SUMMARY OF VERSION 1 NATIONAL STANDARD FOR INOCULATED SEEDLINGS

EMF Seedlings are tested under microscopes (stereo- and compound microscopes) by “batch” according to the definitions and criteria in the National Standard.

Before testing, seedlings should be hardened at least 2 months outside.

Only truffles that are true to species AND mature may be used as inoculum.

DNA testing is compulsory to identify the truffle species - either for individual truffles or a slurry.

After a specified incubation period following inoculation the suitability of the seedlings for establishing orchards is assessed by a competent controller independent from the nursery according to the criteria below.

Testing is performed on a random sample of seedlings for each batch. Sampling rates vary with batch size as specified in the Standard.

Individual seedlings

Characteristics of the plant -Seedling quality is a combination of height, diameter, plant nutrition, health, root size and shape. Seedling age is at least 10 months. The shoots and roots must be free of disease and pathogens. The root system must be well developed and balanced. Secondary roots should be abundant. The collar/stem should be lignified.

Characteristics of the target fungus -At least one of the criteria below is mandatory.

1. Rapidly detectable mycorrhizae; and/or

2. The presence of well-developed, bigger, branched ectomycorrhizae, or mycorrhizal clusters (groups of branched mycorrhizae)

Requirements for mycorrhization by non-target fungi - Zero tolerance for undesired truffle species and for specific non-truffle ectomycorrhizal species. Weak tolerance for other ectomycorrhizal species if the target fungus is present.

Sample of seedlings

As above but with the following tolerances:

90% or more of sampled seedlings must show target mycorrhizae.

70% or more of sampled seedlings must show one of the two criteria above.