



TWA/43/13

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: July 30, 2014

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

Geneva

TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR AGRICULTURAL CROPS**Forty-Third Session****Mar del Plata, Argentina, November 17 to 21, 2014**

REVISION OF DOCUMENT TGP/7: COVERAGE OF THE TEST GUIDELINES

*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 present a proposal for revision of document TGP/7 "Development of Test Guidelines", Chapter 4.2: "Examination of uniformity", concerning guidance for varieties with types of propagation that are not specified in the Test Guidelines.

2. The following abbreviations are used in this document:

CAJ:	Administrative and Legal Committee
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
TWV:	Technical Working Party for Vegetables
TWPs:	Technical Working Parties

BACKGROUND

3. The TC, at its fiftieth session held in Geneva, from April 7 to 9, 2014, agreed to request the Office of the Union to develop guidance for Test Guidelines that are developed on the basis of varieties with one type of propagation when varieties may be developed in the future with other types of propagation (see document TC/50/36 "Report on the Conclusions", paragraph 69).

4. In the case of Test Guidelines with only one type of propagation, Chapter 4.2: "Uniformity" either specifies the type of propagation (ASW 8 (a)(i)) or makes no reference to the type of propagation (ASW 8 (c)(i)), as follows:

ASW 8 (a)(i):

“(a) Cross-pollinated varieties

“(i) Test Guidelines covering only cross-pollinated varieties

“The assessment of uniformity should be according to the recommendations for cross-pollinated varieties in the General Introduction.”

ASW 8 (c)(i):

“(c) Uniformity assessment by off-types (all characteristics observed on the same sample size)

“(i) Test Guidelines covering only varieties with uniformity assessed by off-types

“For the assessment of uniformity, a population standard of { x }% and an acceptance probability of at least { y } % should be applied. In the case of a sample size of { a } plants, [{ b } off-types are] / [1 off-type is] allowed.”

PROPOSAL

5. Three possible approaches are presented for consideration:

Approach 1: No change

6. Make no reference to the type of propagation in Chapter 4.2 and revise the Test Guidelines if varieties with new types of propagation are developed. This is the same approach that is used for many aspects of the Test Guidelines, such as for new states of expression and new characteristics. ASW 8 (a)(i) and ASW 8 (c)(i) would remain unchanged.

Approach 2: Specify existing type of propagation

7. Recommend the uniformity according to a specific method of propagation (see ASW 8 (a)(i)) and revise the Test Guidelines if varieties with new types of propagation are developed. No change would be required to ASW 8(a)(i). This approach would require an amendment to ASW 8 (c) to read as follows:

“ASW 8 (TG Template: Chapter 4.2) – Uniformity assessment

[...]

“(c) *Uniformity assessment by off-types (all characteristics observed on the same sample size)*

~~(i) *Test Guidelines covering only varieties with uniformity assessed by off-types*~~

~~“For the assessment of uniformity, a population standard of { x }% and an acceptance probability of at least { y } % should be applied. In the case of a sample size of { a } plants, [{ b } off-types are] / [1 off-type is] allowed.”~~

~~(ii) *Test Guidelines covering varieties with uniformity assessed by off-types and other types of varieties*~~

“For the assessment of uniformity of [self-pollinated] [vegetatively propagated] [seed-propagated] varieties, a population standard of { x }% and an acceptance probability of at least { y } % should be applied. In the case of a sample size of { a } plants, [{ b } off-types are] / [1 off-type is] allowed.’

[...]

Approach 3: Specify existing type of propagation and anticipate future developments

8. Recommend the uniformity according to a specific method of propagation (see ASW 8 (a)(i)) and provide specific guidance on how to deal with new types of propagation of varieties in Section 4.2. This approach would require an amendment to ASW 8 to read as follows:

“ASW 8 (TG Template: Chapter 4.2) – Uniformity assessment

(a) *“Cross-pollinated varieties*

(i) *“Test Guidelines covering only cross-pollinated varieties*

“The assessment of uniformity should be according to the recommendations for cross-pollinated varieties in the General Introduction.’

“These Test Guidelines have been developed for the examination of cross-pollinated varieties. For varieties with other types of propagation the recommendations in the General Introduction and document TGP/13 “Guidance for new types and species”, Section 4.5: “Testing Uniformity” should be followed.”

[...]

“(c) *Uniformity assessment by off-types (all characteristics observed on the same sample size)*

~~(i) *Test Guidelines covering only varieties with uniformity assessed by off-types*~~

~~“For the assessment of uniformity, a population standard of { x }% and an acceptance probability of at least { y } % should be applied. In the case of a sample size of { a } plants, [{ b } off-types are] / [1 off-type is] allowed.”~~

~~(ii) *Test Guidelines covering varieties with uniformity assessed by off-types and other types of varieties*~~

~~“For the assessment of uniformity of [self-pollinated] [vegetatively propagated] [seed-propagated] varieties, a population standard of { x }% and an acceptance probability of at least { y } % should be applied. In the case of a sample size of { a } plants, [{ b } off-types are] / [1 off-type is] allowed.’~~

“These Test Guidelines have been developed for the examination of [type of propagation] varieties. For varieties with other types of propagation the recommendations in the General Introduction and document TGP/13 “Guidance for new types and species”, Section 4.5: “Testing Uniformity” should be followed.”

9. *The TWA is invited to consider the proposal for revision of document TGP/7, Section 4.2, to provide guidance on the use of the Test Guidelines for varieties with other types of propagation.*

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