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To: All Licensed Seed Processors & Packers

Our Ref: SC171

October 2022

International Seed Testing Association Tetrazolium Testing (ISTA TZ) for Movement of Cereals to Northern Ireland - For cereal seed only

Northern Ireland have confirmed that an ISTA TZ (viability) test will continue to be accepted in lieu of a germination test, the result of which is then reported on an ISTA OIC (Orange International Certificate) certificate. Assuming the ISTA certificate results indicate the seed meets the appropriate EU certification standard then the OECD labels attached to the seed containers can be endorsed with "EU Rules and Standards". The ISTA TZ test facilitates the reporting of the results more quickly than germination test results (an ISTA TZ test usually takes 24 – 48 working hours from receipt of the sample at OSTS).

UK Plant Varieties and Seeds Strategy

Scottish Government, Defra, Welsh Government and DAERA (Northern Ireland) are working together to develop a UK Plant Varieties and Seeds Strategy.

We are keen to invite ideas from any interested parties across the UK to feed into our strategy. This call for ideas seeks to gather initial input and we plan to continue engagement throughout the process. The following documents may be found on GOV.UK: https://consult.defra.gov.uk/plant-varieties-and-seeds-team/plant-varieties-and-seeds-pvs-strategy

- Call for ideas document with information and questions
- Privacy Notice

The call for ideas will be open from 26th September to 19th December. To submit your response please complete the questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an online consultation tool) or provide a written response to Defra-Plant-Varieties-and-Seeds@defra.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

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