

PLUTO



UPOV Plant Variety Database

GUIDANCE ON THE “TAG” FORMAT FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF DATA TO PLUTO

INTRODUCTION

1. This document describes the format for electronic transmission of plant variety information using the “TAG” format (text file).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
DEFINITIONS	2
IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF INFORMATION.....	2
STRUCTURE OF INDIVIDUAL RECORDS	2
LIST OF MINIMUM INFORMATION.....	3
FORMAT DESCRIPTION AND RULES	4
OPERATIONAL DETAILS.....	4
DETAILS ON CERTAIN ITEMS	5
HANDLING OF MISSING INFORMATION.....	7
PROPOSED CODES FOR IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ITEMS	8
NOTES.....	9
HYPOTHETICALLY WORKED EXAMPLE PLUS COMMENTS	11

DEFINITIONS

2. For the purposes of this document, the following definitions apply:

(a) Object: One variety in terms of PBR, PLP, PAT, NLI, BIL or other lists of a country or intergovernmental organization (ZZZ). (For explanations on the abbreviations, see [page 8](#).)

(b) Item of information: A piece of information concerning an object.

(c) Identifier of the object: A code or string of characters which uniquely identify the object. Each country or organization should assign a unique identifier to each variety within the country or organization. If it is unable to do so for the time being, it should inform the Office of UPOV.

(d) Description of an object: A description containing the up-to-date value of each available individual item of information.

(e) Transmission of information: A transfer of a file, from a country or organization, containing validated information on the description of the objects at the date specified by the country or organization.

(f) File: A collection of records placed on a machine-readable carrier.

(g) Record: A unit in a file describing an object. It contains the identifier, the description and the status of the object.

(h) Record status: A statement whether the record is new, whether one or more items of information have changed since the last transmission of data, or whether the record is unchanged. The status unknown should be avoided as far as possible.

IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF INFORMATION

3. For ease of processing files and selecting information, each item of information must be preceded by a code which identifies what the item represents. The code is a three digit number and is preceded by the character < and followed by the character >. That code is called a TAG. [Page 8](#) sets forth the codes to be used.

4. An example of how an item of information should appear in a record with its identification code is as follows:

```
<500>GERBERA CASS  
<220>19930716
```

Here the botanical name has the identification code 500. Information is also provided on the date of application (code 220).

STRUCTURE OF INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

5. Individual records should be structured as follows:

```
<000>[start of record]record status  
<190>country/organization providing information  
<010>type of record and (variety) identifier  
<NNN>item of information  
<NNN>item of information  
<920>items of information which have changed since last transmission (optional).
```

There should be neither spaces before the items, between the TAG and the information, nor between the records describing two varieties.

6. Where an item of information occurs more than once, e.g. multiple "maintainers", each occurrence is preceded by the identical identification code:

```
<732>CEBECO  
<732>ZPC
```

7. A record must begin with "start of record" tag <000> followed by the identification fields <190> and <010> in sequence. Subsequent items can be presented in any order.
8. If an item has several subfields these should be separated from each other by a blank, e.g.:

<540>19951129 Superstar
9. **Items <000>, <190> and <010> constitute the key which enables an object to be identified and must thus always be included.**
10. Item <920> is optional.
11. The order in which the items are given is without significance. A hypothetically worked example plus comments on the format in which data should be submitted is reproduced on [page 10](#).

LIST OF MINIMUM INFORMATION

12. The following items are mandatory:

- (a) For all varieties
 - <000>(start of record)Record status
 - <190>Country or organization providing information
 - <010>Type of record and (variety) identifier
 - <511>UPOV code
 - <500>Species--Botanical name
 - <731>Breeder's name
 - either* <509>Species--Common name in English
 - or* <510>Species--common name *(or both)*
 - either* <540>Date + denomination, proposed, first appearance or first entry in database
 - or* <600>Breeder's reference *(or both)*

List (a) also applies to information of ZZZ type of record (non-protected, non-listed varieties from breeder's catalogues, publications, etc.).

- (b) For varieties where protection/listing is requested

All of (a) plus:

- <210>Application number
- <220>Application/filing date
- <730>Applicant's name

List (b) applies only to information of PBR, PLP, PAT and NLI types of record. (For explanations of the abbreviations, see [page 8](#).)

- (c) For varieties which are protected/listed

All of (a) and (b) plus:

- <542>Date + denomination, approved
- <111>Grant number/registration number
- <610>Start date--grant/registration
- either* <665>Calculated future expiration date
- or* <666>Type of date followed by end date *(never both)*
- either* <732>Maintainer's name *(for listed varieties)*
- or* <733>Title holder's name *(for protected varieties)*

List (c) only applies when protection has been granted or the variety has been listed.

- (d) Additional Information for Non-Protected, Non-Listed Varieties

The minimum information for non-protected, non-listed varieties (type of record ZZZ) are all items listed above under (a). If there is a need for more information to be given, that additional information (e.g. names of breeder's catalogues, title and publisher of books or other sources) should be placed under <900>Other Relevant Information (phrase indexed) or <910>Remarks (word indexed).

FORMAT DESCRIPTION AND RULES

13. The following rules are applicable:

(a) Character set: Characters as defined in ISO/IEC Standard 8859 1: 1998; should be used; UTF-8 encoding should be used.

(b) Item value format: the item value can be a date, a number or an alphanumeric string of characters.

- Dates must be given in the form YYYYMMDD (YearMonthDay), e.g. 19930903 (ISO Standard 8601). Only valid and complete dates may be given. **The date field should be left blank if it is part of the information or not included at all if it is the only information in the item.**
- Within a given country, a harmonized number of digits should be chosen for the indication of numbers of a given item and numbers should be given right-justified with zero filling on the left. (See Hypothetically Worked Example on [page 10](#).)
- An alphanumeric string should always be recorded as left-justified, with trailing blanks being ignored. (See Hypothetically Worked Example on [page 10](#).)

(c) Each item of information should start on a new line. Free text should be presented on one single line (without a line or paragraph break).

OPERATIONAL DETAILS

14. All participating offices should provide together with their first submission of plant variety data any necessary information—for instance, regarding the filing/registration numbers used by them for both plant variety rights and national listing, etc.—which are needed for the correct interpretation and understanding of their data or explanations on any mandatory items they are not yet submitting or on data they are unable to submit because of special situations in their country (e.g. no national list exists, thus no NLI data can be submitted). **Each country should prepare a draft of those explanations considered important by itself. The text would be included in the detailed information by country in [content.pdf](#) file available at <https://www.upov.int/pluto/en/>.**

DETAILS ON CERTAIN ITEMS

15. Further details are given below for certain items:

<000>(start of record)Record status

Please indicate the status of each record as follows:

- 1 = new record
- 2 = modified record

Any records with status 0 (unknown) will not be retained in the database.

Any records with status 3 (unchanged) will temporarily be uploaded where the contributor has not been able to indicate whether the record was new or modified. However, once the full data has been included in PLUTO, only new or modified data will have to be uploaded.

<010>Type of record and Variety identifier

Type of record (either or):

- PBR: Plant Breeders' Rights
- PLP: Plant Patents
- PAT: Patents for Inventions
- NLI: National Lists
- BIL: Bilateral Agreements for Testing
- ZZZ: Other (to be explained in the content file).

Variety identifier:

For harmonization purposes, please follow the rules below:

- no use of comma
- open ended field
- harmonized number of numeric positions (5 or 6) within one single country with zero filling on the left, e.g. presentation 000123

<540>Date + denomination, proposed, first appearance or first entry in database

This item should mention, in case of rejection of a first proposal for a denomination, not only the date of the first appearance of the first proposal but also in every case the date of first appearance of the second proposal. **If the original denomination is in non-Roman characters, transliteration into Roman characters must be given.** (See Hypothetically Worked Example on [page 10](#).)

<540>Date + denomination, proposed, first appearance or first entry in database

<541>Date + proposed denomination, published

<542>Date + denomination, approved

<543>Date + denomination, rejected or withdrawn

<600>Breeder's reference

<731>Breeder's name

Varieties which are protected and included in an official catalogue (listed) should have only one single identifier, but two complete sets of information, e.g. one as PBR 12345 and the other as NLI 12345. The information items <540>, <541>, <542>, <543>, <600>, <731> should, however, contain the same information (same dates, same denomination in NLI and PBR).

The date of approval of a denomination has to be one single date; **the same denomination cannot be approved twice in one single country at different times**. Thus always the first date has also to be given in the second case.

<620>Start date—renewal of registration

This item should not be used for the annual renewal of a protected variety. It **should be used only for renewal of national listing (or in the few cases of States foreseeing that protection can be extended after the first period has elapsed)**.

<600>Breeder's reference

This item is very important in order to link with information on a variety which is also protected in another member, but under a different denomination. If available, it should always be included in the record; if not available, at least item <540>Date + denomination, proposed, first appearance or first entry in database, should be included and an explanation should be given to be included in the content.pdf file. As breeders frequently apply intentionally for different denominations in different States for the same variety, **the breeder's reference is one of the few ways to know whether an application in another country has been made for the same variety.**

<151>Publication date of data regarding the grant/registration

This item should include only information on the date of the grant or the inclusion in list. It should not include dates of publication concerning a termination.

<665>Calculated future expiration date

<666>Type of date followed by end date

Each record with a grant date should include either <665> showing the calculated future expiration date of the right according to the maximum number of years of protection foreseen by the PVP legislation of the contributing UPOV member, for the species concerned, or <666> showing the actual end date of the protection/registration. Item <666> only applies to dates of the past where the protection or listing actually ended. For future end dates, item <665> should be used.

For <666>, the type of end of protection should be separated from the date by a blank. The types of end of protection are the following:

REJ: Rejection
EXP: Expiration
DEL: Deletion
WDR: Withdrawal
TER: Termination
SUR: Surrender.

A termination (TER) or expiration (EXP) means that a right or an inclusion in a list existed before. Thus for terminated varieties information on listing or protection should be given (see mandatory items above). Termination means that the right has been terminated by the plant variety protection office before its foreseeable end. Expiration means that the right has lapsed at the end of the possible maximum period.

<730>-<740>Names

Names should be presented in a way that the surname is followed by a comma and the forename, etc., as otherwise phrase indexing would be misleading. Titles (e.g. Dr.) or other prefixes should not be placed at the beginning of the name. Names should also all be presented in the same way, not some in capitals and others with only the first letter in capitals.

If applicable, addresses should be given in the name field; in this case, they should be delimited by a vertical bar '|' as otherwise word indexing would lead to a too noisy index (would contain even street name). Only the part before the vertical bar would be indexed. The address would thus not be indexed.

<732>Maintainer's name

Item <732> should be used for all maintenance of a variety covering

- (a) maintenance of a protected variety (a protected variety may have several different maintainers) and
- (b) maintenance for national listing.

<733>Title holder's name

Item <733> should only be used in case of protection. The person requesting inclusion in a national list or having obtained inclusion in the list is not a title holder but the maintainer of the variety (<732>). In the case of a rejection, there is an applicant (<730>), but no title holder (<733>).

<740>Type of other party followed by party's name

A code should always be used for the type of the other party before the name (e.g. AGT DANUBIA PATENT BUREAU). A blank should be added between the type and the name. The following codes of type are foreseen:

AGT: Agent
CLH: Compulsory License Holder
ELH: Exclusive License Holder
OPN: Other Party's Name.

<220>Application/filing date

<300>Priority application: country, type of record, date of application, application number

In case of a priority application, the date under <220> should not be the priority date in the other country, but the real application date. The priority date should be given under <300>. All subfields should be separated by a blank.

<320>Other countries: Country, denomination if different from denomination in application

Item <320> should also be used for varieties which are tested under bilateral test agreements. All subfields should be separated by a blank.

<900>Other Relevant Information

<910>Remarks

Those two items are foreseen for any other information considered useful or necessary. Item <900> is phrase indexed. Item <910> is word indexed.

HANDLING OF MISSING INFORMATION

16. Missing information should be handled as follows:

(a) Part of an item is missing

If part of an item is missing, e.g. if the date for item <542> is missing, the item should be kept and presented as follows: <542>.....DENOMINATION (8 spaces to replace the missing date + 1 space before the denomination = 9 spaces). Filling of the missing information should be done by blank spaces. The use of a wrong or fictive date (19000000) will lead to a rejection. Countries which have information available only for a whole year, should give a fixed valid date for that year (e.g. December 31).

(b) All information for an item is missing

If all information for an item is missing, the item should be deleted.

PROPOSED CODES FOR IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ITEMS

<u>TAG</u>	<u>Description of item</u>	<u>Field structure</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<000>	Start of record: Record status	N1	(1)
<190>	Country or organization providing information	A2	(2)
<010>	Type of record and (variety) identifier	A3 + open ended	(3)
<500>	Species--botanical name	open ended	
<509>	Species--common name in English	open ended	R
<510>	Species--common name in national language other than English	open ended	R
<520>	Species--common name in national language other than English in non-Roman alphabet	open ended	R
<511>	Species--UPOV code		
	DENOMINATIONS		(4)
<540>	Date + denomination, proposed, first appearance or first entry in data base	N8 + open ended	R
<550>	Date + denomination, proposed, first appearance or first entry in data base in non-Roman alphabet	N8 + open ended	R
<541>	Date + proposed denomination, published	N8 + open ended	R
<551>	Date + proposed denomination, published in non-Roman alphabet	N8 + open ended	R
<542>	Date + denomination, approved	N8 + open ended	
<552>	Date + denomination, approved in non-Roman alphabet	N8 + open ended	
<543>	Date + denomination, rejected or withdrawn	N8 + open ended	R
<553>	Date + denomination, rejected or withdrawn in non-Roman alphabet	N8 + open ended	R
<600>	Breeder's reference	open ended	(5)
<650>	Breeder's reference in non-Roman alphabet		(5)
<601>	Synonym of variety denomination		R
<651>	Synonym of variety denomination in non-Roman alphabet		R
<602>	Trade name		R
<652>	Trade name in non-Roman alphabet		R
<210>	Application number	open ended	
<220>	Application/filing date	N8	
<400>	Publication date of data regarding the application (protection)/filing (listing)	N8	
<111>	Grant number (protection)/registration number (listing)	open ended	
<151>	Publication date of data regarding the grant (protection)/registration (listing)	N8	
<610>	Start date--grant (protection)/registration (listing)	N8	
<620>	Start date--renewal of registration (listing)	N8	R
<665>	Calculated future expiration date	N8	
<666>	Type of end followed by actual end date	A3 + N8	(6)
	PARTIES CONCERNED		(7)
<730>	Applicant's name	open ended	R
<750>	Applicant's name in non-Roman alphabet	open ended	R
<731>	Breeder's name	open ended	R
<751>	Breeder's name in non-Roman alphabet	open ended	R
<732>	Maintainer's name	open ended	R
<752>	Maintainer's name in non-Roman alphabet	open ended	R
<733>	Title holder's name	open ended	R
<753>	Title holder's name in non-Roman alphabet	open ended	R
<740>	Type of other party + Party's name	A3 + open ended	R (8)
<760>	Type of other party + Party's name in non-Roman alphabet	A3 + open ended	R (8)

<u>TAG</u>	<u>Description of item</u>	<u>Field structure</u>	<u>Notes</u>
	INFORMATION REGARDING EQUIVALENT APPLICATIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES		(7)
<300>	Priority application: Country + type of record + date of application + application number	A2 + A3 + N8 + open ended	R
<310>	Other applications: Country + type of record + date of application + application number	A2 + A3 + N8 + open ended	R
<320>	Other countries: Country + denomination if different from denomination in application	A2 + open ended	R
<330>	Other countries: Country + breeder's reference if different from breeder's reference in application	A2 + open ended	R
<900>	Other relevant information (phrase indexed)	open ended	R (9)
<910>	Remarks (word indexed)	free text	
<920>	Tags of items of information which have changed since last transmission (optional)	N3	R (10)
<998>	FIG	A3	
<999>	Image identifier (for future use)		(11)
<800>	Commercialization date	A12	(12)

NOTES

General: For data presented in a text file (.txt), subfield elements should always be separated by a space
 A = alphanumeric field
 N = numeric field
 R = repeatable

(1) Every record must start with the record status (tag <000> Start of record).
 Record status values are:

1 = New record
 2 = Modified record

(2) ISO Alpha-2 country/organization code (see <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search>)

(3) Type of record and (variety) identifier

(a) Type of record values:

PBR (Plant Breeders' Rights)	NLI (National Lists)
PLP (Plant Patents)	BIL (Bilateral Agreements for Testing)
PAT (Patents for Invention)	ZZZ (Other)

(b) (Variety) Identifier: to be given by the originator of data (might be identical to application or filing number).

(4) Multiple occurrences possible.

(5) As given by breeder

(6) The date should always be preceded by the "type of date" coded as follows:

REJ (rejection)	EXP (expiration)
DEL (deletion)	WDR (withdrawal)
TER (termination)	SUR (surrender).

(7) Multiple occurrences possible; the name should always be preceded by the "type of name" as follows

AGT (Agent)	CLH (Compulsory License Holder)
ELH (Exclusive License Holder)	OPN (Other Party Name).

(8) For data presented in a text file (.txt): The information should always be coded in the order indicated.

(9) Relevant information might include the following

' marketed since [date] '
' in gene bank since [date] '
' in international register '
' in private catalogue '
' in other publications '
' literature reference. '

(10) Optional information

(11) Under consideration: possibility to provide hyperlink to image (e.g. an authority's webpage).

(12) Example: "AB CD 20120119 source status"
or "AB CD 2012 source status".

HYPOTHETICALLY WORKED EXAMPLE FOR DATA PRESENTED IN A TEXT FILE - PLUS COMMENTS

Note: Each field of information must be delimited by CR/LF (carriage return ¶)

<000>1 1 = new record (other: 2 = modified record), mandatory.
<190>XX XX = ISO code of country/organization providing information, mandatory. (See list of ISO country codes at <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#search>)
<010>PBR 00456 PBR = Plant Breeders' rights, number 456 (other: PLP = plant patent; NLI = national listing; PAT = patent for invention; BIL = bilateral agreement for testing; ZZZ = other).

Each record must start with mandatory fields <000>, <190> and <010>

<500>Gerbera L. Botanical name of species, mandatory
<509>Gerbera Common name of species in English, mandatory if no common name in national language (<510>) is given
<510>Gerbera Common name of species in national language other than English, mandatory if no English common name (<509>) is given
<511>GERBE UPOV code, mandatory
<540>19890430 LIGHT Date of proposal and proposed denomination will show multiple occurrence if the first proposal has been replaced by a second one, mandatory if no breeder's reference (<600>) is given
<540>19900104 LIGHTNING
<541>19890625 LIGHT Date of publication of proposal will show multiple occurrence if the first proposal has been rejected or withdrawn
<541>19900110 LIGHTNING
<542>19900225 LIGHTNING Date and approved denomination, mandatory if protected or listed
<543>19891113 LIGHT Date and the rejected or withdrawn proposal
<601>BRIGHT LIGHT Synonym of the variety denomination
<602>BEAUTY OF X Trade name
<600>BS359 Breeder's reference, mandatory if existing
<210>GE 00739 Application number, mandatory if application exists
<220>19890215 Date of application, ISO 8601 Standard for dates, mandatory if application exists
<400>19890315 Date of publication of application
<111>GE01037 Grant number, mandatory if existing
<151>19900301 Date of publication of grant
<610>19900225 Date of grant, mandatory if existing
<665>20100224 Calculated future expiration date, mandatory if grant/listing (<620> only for renewal of registration in national list)
<666>WDR 19940609 Date of withdrawal (WDR = withdrawal) mandatory if existing (other: REJection, DELetion, TERmination, EXPiration, SURrender)
<730>FLORA AG Applicant's name, mandatory if application exists
<731>SMITH GEORGE Breeder's name, mandatory
<732>MUELLER ELISABETH Maintainer's name, mandatory if listed
<733>MUELLER GERDA Name of title holder, mandatory if protected
<740>ELH SCHMIDT HEINZ ELH=Exclusive license holder's name (other: AGT = agent, CLH = compulsory licence holder, OPN = other party name)
<300>GB PBR I9881012 Information regarding other countries, priority application in United Kingdom (GB) for Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) from October 12, 1988, with the application number 54321
54321 (<310> other applications)
<320>US BRIGHT LIGHT Marketed in US under the name of Bright Light (<330> other countries)
<910>IN INTERNATIONAL REGISTER Remarks (word indexed)
<900> Other relevant information; phrase indexed)
<920> Tags of items of information which have changed since last transmission; optional)
<998> Figurative elements, e.g. Japanese names)
<999> Image identifier for future use)

[end]