REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

MINISTÈRE DE L’AGRICULTURE

**COMITÉ TECHNIQUE PERMANENT**

**DE LA SÉLECTION**

**DES PLANTES CULTIVÉES**

**C.T.P.S**

Explanatory notice for breeders

Procedure for registering varieties concerned by BREXIT in the French National List

**Preamble**:

All varieties that are concerned by this procedure and meet the different criteria may be registered in the French National List, in accordance with the regulations in force.

**Why is there this special procedure?**

This special registration procedure has been put in place due to the circumstances of Brexit, so that seed users in France or the EU will not abruptly lose access to varieties that are registered exclusively in the UK catalogue.

**Which varieties does this apply to?**

This special registration procedure applies to the following varieties:

* Varieties registered in the European Union catalogue on 30/06/2018, exclusively via the UK catalogue
* Varieties that are likely to be registered in the UK catalogue between 30/06/2018 and 29/03/2019

**How do I apply?**

Applicants must file their applications with the CTPS before 30/06/2018 using the forms at the following link. Applications can be sent by postal mail (CTPS, 25 Rue Georges Morel, CS 90024, 49071 BEAUCOUZE, FRANCE) or by email (ctps@geves.fr). Should you have any questions, please contact celine.delarue@geves.fr or virginie.bertoux@geves.fr.

The forms to be completed are based on those used for routine applications for registration in the Official French Catalogue, and have been adapted for this special procedure. For vegetable plants (List a), you will only need to fill in the administrative form and the DUS form for the species in question. For agricultural plants (list A), you will also need to fill in the relevant VCUS form.

**How will my application be processed?**

Applications filed within the framework of this special procedure will be processed as follows:

* Admissibility of the file (completeness of information provided),
* Assessment of the variety’s Value for Cultivation, Use and Sustainability (for agricultural plants) on the basis of data that has been previously acquired and provided by the applicant,
* Take-over of DUS examination results previously obtained from registration in the UK catalogue.

The variety denomination will be the same as validated by the British authorities when the variety was registered in the UK catalogue.

A Technical Regulation for registration will be specifically drafted and published by order of the Ministry of Agriculture in order to clarify this procedure.

**AGRICULTURAL SPECIES: What information and data must I provide to assess the Value for Cultivation, Use and Sustainability of my variety?**

For agricultural species concerned by Value for Cultivation, Use and Sustainability testing (species listed in Directive 2002/53), an evaluation will be conducted by an ad-hoc committee. The committee will base its decision on the data provided by the applicant. The following data is required for this evaluation:

* VCUS data obtained when the variety was registered in the UK catalogue,
* Data from the post-registration assessment carried out in the UK,
* Variety assessment data from a French Agricultural Technical Institute,
* Breeder data obtained through the breeder’s facilities or an evaluation network for commercial indexing in France,
* Data on the variety’s processing capability (value for use) is also required for certain species. In addition to the data sources previously cited, this data can be provided by industrial pilot or approved producer organisations in France.

Data provided should be as comprehensive as possible (characteristics required for committee expertise are laid down in VCUS forms), in order for the ad-hoc committee to correctly assess the admissibility of the application with regard to the objective of this special procedure.

Applicants shall choose comparison varieties from the French market where possible (follow the links <https://www.geves.fr/acces-documents/> to view comparison varieties used by the CTPS for evaluating the performance of new candidate varieties. These comparison varieties will serve as a reference basis for the applicant and the experts). For information purposes, the results of varieties already registered in the Official French Catalogue are available on this link <https://www.geves.fr/catalogue/>. These results show the criteria used for variety evaluation for the French market. The VCUS evaluation rules and systems used by the CTPS are available on GEVES website <https://www.geves.fr/expertises-varietes-semences/grandes-cultures/inscription-des-varietes/>, organised by species.

The applicant should specify the experimental facility where the results were obtained (number of repetitions and map of the experimentation area). Data acquired within an official framework (registration in the UK catalogue) or through a French Agricultural Technical Institute will be the preferred sources of data for the evaluation. Variety data used for this evaluation could be published, if the variety is registered in the Official French Catalogue.

The applicant should also give reasons for their application request with this special procedure, in free text form. For example, the applicant could explain the variety’s target market, how important it is to register that variety in the Official French Catalogue, the estimated French or EU market share, or the multiplication surface area. At applicant request, data may be treated as confidential.

Agricultural species concerned by categories related to specific transformation capacity: if the technological data provided by the applicant is insufficient to access these categories, a proposal for registration will be made for the general category. An assessment of the value for use, at the request and expense of the applicant, can then be envisaged to assess the relevance of this category, without delaying registration in the general category before 29/03/2019.

**What is the procedure for registering in the Official French Catalogue, and in the EU catalogue?**

For agricultural species with compulsory VCUS testing, each VCUS application will be prepared for processing by the coordinator of the “Brexit” experts committee, then submitted to the committee by mail and discussed at a meeting of the committee. On the basis of the elements provided by the applicant, the variety’s suitability with regard to the Technical Regulation for registration will be evaluated by the ad-hoc committee. The committee’s opinion will be communicated to the applicant and the CTPS Section for that species. At the plenary meetings scheduled between October 2018 and January 2019, the CTPS Section will formally decide if the variety is eligible for registration in List A of the Official French Catalogue.

For vegetable species concerned by Directive 2002/55, their cases will be directly referred to the catalogue committee, before the final decision by the CTPS Vegetables Section at its plenary session in December 2018.

After the relevant CTPS Section meeting, a decision will be sent to the applicant by email and/or postal mail, informing them of the proposals made by the Section regarding the variety. If the proposal for registration is made by the Section and accepted by the applicant, the variety will be proposed for registration in the Official French Catalogue. The final decision will be taken by the Ministry of Agriculture. Registration in the Official French Catalogue must be carried out before 29/03/2019. The European Commission will then be notified, in order for the variety to be included in the EU catalogue.

**Specific case of varieties likely to be registered in the official UK catalogue between 30/06/2018 and 29/03/2019**

For these varieties, the applicant should file their application before 30/06/2018, which for agricultural plants will be completed with the results from the 2019 harvest. The evaluation of the application will be carried out at plenary meetings scheduled between October 2019 and January 2020.

**How much does this service cost?**

The following examination costs are payable by the applicant to GEVES:

* €500 when filing the application
* For agricultural species, €320 for each variety (and for each of the parental constituents of agricultural hybrids) if the VCUS assessment is favourable

**What next?**

Registration in the French catalogue is valid for 10 years and then renewable for 5 years at a time. All varieties registered in a French catalogue are also eligible for marketing throughout the European Union.

The maintainer of the variety registered in the Official French Catalogue must pay an annual fee to maintain their variety in the catalogue, as set out in the CTPS Price List. They must also provide GEVES with a reference sample for each variety in accordance with GEVES’s recommendations.