

Guidelines for multiplication of a variety under registration process

Document elaborated by members of the European Seed Certification Agencies Association (ESCAA)

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I. FOREWORD

The European Seed Certification Agencies Association (ESCAA) has been discussing the topic of the exchange of information for varieties under registration process.

These guidelines were drafted in 2025 by a working group composed of experts from Italy, Denmark, France, Germany, Spain, Greece, Netherlands and Bulgaria.

II. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Guidelines for multiplication of a variety under registration across ESCAA member countries is to provide information to Competent Authorities when seeds are multiplied in an ESCAA member country of a variety under registration process in another ESCAA member country.

ESCAA strongly encourages its members to apply those guidelines.

III. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION DURING SEED MULTIPLICATION

1. The applicant for variety registration (breeder, maintainer or their representatives) submits to the Competent Authority of the country of registration a request to communicate the arrangements for the multiplication to the Competent Authority of the country of multiplication.

This request shall include at least the following elements:

- species
- breeder's reference of the material
- provisional denomination of variety
- country of the seed multiplication
- name of the multiplication company
- seed category to be sown
- certification/production country
- quantity of seed to be sown

- category of the seed to be produced
- area of production.

2. The Competent Authority of the country of registration verifies that the request is legitimate, i.e. if the application for the registration of the variety was duly submitted. In addition, the Competent Authority of the country of registration verifies if a provisional description (breeder description or first-year official description) and a reference sample of the variety can be provided. If all the conditions are verified, the Competent Authority of the country of registration issues an agreement for the multiplication of the variety in the country of multiplication.

3. The Competent Authority of the country of registration informs the Competent Authority of the country of multiplication (the applicant in copy) about the multiplication agreement, provides the provisional description and, upon request, the reference sample of the variety under registration process.

4. Field inspections are carried out officially or under official supervision in the Country of multiplication to check whether the relevant requirements for the category to be produced are satisfied.

IV. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AFTER SEED HARVEST

5. Seed which has been found to satisfy the conditions for the category to be produced can be harvested, processed, stored in sealed packages and labelled with a reference to the status “variety under registration”. Then, it can take two different paths:

a. The seed is moved to another ESCAA member Country where the certification procedures will be completed. In this case, the Seed Certification Agency of the country of multiplication provides a document containing the following information:

- Authority issuing the document,
- species,
- breeder reference of the material (provisional denomination of variety),
- country where the application for registration has been made,

- country of the seed multiplication,
- reference number of the seed lot used to sow the field,
- category of the harvested seed,
- area of production,
- seed lot reference number,
- quantity of seed harvested and number of packages,
- attestation that the conditions to be satisfied by the crop from which the seed comes have been fulfilled
- results of a preliminary seed analysis.

b. The seed remains in the country of multiplication until the registration in the Common Catalogue. After that, the seed is officially labelled by the country of multiplication and placed onto the market.

Final certification can only take place when the registration of the variety has been completed.

TEMPLATE 1 –REQUEST BY THE APPLICANT TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTRY OF REGISTRATION TO COMMUNICATE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MULTIPLICATION TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTRY OF MULTIPLICATION OF SEEDS OF A VARIETY UNDER REGISTRATION PROCESS

To be used for the exchange of information between the Competent Authority of the country of registration and the Competent Authority of the country of multiplication before multiplication.

Recipient: Competent Authority of the country of registration

CONTENT OF THE REQUEST BY THE APPLICANT

Name of applicant	
Address	
Contact person	
E-mail / Telephone	
Role: Breeder / Maintainer / representative	

Species (Latin name)	
Denomination of the variety or Breeder's reference	
Seed category and seed lots number to be sown	
In case of hybrids indicate:	
Seed category	
Seed lots number	
Name of male component	
Name of female component	
Category of seed to be produced	
Authorization granted based on Decision 2004/842/CE	

Country of seed multiplication	
Name of the multiplication company	
Contact person	
Address	
Email/Telephone	
Quantity of seeds to be sown	
Area of production	
Country of final certification	

Multiplication contracts concluded between the seed companies concerned shall be made available upon request.

Date, .././20..

Name and Signature of the Applicant

TEMPLATE 2 – NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION ON THE MULTIPLICATION OF SEED OF A VARIETY UNDER REGISTRATION

To be used for the exchange of information between the Competent Authority of the country of registration and the Competent Authority of the country of multiplication before multiplication.

Recipient: Competent Authority of the country of multiplication

Copy to applicant (breeder, maintainer or representative)

A. VERIFICATION BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTRY OF REGISTRATION

- ☐ The application for registration of the variety has been duly submitted.
- ☐ A provisional description (breeder description or first-year official description) can be provided.
- ☐ A reference sample of the variety can be provided upon request.

Additional remarks / conditions (if any)	
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B. DECISION ON THE MULTIPLICATION

- ☐ The Competent Authority of the country of registration authorizes that the above-mentioned variety may be multiplied in the indicated country of multiplication, in accordance with the applicable requirements for the relevant seed category.
- ☐ The Competent Authority of the country of registration refuses the authorization.

C. COMMUNICATION

Competent Authority / Seed Certification Agency	
Document reference number	
Date of issue	
Name and position of authorised officer	
Signature (including digital signature) / stamp	

Annex 1: Applicant's Request (Template 1) – to be attached

TEMPLATE 3 – SEED MULTIPLICATION INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR A VARIETY UNDER REGISTRATION – AFTER SEED HARVEST

To be issued by the Competent authority/Seed Certification Agency of the country of multiplication after seed harvest.

A. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Authority issuing the document	
Document / reference number	
Date of issue	
Country where the application for registration has been made	
Country of seed multiplication	

B. INFORMATION ON PRODUCTION AREA AND SEED

Area of production accepted after field inspection	
Category of the harvested seed	
Seed lot reference number	
Quantity of seed harvested	
Number of packages	

C. ATTESTATION

The issuing Competent authority/Seed Certification Agency hereby attests that the conditions to be satisfied by the crop from which the above-mentioned seed comes, have been fulfilled.

D. PRELIMINARY SEED ANALYSIS

☐ Preliminary seed analysis results attached

E. SEED STATUS / DESTINATION

☐ The seed is moved to another ESCAA member country where the certification procedures will be completed.

Country of final certification (if different from applicant's request)	
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☐ The seed remains in the country of multiplication until the registration of the variety in the Common Catalogue.

Important: Final certification can only take place when the registration of the variety has been completed.

F. ISSUING AUTHORITY

Name of the issuing authority	
Name and position of authorised officer	
Date	
Signature (including digital signature)/ stamp	