

Preface to the 2003 Edition

Effective date

This version of the International Rules for Seed Testing is effective from 1st January, 2003. Additional or replacement pages will be issued as amendments are made and will have their own 'effective from' dates. Changes to text between different effective dates will be marked by vertical lines on the outer sides of text.

Details of changes

The 2003 edition of the International Rules for Seed Testing is the first consolidated version since the 1999 edition of the Rules and includes changes voted through in 2001 (Angers, France) and 2002 (Santa Cruz, Bolivia). The changes made in 2001 have already been published (Rules Amendments 2001, Seed Science and Technology, (2001), **29**, Supplement 2) so only the changes made at the Bolivian voting meeting in 2002 are marked by vertical lines on the outer sides of text. Detailed methods for seed health testing are published separately in the International Rules for Seed Testing, Annexe to Chapter 7, Seed Health Testing Methods.

The text was previously separated into two halves, coloured pages of Rules and white pages of Annexes and Appendices; these have now been put together into chapters and appendices. Chapter 17 has been renumbered as Chapter 15: Seed vigour testing, as agreed at the Angers meeting, Chapter 16 is now Tolerances and Chapter 17 Certificates.

The Rules, Annexes and Appendices together form the International Rules for Seed Testing.

The Rules Committee would like to thank the ISTA secretariat for all the hard work, help and patience in producing the 2003 edition of the Rules.

Dr Steve Jones and Jim Sheppard
ISTA Rules Committee Chair and Vice-Chair
November 2002