

WSR 24-17-102

EXPEDITED RULES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[Filed August 19, 2024, 8:51 a.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: Chapter 16-319 WAC, Forest tree seed certification.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: In response to a petition for rule making, the department of agriculture (department) is proposing to clarify current rule language by replacing all gender-specific pronouns with modern gender-inclusive pronouns.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: RCW 43.01.160 requires state agencies to use gender-neutral terms in rules unless a specification of gender is intended. Replacing gender-specific terminology supports the department's commitment to integrate inclusive policies and procedures as outlined in the department's 22-25 strategic plan.

Gender-inclusive pronouns are pronouns that are not specifically gendered and can be utilized when referring to each other in the third person. They are linguistic tools that we use to refer to people. Using gender-neutral pronouns can help create a more inclusive and welcoming environment and show respect for people's gender identities.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 15.49.005, 43.01.160.

Statute Being Implemented: Chapter 15.49 RCW.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Skye Theriot, private.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting, Implementation, and Enforcement: Gloriann Robinson, 1111 Washington Street S.E., Olympia, WA, 360-902-1802.

This notice meets the following criteria to use the expedited adoption process for these rules:

Corrects typographical errors, makes address or name changes, or clarifies language of a rule without changing its effect.

Explanation of the Reason the Agency Believes the Expedited Rule-Making Process is Appropriate: The amendments in this proposal meet the criteria for expedited rule making specified in RCW 34.05.353 (1)(c) by clarifying the rule, without changing its effect, by replacing gender-specific pronouns with gender-inclusive pronouns.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Gloriann Robinson, Rules Coordinator, Washington State Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560, phone 360-902-1802, fax 360-902-2092, email wsdarulescomments@agr.wa.gov, AND RECEIVED BY October 22, 2024.

August 19, 2024  
Jason Ferrante  
Deputy Director

OTS-5747.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-10-047, filed 5/1/14, effective 6/1/14)

**WAC 16-319-030 Classes of reproductive material.** (1) "Tested class" means that forest reproductive material came from tree(s) which have been tested for specific character(s) as determined by progeny or other applicable tests and under specified conditions. Further, such forest reproductive material is produced and processed in a manner assuring genetic identity common with the tested material, and, for nursery stock, that it was produced from tested reproductive material. Said forest reproductive material shall be labeled with a blue label stating "tested." Certifying agency shall examine trees and reproductive material; exercise field, plant, and warehouse inspection, and audit all pertinent records involved.

(2) "Selected class" means that reproductive material came from trees that were selected for specific character(s). Two subclasses are recognized:

Subclass A: Reproductive material is obtained from selected trees and, in addition for tree seed, the male parent(s) is also selected.

Subclass B: Applies to tree seed when only one parent is selected.

Both subclasses shall be labeled with a green label stating "selected" and the subclass. Certifying agency shall examine trees and reproductive material; exercise field, plant, and warehouse inspection, and audit all pertinent records involved.

(a) "Selected subclass A" means that the donor or parents of the reproductive material are selected, known, and of record, but have no test results of record, and, for nursery stock, that it was produced from selected subclass A or better reproductive material.

(b) "Selected subclass B" means that only one parent of the tree seed is selected, known, and of record and reproductive material has not been tested, and, for nursery stock, that it was produced from selected subclass B or better reproductive material.

(3) "Source identified class" means that the reproductive material came from within a seed zone(s) or portion thereof (as defined by legal description) and from within a 500-foot elevation increment(s) or breeding zone(s) or code(s).

Subclass A: Personally supervised production.

Subclass B: Procedurally supervised production.

Both classes of said reproductive material shall be labeled with a yellow label stating "source identified" and the subclass. Certifying agency shall exercise field inspection, plant/warehouse inspection, and audit.

(a) "Subclass A source identified" means that applicant and certifying agency personally know beyond a reasonable doubt the seed zone(s) or portion thereof and 500-foot elevation increment(s) within which cones and/or reproductive material were collected; and, for nursery stock, that it was produced from subclass A source identified or better reproductive material. Certifying agency knows location from applicant's prior written plan of (~~his~~) their reproductive material collecting and/or producing activities. For source identified subzone collections, a representative of the producer, whose major responsibility is observation of picker location, shall make daily observations within the collection area.

(b) "Subclass B source identified" means that applicant and certifying agency know reproductive material is identified as collected from within a seed zone(s) and from within a 500-foot elevation increment(s), and for nursery stock, that it was produced from subclass B source identified or better reproductive material.

(4) "Audit class" means that the applicant's records of procurement, processing, storage, and distribution state that the reproductive material was collected from within stated seed zone(s) or described portions thereof and from within 500-foot elevation increment(s), and, for nursery stock, certifying agency knows that it was produced from audit class or better reproductive material. Containers of said reproductive material shall carry a serially numbered brown and white label stating "audit certificate." All records of the applicant for this class of reproductive material are subject to audit.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 87-12-006, filed 5/22/87)

**WAC 16-319-051 Forest reproductive material—Field standards.**

(1) Tested and selected classes. Applicant shall maintain continuous record(s) satisfactory to certifying agency which maintains the identity of the reproductive material through all stages of production, collection, processing, storage, and disbursement from stores, and, in addition, such records as needed to trace the pedigree and document the performance of the reproductive material. The records shall include but are not limited to those involving:

- (a) Selection, location, and origin of the parent trees.
- (b) Pollen, seed, scions, etc., collection, processing, inventory, storage, and use in tree improvement and breeding programs.
- (c) Design, establishment and management of test(s) and the collection, analysis and interpretation of test data.
- (d) Nursery stock production.

Certifying agency shall inspect all phases of the field operation including periodic checks of parent trees, pollen and scion collections; pollinations; cone harvest, storage, processing and inventory; and tests, together with appropriate records.

(2) Source identified reproductive material. Applicant shall develop and make correct use of collector and buyer labels, collector registration, and transportation records, and for nursery stock, labels and records identifying the stock as originating from source identified or better reproductive material.

(a) Subclass A.

(i) Control of collectors shall be such that applicant and certifying agency personally know beyond a reasonable doubt the seed zone or breeding zone or code or portions thereof (as delineated by legal description), and 500-foot elevation increment or specified elevation increment for breeding zone(s) or code(s) within which reproductive material was collected. Control of producers of nursery stock shall be such that applicant and certifying agency personally know beyond a reasonable doubt that the nursery stock was produced from source identified subclass A or better reproductive material.

(ii) Applicant shall provide certifying agency with a written reproductive material collection and/or nursery stock production plan

(not later than three days) prior to collection of reproduction material or production of nursery stock.

(iii) Further, all following requirements of subclass B shall be met.

(b) Subclass B.

(i) All collectors shall be supervised sufficiently so that either buyers know where reproductive material was collected, or buyers shall purchase all reproductive material that collectors present for sale without differential of acceptance stated or implied, as to source, location, seed zone, or elevation.

(ii) Buyer shall require collector to sign collector's registration record prior to collection of reproductive material. ((He)) Buyer shall also issue collector's labels, and direct collector to complete them and place them in or attach them to each container of reproductive material before it is transported from point of collection. Coincident with purchase of reproductive material, ((he)) collector shall complete description on labels including species, source by seed zone, breeding zone or code, elevation increment, special collection area if any, certification class, date of purchase and ((his)) signature or initials.

(iii) Buyer shall maintain a buyer record on a form for all reproductive material received, listing species, seed zone, elevation increment, units of reproductive material, date of purchase, collector's name and buyer's name.

(iv) Buyer shall maintain transportation record showing species, seed zone, elevation increment, units of reproductive material, and date shipped.

(v) Producers of nursery stock shall be supervised sufficiently so that applicant knows that the stock was produced from source identified subclass B or better reproductive material.

(vi) The certifying agency shall advise the applicant of problems or conditions that affect competent verification or execution of these standards by certifying agency and applicant.

(vii) Unless other arrangements are made, the certification class shown by the producer on all containers of reproductive material shall be verified by the certifying agency before being transported from the receiving station. The producer is responsible for evidence of verification of the certification class applied for.

(3) Audit class reproductive material.

(a) Buyer shall require collector to sign collector's registration record and to complete collector's labels prior to purchase of reproductive material.

(b) Buyer shall maintain a buyer record on a form for all reproductive material received, listing species, seed zone, elevation increment, units of reproductive material, date of purchase, collector's name and buyer.

(c) Buyer or other shipper of reproductive material shall maintain a transportation record showing species, seed zone, elevation increment, units of reproductive material and date shipped.

(d) Producers of nursery stock shall maintain auditable records identifying the stock as being produced from audit class or better reproductive material.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 87-12-006, filed 5/22/87)

**WAC 16-319-101 Forest reproductive material—Rejection of certification.** Any lot may be rejected if certifying agency determines that said lot fails to meet these standards. The privilege of certification may be withdrawn by certifying agency for a definite period of time in case of flagrant violations of field or processing standards. If applicant believes an erroneous decision has been rendered, ((he)) they may make written appeal to certifying agency for review by its governing body.