

UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL LIST TRIALS: PROTOCOL FOR DATA REVIEW, STANDARD SETTING AND DECISION MAKING FOR OFFICIAL EXAMINATION OF VALUE FOR CULTIVATION AND USE (VCU)

Page

SECTION A - GENERAL INFORMATION	2
A.1 INTRODUCTION	2
A.2 PURPOSE	2
A.3 SCOPE	2
A.4 RESPONSIBILITIES	2
A.5 COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROTOCOL	3
SECTION B – DATA REVIEW, STANDARD SETTING AND DECISION MAKING	3
APPENDIX 1 - APPROVED DATA REVIEW AND STANDARD SETTING OPERATORS	4

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SECTION A - GENERAL INFORMATION

A.1 INTRODUCTION

A.1.1 An agricultural plant variety is accepted by the National Authorities on to a National List in accordance with the provisions of the Seeds (National List of Varieties) Regulations 2001 (S.I. 2001 No. 3510). These Regulations implement Council Directive 2002/53/EC on the Common Catalogue of Varieties of Agricultural Plant Species (Common Catalogue Directive).

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 data review, standards setting and decision making in relation to official examinations of VCU of varieties of agricultural crops entered for National List Trials are set out in this protocol.

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 data review, standards setting and decision making of growing trials, tests and assessments in this protocol are 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 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
CB2 8DR

Tel. No. 03000 600497
Fax. No. 03000 602115
Email pvs.helpdesk@apha.gsi.gov.uk

A.4.5 All Data Review and Standard Setting Operators must be approved by the National Authorities and have access to suitable facilities and expertise. Approved operators are listed in Appendix 1.

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 – DATA REVIEW, STANDARD SETTING AND DECISION MAKING

B.1 The Data Review and Standard Setting Operator receives validated trials data and results from the Data Handling Operator and prepares data summaries for the National List and Seeds Committee (NLSC).

B.2 For crops designated as minor by the PVSC and NLSC, data review is by analysis of variance and comparison of candidates with control varieties, following standard statistical procedures and other approaches recommended by the Interdepartmental Statisticians Group (IDSG).

B.3 For other crops, data review is carried out by standard setting, a statistical approach developed by the IDSG for the NLSC. This compares candidates with varieties already on the National List.

B.4 The NLSC will examine the data summaries and other relevant information, to make decisions for National Listing in accordance with the EC Common Catalogue Directives, which establish the need for a candidate variety to show satisfactory value for cultivation and use in relation to varieties already on the United Kingdom National List.

Approved Data Review and Standard Setting Operators

Crop

NIAB	Huntingdon Road, Cambridge. CB3 0LE	Wheat Barley Oats Oilseeds Pulses Herbage Maize Sugar Beet Other minor crops
BioSS	Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland JCMB Kings Buildings Edinburgh EH93JZ	Potatoes