

Technical Committee

TC/54/30

**Fifty-Fourth Session
Geneva, October 29 and 30, 2018**

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STATISTICAL METHODS FOR VISUALLY OBSERVED CHARACTERISTICS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments concerning “Statistical Methods for Visually Observed Characteristics”.

2. The TC is invited to:

(a) recall that the TC agreed that the appropriate naming and drafting of guidance on the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland should be considered once further experience had been acquired and software was available to facilitate its use in DUS examination

(b) note that the TWC, at its thirty-sixth session, did not receive a document for discussion under this agenda item, as set out in paragraph 14; and

(c) note that the TWC agreed to include an agenda item on this matter for discussion at its thirty-seventh session, as set out in paragraph 15.

3. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

TC: Technical Committee

TWC: Technical Working Party on Automation and Computer Programs

4. The structure of this document is as follows:

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BACKGROUND

5. The background to this matter is provided in document TC/53/24 “Statistical Methods for Visually Observed Characteristics”.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2017

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6. The TC, at its fifty-third session, held in Geneva, from April 3 to 5, 2017, considered document TC/53/24 “Statistical methods for visually observed characteristics” (see document TC/53/31 “Report”, paragraphs 193 to 196).

7. The TC noted that an expert from France would make a report to the TWC, at its thirty-fifth session, to be held in 2017, on the study to develop software to implement the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland.

8. The TC agreed that the appropriate naming and drafting of guidance on the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland should be considered once further experience had been acquired and software was available to facilitate its use in DUS examination.

9. The TC noted that China had made a presentation at the thirty-fourth session of the TWC to describe the statistical methods used in the DUSTC software package for the analysis of distinctness and uniformity.

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10. The TWC, at its thirty-fifth session, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from November 14 to 17, 2017, considered document TWP/1/23 "Statistical methods for visually observed characteristics" (see document TWC/35/21 "Report", paragraphs 77 to 80).

11. The TWC noted that the TC, at its fifty-third session, had agreed that the appropriate naming and drafting of guidance on the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland should be considered once further experience had been acquired and software had been made available to facilitate its use in DUS examination.

12. The TWC noted the report by an expert from France that software to implement the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland could only be developed once the development of the statistical method was completed.

13. The TWC agreed to invite the experts from France and the United Kingdom to further develop the method and invited contributions of examples applying the method in suitable characteristics for other crops to be presented at its thirty-sixth session.

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2018

14. The TWC, at its thirty-sixth session, held in Hanover, Germany, from July 2 to 6, 2018, did not receive a document for discussion under this agenda item.

15. The TWC agreed to include an agenda item on "Statistical methods and software for visually observed characteristics" for discussion at its thirty-seventh session, to be held in Hangzhou, China, from October 14 to 16, 2019 (see document TWC/36/15 "Report", paragraphs 106 and 107).

16. *The TC is invited to:*

(a) recall that the TC agreed that the appropriate naming and drafting of guidance on the method developed by experts from Denmark and Poland should be considered once further experience had been acquired and software was available to facilitate its use in DUS examination;

(b) note that the TWC, at its thirty-sixth session, did not receive a document for discussion under this agenda item, as set out in paragraph 14; and

(c) note that the TWC agreed to include an agenda item on this matter for discussion at its thirty-seventh session, as set out in paragraph 15.

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