ISTA
Seed Quality Assurance

Document OGM24-07

Notice of Motion 2024

Notice of motion from the ISTA Executive Committee to be discussed at the Ordinary General Meeting 2024 under ISTA Article 11 e (11).

It is submitted to all ISTA Designated Authorities, ISTA Members and ISTA Observer Organisations for information two months prior to the ISTA Ordinary General Meeting 2024.

It will be discussed and voted on at the Ordinary General Meeting 2024, to be held on Thursday, July 04, 2024, Cambridge, UK.

Motion OGM24-07

Proposal to set the fee for the ISTA eCertificate with effect from 05 July 2024

Current situation

Blank ISTA paper Orange International Seed Lot Certificates (OICs) and ISTA paper Blue International Seed Sample Certificates (BICs) currently cost 4.00 Swiss Francs (CHF) each.

The cost of the ISTA eCertificate needs to be voted on by the membership before the system can be launched.

Proposal

The Executive Committee (ECOM) proposes to set the cost of an ISTA eCertificate at 10.00 CHF with effect from 5 July 2024.

Background to the proposed cost

ISTA conducted surveys with ISTA accredited laboratories in 2021 and 2023 and it was determined that on average 2.5 blank certificates (Original, Provisional, Duplicate, misprints) are issued per sample tested.

The current reporting system on blank paper ISTA certificates will continue to be available to laboratories in parallel. For each sample the laboratory must choose to report on either an eCertificate or use a blank ISTA paper certificate, they can not use both for the same sample. A paper pdf version of the eCertificate can be printed but not onto a blank ISTA paper certificate.

The percentage uptake of the eCertificate system by laboratories was considered and estimated to be between 20 and 45% in the early years of implementation. The eCertificate system is a secure electronic system and has a maintenance cost. For the blank paper certificates there is also a cost more than a "normal" piece of coloured paper as the blank certificate has anti-fraud features e.g. watermark, bar code, hologram.

In the eCertificate system the Original, Provisional and Duplicate are replaced with one unique digital version meaning fewer blank paper certificates are required. Therefore, a fee of 10.00 CHF per eCertificate is proposed.

The fee for eCertificate will be reviewed once the system is operational and ECOM will come back to the membership if any proposed changes are needed.