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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
 Geneva

ENLARGED EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Geneva, January 9 and 10, 2013

REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/7: GUIDANCE FOR METHOD OF OBSERVATION

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

1. The purpose of this document is to present a proposal for guidance on the indication of observation by measurement for characteristics such as dates (e.g. time of flowering) and number (e.g. number of leaf lobes) for inclusion in a future revision of document TGP/7.

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 Annex II of document TC/48/18, on guidance for method of observation. The TC agreed that document TGP/7/2, GN 25 "Recommendations for conducting the examination" should be extended to provide guidance, by means of illustrative examples, on the appropriate type of observation for characteristics such as dates (e.g. time of flowering) and counts (e.g. number of leaf lobes), on the basis of the examples as provided in Annex II to document TC/48/18 and the comments made on those examples by the TWPs in 2010 (see document TC/47/26 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 61).

4. The TC agreed that the Office of the Union should draft guidance on that basis, for consideration by the TWPs at their sessions in 2012 (see document TC/48/22 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraphs 43 to 44).

Comments by the Technical Working Parties in 2012

5. The TWA, TWV, TWC, TWF and TWO considered documents (TWA/41/13, TWV/46/13, TWC/30/13, TWF/43/13, TWO/45/13) on guidance for method of observation and the indication of observation by measurement for characteristics such as dates and counts, with view to inclusion in GN "Recommendations for conducting the examination" in document TGP/7. The TWPs agreed with the proposed text for guidance on method of observation as set out in paragraphs 2 to 6 of the Annex to the above mentioned documents, subject to modification of the text of paragraph 7 to read as follows (see documents: TWA/41/34 "Report", paragraph 18; TWV/46/41 "Report", paragraph 16; TWC/30/41 "Report", paragraph 15; TWF/43/38 "Report", paragraph 13 and; TWO/45/37 "Report", paragraph 14):

“(b) Number

7. If a characteristic is observed ~~as an actual number by counting~~ (for example ‘Number of lobes’, observed by counting), the assessment is a measurement (M). If a characteristic is observed by estimation (for example ‘Number of ~~spines~~ lobes’, observed by ~~an~~ estimation), the assessment is a visual observation (V).”

6. The proposed text for guidance on the indication of observation by measurement for characteristics such as dates (e.g. time of flowering) and counts (e.g. number of leaf lobes, number of spines) for inclusion in GN 25 “Recommendations for conducting the examination” in document TGP/7 is presented in the Annex to this document. The proposed amendments to document TGP/7/3 are indicated by highlighting and underlining for additions.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

Proposed Amendments to Document TWP/7/3 “Development of Test Guidelines” GN 25 - Recommendations for Conducting the Examination

GN 25 (TG Template: Chapter 7: column 2, header row 1 or 2) – Recommendations for conducting the examination

This box provides the key for guidance on conducting the examination. For example, recommendations on the method of observation (e.g: visual assessment or measurement; observation of single plants or a group of plants) or type of plot (e.g: spaced plants; row plot; drilled plot; special test) may be provided. ASW 4(b) provides possible standard wording.

Method of observation (visual or measurement)

1. Document TGP/9 “Examining Distinctness” explains the following with regard to method of observation:

“4.2 Method of observation (visual or measurement)

“The expression of characteristics can be observed visually (V) or by measurement (M).

“4.2.1 Visual observation (V)

“4.2.1.1 ‘Visual’ observation (V) is an observation made on the basis of the expert’s judgment. For the purposes of this document, “visual” observation refers to the sensory observations of the experts and, therefore, also includes smell, taste and touch. Visual observation includes observations where the expert uses reference points (e.g. diagrams, example varieties, side-by-side comparison) or non-linear charts (e.g. color charts).

[...]

4.2.2 Measurement (M)

Measurement (M) is an objective observation against a calibrated, linear scale e.g. using a ruler, weighing scales, colorimeter, dates, counts, etc.”

2. The following examples are intended to illustrate the ways of considering the method of observation for characteristics such as time of flowering and counts.

(a) Time of Flowering

<u>Time of flowering</u>		
<u>QN</u>	<u>early</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>medium</u>	<u>5</u>
	<u>late</u>	<u>7</u>

Scenario A (Explanation: the time of flowering is assessed by date)

3. The DUS trial is visited on various dates to assess whether each variety has reached the time of flowering. The assessment of whether 50% of plants have emitted the stigma in the main panicle is made by counting the number of plants that have emitted their stigmas to determine the percentage, or by an overall assessment of the percentage.

4. In this case, the method of observation would be measurement (M), because the determination of the state of expression will be according to the date (= measurement on a time scale) at which a variety was found to have reached the time of flowering. A date is recorded for each variety, which is transformed into notes after assessment of all varieties.

Scenario B (Explanation: the time of flowering is assessed by comparison with other varieties)

5. The DUS trial is visited on one or more occasions to assess the time of flowering by reference to example varieties.

6. In this scenario, the time of flowering is a visual (V) observation because an overall visual observation is made as to the time of flowering for a particular variety by reference to the state of flowering of example varieties, without reference to a date of visit. A note is recorded for each variety in relation to the variation between varieties (e.g. early, medium, late).

(b) Number

7. If a characteristic is observed by counting (for example 'Number of lobes' observed by counting), the assessment is a measurement (M). If a characteristic is observed by estimation (for example 'Number of lobes' observed by estimation), the assessment is a visual observation (V).

[End of Annex and of document]