

Managing Variety Production Rights (VPRs) in SCIS

Background

Merchants are required to have Variety Production Rights (VPRs) registered and approved for each Variety they intend to produce in a particular harvest season. There have been a number of changes made, for the new season, to the VPR information that is recorded in SCIS. Merchants should familiarise themselves with the changes and review all your existing VPRs for the 2026-27 season.

Changes to VPRs for 2026-27

1. For each VPR entry the Merchant MUST identify if it is for “re-export only”. This is a new question on each VPR entry and replaces a previous question about eligibility for NZ Scheme labels. *We had advice from Merchants that the question about NZ Scheme labels was confusing and most did not know the purpose of the question.*
2. For each VPR entry the Merchant MUST identify all Schemes that the VPR is eligible for. Previously only a single Scheme could be selected. Although the NSCO can now alter the list of eligible schemes after the VPR is approved (see below for conditions), it is preferable that the Merchant selects the schemes when creating the VPR.

Please note that Schemes may be selected where the Variety has not yet been approved for that Scheme. This will produce a WARNING but allow the selection to proceed. Growers will only be able to choose a Scheme for each crop that is allowed by the VPR.

3. For each VPR the Merchant MAY optionally enter a “Maximum harvest class”. Select a general class from the list – SCIS will automatically determine the specific class name for each Scheme you have selected.

Please note that it is important that this is only entered where the Breeders Authority requires that the Harvest Class be restricted.

4. VPRs that have a “Rights finish” season can have this extended to a new season by the NSCO even after the VPR has EXPIRED.

Please note that the NSCO can now extend any VPR “Rights finish” on receipt of an updated Breeders Authority from the Merchant.

5. Once a VPR has been APPROVED by the NSCO the Merchant can no longer amend the details but the NSCO can continue to make adjustments to the details.

Please note that the NSCO can continue to edit an approved VPR and on advice from the Merchant can alter the list of Schemes the VPR is eligible for and other critical elements of the VPR including “Maximum harvest class” and “Rights finish” (see also above).

General advice about VPRs

If a Breeders Authority does not have any special conditions

Create a single VPR for the variety and assign it to all Growers. A new VPR can replace this one if details change significantly.

If a Breeders Authority has special conditions for a portion of the crop

Create an additional VPR for the crop portion with special conditions.

If a Breeders Authority has expired and Merchant has a new Breeders Authority with the same details as the previous one

Ask the NSCO to update the 'Rights finish' for the VPR.

VPR 'Start of season' activities

Requirement	SCIS action required	VPR change done by
New Breeders Authority but otherwise no change	Update 'Rights finish' in VPR if required.	NSCO
Variety not being grown this season	Mark VPR Inactive.	Merchant
New or updated Breeders Authority with Harvest class condition	Check and update 'Maximum Harvest class' in VPR OR create a new VPR with the restriction.	NSCO
Change to Eligible Scheme(s)	Update 'Eligible Schemes' in VPR.	NSCO
One or more Growers require Re-entry	Check 'Re-entry' setting for each Grower associated with the VPR and update if required. Please note that Re-entry MUST be set on the previous season's Grower entry associated with the VPR. This will automatically re-assign the Variety to that Grower in the new season.	Merchant
All other active VPRs Check key settings that control new GAs and Growers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Eligible Scheme(s)'• 'Maximum harvest class'	Check 'Eligible Schemes' in VPR. Check 'Maximum Harvest Class' in VPR. Ask NSCO to update if required (see above).	Merchant