

GENERAL FISH CERTIFICATION STANDARDS (2002)

I. Purpose of Certification

The purpose of Certification shall be to make available to the public through Fish Certification, high quality propagating materials of superior fish lines, so grown and distributed as to maintain species identity and purity.

II. Classes of Certified Fish

- A. Breeder Class: Breeder Fish is fish directly controlled by the originating or sponsoring fish breeding institution, or person or designee thereof.

As applied to Certified Fish, Breeder Fish is the source for the production of the other classes of Certified Fish.

- B. Foundation Class: Foundation Fish is fish which is the progeny of Breeder Fish produced under the control of the originating or sponsoring catfish breeding institution, or person, or designee thereof. As applied to Certified Fish, Foundation Fish is a class of Certified Fish, which is produced under procedures established by the Certifying Agency, for the purpose of maintaining species purity and identity. Foundation class shall be identified by accompanied certification certificate issued by the official certifying agency.
- C. Registered Class: Registered class fish shall be the progeny of Breeder or Foundation fish, so handled under procedures acceptable to the Certifying Agency to maintain satisfactory purity and identity. Registered class fish shall be identified by accompanied certification certificate issued by the Certifying Agency.
- D. Certified Class: Certified Class Fish shall be the progeny of Breeder, Foundation or Registered Fish so handled under procedures acceptable to the certifying agency to maintain satisfactory purity and identity. Certified Class Fish shall be identified by an accompanied certification certificate issued by the certifying agency. (See exception: III. Limitations of Generations).

III. Limitation of Generations

The number of generations through which a line may be multiplied shall be limited to that specified by the originating breeder or owner of the line and shall not exceed one generation beyond the Foundation class with the following exceptions.

- A. Recertification of the Certified Class may be permitted for older lines where Foundation Fish is no longer being maintained.
- B. The production of an additional generation of the Certified Class only may be permitted on a one-year basis, when an emergency is declared by the certifying agency stating that the Foundation Fish supplies are not adequate for the production of the needed Certified Class production of the line. The permission of the originating or sponsoring breeder, institution, firm, or owner of the line, if existent, must be obtained. The additional generation of Certified Class Fish to meet the emergency need is ineligible for recertification.

IV. Breeder's Descriptions of Lines

Inspections and standards for specific fish shall be performed on the basis of the description of the line as set forth by the breeder of the line.

V. Cleaning of Equipment

The applicant is responsible for cleaning equipment used for harvesting, handling, and hauling before using for any of the Certified Classes of fish to assure freedom from fish or fish eggs.

VI. Unit of Certification

The pond in which certified fish are produced will be considered the unit of Certification.

VII. Applications for Certification

A. Forms for filing applications for Fish Certification will be provided by GCIA.

B. Deadline Date for Filing Applications:

Application(s) for Fish Certification must be received at least 30 days prior to requesting Certification Certificates for Certified fish or offering Certified fish for sale.

Established ponds certified the previous year, must have a renewal application filed by June 1 of each following year.

- C. Information to be submitted with Applications:
1. Copy of purchase invoice or other acceptable evidence showing source, class, and quantity of fish for stocking pond(s).
 2. Annual membership fee if not previously paid.
 3. Certificate(s) from each lot of fish for stocking pond(s).
 4. Certification fees as printed on the application form.
 5. Map of farm indicating location of ponds filed for certification.

VIII. Sampling Fish for Testing

A. Official Samples

An official sample of fish will be collected for testing from each pond filed for certification. These samples shall be collected by a representative of GCIA. Samples shall be drawn by REQUEST from the Certified Producer. Fish removed from ponds filed for Certification before official samples are taken or before Certificates are issued will not be eligible for Certification.

While the fish are still in the hands of the producer, GCIA reserves the right to resample or spot-check any or all of the ponds offered for Certification. This is to insure the genetic purity of the fish, either before or after certificates have been issued.

If, on retesting fish from a given pond, it is found that they do not meet the Certification Standards, Certification may be revoked for that pond(s).

B. Resampling and Resampling Charges

1. Except where there is a special problem with the test performed, only one official sample has to be taken from a pond(s) to be certified.
2. If resampling does become necessary, \$50.00 per sample will be charged.
3. In all cases, the last test run will be the official test.
4. Once a sample has been submitted to the laboratory for testing, it cannot be withdrawn.

IX. Fish Sample Analysis

All official fish analysis shall be performed by laboratory(s) approved by GCIA.

X. Certification Certificates

- A. All certification certificates must be issued by GCIA and must be ordered by the producer after it has been determined, by approved procedures, that the fish to be certified meets the requirements for Certification.

Each certificate will be numerically identified and numbers recorded at the GCIA office by applicant name.

- B. Use of CODE NUMBERS Instead of Name of Producer

In special cases, on request by the producer, the grower's identification may be indicated by code number, rather than by name.

XII. Charges for Certification Certificates

These charges are determined by the GCIA Board of Directors, and this information will be provided with the application.

XII. Fish Shipments without Certification Certificates

Fish will not be considered certified unless certification certificate(s) accompany each shipment.

XIII. Procedures to Follow in Accepting New Fish Kinds or Lines for Certification

- A. The new kinds or lines must be approved by the GCIA Board of Directors or another certifying agency before being eligible for certification.

- B. Before a line will be considered for certification, the originator, developer, owner, or agent must request certification and must provide the following information:

1. The name of the line.
2. A statement of the line's origin and the breeding procedure used in its development.

3. A detailed description of the morphological, physiological, and other important characteristics of fish, including variants, and the frequency of their occurrence that distinguish the line from other lines.
 4. Evidence of performance, including comparative yield data, and other factors supporting the identity of the line. The performance tests may be conducted by private firms or public agricultural experiment stations and shall include appropriate check lines.
 5. A statement on the suggested area of adaptation and the purpose for which the line will be used. This should include states or provinces and areas within states or provinces where the line has been tested and is expected to be recommended and merchandised.
 6. A statement on the plans and procedures for maintenance for stock fish classes, including number of generations through which the line may be multiplied.
 7. A description of the manner in which the line is constituted when a particular cycle of reproduction or multiplication is specified.
- C. The name under which any line shall be certified shall be the name given to the line by the originating breeder, institution, or firm.
- D. The breeder or owner of a line may place additional restrictions on the line with respect to factors affecting purity of such certified classes and generations through which fish of that line may be multiplied.

XIV. Procedures and Regulations for Accepting New Fish Breeding Firms

- A. Any individual, firm, or corporation desiring to be granted the status of a commercial fish breeding firm must submit to GCIA a general outline of their proposed methods of fish production for the Breeder, Foundation and Registered classes of fish. This outline of methods of production must be approved by the Board of Directors of the GCIA who must use as their guide, standard and accepted fish production and increase methods as recognized by leading commercial, state, and federal breeders. This firm must also have employed a breeder as defined in Paragraph C.
- B. An applicant, in order to qualify for approval by the GCIA, must have access to the minimum equipment necessary to properly produce fish as approved by the GCIA.

- C. As used in this handbook, the term breeder refers to a graduate in breeding or other science from an accredited agricultural college or university with acceptable training and/or experience in fish breeding, or a non-agricultural college graduate with acceptable training and/or experience as defined below:
1. M.S. degree or higher in fish breeding.
 2. M.S. degree in science other than fish breeding with one year's experience.
 3. B.S. degree in science and two years' practical experience in fish breeding.
 4. Non-agricultural college graduate with five years' experience in fish breeding.

SPECIFIC CATFISH CERTIFICATION STANDARDS (2002)

I. Application of General Certification Standards

The General Certification Standards are basic and together with the following specific standards constitute the standards for the Certification of Catfish.

II. Classes of Catfish

- A. Foundation Class: First generation of catfish produced from Breeder catfish.
- B. Registered Class: First generation of catfish produced from Breeder or Foundation catfish.
- C. Certified Class: First generation of catfish produced from Foundation or Registered catfish.

III. Lines Per Farm

If more than one line of Catfish are to be grown for reproductive purposes on a farm, the GCIA inspectors have the authority to determine if precautions taken by the producer to prevent mixing of lines are adequate.

IV. Hatchery Requirements

The Certification Agency reserves the right to spot check any catfish hatchery producing catfish that are to be certified to determine that hatchery requirements set forth by USDA Warmwater Aquaculture Center Researchers at Stoneville, Mississippi are being met.

V. Pond Requirements

- A. Ponds must be drained and/or fumigated before stocking with catfish for certification. An exception may be made upon written request to the GCIA, when the previous catfish were the parents of the catfish being produced for Certification.
- B. GCIA must inspect drained ponds. When ponds are fumigated, a GCIA Inspector must be present.
- C. Ponds filed for certification must be satisfactorily identified at farm.

VI. Sampling

An official sample or samples of catfish offered for Certification must be collected for inspection and evaluation from each pond. The required number of catfish, as determined by testing procedures, must be collected by the inspector.

It is the responsibility of the producer to assist the inspector in collecting catfish samples for testing.

VII. DNA Analyses

DNA analysis shall be performed by a laboratory(s) approved by the GCIA executive director.

Laboratories conducting DNA analysis for Certification of Catfish will bill the producer directly for such analysis but results of tests will be provided to GCIA and the producer.

VIII. Preparing Samples of Catfish for DNA Analysis

GCIA Inspectors will prepare samples of Catfish for DNA analysis in the manner directed by the laboratory conducting the analysis.

IX. Specific Standards

Certified Catfish shall be required to meet the following standards:

Maximum Permitted			
Factor	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Lines and Off-Types on DNA Testing	None	None	2.00%
Fish (Kind)	None	1.00%	0.10%

X. Identifying Shipments of Certified Catfish

All sales of Certified Catfish must be accompanied by a Certification Certificate.

XI. Reproductive Catfish Standards to be Shown on the Certificate for Certification:

Example: Certified Class

Catfish true to line (Minimum by Count)	97.90%
Other Catfish (Maximum by Count)	2.00%
Other Kinds (Maximum by Count)	0.10%