

WPC 2026 KENYA

WORLD POTATO CONGRESS

POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE Est. 1995

Complete Established Seed Systems



Dr Ansa van Vuuren

Potato Certification Service

South Africa



WPC 2026 KENYA

WORLD POTATO CONGRESS

POTATO CERTIFICATION SERVICE

Origins of the South African Potato Certification Scheme

QUALITY SEED • HEALTHY CROPS • SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

1995

Established in 1995

Derived from US and EU based systems

Plant Improvement Act 11, 2018

(previously Act no 53 of 1976)

PCS

Administered by the Potato Certification Service - (NPO appointed by the ICCsP

(Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes)

Funded by the seed potato growers

Voluntary scheme

South African Potato Industry Bodies - within Regulatory Framework

agriculture
Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC)
- Promoting market access for South African agriculture
- Marketing of Agricultural Products Act

Potato Industry Development Trust (PIDT)
- Oversight: Statutory measures implementation
- Appoints statutory levy Administrator (Potatoes SA)

Congress
- Highest decision-making authority in potato industry

Agricultural Produce Agents Council (APAC)
- Regulates the occupations of fresh produce, export and livestock agents
- APAC Act

Potato Industry Forum (PIF)
- For Potatoes SA (NPC) to present its plans for industry inputs and comment
- Nomination of trustees on PIDT (1) an auditor & (2) a person to represent the PIF

Product Control for Agriculture (Prokon)
- Non-profit company that renders a comprehensive quality assurance, product management and grading service to the SA fresh produce industry.
- Board of Directors
- APS Act

Potatoes SA (NPC)
- Appointed statutory levy Administrator
- A Service Delivery organisation
- Incorporated as a Non-Profit Company (NPC)
- Established ito Memorandum of Incorporation
- Operates as industry association
- Structure represents network of participating role players and individuals involved in various forums and committees
- Board of Directors
- Marketing of Agricultural Products Act

Potatoes SA (Voluntary)
- Producers organisation
- Voluntary organisation – not for profit
- Established ito Constitution
- National Council
- Gives structure to Potatoes SA (NPC)

Potato Laboratory Service (PLS)
- Five ICCSP approved laboratories (independent private companies)
- Planting material presented for certification is tested for presence of specific bacterial and virus diseases as required
- Board of Directors
- Plant Health Act & Plant Improvement Act

Potato Certification Service (PCS)
- Non-profit company established for the certification of agricultural products under the laws of the RSA.
- Contracted by the Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes
- Board of Directors
- Plant Improvement Act

Independent Certification Council for Seed Potatoes (ICCSP)
- Assigned authority to exercise powers and perform duties ito SA Seed Potato Certification Scheme
- Plant Improvement Act

National Seed Potato Committee (NSPC)
- Representing Seed Potato Growers
- Decision Making



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International – United Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) – Seed Potato Standard S-1

Rapporteurs Meeting – Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

UNECE

National - Department of Agriculture

- Potato Regulated Pest Committee (Plant Health)
- Plant Improvement Certification Forum (Act 11, 2018)
- Pest specific extended task teams (ie PepRSV)

agriculture

Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Principles of Potato Seed Certification

CLEAN SEED | HEALTHY CROPS | SUSTAINABLE POTATO PRODUCTION

1 Information Management



Traceability – Database

Complete tracking history of seed lots from cradle to grave.

Facility Registration

In vitro and mini-tuber facilities require official authorization and regular compliance auditing.

2 Field & Physical Evaluation



Visual Identification

Ongoing visual scouting of growing plants to check for immediate disease symptoms.

Field & Tuber Inspections

Hands-on examinations in the field during the crop cycle and after harvest during storage.

3 Scientific Verification



Laboratory Testing

Microscopic and biological analysis to detect latent viruses and bacterial strains.

Regulated Pest Management

Containment, eradication and biosafety protocols for restricted agricultural threats.

Variety Purity

Validation that seed remains true-to-type.

CERTIFICATION OF SEED POTATOES

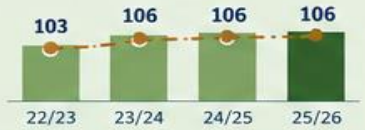
SOUTH AFRICA

Supporting a sustainable potato industry through quality, variety purity and plant health.

2025 / 2026 AT A GLANCE

GROWERS

106
Registered seed potato growers



HECTARES

12 492
Registered hectares



UNITS

727
Registered units



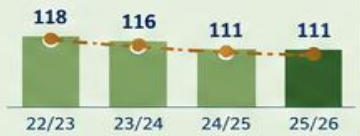
REGISTRATIONS

2 354
Registrations



VARIETIES

111
Varieties registered



CERTIFIED YIELD

8.47 million
25 kg bags



OUR PEOPLE AND FIELD ACTIVITY

CERTIFICATION SPECIALISTS

10
Fully qualified certification specialists

9
Certification specialists in training

KILOMETRES TRAVELLED

693 360
Kilometres for certification activities



FIELD INSPECTIONS

3 011
Field inspections conducted



TUBER INSPECTIONS

2 543
Tuber inspections conducted



TUBERS VISUALLY INSPECTED

7.63 million
Minimum number of tubers visually inspected



SAMPLING AND TESTING

FIELD SAMPLES – VIRUS

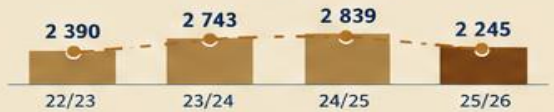
3 401
Virus field samples collected



Trend line indicates the 4-year average.

POST-CONTROL VIRUS SAMPLES

2 245
Post-control virus samples collected



POST-CONTROL VARIETY PURITY SAMPLES

3 045
Post-control variety purity samples collected and evaluated



QUALITY
PLANT HEALTH
VARIETY PURITY
A SUSTAINABLE POTATO INDUSTRY

CERTIFIED SEED POTATOES | HEALTHY PLANTS | PRODUCTIVE FIELDS | A STRONGER SOUTH AFRICA

KEY PATHOGENS DURING CERTIFICATION

SOUTH AFRICA

Supporting a sustainable potato industry through quality, variety purity and plant health.

2025 / 2026
AT A GLANCE

PRESENCE OF KEY PATHOGENS

Trend line indicates the 4-year average.

Group	Pathogen	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2025 / 2026	10 Year Average
Virus	Potato Leaf Roll Virus (PLRV)	53.63%	32.85%	21.43%	13.84%	60.60%
	Potato Virus Y (PVY)	22.65%	23.49%	31.82%	18.47%	52.15%
Nematode and Insect	*Meloidogyne* spp.	19.77%	30.07%	34.30%	22.78%	18.32%
	Phthorimaea operculella	57.40%	62.79%	45.40%	59.55%	45.77%
Fungi	*Colletotrichum coccodes* : *Helminthosporium solani*	70.93%	75.27%	75.97%	76.10%	64.43%
	Fusarium spp.	63.80%	67.18%	64.04%	25.80%	50.64%
	Rhizoctonia solani	25.12%	24.66%	22.43%	19.51%	32.50%
	Spongospora subterranea	6.44%	6.44%	5.09%	10.73%	6.27%
Bacteria	*Streptomyces* spp.	34.80%	45.40%	45.93%	40.76%	33.12%

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

54 TOLERANCES

Each registration must comply with 54 tolerances for pests, diseases, defects and other quality parameters to meet the South African seed potato certification standards.

PATHOGEN GROUPS

Viruses
Affect plant health, tuber quality and yield.

Nematodes and Insects
Can cause plant damage and tuber defects.

Fungi
Affect tuber quality, storability and marketability.

Bacteria
Can cause defects and reduce tuber quality.



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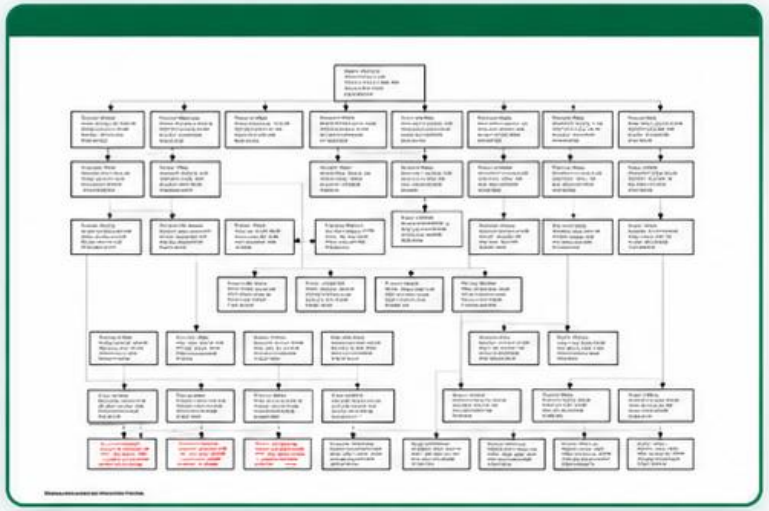

Potato Sample/Control		SNP marker			
		O	Q	S	Y
Control	Innovator	1	3	2	3
Sample 1	566a 566b	1	3	2	3
Sample 2	567a 567b	1	3	2	3
Sample 3	568a 568b	1	3	2	3
Sample 4	569a 569b	1	3	2	3
Sample 5	570a 570b	1	3	2	3











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Karibu Kenya

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PCS TECHNICAL EVALUATION

SAMPLE COLLECTION & SUBMISSION QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

PURPOSE: To improve the technical competency of Certification Officials by comparing leaf characters with laboratory-confirmed results.

1 IDENTIFY → 2 COLLECT → 3 PHOTOGRAPH → 4 LABEL → 5 PACKAGE → 6 COMPLETE FORM → 7 COURIER → 8 LAB RESULT & FEEDBACK

APPROVED LABORATORIES

SAMPLE TYPES	[illegible]	[illegible]
Roots	Bambatoo Open Tbt	Yuuna Enagre
Kantente i Dagfe	Tanta thanal Tuere Kanagne Cuba	Kagnag and Kanna Kanaang
Knotundes	AC Samanning tnags	Kananing Kanglina

Confidence knowledge tnag se ekanpin ag dan'a tanna paanaadre nalagnain anaklas ainaanaat

SAMPLE QUALITY CHECKLIST

More expenlnals patnenate:

- Cenac cpnant s aknanat
- Cowen nabanaae anwnat
- Cangkn ngaled aknanat anaanaat
- Nanaant tuen-anagnne at ae anaklans'
- Fanaang anannagnne aban aae' cantagaat
- Fuanatag nganagle aae' aanaat
- Caate' calgad at adanae aanagnat
- Caate aange ataanbae anae agaaat

SAMPLE SUBMISSION

Enge anagkn nagnt tane ae tnana Eanaanga Gle anbae anagnt'a tanatnae

Pasaana: TEZ / TG / 00 /47 / NOOH

Fase	Tnatta Gle fnatanae
Se	Aanaat Tbanatae Gbe Tag = 0000
Rt3	Aagnae Caana
Tbt	Caaat Caatae tn'a Gnaya
Fanbta	Caanaatt naaaat ak ngbe

Pasaanga: TE2,7T6/08/47 / 0001

COMPULSORY DEFICIENCIES

Caaatang Nbcanae aalanaka ngbanaky kaane ngaatabe aale aanaatae.

ADDITIONAL DEFICIENCIES

Gbtaaaat ubtaccaaing paanbae abaalde naknaatae be fnaating ang baaaate ptanagaanaat.

PROPOSED SAMPLING PERIODS

TUBER SAMPLES

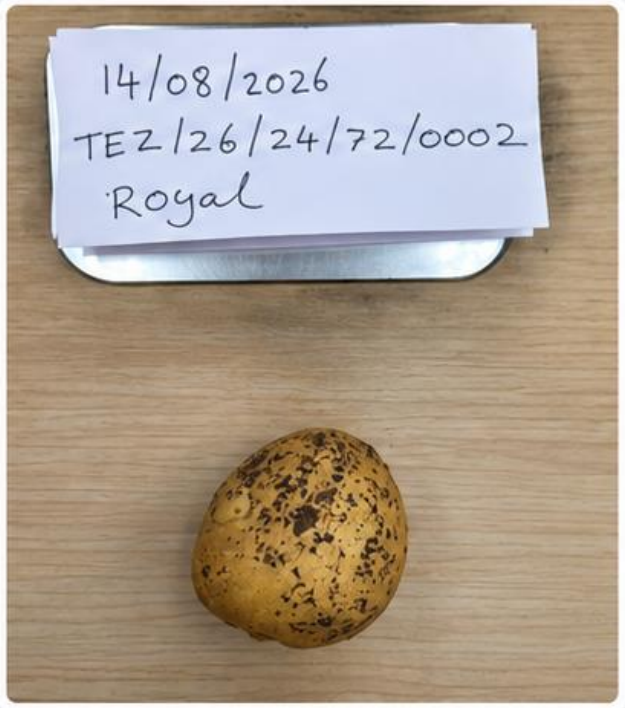
PLANT MATERIAL SAMPLES

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Engke aangka tanatae aganaat anbae tag ngbe abanae Caate canbanae ae Gnaae anagat anae an ngbaanagan nate.
- Eanae aagkna kane anaganaat ae anbanae
- Eanat ae anaatanane a aaaatae ae naaka ae naaka.
- Eanaat Angkna aae panatnaae ant canae kaat kane.
- Eanae ae naanbaat gan ganat agaae aagnagkna

GOOD SAMPLES → RELIABLE LAB RESULTS → IMPROVED TECHNICAL COMPETENCY

Tnanatna naakny aaad gatate naaaaty tnaagn aaaatate ant aanaty aagnaatae





Collect samples displaying clear symptoms, ensure accurate labelling and provide sufficient supporting information to facilitate reliable laboratory evaluation.



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DEFICIENCY	SUBMITTED	ACCURACY
Common scab	31	63.6%
Root knot eelworm	27	100.0%
Black scurf	26	88.1%
Potato Virus Y	25	75.0%
Silver scurf	16	50.0%
Potato Leaf Roll Virus	15	86.7%
Stem-end rot	15	92.3%
Powdery scab	14	78.6%
Dry rot	13	45.5%
Fissure scab	11	75.0%

DEFICIENCY	SUBMITTED	ACCURACY
Black Dot	9	100.0%
Soft Rot (SRE)	6	100.0%
Pepper Ringspot Virus	2	100.0%
Black Dot / Silver Scurf	1	—
Early Blight	1	—

*Identification accuracy is calculated using completed laboratory evaluations only. Percentages reflect the accuracy of the originally submitted diagnosis and may be influenced by multiple pathogens detected within the same sample.



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THE BIG FIVE. ONE VISION.

TRUST | INNOVATION | COLLABORATION | SUSTAINABILITY | IMPACT

THE LION
LEADERSHIP & VISION

Potato Certification Service – NPO

THE RHINO
DEFENSIVE FORTITUDE

South African Seed Potato Certification Scheme and Protocol (2021)

THE LEOPARD
AGILITY & INNOVATION

Potato Laboratory Services

Control laboratory x 1 (Plantovita (Pty) Ltd) & Regional laboratories x 5 (Wesgrow Potatoes (Edms) Bpk, Sandveld Laboratoriumdienste, KwaZulu-Natal Laboratory Services and GWK (Pty) Ltd)

THE BUFFALO
SYNERGETIC TEAMWORK

Harmonious intergovernmental relations

THE ELEPHANT
SCALE & HERITAGE

Fostered deep seed grower trust



ASANTE !

Potato Certification Service
Reg. no. 1995/005404/08
Vat. no. 4300 153 790
6 De Havilland Crescent, Persequor Technopark, Pretoria, South Africa

Potato Certification Service 30th Anniversary
https://vimeo.com/1130121262?fl=pl&fe=ti

PCS Website
https://potatocertification.co.za/