

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Highlights:**

On October 28, 2024, the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) published a revised “National Standard for Seeds of Economic Crops – Part 2: Oil Species,” which will come into effect on October 1, 2025. The new standard, GB4407.2-2024, incorporates quality requirements for flax seeds for oil use, and modifies quality indicators for rapeseed seeds, sunflower seeds, and peanut seeds. This report provides an unofficial translation of the revised standard.

## Summary

On October 28, 2024, SAMR published the revised [GB4407.2-2024 Seeds of Economic Crops - Part 2 Oil Species](#) (link in Chinese), which will come into effect on October 1, 2025. The mandatory national standard specifies quality requirements, inspection rules, and production methods which apply to oilseed seeds including rapeseed, sunflower, peanut, sesame, and flax for oil. This standard will replace [GB4407.2-2008 Seed of Economic Crops — Part 2: Oil Species](#) (link in Chinese), which was published on June 28, 2008 and came into effect on December 1, 2008.

China's international trade of oilseed seeds is relatively minor compared to production and utilization. In recent years, some sunflower seeds have been imported. As to exports, some rapeseed seeds, sunflower seeds and a small volume of peanut seeds were exported.

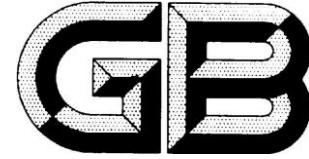
On January 4, 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) published a draft version of the standard for public comment. On February 12, 2024, the draft version was notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO) as [G/TBT/N/CHN/1819](#). There are no major changes in the final version compared to the draft version. For an unofficial translation of the draft directive, please see [GAIN Report CH2024-0013](#).

Notable changes in the revised standard include:

- Added quality requirements for flax seeds used for oil and shelled peanut seeds;
- Modified quality indicators for rapeseed, sunflower and peanut seeds;

This report provides an UNOFFICIAL translation of the revised standard. Post has added current standard levels in the text, marked in **RED**, for comparison purposes. For example, in Table 1, below, the “variety genetic purity” for rapeseed hybrids was 85 percent and the new standard will be 86 percent.

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION



ICS 65.020.20  
CCS B 33

## National Standards of People's Republic of China

GB 4407.2—2024  
Replace GB 4407.2-2008

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Seed of Economic Crops - Part 2: Oil Species

Issued on October 28, 2024    Implemented on October 1, 2025

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Released by the State Administration for Market Regulation and  
China's National Standardization Administration Committee

## Foreword

This document is drafted in accordance with the provisions of GB/T1.1-2020 "Standardization Work Guidelines Part 1: Structure and Drafting Rules of Standardization Documents".

This document is the second part of GB 4407 "Seed of Economic Crops". GB4407 has released the following parts:

- Part 1: Fiber species;
- Part 2: Oil species;

This document replaces GB4407.1-2008 " Seed of Economic Crops - Part 2: Oil Species". Compared with GB 4407.1-2008. In addition to structural adjustments and editorial changes, the main technical changes are as follows:

- Added quality requirements for flax seeds used for oil (see 4.4);
- Modified some quality indicators of rapeseed (see 4.1 and 4.2.1 of 2008 version);
- Modified some quality indicators of sunflower seeds (see 4.2 and 4.2.2 of 2008 version);
- Modified some quality indicators of peanut seeds (see 4.3 and 4.2.3 of 2008 version);
- Modified the description of test methods and judgment rules (see chapter 5 and Chapter 5 of 2008 version).

Please note that some content in this document may be subject to patents. The issuing authority of this document assumes no responsibility for identifying patents.

This document is proposed and administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

The previous versions of this document and the documents it replaces are as follows:

- The first release was GB4407-1984 in 1984;
- The first revision was GB4407.2-1996 in 1996, and second revision in 2008;
- This is the third version.

## Introduction

The "Seed Law of the People's Republic of China" stipulates that seeds with "quality lower than national standards" and "quality lower than label indicators" are inferior seeds. Clarifying the minimum quality requirements for important crop seeds is not only a requirement to implement national laws, but also a need to ensure seed quality, maintain seed market order, and protect the vital interests of seed users (farmers). According to convention, crop seeds can be divided into food crop seeds, oil crop seeds, economic crop seeds, melon and vegetable crop seeds, etc. Among them, oil crop seeds are an important part of crop seeds. GB4407 divides economic crop seeds into the following two parts:

- Part 1: Fiber species;
- Part 2: Oil species.

The seed quality requirements in this document are the minimum quality commitments that seed producers and operators should make and are important basis for punishing inferior seeds and handling seed quality disputes in accordance with the law.

## **Seed of Economic Crops—Part 2: Oil Species**

### **1. Scope**

This document specifies quality requirements, inspection rules and describes inspection methods for rape (*Brassica napus* L.), sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.), peanut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.), sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.) and oil flax (*Sesamum indicum*).

This document applies to the production and sales of above-mentioned oil species seeds.

### **2. Normative reference documents**

The contents in the following documents constitute indispensable provisions of this document through normative references in the text. For referenced documents with date, only the version corresponding to that date is applicable to this document; for referenced documents without date, the latest version (including all amendments) is applicable to this document.

GB/T3543.2 Crop Seed Inspection Procedures Part 2: Sampling

GB/T3543.3 Crop Seed Inspection Procedures Part 3: Sowing Quality: Clarity Analysis

GB/T3543.4 Crop Seed Inspection Procedures Part 4: Sowing Quality: Germination Test

GB/T3543.5 Crop Seed Inspection Procedures Part 5: Variety Quality: Variety Purity Identification

GB/T3543.6 GB/T3543.2 Crop Seed Inspection Procedures Part 6: Sowing Quality: Moisture Determination

GB 20464 General Directive for Labeling of Agricultural Seeds

### **3. Terms and Definitions**

The following terms and definitions apply to this document.

#### **3.1 Basic seed**

Seeds from the first to third generation propagated from breeder's seed and confirmed to meet the specified quality requirements.

#### **3.2 Qualified seeds**

Seeds from the first to third generation propagated from basic seeds or hybrids and confirmed to meet the specified quality requirements.

## 4. Quality requirements

### 4.1 Rapeseed

The quality of rapeseed seeds shall conform to the requirements of Table 1

**Table 1. Rapeseed Seeds Quality Requirements**

Crop	Type of Seeds		Variety genetic purity% not lower than	Physical purity% not lower than	Germination rate% not lower than	Moisture% not higher than
Rape	Conventional Seeds	Basic seed	99.0	98.0	85	9.0
		Qualified Seed	95.0			
	Parents	Basic seed	99.0	98.0	80	9.0
		Qualified Seed	98.0			
	Hybrids	Qualified Seed	86.0/85.0 <sup>1</sup>	98.0	82/80	9.0

### 4.2 Sunflower

The quality of sunflower seed shall conform to the requirements of Table 2.

**Table 2. Sunflower Seed Quality Requirements**

Crop	Type of Seeds		Variety genetic purity% not lower than	Physical purity% not lower than	Germination rate% not lower than	Moisture% not higher than
Sunflower	Conventional Seeds	Basic seed	99.0	98.0	90/85	9.0
		Qualified Seed	97.0/96.0			
	Parents	Basic seed	99.0	98.0	90	9.0
		Qualified Seed	98.0			
	Hybrids	Qualified Seed	96.0	98.0	90	9.0

<sup>1</sup> The current standard for variety genetic purity is 85%.

### 4.3 Peanuts and sesame

The quality of peanut and sesame seeds shall conform to the requirements of Table 3.

**Table 3. Peanut and sesame seed quality requirements**

Crop	Type of Seeds		Variety genetic purity% not lower than	Physical purity% not lower than	Germination rate% not lower than	Moisture % not higher than
Peanut	Shelled seeds	Basic seed	99.0	99.0	83/80	10.0
		Qualified Seed	96.0			
	Unshelled seeds	Basic seed	99.0	99.0	85/80	9.0/10.0
		Qualified Seed	96.0			
Sesame	Basic seed		99.0	97.0	85	9.0
	Qualified Seed		97.0			

Note: Shell refers to the peel of peanuts, and intact shelled seeds are counted as clean seeds during clarity analysis.

### 4.2.4 Flax for oil

Flax seeds for oil use are subject to flax seed quality requirements, specified in Table 4.

**Table 4. Flax seed quality requirements**

Crop	Type of Seeds	Variety genetic purity% not lower than	Physical purity% not lower than	Germination rate% not lower than	Moisture% not higher than
Flax seeds for oil use	Basic seed	99.0	98.0	85	9.0
	Qualified Seed	97.0			

Note: Flax used for oil production is commonly known as "flax (Huma)".

## 5 Testing methods

### 5.1 Variety purity

The testing methods for variety purity are implemented in accordance with the provisions of GB/T3543.5.

### **5.2 Clarity**

The testing method for clarity is implemented in accordance with the provisions of GB/T3543.3.

### **5.3 Germination rate**

The testing method for germination rate is implemented in accordance with the provisions of GB/T3543.4.

### **5.4 Moisture**

The testing method for moisture is implemented in accordance with the provisions of GB/T3543.6.

## **6 Inspection rules**

### **6.1 Sample**

The sampling method and seed batch determination shall comply with the provisions of GB/T 3543.2.

### **6.2 Determination rules**

The quality judgment rules shall comply with the provisions of GB 20464.

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**Attachments:**

No Attachments.