



**TGP/5: Section 10/2**

**ORIGINAL:** English

**DATE:** October 20, 2011

**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**

GENEVA

Associated Document  
to the  
General Introduction to the Examination  
of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability and the  
Development of Harmonized Descriptions of New Varieties of Plants (document TG/1/3)

**DOCUMENT TGP/5**

**“EXPERIENCE AND COOPERATION IN DUS TESTING”**

**Section 10: Notification of Additional Characteristics and States of Expression**

adopted by the Council  
at its forty-fifth ordinary session  
on October 20, 2011

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Document TG/1/3 “General Introduction to the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability and the Development of Harmonized Descriptions of New Varieties of Plants [General Introduction]”, Chapter 2.2.1 states that “Where UPOV has established specific Test Guidelines for a particular species, or other group(s) of varieties, these represent an agreed and harmonized approach for the examination of new varieties and, in conjunction with the basic principles contained in the General Introduction, should form the basis of the DUS test.”. However, the General Introduction states in section 4.2.3 that “The characteristics included in the individual Test Guidelines are not necessarily exhaustive and may be expanded with additional characteristics if that proves to be useful and the characteristics meet the conditions set out [in section 4.2.1]”. In addition, document TGP/7/2, Chapter 4.1.9, states that “It may become necessary for a characteristic in individual authorities’ test guidelines to be changed over time, e.g. to create new states of expression arising from breeding developments.”. In order to retain internationally harmonized variety descriptions, document TGP/5, Section 10 ‘Notification of Additional Characteristics’ provides a basis for such differences between the Test Guidelines and individual authorities’ test guidelines to be notified to all members of the Union. In that regard, it should be clarified that the notification of additional characteristics and states of expression in document TGP/5 Section 10 is not a requirement before a characteristic can be used by a member of the Union.

## 2. ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

2.1 The General Introduction states in section 4.2.3 that “The characteristics included in the individual Test Guidelines are not necessarily exhaustive and may be expanded with additional characteristics if that proves to be useful and the characteristics meet the conditions set out [in section 4.2.1]”. It further clarifies in section 4.8, “Functional Categorization of Characteristics” that the function of additional characteristics is:

“1. To identify new characteristics, not included in the Test Guidelines, that have been used by members of the Union in the examination of DUS and which should be considered for inclusion in future Test Guidelines”; and

“2. To facilitate harmonization in the development and use of new characteristics and provide opportunity for expert review.”

2.2 Document TGP/7 “Development of Test Guidelines”: GN 27 “Handling a long list of characteristics in the Table of Characteristics” states that “...in some circumstances the TWP may consider that it is unhelpful to include [in the Test Guidelines] all those characteristics which fulfill the criteria for inclusion and, if there is a full consensus amongst all interested experts, may agree to omit certain characteristics. Such omitted characteristics would then be included in document TGP/5, Experience and Cooperation in DUS Testing, in the section on “Notification of Additional Characteristics”.

2.3 The criteria which an additional characteristic must satisfy are set out in the General Introduction: section 4.8, “Functional Categorization of Characteristics”, namely it:

“1. Must satisfy the criteria for use of any characteristic for DUS as set out in Chapter 4, section 4.2 and evidence for this must be available from the submitting member of the Union”;

- “2. Must have been used to establish DUS in at least one member of the Union”; and
- “3. Such characteristics should be submitted to UPOV for inclusion in document TGP/5, ‘Experience and Cooperation in DUS Testing’.”

### 3. ADDITIONAL STATES OF EXPRESSION

Document TGP/7/2, Chapter 4.1.9, states that “It may become necessary for a characteristic in individual authorities’ test guidelines to be changed over time, e.g. to create new states of expression arising from breeding developments. Such changes would mean that the characteristic in the individual authorities’ test guidelines would become different from that in the Test Guidelines. In order to retain internationally harmonized variety descriptions, in particular for asterisked characteristics, such changes should be reported at the relevant Technical Working Party and/or submitted to UPOV for inclusion in document TGP/5, Section 10 ‘Notification of Additional Characteristics’. In the interim, members of the Union may indicate in DUS reports that the characteristic in the individual authorities’ test guidelines has some differences to the characteristic in the Test Guidelines.”

### 4. PROCEDURE FOR NOTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND STATES OF EXPRESSION

4.1 The tables in Annexes I and II to this document have been developed for the notification of additional characteristics and additional states of expression, respectively, by a member of the Union.

4.2 Proposals for additional characteristics and states of expression notified to the Office of the Union by means of document TGP/5 Section 10, will be presented to the relevant Technical Working Party(ies) (TWP(s)) at the earliest opportunity with information on the extent of use of the characteristic. The characteristics will then, as appropriate, be posted on the password-restricted area of the UPOV website ([http://www.upov.int/restricted\\_temporary/twptg/en/drafters\\_kit.html](http://www.upov.int/restricted_temporary/twptg/en/drafters_kit.html)), on the basis of comments made by the relevant TWP(s), and/or the TWP(s) may initiate a revision or a partial revision of the Test Guidelines concerned.

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX I

**Test Guidelines for [.....]: TG/[...]/[...]**  
**Additional Characteristic(s)**

Submitting Authority:

Contact Expert: Name:

Date:

Organization:

Tel.:

E-mail:

		English	français	deutsch	español	Example Varieties/ Exemples/ Beispielsorten/ Variedades ejemplo	<b>[iii]</b> Note/ Nota
<b>New 1.</b>	<b>[ii]</b>						
	<b>[i]</b>	[state]	[état]	[Stufe]	[nivel]		[ ]
		[state]	[état]	[Stufe]	[nivel]		[ ]
		[state]	[état]	[Stufe]	[nivel]		[ ]
<b>New 2.</b>							

- [i]** indicate type of expression (QL, PQ, QN)
- [ii]** indicate method of observation (VG, VS, MG, MS)
- [iii]** example varieties to be provided for at least 2 states.

Explanation / Illustration (including extent of the use of the characteristic(s)):

ANNEX II

**Test Guidelines for [.....]: TG/[...]/[...]**  
**Additional State(s) of Expression**

Submitting Authority:

Contact Expert: Name:

Date:

Organization:

Tel.:

E-mail:

	English	français	deutsch	español	Example Varieties/ Exemples/ Beispielsorten/ Variedades ejemplo	Note/ Nota
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**[Existing characteristic: to be reproduced in full from UPOV Test Guidelines (including characteristic number, type of expression, method of observation, states, example varieties and notes)]**


**[Characteristic with new state(s) of expression (including all information as above)]**


Explanation / Illustration (including extent of the use of the characteristic(s)):