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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON TRADE**

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

**Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes**

Thirty-ninth session

Geneva, 15-17 March 2010

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Questionnaire on varietal identity and purity

**DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Submitted by the Chairman of the Specialized Section\*

A draft questionnaire on varietal identity and purity discussed at the Extended Bureau meeting in Belgium/Luxembourg in October 2009 is submitted to the Specialized Section for finalization.

This document is being issued pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Working Party's Terms of Reference.

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\* The present document has been submitted after the official documentation deadline by the Trade and Timber Division due to resource constraints.

## I. VARIETAL IDENTITY

Compliance with the varietal-identity requirements in section II of the Standard is the first step in the certification of seed potatoes. As the official label bears the variety name, it is important to describe the methods used to verify the varietal identity. This questionnaire will assess the current practice applied by Designated Authorities (DA) to inform a possible common approach to be added to the standard.

**1. What methods are used to check the varietal identity? Tick all that apply**

- (a) Control of traceability through administrative records
- (b) Comparative grow out of a sample in field with a reference collection
- (c) Visual inspections of the crop with reference to official description
- (d) Visual inspections of the lot (tubers) with reference to official description
- (e) Others...  Specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) Molecular genotyping. Describe the methodology (SSR, RFLP, RAPD)

**2. At what stage(s) of the seed potato production scheme is varietal identity checked and what are the methods used?**

- (a) For initial material: ...
- (b) For pre-basic category:
  - (i) Class pre-basic TC: ...
  - (ii) Other pre-basic classes: ...
- (c) For basic category: ...
- (d) For certified category: ...

**1. and 2. above could be combined into this table:**

**Table. What are the methods used to check the varietal identity and at what stage are they applied? Tick all that apply**

	Initial stock	PBTC	Pre-basic	Basic	Certified
Control of traceability through administrative records	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comparative grow out of a sample in field with a reference collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visual inspections of the crop with reference to official description	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visual inspections of the lot (tubers) with reference to official description	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Molecular genotyping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify in next section, below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**3. When a new variety is named, who provides the parental material to generate the initial stock before the variety enters the classification scheme (i.e. the definitive propagating material submitted for pathogen testing)?**

- (a) Breeder
- (b) Variety registration service
- (c) Official initial stock collection
- (d) Certification service
- (e) Commercial micro-propagation service
- (f) Grower
- (g) Other

Specify:

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**4. Who holds the initial stock collection?**

- (a) Breeder
- (b) Variety registration service
- (c) Official initial stock collection
- (d) Certification service
- (e) Commercial micro-propagation service
- (f) Grower
- (g) Other

Specify:

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**5. How is varietal identity checked (specify)?**

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**6. At the start of each seed-multiplication cycle, who provides the initial material for the first field generation at the start of the certification process?**

- (a) Breeder
- (b) Variety registration service
- (c) Official initial stock collection
- (d) Certification service
- (e) Commercial micro-propagation service
- (f) Grower

(g) Other

Specify:

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**7. How is varietal identity checked (specify)?**

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**8. Who is responsible of the varietal identity at each stage?**

	Original parental material	Initial stock	PBTC	Pre-basic	Basic	Certified
Breeder						
Variety registration service						
Official initial stock collection						
Certification service						
Commercial micropropagation service						
Grower						
Inspection service						
Other (specify)						

**9. Who checks the varietal identity at each stage?**

	Original parental material	Initial stock	PBTC	Pre-basic	Basic	Certified
Breeder						
Variety registration service						
Official initial stock collection						
Certification service						
Commercial micropropagation service						
Grower						
Inspection service						
Other (specify)						

**10. Who is liable for losses as a result of non-compliance with varietal identity at each stage?**

	Original parental material	Initial stock	PBTC	Pre-basic	Basic	Certified
Breeder						
Variety registration service						
Official initial stock collection						
Certification service						
Commercial micropropagation service						
Grower						

	Original parental material	Initial stock	PBTC	Pre-basic	Basic	Certified
Inspection service						
Other (specify)						

**11. What training do inspectors receive in varietal identity?**

Visual identification: varieties in the field

- All varieties classified by the DA
- The most common varieties classified by the DA (how many?)  ( )
- None

Visual identification: tubers

- All varieties classified by the DA
- The most common varieties classified by the DA (how many?)  ( )
- None

**12. Other comments on control of varietal identity**

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**II. VARIETAL PURITY**

**1. Definition of purity**

What is considered not typical for the variety?

- Off-types
- Ground keepers (volunteers)
- Admixtures (other variety)
- Other  Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What tolerances are applied for purity?**

	Original parental material	Initial stock	PBTC	Pre-basic	Basic	Certified
In the crop first inspection						
In the crop final inspection						
In the lot						

Are different standards applied for off-types/ ground keepers / admixtures / other?  
Specify:

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**3. Who checks the purity?**

- (a) Inspector alone
- (b) Inspectors in pairs
- (c) Supervisor

**4. At which stage is the purity checked?**

- (a) At each field inspection
- (b) At a specific growth stage   
Specify stage: \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Inspection of a grow out of a tuber sample from each crop in the field
- (d) Inspection of the lot during grading
- (e) As part of a lot inspection

Please give details of the checks:

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**5. Are visual assessments of off-types or / and other varieties supported by:**

- (a) Laboratory tests

Specify:

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- (b) Morphological test (e.g. light sprouts)

- (c) Other tests

Specify:

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- (d) When are these supporting tests used?

Specify:

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