

Prevention of Treated Seed Entering the Food or Commercial Grain System

Improper cleanout of equipment used to handle bulk seed can lead to the contamination of commercial grain and oilseed deliveries. Elevators must maintain a zero tolerance for treated seed contamination because of the demands of processors and export markets. Producers must be aware that this practice will not be tolerated and will result in the producer being liable for all costs associated with business disruption, cleanout costs and losses, not only for the delivered grain but also for any stored grain that may become contaminated as a result. The industry as a whole has a vested interest in making sure contamination does not occur.

One of the potential sources of contamination occurs at the producer level. The following checklist outlines standard and enhanced protocols that producers should use to ensure that they do not contaminate their grain and oilseed shipments with treated seed or its residues.

1. Equipment Selection

Standard	Wagons and trucks used for handling bulk seed should be selected on how easily and thoroughly they can be cleaned. Producers should be using wagons with straight sides and bottoms, all one piece (no racks or pinch points) and very few angles or cross braces where seed might hang up or hide. Equipment must be kept in good repair and inspected regularly for structural damage.
Enhanced	Producer has augers, wagons or trucks that are dedicated to seed handling and not used to handle commercial deliveries of grains or oilseeds.

2. Bulk Seed Loading

Standard	Producer should ensure that all wagons, truck and augers used to handle bulk seed are labeled to ensure that all farm staff can easily identify any equipment that would have contained treated seed.
Enhanced	A tag is placed on all equipment used to handle treated seed, and is not removed until proper cleanout has been conducted and verified.

3. Cleanout – Wagons and Trucks

Standard	1. Thoroughly sweep and or vacuum all surfaces and check all accessible areas for treated seed. 2. Disassemble racks or tarps in order to examine where treated seed might have migrated and become trapped. 3. Use compressed air to blow out any tubing pipe or angle irons 4. Pressure wash all surfaces 5. Let dry, and then drive down bumpy road with door closed. If treated seed is still present in wagon, identify where it originated from and clean that area. 6. Clean up and discard all remaining treated seed and residues.
Enhanced	Develop a written cleanout procedure and distribute to all farm staff. Conduct a training session to ensure the procedure is understood. Put in place a system to verify that cleanout is conducted properly.

4. Cleanout – Augers

Standard	Wagon mounted augers should be removed from wagon following planting season. If an auger is used for both seed and grain handling it should be flushed immediately following planting season with a minimum of 50 kg of flush material. Contact your equipment supplier to determine what material is best suited to effectively remove treated seed and residue from the auger.
Enhanced	Have a dedicated auger used only for handling treated seed.

5. Documentation

Standard	Farmer should keep accurate records of what equipment was used to handle bulk seed and when they were cleaned.
Enhanced	Documentation should state how cleanout was performed and who did the cleaning. Records should include date and signature.

6. Third Party Conveyances

Standard	If a producer is using a third party to deliver grain to an elevator it is the responsibility of the producer as the shipper to ensure that the truck is free from contamination.
Enhanced	Have the driver fill out and sign a document listing the last three products shipped in that vehicle and what cleanout procedures were followed.

