



TC/50/24

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**Fiftieth Session
Geneva, April 7 to 9, 2014****REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/8: PART II: SELECTED TECHNIQUES USED IN DUS EXAMINATION,
NEW SECTION 11: EXAMINING DUS IN BULK SAMPLES***Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance*

1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments concerning guidance on examining DUS in bulk samples for inclusion in a future revision of document TGP/8.

2. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

TC:	Technical Committee
TC-EDC:	Enlarged Editorial Committee
TWA:	Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops
TWC:	Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs
TWF:	Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops
TWO:	Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees
TWPs:	Technical Working Parties
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables

BACKGROUND

3. The TC, at its forty-eighth session, held in Geneva, from March 26 to 28, 2012, considered document TC/48/19 Rev. "Revision of Document TGP/8 "Trial Design and Techniques Used in the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability"".

4. The TC, at its forty-eighth session, agreed that the new section 11 on examination of DUS in bulk samples should be redrafted with assistance from DUS experts in Denmark in order to focus on guidance for DUS examiners and should replace detailed statistical models with a general reference to suitable statistical methods. It was also agreed that the example of sugar beet should be replaced by a crop for which there were UPOV Test Guidelines (see document TC/48/22 "Report on the Conclusions" paragraph 55).

5. The TC, at its forty-ninth session, held in Geneva, from March 18 to 20, 2013, considered document TC/49/28 "Revision of document TGP/8: Part II: Techniques used in DUS Examination, New Section 11: Examining DUS in Bulk Samples". The Annex to document TC/49/28 contained the proposed text for New Section 11 – Examining DUS in Bulk Samples, as prepared by Mr. Kristian Kristensen (Denmark). The amendments to the text considered by the TWPs at their sessions in 2012 were indicated by highlighting and strikethrough for deletions and highlighting and underlining for additions.

6. The TC, at its forty-ninth session, held in Geneva, from March 18 to 20, 2013, agreed to replace the proposed text for new Section 11 "Examining DUS in Bulk Samples" in the Annex to document TC/49/28 with

guidance on the use of characteristics examined on the basis of bulk samples, in order to ensure that the characteristics fulfill the basic requirements for a characteristic. In particular, it agreed that Leading Experts of Test Guidelines could be requested to provide data from different years to demonstrate that the expression of the characteristic is “sufficiently consistent and repeatable in a particular environment”. It was further agreed that, on the basis of information provided to the TWPs, consideration could be given to statistical analysis for such characteristics (see document TC/49/41 “Report on the conclusions”, paragraph 64).

COMMENTS BY THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES IN 2013

7. At their sessions in 2013, the TWO, TWF, TWV, TWC and TWA considered documents TWO/46/17, TWF/44/17, TWV/47/17, TWC/31/17 and TWA/42/17, respectively.

8. The TWO, TWF, TWV, TWC and TWA noted that the TC had agreed to replace the proposed text for new Section 11 “Examining DUS in Bulk Samples” in the Annex to document TC/49/28 with guidance on the use of characteristics examined on the basis of bulk samples, in order to ensure that the characteristics fulfill the basic requirements for a characteristic (see documents TWO/46/29 “Report”, paragraph 38, document TWF/44/31 “Report”, paragraph 41, document TWV/47/34 “Report”, paragraph 41, document TWC/31/32 “Report”, paragraph 38, and document TWA/42/31 “Report”, paragraph 42, respectively).

9. The TWO, TWF, TWV, TWC and TWA agreed that Leading Experts of Test Guidelines could be requested to provide data from different years to demonstrate that the expression of the characteristic was “sufficiently consistent and repeatable in a particular environment” (see documents TWO/46/29 “Report”, paragraph 39, document TWF/44/31 “Report”, paragraph 42, document TWV/47/34 “Report”, paragraph 42, document TWC/31/32 “Report”, paragraph 39, and document TWA/42/31 “Report”, paragraph 43, respectively).

COMMENTS BY THE ENLARGED EDITORIAL COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING IN JANUARY 2014

10. The TC-EDC, at its meeting held in Geneva on January 8 and 9, 2014, considered document TC-EDC/Jan14/12 “Revision of Document TGP/8: Part II: Selected Techniques Used in DUS Examination, New Section 11: Examining DUS in Bulk Samples”.

11. The TC-EDC proposed that experts from France and the Netherlands might provide examples of their experience in the development of characteristics based on bulk samples, for seed- and vegetatively propagated crops. In particular, the examples would illustrate how plant-by-plant variation and differences in growing cycles were considered in the development of the method of observation of the characteristic. The guidance on the development of characteristics examined on the basis of bulk samples would then be based on that approach.

12. The TC is invited to consider to invite experts from France and the Netherlands to provide examples of their experience in the development of characteristics based on bulk samples, for seed- and vegetatively propagated crops, as a basis to develop guidance on the development of characteristics examined on the basis of bulk samples, as set out in paragraph 11 of this document.

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