

**PRAIRIE RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE FOR PULSE AND SPECIAL  
CROPS**

***Contract Registration Operating Procedures***

*Approved February 22, 2006*

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### ***Contract Registration Operating Procedures***

#### **1. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Contract Registration is available for candidate cultivars where biochemical or biophysical characteristics distinguish them from the majority of registered cultivars of the same kind or species. Further, it must be shown through a scientific process that these characteristics have the potential to cause an adverse affect (harm) on the identity of other registered cultivars or the progeny thereof may be detrimental to human health or the safety of the environment. Thus, to qualify for Contract Registration, the owner/sponsor of the cultivar must demonstrate the possibility of industry harm if granted an unrestricted registration. Contract registration is only a possibility for varieties which may cause harm based on the scientific assessment of the quality, agronomics and disease reaction of the variety, not based on socio-economic factors.

Contract registration is not to be used as a substitute for traditional forms of registration (full or interim) in situations where the Prairie Recommending Committee for Pulse and Special Crops has objected to the registration of the candidate cultivar based on deficiency in merit. However, the Prairie Recommending Committee for Pulse and Special Crops may suggest that the candidate be considered for Contract Registration where there is rationale to do so. In this case, an extra-ordinary meeting of the Contract Registration Committee (CRC) of the Prairie Recommending Committee for Pulse and Special Crops may be required to consider the case and determine if the required scientific conditions for Contract Registration have been met.

Contract Registration may be requested as an interim contract registration for an initial period of up to three years, with a maximum total life of five years or as full contract registration, in which case there is no time restriction. Renewal of Interim Contract Registration requires the recommendation of the Prairie Recommending Committee for Pulse and Special Crops CRC and approval by the Variety Registration Office.

#### **2. STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP**

A Contract Registration Committee will exist under the auspices of the Prairie Recommending Committee for Pulse and Special Crops. The CRC will consist of three (3) individuals appointed by the committee, one from each of the following disciplines or areas of specialization:

- a pulse or special crops breeder (depending on Crop)
- a pertinent quality expert
- a pertinent pathology expert

The terms of appointment will normally be three years. A Chair of the CRC will be chosen from among these three individuals. In cases where confidentiality of data is important, the owner of the proposed candidate may request an alternate member to be appointed by the remaining members of the CRC. Members of the CRC will act to protect the confidentiality of data.

Meetings of the CRC will normally be held upon demand during the annual Prairie Recommending Committee for Pulse and Special Crops meeting in February. Other meetings may be called on 30 days notice or less upon the consensus of the membership.

### **3. REQUIREMENTS FOR CULTIVARS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR TESTING UNDER CONTRACT REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

Before a cultivar will be considered suitable for testing under Contract Registration procedures, the owner/sponsor (or designate) must provide the rationale for Contract Registration. A written document, addressing the following points, must be received by the Contract Registration Committee at least one week prior to the Prairie Recommending Committee for Pulse and Special Crops annual meeting.

- The candidate cultivar possesses biochemical or biophysical characteristics specific to a defined end-market and could cause industry harm if produced outside of a closed system.
- An end user/purchaser exists for the contract registered crop.
- A closed system for the production of the candidate is achievable, with specific consideration that each adverse affect identified has been sufficiently safeguarded.
- The closed system provides assurance that “off-grade” production shall not enter the normal marketing system for the commodity crop.

Upon the endorsement that testing of the cultivar under Contract Registration procedures is appropriate, the Variety Registration Office (VRO) will be informed of the decision and any additional data requirements prescribed by the CRC.

Owners/sponsors of candidates being tested under Contract Registration procedures are urged to contact the Variety Registration Office for details on the required Quality Assurance Manual, which must be complete before registration is granted. The quality control system requirements for varieties subject to Contract Registration are covered in Appendix VIII of the Procedures for the Registration of Crop Varieties in Canada.

### **4. CONTRACT REGISTRATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

The owner/sponsor of a candidate will provide the Contract Registration Committee written notification of their intent to approach the Committee at least one week in advance of the annual Prairie Recommending Committee for Pulse and Special Crops meeting. Appropriate documentation and/or data summaries must be included with the notice. The owner/sponsor of the candidate will be informed of the date and time of the CRC meeting and is allowed to address the committee. Following the meeting, the CRC will have up to ten (10) days to rule on the suitability of the candidate for testing under Contract Registration procedures, prescribe additional data requirements over the minimum specifications, or make a recommendation on the request for Contract Registration. The CRC may seek external advice, recognizing that confidentiality may be of extreme importance. A simple majority vote will constitute the decision of the CRC. Votes will be cast in two categories: Support and Object.

The owner/sponsor of the cultivar may contest a CRC decision in two general areas:

- If the candidate is deemed ineligible for testing under Contract Registration procedures.
- If the CRC objects to the Contract Registration of the cultivar.

Appeals will be referred to the Prairie Recommending Committee for Pulse and Special Crops Executive and conducted as outlined in the Prairie Recommending Committee for Pulse and Special Crops Operating Procedures.

## **5. CONDUCT OF TRIALS AND MINIMUM DATA REQUIREMENTS**

The following are minimum data requirements for Contract Registration of a candidate cultivar. The Contract Registration Committee may set additional requirements within ten (10) days following the meeting called to determine the suitability of the candidate for Contract Registration procedures.

It is a condition that, upon acceptance of a candidate for testing under Contract Registration procedures, the owner/sponsor agrees that the testing and evaluation protocols defined by the CRC are appropriate and that these protocols, however defined, will not justify an appeal.

- a) A minimum of two (2) years of testing is required.
- b) Testing must be conducted in the region where production is intended to take place. The geographic region(s) may vary in area from all of western Canada to a smaller region within a province.
- c) Testing will provide comparisons with the appropriate checks for the crop kind, as currently used in regular registration (co-operative) testing, or as determined by the CRC.
- d) Agronomic data must be collected but will be used for descriptive purposes only. No minimum levels of performance are required for agronomic traits. A minimum of eight (8) station-years of agronomic data are required, with a minimum of three (3) station years in each of two (2) calendar years. A minimum of three (3) of the eight station-years of data shall be conducted by an individual or organization that is independent from the candidate proposer, with a minimum of one (1) station year in each of the calendar years tested. The independent test organization must be disclosed to the CRC prior to conducting trials for approval.
- e) An independent third party Prairie Recommending Committee for Pulse and Special Crops member will be identified by the CRC to inspect all field trials.
- f) Disease evaluation will take place in each of two (2) years of testing and shall be conducted under the auspices of the relevant Disease Evaluation Team. Candidates must meet minimum disease resistance requirements in place for traditional cultivars (general registration), unless the owner of the candidate can demonstrate that susceptibility to a particular disease will not endanger production of traditional cultivars in, or adjacent to, the geographic region(s) identified for contract production.
- g) Agronomic performance and disease reaction data will not be considered confidential, but the biochemical and biophysical characteristics that distinguish a variety from the major commodity market classes will be considered confidential.

h) Grain quality and the trait deemed to cause potential harm will be evaluated each year of testing, relative to the appropriate check cultivars for the crop kind. These data will be evaluated by the CRC in consultation with appropriate pulse and special crops quality experts if deemed appropriate or necessary. The CRC will respect the confidential nature of the data in soliciting expert advice. The purpose of this evaluation is to confirm that the candidate has the quality claimed by the proposer and that such quality requires production within a closed, contract system.

i) All costs for data collection for Contract Registration shall be borne by the proposers of the candidate cultivar.

j) Recommendations in support of contract registration will be made by the CRC of the Prairie Recommending Committee for Pulse and Special Crops and forwarded to the Variety Registration Office. The Variety Registration Office will examine the request and rule on the applicability of the candidate for Contract Registration, review the Quality Control System document and other requirements for variety registration.