



TWC/30/13

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

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TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY ON AUTOMATION AND COMPUTER PROGRAMS

Thirtieth Session
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, June 26 to 29, 2012

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-sixth session, held in Geneva from March 22 to 24, 2010 agreed that, in a future revision of TGP/7 (document TGP/7/3), consideration should be given to providing guidance on the indication of observation by Measurement (M) for characteristics such as dates (e.g. time of flowering) and counts (e.g. number of leaf lobes).

Comments by the Technical Working Parties at their Sessions in 2011

4. The TWA, the TWC, the TWV, the TWO and the TWF considered the background information concerning "Guidance for method of observation" and noted the comments by the TWPs at their sessions in 2010 (see documents TWA/40/23 "Report", paragraph 14, TWC/29/31 "Report", paragraph 12, TWV/45/26 "Report", paragraph 15, TWO/44/26 "Report", paragraph 12, TWF/42/26 Rev. "Revised Report", paragraph 14).
5. The TWC agreed that any records of observation by notes correspond to a visual (V) observation (see document TWC/29/31 "Report", paragraph 13).

6. The TWO and the TWF welcomed the observation by the TWC, at its twenty-ninth session, held from June 7 to 10, 2011, that any records of observation by notes correspond to a visual (V) observation (see document TWF/42/11, paragraph 24). The TWF agreed that this guidance should be included in TGP/7 (see documents TWO/44/26 "Report", paragraph 13, TWF/42/26 Rev. "Revised Report", paragraph 15).

Comments by the TC-EDC in 2012

7. The TC-EDC, at its meeting held in Geneva on January 11 and 12, 2012 considered "Guidance for method of Observation", as presented in Annex II of this document, and noted the comments of the TWPs in 2011, and recommended changes as follows:

Annex II, heading above paragraph 4	to read " <i>Scenario A (Explanation: the time of flowering is assessed by date)</i> "
Annex II, heading above paragraph 6	to read " <i>Scenario B (Explanation: the time of flowering is assessed by comparison with other varieties)</i> "
Annex II, paragraph 7	to add third example for (V): "Stem: number of spines" with states (1) none or few, (3) medium, (5) many
Annex II, paragraph 8	to read "If a characteristic is observed as an actual number (for example 'Number of lobes'), the assessment is a measurement (M). If a characteristic is observed by an estimation (for example 'Number of spines'), the assessment is a visual observation (V)."

Comments by the Technical Committee in 2012

8. The TC, at its forty-eighth session held in Geneva from March 26 to 28, 2012 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).

9. 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).

10. The 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 contained in the Annex to this document.

[Annex follows]

GN 25 - Recommendations for conducting the examination

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

Time of flowering		
QN	early	3
	medium	5
	late	7

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

[End of Annex and of document]