

PREVENTING CONTAMINATION WHEN DELIVERING COMMERCIAL GRAIN

The improper cleaning of equipment that has been used to handle bulk treated seed can lead to the contamination of commercial grain and oilseed deliveries, thereby putting domestic and export grain and oilseed markets at risk. When contamination occurs, those who deliver treated seed along with commercial grain and oilseed deliveries are liable for all of the costs and losses incurred by the sector. The following are the best-management practices that when followed, will help prevent contamination of grain and oilseed shipments.

1 SELECTING EQUIPMENT

Ideally, separate equipment should be dedicated to the handling of treated seed and not be used for the commercial delivery of grain and oilseeds. When separate equipment is not possible, wagons and trucks used for handling bulk seed should be selected by how easily and thoroughly they can be cleaned. The chosen equipment should have straight sides and bottoms with no racks or pinch points, with very few angles and cross braces.

3 CLEANING EQUIPMENT

A detailed cleaning procedure should be developed and documented, with staff properly trained on how to use the procedure. The procedure should include:

- // Disassemble all racks and tarps to locate trapped seed. Remove the trapped seed
- // Thoroughly sweep and/or vacuum all surfaces and check all accessible areas for residual treated seed. Any seed found in these areas must be removed
- // In a location away from pollinators or pollinator habitats or forage, use compressed air to blow out tubing pipes and angle iron on the equipment
- // After cleaning, pressure wash all surfaces and inspect when dry. Use the following pressure wash procedures:
 - Use warm or hot water combined with a high-grade industrial degreaser. Spray Nine® Cleaner works best
 - Remove stains from tarps (can be a challenge)
 - If using bleach, remember it can be corrosive. Ensure a thorough rinse is completed to avoid damage to the trailer
 - Appropriately remove and discard all treated seed, wash water and residues
 - If augers are used for seed and grain and oilseed handling, they should be flushed immediately after use with a minimum of 50 kg of flush material. Contact the equipment supplier to identify the best material to effectively remove treated seed and residue from inside the auger. Fertilizer can provide abrasive properties, if needed

The best procedure for cleaning equipment is to keep the trucks and equipment separate between handling treated seed and delivering commercial grain and oilseed.

2 LOADING BULK SEED

All equipment used to handle treated seed should be identified with a tag or label after the treated seed has been handled. The tag or label should not be removed until the equipment has been properly cleaned and inspected.

4 DOCUMENTATION

Keep accurate records to identify the equipment that was used to handle the treated seed and when the equipment was last cleaned. Documents should also state how the cleaning was performed, when the equipment was inspected and by whom.

5 THIRD-PARTY CONVEYANCES

It is the responsibility of the shipper to ensure that third-party conveyances are free of contamination. It is suggested that the shipper be required to supply a documented listing of the last three products that were carried by the assigned truck and trailer, as well as identify the cleaning procedures that were used.

Source: Guide to Treated Seed Stewardship, CSGA, CSTA; Tips and Tricks from Bayer SeedGrowth™.

