UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL LIST TRIALS: PROTOCOL FOR INSPECTION AND TECHNICAL VALIDATION OF TRIALS FOR VALUE FOR CULTIVATION AND USE (VCU)

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SECTION A - GENERAL INFORMATION

A.1 INTRODUCTION


A.1.2 It is a condition of acceptance, (under Article 4.1 of the Directive and Regulation 5(3)(c) of the Regulations), that a variety must be of satisfactory value for cultivation and use.

A.1.3 Value for cultivation and use is assessed by tests and growing trials in accordance with the appropriate protocol and procedures.

A.2 PURPOSE

A.2.1 The requirements for conducting inspection and technical validation of growing trials, tests and assessments in relation to official examinations of VCU of varieties of agricultural crops entered for National List Trials are set out in this protocol and in the following associated document:

UK National List Trials: Procedures for Inspection and Data Validation of Trials for Value for Cultivation and Use.

A.3 SCOPE

A.3.1 This protocol applies to all species of agricultural crops entered for UK National List trials.

A.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

A.4.1 The inspection and validation of growing trials, tests and assessments in this protocol is carried out under the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Ministers, the Welsh Government and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD) (the National Authorities).

A.4.2 They are supervised, by officials of the National Authorities, i.e. the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), the Scottish Government Agriculture, Food and Rural Communities Directorate (SGAFRC) the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARD) and the Welsh Government (WG).

A.4.3 This protocol is authorised by the Plant Variety and Seeds Committee (PVSC). It cannot be amended without their approval. Requests and suggestions for amendment of the protocol should be put in writing to the Plant Varieties and Seeds, APHA.
A.4.4 This protocol is administered by:

Plant Varieties and Seeds (PVS)
Animal and Plant Health Agency
Eastbrook
Shaftesbury Road
Cambridge      Tel. No.  03000 600497
CB2 8DR         Fax. No.  03000 602115
            Email  pvs.helpdesk@apha.gsi.gov.uk

A.4.5 Trial Organisers, Trial Design and Data Handling Operators, Trials Inspection and Technical Validation Operators.

All Trial Organisers, Trial Design and Data Handling Operators and Trials Inspection and Technical Validation Operators involved in the protocol referred to in paragraph A.2.1 must be approved by the National Authorities and have access to suitable facilities and expertise.

A.5. COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROTOCOL

A.5.1 If non-compliance occurs or there are concerns regarding the validity of any data, tests or trials, this must be reported to PVS.

SECTION B – TRIALS INSPECTION

All VCU trials will be inspected at least once by the appropriate Trials Inspection and Technical Validation Operator, following the requirements of the appropriate procedures.

SECTION C – TRIALS DATA VALIDATION

C.1 TECHNICAL VALIDATION OF TRIALS

C.1.1 The preliminary validation of the trials plot data will be undertaken by the Trial Design and Data Handling Operator in accordance with the technical validation procedures and reported to the Trials Inspection and Technical Validation Operator.

C.1.2 The Trials Inspection and Technical Validation Operator shall complete validation of the trials data, taking into account any problems reported during the trials inspection(s) and any initial comments made on the data by the Trial Design and Data Handling Operator.

C.2 STATISTICAL VALIDATION OF TRIALS

C.2.1 Statistical validation of data validated by the Trials Inspection and Technical Validation Operator shall be conducted by the Trial Design and Data Handling Operator.