clause 23 Seeds 11/21, The Merchant is unable to accept delivery, The Grower shall continue to maintain the seed in proper condition. The Merchant shall be liable for storage charges to be mutually agreed at the time an extension is requested.

Where The Merchant is responsible for providing transport to collect the goods they shall ensure its suitability. If The Grower after inspection of the vehicle considers it to be unsuitable they may refuse to load it informing The Merchant by telephone immediately. In the case of unreasonable delay in loading or discharge of vehicles collecting or delivering the goods The Grower (if the delay is at the point of loading), or The Merchant (if the delay is at the point of discharge) shall be liable for the loss that results from the delay, except that where the delay in loading is caused by the vehicle being dirty on arrival and having to be cleaned, any loss resulting shall be payable by the party responsible for supplying/hiring the vehicle. Weighbridge charges shall be recharged to The Grower.

24. Rejections/ Claims

- (a) If the seed crop as delivered fails to meet the quality standards specified in Clause 21, The Merchant may reject it. For seed crops which The Merchant is entitled to reject under this Clause but which they decide to accept as seed, the price payable to The Grower shall be a reduced but reasonable sum decided by agreement between the parties, or failing agreement, by arbitration under Clause 31. The Grower shall not offer or sell to a Third Party any rejected crop or rejected part of a crop for seed purposes.
- (b) Where a load of seed is rejected The Grower shall be responsible for all haulage and demurrage charges.
- (c) The Merchant shall notify The Grower as soon as possible, and confirm in writing within two business days of notification the reason for any rejections and/or claims.

25. Notices

- a. All notices required to be served or information passed on under this contract shall be communicated without delay by telephone or by rapid written communication. Notices which are served or passed on by telephone shall be confirmed by rapid written communication within one business day. Methods of rapid written communication for the purposes of this clause shall be defined as either fax, e-mail, or other electronic means, or by letter sent by first class post no later than the subsequent business day. If receipt is contested, the burden of proof shall be on the sender who shall, in the case of a dispute, establish, to the satisfaction of the arbitrator(s) or board of appeal appointed pursuant to the Arbitration clause, that notice was actually transmitted to the addressee.
- b. Notices received after 1600 hours on any business day shall be deemed to have been received on the next business day.
- c. A notice to a broker named in this contract is a notice to a principal.

26. Product Liability

The Grower undertakes to ensure that all seed delivered to The Merchant's written order or, if oral, to be confirmed in writing, complies as to variety and as to all other respects with the requirements of that order and emanates from the field or fields specified for that variety of seed in Clause 1 hereof. The Sale of Goods Act 1979 (as amended) applies to this Contract. The Merchant reserves the right to claim against the Grower for any loss or damage which may result from, or any claim made against The Merchant as a consequence of failure to comply in all respects with this requirement where such failure was not detectable by normal inspections or tests by The Merchant or their representative.

The Grower is advised to have insurance to cover claims from The Merchant for product liability e.g. delivery of wrong variety, admixture or any other claim for which they may be held liable.

27. Force Majeure

The Grower shall not be responsible for delay in delivery of the seed crop or any part thereof, nor The Merchant for delay in accepting delivery or collecting the goods or any part thereof occasioned by any act of God, action by Government, strike, lockout, combination of workmen, breakdown of machinery, power failure, flood or fire provided that written notice is given to reach the other party to the Contract within 7 consecutive days of the defaulting party's knowledge of the occurrence or where The Merchant had already given notice to The Grower requiring delivery in accordance with Clause 23 as soon as possible after the defaulting party became aware of the occurrence. For the avoidance of doubt, neither party shall have the right to rely on, as Force Majeure, any strike which is limited to the employees of that party or its subcontractors, or any delay or default of that party's subcontractors in the performance of their obligations. Should any of the seed crop be rendered unfit for delivery by reason of any of the above acts the Contract so far as it relates to such seed shall be deemed to be discharged.

28. Merchant's Duties

- (a) The Merchant shall be responsible for entering the crop for certification and for fulfilling all their other duties according to the category and grade of the seed crop and in accordance with the rules of the certification legislation.
- (b) The Merchant shall carry out by means of an official and/or licensed inspector, field inspections of the growing crop in accordance with the category and grade of the seed crop, as laid down in the certification legislation.

- (c) The Merchant shall inform The Grower in writing of the weight of each consignment within 5 business days of delivery.

29. Property and Risk

Risk will pass on delivery. Property in such part of the crop as shall reach the prescribed quality shall pass to The Merchant when the seed crop is delivered to them or to their order. Should delivery be taken by The Merchant before completion of the tests prescribed under the Seed Certification Standards and the Seeds Regulations current at the date of this Contract, property shall not pass until it has been established that the crop has reached the required standards and until such time The Merchant reserves the right to reject the produce in question, or to accept it at a price agreed under the terms of Clause 24 of this Contract.

30. Non-Payment

Either party reserves the right to withhold deliveries under this Contract until all and any outstanding payments not in dispute under this or any other Contract with them by the other party have been received. The invoking party also reserves a lien upon, and the right to sell or otherwise dispose of all the goods the subject of this Contract, whether appropriated to it or not, in respect of any such outstanding payments, subject to having given to the other party 5 business days prior notice in writing that payment shall be remitted.

31. Insolvency

If either party to this Contract ("the Affected Party"):
has a Receiver, Administrative Receiver or Administrator appointed in respect of any of its property or business undertakings;
or announces that it has ceased, or intends to cease to trade (except where such announcement is due to a forthcoming retirement whilst honouring all existing contracts);
or suspends or is about to suspend, payment of its debts or fails to pay, or is unable to pay or admits or states its inability to pay its debts as they fall due;
or disposes of or threatens to dispose of all or a material part of its assets whether by one or a series of transactions (other than for the sole purpose of and followed by reconstruction or amalgamation made known to and approved by the other party);
or convenes, calls or holds a meeting of its creditors or makes or proposes any arrangement or composition with its creditors;
or states an intention to make or give notice of a voluntary arrangement under Part 1 of the Insolvency Act 1986;
or has a resolution or petition (other than for the sole purpose of and followed by reconstruction or amalgamation of one party of which notice has been given to the other party who has approved it) passed for the winding up or voluntary winding up or liquidation;
or is dissolved, or applies for an Interim Order under Part VIII of the Insolvency Act 1986;
or a Bankruptcy Petition or a Statutory Demand in bankruptcy is presented or served;
or suffers to the levy or enforcement of any execution, distress, sequestration, detention or other process on any of its property or premises;
or if a party being a partnership, any of the above events occurs with respect to the partnership or to any partner therein (hereafter called "Act of Insolvency")
then, notwithstanding any previous arrangement between the parties for deferred payments, the full or full remaining price for any goods delivered shall become immediately due and payable by the party committing an Act of Insolvency.

The party not committing an Act of Insolvency ("the Innocent Party") shall have the right, upon giving written notice to the other party, without prejudice to any other rights and remedies available to the Innocent party, to cancel and/or suspend and/or to refuse to make or accept any further deliveries and to close out and settle the Contract as detailed below.

The Affected Party shall serve written notice of the relevant Act of Insolvency by fax, e-mail or other electronic means or by letter sent by means of a recorded delivery to the Innocent Party. Where proof is available that such notice was served within two business days of the occurrence of the Act of Insolvency, the Innocent Party shall have the right to close out the Contract which shall be settled at the market price on the first business day following the occurrence of the Act of Insolvency.

In all other circumstances, the Innocent Party, upon learning of the occurrence of the Act of Insolvency shall have the right to close out and settle the Contract at either:

- (a) the market price on the first business day following the Innocent Party becoming aware of the Act of Insolvency, or
- (b) at the market price on the first business day following the occurrence of the Act of Insolvency.

32. Arbitration

Any dispute (other than a claim for an unpaid debt and as provided under (b) below) arising out of this Contract shall be referred to arbitration as follows:

- (a) Unless otherwise agreed, the dispute shall be referred to arbitration in accordance with the arbitration rules of the Agricultural Industries Confederation Limited, (obtainable from the registered office of the Confederation and/or <https://www.agindustries.org.uk/legal/arbitration>) and all parties shall by making this Contract be deemed to have knowledge of such rules and to have elected to be bound thereby.
- (b) If a dispute involves legal or technical problems of great complexity which are beyond the knowledge and competence of Arbitrators to resolve, or if a dispute of necessity involves a third party who is not subject to arbitration, either party, before the time for commencing arbitration proceedings has lapsed, can, in writing, request the other to consent to the arbitration proceedings being waived and for the dispute to be referred to ordinary litigation in the Courts. Should such consent be unreasonably withheld, or no answer received within 28 consecutive days, the party making the request shall be at liberty to commence Court proceedings, leaving it to the other party if the other party so wishes to apply for a stay of proceedings invoking the arbitration clause. The Court will then decide whether arbitration or the Court proceedings should continue. Time for commencing arbitration proceedings shall not run (or if started not continue to run) from the date of such request until the Court has given a final ruling (this including any appeals) as to the proper venue for the dispute to be heard, providing Court proceedings are commenced within 28 consecutive days of the receipt of any refusal or 56 consecutive days from the date of the request if no answer to it is received.

33. Time Limits for Claiming Arbitration

All claims for arbitration should be made within 12 months of harvest of the crop. Where the contract giving rise to the arbitration is one of a series of contracts a reasonable extension of time to commence arbitration proceedings will be allowed to those in the 'string'. In the case of disagreement as to what constitutes 'a reasonable extension' this will be referred to the arbitrator/s as a preliminary issue. Subject to paragraph 21 (b): i) the making of an award should be a condition precedent to any Court action, excepting that which is expressly referred to in Clause 44(3) of the Arbitration Act 1986 (or any amendment thereof) by either party or any person claiming under either of them and ii) in the event that arbitration is not claimed within the time limits prescribed above all courses of action relating to the claim, whether by way of arbitration or in any Courts of Law, are deemed waived and shall be barred absolutely unless the Arbitration Tribunal shall in its absolute discretion determine otherwise.

34. Business Day/ Non-Business Days

A business day is the period between 0900 hours and 1600 hours inclusive on any day other than a non-business day. Saturdays, Sundays and officially recognised national holidays applicable throughout the United Kingdom and any days which the Agricultural Industries Confederation Limited may declare as non-business days for specific purposes shall be deemed non-business days for the purpose of passing of notices and claims.

35. Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999

Pursuant to S.1(1)(a) of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999, the parties intend that no term of the contract may be enforced by a third party.

36. Domicile

This contract shall be deemed to have been made in England, and the construction, validity and performance thereof shall be governed in all respects by English law.

IN WITNESS whereof the parties hereto have set their hands the date and year before written.

For and on Behalf of

For and on Behalf of

.....

.....

(Signature of The Grower)

(Signature of The Contracting Merchant)