Preface to the 2018 Edition of the ISTA Rules

Since 2014, the *International Rules for Seed Testing* (ISTA Rules) are primarily available in electronic form only. The ISTA Rules can be downloaded as a complete PDF file or as individual chapters from:

http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/ista/rules

If required, users of the ISTA Rules can print their own copies. For further information on the ISTA Rules, see:

http://www.seedtest.org/rules

The electronic version includes the English, French and German versions of the ISTA Rules. If there are any questions on interpretation of the ISTA Rules, the English version is the definitive version.

Seed health testing methods

Previously, the seed health testing methods were published as a separate Annexe to Chapter 7 of the ISTA Rules. They are now available as separate method sheets from the ISTA web site at:

http://www.seedtest.org/seedhealthmethods

Details of changes

The 2018 changes are editorial corrections or Rules changes adopted at the Ordinary General Meeting held at Denver, USA, in June 2017. Edits were made in Adobe InDesign by Vanessa Sutcliffe of HeartWood Editorial (www.heartwoodeditorial.co.uk).

The changes in the text content from the previous edition of the ISTA Rules are listed below. They can be displayed as yellow highlighted text as a ‘layer’ within the electronic copy with comments on what has changed.

For the previous history of amendments to the ISTA Rules, see the Prefaces for 2003 to 2017 on the ISTA web site.

Dr. Steve Jones, ISTA Rules Committee Chair
Ernest Allen, ISTA Rules Committee Vice-Chair
ISTA Secretariat
Changes to the ISTA Rules for 2018

**General editorial:** Change to British English as a house style, e.g., ‘authorization’ to ‘authorisation’

**Introduction**

I-2: Clarification that external proposals need to be submitted by 1 November

**Chapter 1**

1.4.2 o): Requirement for job position or ‘Authorised signatory’ on the Orange International Seed Lot Certificate

1.4.3 h): Requirement for job position or ‘Authorised signatory’ on the Blue International Seed Sample Certificate

1.5.2.2 and 1.5.2.4: Reporting of species impossible to identify to species level must be done to the most precise taxon possible

1.5.2.2: Percentage of broken pure seed can be reported under ‘Other determinations’

1.5.2.20: Updates to reporting results for ‘Seed mixtures’ made as a result of revision of Chapter 18

**Chapter 2**

2.5.2.2: Simplification in the production of working samples under ‘Sample reduction methods’

2.5.4.1 b): Deletion of last sentence in ‘Seed lot size’ for consistency on Orange International Certificate requirements

2.9.1.1 and 2.9.2.1: Number of seeds tested from each independent container-sample reduced to 2,500

Table 2A Part 1: *Brassica carinata* A. Braun added; *Beta vulgaris* L. divided to make provision for different sample sizes for multi- and mono-germ seed

**Chapter 3**

3.2.1: Clarification that seed partially transformed into ergot bodies should be counted as ergot

3.5.1: Changes to procedure for preparing representative working samples in purity analysis

3.7: Reporting of species impossible to identify to species level must be done to the most precise taxon possible

3.7: Percentage of broken pure seed can be reported under ‘Other determinations’

**Chapter 4**

4.7: Reporting of species impossible to identify to species level must be done to the most precise taxon possible

**Chapter 5**

5.2.7.2: Minimum number of secondary roots considered for *Glycine max* when primary root is defective

5.6.4: Update to wording of conditions for extending germination test duration; change in number of days for tests in sand, organic growing media or soil

Table 5A Part 1: *Brassica carinata* A. Braun added

Table 5F: Errors corrected in Germination Tolerance and Confidence Interval Calculator for Germination Tests

**Chapter 7**

7.2.3: Seed treatment link to 2.2.11 renumbered to 2.2.12

Editorial modifications to ensure consistency in method structures

Method 7-004: New version of method

Method 7-015: Pathogen names updated according to *Index Fungorum*

Method 7-031: Addition of new method

Method 7-032: Addition of new method

**Chapter 8**

8.3.2: Wording of ‘Testing principles’ updated

8.10.3: Addition of DNA-based method for variety verification in *Zea mays*

**Chapter 11**

11.2.5.4.1: Removal of ‘encrusted seed’ in description of maximum seed lot size; deletion of last sentence for consistency on Orange International Certificate requirements

**Chapter 13**

13.6: Update to wording for checking the reliability of a test result, for consistency with Table 13C

**Chapter 15**

15.8.2.5.2: Revision of concentration of sodium hypochlorite solution used to clean equipment

**Chapter 18**

Revision of entire Chapter with a clearer and more logical structure, as proposed by the Bulking and Sampling Committee