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Perishable Produce and Quality Development

Specialized Section on Standardization of
Seed Potatoes

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Item 4 (c) of the Provisional Agenda

REVISION OF ANNEXES II, IV AND V:
MINIMUM CONDITIONS FOR PRODUCTION OF PRE-BASIC TC

Submitted by the United Kingdom

Note: The following paper sets out proposals for revising the above Annexes to complement the proposal to introduce 'international classes' into the Standard and in particular to define more specifically the requirements for the production of Pre-basic TC class seed potatoes with cross-referencing to other schemes, where appropriate.

Proposal 1. The current Annex II could usefully be redrafted to expand on the conditions required for the production of Pre-basic TC seed potatoes (mini-tubers). These provisions would include cross referencing to the EPPO Seed Potato Certification Scheme for test methods and pathogenic organisms for which the material should be tested. The current Annex II would then become Annex I. A draft, for discussion, is set out below:

Annex I

Minimum conditions for Production of Pre-basic TC Class Seed Potatoes

1. The parent material must be true to type for the variety.
2. These seed potatoes must be produced from officially certified nuclear stock which has been tested for, as a minimum, the pests listed in Table 1 and using the test methods prescribed in Appendix I of the EPPO Seed Potato Certification Scheme (OEPP/EPPO Bulletin **29**: 253-267).
3. The facilities and procedures used for this production must be subject to official approval by the certification authority. Measures must be applied to avoid contamination e.g. protected environment, double door entry, protective clothing, dedicated footwear or disinfection. The record-keeping system should document the source of the material and the volume of production.
4. The growing medium should be pest-free.
5. All reasonable husbandry practices for the prevention or spread of pests and diseases must have been effectively carried out.
6. The growing crop must have been kept free from *Synchytrium endobioticum* (Schilb) Prc., potato viruses, bacterial diseases and from deviations of variety and type.
7. The satisfaction of these conditions and the tolerances prescribed for this class in Annexes III, IV and V shall be established by official inspection and/or testing. Confirmation of variety purity or trueness-to-type may be dependent on inspection of the crop derived from the seed potatoes.

Proposal 2 : The current wording and tolerances given for the total tolerances in A. of Annex IV do not match the recent changes made to this Annex. The total only covers disease and defects 2 to 5 and not 2 to 6 as listed in the revised version. In addition the tolerance for pre-basic for these items is 3% although the tolerance for common scab is 5%. The 2 tolerances are clearly incompatible. There is also no group tolerance for pre-basic TC.

The following amendment is suggested:

Total tolerance for items 2 to 5:

-	pre-basic TC	3 per cent by weight
	pre-basic	5 per cent by weight
	basic and certified	6 per cent by weight

Proposal 3 : The following amendments to Annex V could also be considered.

1. Provision 4 of Annex V (Trade/WP7/2000/11/Add 20) states - “In assessing the progeny of a variety carrying a chronic virus, no account will be taken of slight symptoms caused by the said virus”.

This provision seems quite inappropriate for modern seed production systems as there are a range of techniques available to clean up and multiply stocks quickly. I doubt if the international customers of seed would, in fact, be prepared to accept such stocks. The risk of infection by other viruses leading to severe symptoms would probably be unacceptable to end users in international trade and, furthermore, such stocks should be unacceptable to seed growers as they would be a source of inoculum for their other seed stocks.

The proposal is to delete this provision from the Standard.

2. Under the new para 7 proposed in Trade/WP7/GE.6/2001/8 the following text “Such testing may be conducted by ELISA as described in Appendix 1, 2(OEPP/EPPO Bulletin 29:261)” could be inserted after “by testing a sample of tubers from the crop for virus”. This addition would refer the reader to a description of a test method which is part of an internationally recommended scheme.