



**THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**PLANT VARIETIES  
PROTECTION ACT 2004**

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# Plant Varieties Protection Act 2004

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An Act to provide for the protection of plant varieties.

[1 July 2004]

## PART 1

## PRELIMINARY

**Short title**

1. This Act is the Plant Varieties Protection Act 2004.

**Interpretation**

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“applicant”, in relation to any application, means the person by whom or on whose behalf the application is made;

“application” means an application for a grant of protection;

“breeder”, in relation to any plant variety, means —

(a) subject to paragraph (b), a person who bred, or discovered and developed, the plant variety;

(b) if the plant variety was bred, or discovered and developed, by a person in the course of performing the person’s duties or functions as an employee of another person, that other person; or

(c) the successor in title to the person in paragraph (a) or (b) (as the case may be);

“Convention” means the international agreement called the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants of 2 December 1961, as revised or amended from time to time;

“Court” means the General Division of the High Court;

“denomination” means the distinguishing name or identification for a plant variety;

“Examiner” means any person, organisation or entity (including an international plant variety office or organisation, or a plant variety office or an organisation of a country or territory other than Singapore) appointed by the Registrar for the purpose of referring any question or matter relating to the examination of a plant variety for a grant of protection;

*[Act 7 of 2022 wef 26/05/2022]*

“grant of protection” means a grant of protection made by the Registrar under section 21;

“grantee” means the holder of a grant of protection;

“harvested material” means any harvested material to which the rights of a grantee under section 28(1) are extended by virtue of section 28(7);

“Office” means the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore incorporated under the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore Act 2001;

“plant” includes all fungi and algae but does not include bacteria, bacteroids, mycoplasmas, viruses, viroids and bacteriophages;

“plant variety” means a plant grouping within a single botanical taxon of the lowest rank which, irrespective of whether the conditions for a grant of protection are fully met, can be —

- (a) defined by the expression of the characteristics resulting from a given genotype or a combination of genotypes;
- (b) distinguished from any other plant grouping by the expression of at least one of those characteristics; and
- (c) considered as a unit with regard to its suitability for being propagated unchanged;

“procedural representative”, in relation to any plant variety, means a person who is resident or has an office in Singapore and who is appointed by the breeder of that variety to act on the breeder’s behalf in respect of the making of any application for, or any proceedings relating to, a grant of protection for that variety;

“propagating material”, in relation to a plant of a particular plant variety, means any part or product from which, whether alone or in combination with other parts or products of that plant, another plant with the same essential characteristics can be produced;

“propagation”, in relation to a plant or any of its components, means the growth, culture or multiplication of that plant or component;

“protected variety” means a plant variety in respect of which a grant of protection is in force, and includes any essentially derived or other plant variety to which the grant of protection is extended by virtue of section 29(1);

“register” means the register of plant varieties maintained under section 39;

“Registrar” means the Registrar of Plant Varieties mentioned in section 5;

“Registry” means the Registry of Plant Varieties mentioned in section 7;

“relevant characteristics”, in relation to any plant variety, means the phenotypical and genotypical expressions of the variety that permit its identification;

“term”, in relation to a grant of protection, means the term of the grant of protection under section 24;

“UPOV member” means a state or an inter-governmental party to the Convention which is a member of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants constituted pursuant to the Convention.

*[2/2007; 16/2014; 40/2019]*

### **Act to bind Government**

3. This Act binds the Government but nothing in this Act renders the Government liable to be prosecuted for an offence.

### **Application of Act**

4. This Act applies to all plant genera and species.

*[16/2014]*

## **PART 2**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Registrar of Plant Varieties and other officers**

5.—(1) There is to be a Registrar of Plant Varieties who has the chief control of the Registry of Plant Varieties.

(2) There are to be one or more Deputy Registrars of Plant Varieties who is to, subject to the control of the Registrar, have all the powers and functions of the Registrar under this Act, other than the powers of the Registrar under section 6.

(3) There are to be one or more Assistant Registrars of Plant Varieties.

(4) The Registrar and all the other officers under this section must be appointed by the Minister.

### **Delegation by Registrar**

**6.—**(1) The Registrar may, in relation to a particular matter or class of matters, by writing under the hand of the Registrar, delegate all or any of his or her powers or functions under this Act (except this power of delegation) to an Assistant Registrar of Plant Varieties, any public officer, or any person with the relevant qualifications for or experience in the matter or class of matters, so that the delegated powers and functions may be exercised by the delegate with respect to the matter or class of matters specified in the instrument of delegation.

*[16/2014]*

(2) A delegation under this section is revocable at will and no delegation prevents the exercise of a power or function by the Registrar or by any Deputy Registrar of Plant Varieties.

(3) Where the delegate is a person with the relevant qualifications or experience mentioned in subsection (1), he or she is, when exercising the delegated powers or functions, deemed to be a public servant for the purposes of the Penal Code 1871.

*[16/2014]*

### **Registry of Plant Varieties**

**7.** For the purposes of this Act, there is an office which is known as the Registry of Plant Varieties.

### **Seal of Registry**

**8.** There is a seal of the Registry and impressions of the seal are to be judicially noticed.



**Powers of Registrar**

9. The Registrar may, for the purposes of this Act —
- (a) summon witnesses;
  - (b) receive evidence on oath, whether orally or otherwise; and
  - (c) require the production of documents or articles.

**Disobedience to summons an offence**

10.—(1) A person who has been summoned to appear as a witness before the Registrar must not, without lawful excuse, fail to appear in obedience to the summons.

(2) A person who has been required by the Registrar to produce a document or article must not, without lawful excuse, fail to produce the document or article.

(3) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both.

**Refusal to give evidence an offence**

11.—(1) A person who appears before the Registrar must not, without lawful excuse, refuse to be sworn or to make an affirmation, or to produce documents or articles, or to answer questions, which the person is lawfully required to produce or answer.

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both.

**Costs awarded by Registrar**

12.—(1) The Registrar may award costs in respect of the matters, and in the amounts provided for in rules made under this Act, against any party to proceedings brought before him or her.

(2) The rules may provide for the assessment of the costs, or any part of the costs, by the Registrar.

*[Act 25 of 2021 wef 01/04/2022]*

(3) A party desirous to obtain costs or to have the costs assessed must apply to the Registrar in accordance with the rules.

*[Act 25 of 2021 wef 01/04/2022]*

(4) If a party is ordered to pay the costs of another party, the costs may be recovered in a court of competent jurisdiction as a debt due by the first party to the other party.

### PART 3

#### APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PROTECTION

##### **Application for grant of protection**

**13.**—(1) An application for a grant of protection for a plant variety must be made by the breeder of that plant variety in the prescribed manner to the Registrar.

(2) The application must contain or be accompanied by the following:

- (a) a description of the plant variety;
- (b) the proposed denomination for the plant variety which qualifies for approval and registration under section 36;
- (c) an address for service in relation to that application, being an address within Singapore;
- (d) if a right of priority is claimed under section 14, full particulars of the relevant priority application.

(3) The application must be accompanied by an application fee and any other fees that may be prescribed.

(4) An application that complies with subsections (1), (2) and (3) at the time it is received at the Registry is, for the purposes of this Act, deemed to be made at that time.

(5) An application that does not comply with subsection (1), (2) or (3) at the time it is received is nevertheless deemed to be made at that

time if it is rectified within such time and in such manner as the Registrar may specify.

(6) The Registrar must, if satisfied that an application complies with subsections (1), (2) and (3) —

- (a) publish the application and the proposed denomination for the plant variety in the prescribed manner; and
- (b) notify the applicant of the publication.

### **Priority resulting from foreign application**

**14.—(1)** If —

- (a) the breeder of a plant variety has made an application in any UPOV member other than Singapore (called in this section the foreign application) for the equivalent of a grant of protection; and
- (b) within 12 months after —
  - (i) the date on which the foreign application was made; or
  - (ii) where more than one foreign application has been made (whether in one UPOV member or more than one UPOV member), the date the earliest foreign application was made,

the breeder makes an application for the grant of protection in respect of the plant variety in Singapore,

the breeder may, when making the application under this Act, claim a right of priority, and sections 22 and 23 apply to the application for a grant of protection in Singapore as if it had been made on the date the foreign application (or the earliest foreign application) was made.

(2) The breeder must, within the prescribed period after making the claim of a right of priority under subsection (1), submit to the Registrar a copy of any document constituting the foreign application, which must be certified as correct by the authority in the UPOV member to which the foreign application was made.

*[Act 7 of 2022 wef 26/05/2022]*

(3) The breeder is allowed a period of 2 years after the end of the period mentioned in subsection (1)(b) or, where the foreign application (or the earliest foreign application) is rejected or withdrawn, a period of 2 years after the rejection or withdrawal, in which to furnish any necessary information, document or material required for the purpose of the examination under section 17 to the Registrar or an Examiner appointed by the Registrar for the purposes of this subsection (as the case may be) or an examination report under section 18 to the Registrar.

[16/2014]

### **Publication**

**15.** The Registrar must publish applications for grant of protection, and information on other prescribed matters, in the prescribed manner at the time and frequency determined by the Registrar.

[Act 7 of 2022 wef 26/05/2022]

### **Objections to denomination and grant of protection**

**16.—(1)** Any person may, within the prescribed period after the publication of a denomination, by written notice to the Registrar, object to the approval of that denomination.

(2) Any person may, within the prescribed period after the publication of an application for a grant of protection for a plant variety, by written notice to the Registrar, object to the making of a grant in respect of that plant variety on the ground that the plant variety is not new within the meaning of section 22.

(3) The Minister may make rules to provide for objection proceedings and for matters relating to objection proceedings.

(4) If a person who neither resides nor carries on business in Singapore makes an objection under this section, the Registrar may require the person to give security for the costs of the proceedings and may, if security is not given, dismiss the proceedings.

### **Examination of plant variety**

**17.—(1)** Subject to section 18, the applicant must, within the prescribed period after making an application, give to the Registrar or

any Examiner appointed by the Registrar for the purposes of this section —

- (a) in such detail as the Registrar or the Examiner may require for examination under subsection (2), a description of —
  - (i) the origin and breeding of the plant variety concerned (called in this section the candidate variety);
  - (ii) the botanical features of the candidate variety; and
  - (iii) at least one plant variety that is, to the breeder's knowledge, most similar to the candidate variety and at least one characteristic which distinguishes the candidate variety from such other variety or varieties; and
- (b) propagating material of the candidate variety, but only if the Registrar or the Examiner requests for it.

[16/2014]

[Act 7 of 2022 wef 26/05/2022]

(2) The Registrar or the Examiner must examine the candidate variety —

- (a) to verify whether the candidate variety belongs to the stated botanical taxon;
- (b) to establish whether the candidate variety is distinct, uniform and stable; and
- (c) where the candidate variety is found to meet the requirements in paragraphs (a) and (b), to establish an official description of the variety.

[16/2014]

(3) The Registrar or the Examiner may by written notice request the applicant to furnish any further information, document or propagating material of the candidate variety and of any similar plant variety in addition to any plant variety mentioned in subsection (1)(a)(iii).

[16/2014]

(4) Where the Registrar or the Examiner has made a request for further information, documents or propagating material under subsection (3), the applicant must —

- (a) furnish the information, document or propagating material within the period stated in the written notice; or
- (b) where the information, document or propagating material is not available, notify the Registrar or the Examiner (as the case may be) of this fact within that period.

[16/2014]

(5) The Registrar or the Examiner (as the case may be) may extend the period in subsection (4) in a particular case.

[Act 7 of 2022 wef 26/05/2022]

### **Corresponding examination**

**18.**—(1) Subject to subsection (2), the applicant may, instead of complying with the provisions in section 17, lodge with the Registrar in any manner that the Registrar may require and within the prescribed period, an examination report issued and certified by an Examiner in any UPOV member other than Singapore.

[16/2014]

(2) The Registrar may reject an examination report lodged under subsection (1), in which case the applicant must comply with the provisions in section 17.

### **Withdrawal or lapse of application**

**19.**—(1) Any application may be withdrawn by the applicant at any time before a grant of protection is made in respect of it.

(2) The withdrawal of an application does not affect the applicant's liability for any fees that may have become payable up to the date of that withdrawal.

(3) Where any information, document or material required to be given to the Registrar or an Examiner under the provisions of this Act is not supplied within the period stated in the written notice issued by the Registrar or the Examiner (as the case may be) requiring the

information, document or material, the application concerned lapses upon the end of that period.

[16/2014]

### **Provisional protection**

**20.** Where a grant of protection for a plant variety has been made under section 21, the grantee has the right to take proceedings in respect of the protected variety under this Act as if the grant of protection had been made on the date the application for that grant of protection was published under section 15.

## PART 4

### GRANT AND REVOCATION OF PROTECTION

#### **Making of grant of protection**

**21.—**(1) The Registrar must —

- (a) except where an application has been withdrawn or has lapsed under section 19, make a grant of protection in respect of every application that is eligible for the making of a grant of protection; and
- (b) decline to make a grant of protection in respect of every application that is not eligible for the making of a grant of protection.

(2) An application must be treated as being eligible for the making of a grant of protection if, and only if —

- (a) the applicant has complied with section 13 and section 17 or 18, as the case may be; and
- (b) the Registrar —
  - (i) has approved, for the plant variety in respect of which the application was made, the denomination proposed by the applicant under section 36;
  - (ii) is satisfied that the applicant is the breeder of that plant variety; and

- (iii) is satisfied that that plant variety is new, distinct, stable and uniform within the meaning of section 22.

### **Conditions for grant of protection**

**22.—**(1) For the purpose of sections 16(2), 21(2)(b)(iii) and 25(2)(a) —

- (a) a plant variety is new if harvested or propagating material of the plant variety has not been sold or otherwise disposed of to another person, by or with the breeder's consent for the purposes of exploitation of the plant variety —
- (i) earlier than 12 months before the date the application is made, where the sale or disposal and the exploitation of the plant variety is in Singapore; and
  - (ii) earlier than 6 years before that date in the case of trees or vines, or earlier than 4 years before that date in any other case, where the sale or disposal and the exploitation of the plant variety is outside Singapore;
- (b) a plant variety is distinct if it is clearly distinguishable from any other plant variety whose existence is a matter of common knowledge at the time of the making of the application;
- (c) a plant variety is stable if its relevant characteristics remain unchanged after repeated propagation or, in the case of a particular cycle of propagation, at the end of each cycle; and
- (d) a plant variety is uniform if, subject to the variation that may be expected from the particular features of its propagation, it is sufficiently uniform in its relevant characteristics.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), where, in order to increase the stock of a plant variety or for any testing of a plant variety, the breeder of the plant variety makes any arrangement under which —

- (a) propagating material of that plant variety is to be sold to or used by some other person; and



(b) any unused portion of that propagating material, and all the material of any type produced from that propagating material, is —

- (i) to be sold to the breeder by that other person; or
- (ii) otherwise to become the breeder's property,

no account is to be taken of any sale or disposal under that arrangement.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), a plant variety does not cease to be new by virtue only of the sale or disposal at any time of —

- (a) material that is not propagating material or harvested material; or
- (b) propagating material if sold or disposed of as a by-product or a surplus product of the creation of that plant variety, provided that —
  - (i) the material is sold or disposed of without variety identification for purposes of consumption; and
  - (ii) having been produced during the breeding, increase of stock, test, or trial of that plant variety, the material is not or no longer required for any of those activities.

(4) Despite subsection (1)(a), where this Act did not apply to a plant genus or species before 30 July 2014, and an application for a grant of protection is made within one year after that date in respect of any plant variety belonging to that plant genus or species, that plant variety is deemed to be new if harvested or propagating material of that plant variety has not been sold, or otherwise disposed of, in Singapore to another person, by or with the breeder's consent for the purposes of exploitation in Singapore of that plant variety —

- (a) earlier than 6 years before the date that application is made, in the case of trees or vines; or
- (b) earlier than 4 years before the date that application is made, in any other case.

[16/2014]

(5) For the purpose of subsection (1)(b), the making of an application in any country for —

- (a) a grant of protection in respect of a plant variety; or
- (b) the entering of a plant variety in an official register of plant varieties,

is deemed to render that plant variety a matter of common knowledge from the date of application, provided that the application leads to a grant of protection in respect of that plant variety or to the entering of that plant variety in the official register of plant varieties, as the case may be.

### **Varieties bred or discovered and developed by 2 or more persons independently**

23. Where —

- (a) before a grant of protection has been made in respect of any plant variety, 2 or more applications in respect of that plant variety have been made;
- (b) the Registrar is satisfied that the applicants concerned are persons who bred, or discovered and developed, that plant variety independently, or are successors of such persons; and
- (c) the Registrar is satisfied that, but for this section, each of those applicants would be entitled to a grant of protection in respect of that plant variety,

the Registrar must make a grant of protection to the applicant whose application was made first.

### **Term of grant of protection**

24.—(1) The Registrar must endorse on every grant of protection the date of the grant of protection.

(2) Subject to sections 25 and 26, the term of a grant of protection is a period of 25 calendar years from the date of the grant of protection.

(3) The grantee must during the term of the grant of protection pay an annual fee of a prescribed amount and furnish any information that

the Registrar may require in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed period.

(4) A late fee of a prescribed amount may be imposed by rules made under this Act for the payment of the annual fee within the prescribed period but after the anniversary of the date of grant of protection where the anniversary is the first day of the one year period for which the annual fee is payable, in prescribed circumstances.

*[Act 7 of 2022 wef 26/05/2022]*

### **Grounds of invalidity of grant of protection**

**25.**—(1) An application for a declaration of invalidity of any grant of protection on any ground mentioned in subsection (2) may be made by any person to the Court.

(2) A grant of protection is to be declared invalid if the Court is satisfied that —

- (a) the plant variety concerned is not new or distinct within the meaning of section 22;
- (b) where the grant of protection was made on the basis of an examination report by an Examiner lodged under section 18, the plant variety was not, at the time the grant of protection was made, stable or uniform within the meaning of section 22(1)(c) or (d), respectively; or
- (c) the grant of protection has been made to a person who is not entitled to it, unless it has since been transferred to the person who is so entitled.

*[16/2014]*

(3) The Registrar must remove from the register any grant of protection which has been declared invalid by the Court under this section.

### **Cancellation of grant of protection**

**26.**—(1) An application for cancellation of any grant of protection may be made by any person —

- (a) to the Registrar, on any ground mentioned in subsection (2); or

- (b) to the Court, on the ground mentioned in subsection (3).
- (2) A grant of protection must be cancelled by the Registrar at any time during its term in the event that —
- (a) the grantee, after having been requested by the Registrar to provide such information, documents or material as the Registrar thinks fit for verifying the maintenance of the plant variety, failed to do so within the period specified by the Registrar;
  - (b) in any particular year, the annual fee required under section 24(3) to be paid, or the late fee required under section 24(4) to be paid, has not been paid within the prescribed period; or
- [Act 7 of 2022 wef 26/05/2022]*
- (c) the grantee, after having been requested by the Registrar to propose another suitable denomination under section 38, failed to do so within the prescribed period.
- (3) A grant of protection is to be cancelled by the Court at any time during its term in the event that it is established that the plant variety is no longer stable or uniform within the meaning of section 22(1)(c) or (d), respectively.
- (4) The Registrar must remove from the register any grant of protection which has been cancelled under this section.

### **Renunciation of grantee's right**

- 27.—**(1) A grantee may, in writing to the Registrar, renounce the grantee's grant of protection.
- (2) The Registrar must remove from the register any grant of protection which has been renounced under subsection (1).

## **PART 5**

### **SCOPE AND NATURE OF GRANT OF PROTECTION**

#### **Scope and nature of grant of protection**

- 28.—**(1) Subject to sections 31 and 32, a grantee in respect of any protected variety is entitled to prevent a person from doing any of the

following acts in respect of the propagating material of the protected variety without the authorisation, by way of a licence or otherwise, of the grantee:

- (a) production or reproduction;
- (b) conditioning for the purpose of propagation;
- (c) offering for sale;
- (d) selling or other forms of marketing;
- (e) export;
- (f) import;
- (g) stocking for any of the purposes specified in paragraphs (a) to (f).

(2) The grantee may give an authorisation subject to conditions and limitations.

(3) A grant of protection is personal property and may be assigned or transmitted in the same way as other personal property.

(4) An assignment of a grant of protection under subsection (3) is not effective unless it is in writing and signed by or on behalf of the assignor.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), a licence granted by a grantee in respect of any protected variety is binding on every successor in title to the grantee's interest —

- (a) except any person who, in good faith and without any notice (actual or constructive) of the licence, has given valuable consideration for the interest in the grant of protection; or
- (b) unless the licence provides otherwise,

and any reference in this Act to doing anything with, or without, the consent of the grantee is to be construed accordingly.

(6) Every person is deemed to have notice of a licence if the prescribed particulars of the grant of the licence are entered in the register under section 42.

(7) Subject to sections 31 and 32, the rights of a grantee under subsection (1) also apply to harvested material, including entire plants and parts of plants, obtained through the unauthorised use of propagating material of the protected variety unless the grantee has had a reasonable opportunity, before the harvested material was obtained, to exercise the grantee's rights in relation to the unauthorised use of the propagating material.

### **Essentially derived and certain other plant varieties**

**29.**—(1) Where a grant of protection is made under section 21, that grant of protection also extends to —

- (a) any plant variety which is essentially derived from the plant variety in respect of which the grant of protection was made (called in this section the original plant variety);
- (b) any plant variety which is not distinct in accordance with section 22(1)(b) from the original plant variety; and
- (c) any plant variety the production of which requires the repeated use of the original plant variety.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a plant variety is to be treated as being essentially derived from the original plant variety if —

- (a) it is predominantly derived from the original plant variety or from a plant variety that is itself predominantly derived from the original plant variety;
- (b) it retains the expression of the essential characteristics that result from the genotype or a combination of genotypes of the original plant variety;
- (c) it is clearly distinguishable from the original plant variety; and
- (d) except for the differences which result from the act of derivation, it conforms to the original plant variety in the expression of the essential characteristics that result from the genotype or a combination of genotypes of the original plant variety.

**Infringement of grant of protection**

- 30.**—(1) A grant of protection is infringed by any person who —
- (a) not being entitled by any licence or transfer or otherwise, does in Singapore, or authorises the doing in Singapore of, any act specified in section 28(1) in respect of any propagating material or harvested material of a protected variety;
  - (b) where propagating material of the protected variety has been imported into Singapore, propagates, sells or uses that material as propagating material without the authority of the grantee concerned; or
  - (c) imports into Singapore, without the grantee's consent —
    - (i) from a country that is not a UPOV member, any harvested material of the protected variety; or
    - (ii) from a UPOV member, any harvested material of the protected variety in respect of which it is not possible to make the equivalent of a grant of protection under the law of that member.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the relief that the Court may grant in an action for an infringement of a grant of protection includes an injunction (subject to such terms, if any, as the Court thinks fit) and either damages or an account of profits.
- (3) Where, in an action under this section —
- (a) an infringement of a grant of protection is established; and
  - (b) the Court is satisfied that it is proper to do so, having regard to —
    - (i) the flagrancy of the infringement;
    - (ii) any benefit shown to have accrued to the defendant by reason of the infringement; and
    - (iii) all other relevant matters,

the Court may, in assessing damages for the infringement, award such additional damages as it considers appropriate in the circumstances.

(4) Where, in any action under this section, it is proved or admitted that an infringement was committed but proved by the defendant that, at the time of that infringement, the defendant was not aware and had no reasonable grounds for supposing that it was an infringement, the claimant is not entitled under this section to any damages against the defendant in respect of that infringement, but is entitled instead to an account of profits in respect of that infringement.

*[Act 25 of 2021 wef 01/04/2022]*

(5) Nothing in subsection (4) affects any entitlement of a grantee to any relief in respect of the infringement of that grantee's rights under this Act other than damages.

### **Exceptions to infringement of grant of protection**

**31.—**(1) It is not an infringement of a grant of protection in respect of a protected variety for any person to do —

- (a) any act privately and for a non-commercial purpose;
- (b) any act for any experimental or research purpose; or
- (c) any act for the purposes of breeding any other plant variety and, except in the case of an essentially derived or other plant variety to which the grant of protection is extended by virtue of section 29(1), any act that requires the grantee's authorisation under section 28(1) in respect of such other variety.

(2) It is not an infringement of a grant of protection for any person engaging in farming activities to use, for propagating purposes and for the purpose of safeguarding agricultural or horticultural production, on the person's own holdings, harvested material from the protected variety where —

- (a) the genera or species within which the protected variety is classified has been prescribed for the purposes of this section as exempt from the rights of a grantee; and
- (b) the harvested material —
  - (i) has been obtained by purchase or otherwise with the authority of the grantee concerned; or



- (ii) having been obtained in accordance with sub-paragraph (i), has subsequently been propagated or grown on those holdings.

### **Exhaustion of grant of protection**

**32.**—(1) An act concerning —

- (a) any material of a protected variety which has been sold or otherwise marketed in Singapore by or with the grantee's consent; or
- (b) any material that is derived from such material,

does not infringe a grant of protection, unless such act involves —

- (c) further propagation of the protected variety; or
- (d) the export of any material of that protected variety which enables the propagation of the protected variety to a country which does not protect varieties of the plant genus or species to which the protected variety belongs, except where the exported material is for final consumption purposes.

(2) In this section, “material” means —

- (a) propagating material of any kind; and
- (b) harvested material, including entire plants and parts of plants.

## **PART 6**

### **AUTHORISATION AND COMPULSORY LICENCES**

#### **Rights under authorisation**

**33.** Where a person has been authorised to do any act mentioned in section 28(1) by licence by a grantee, that person has the same rights as the grantee to take proceedings in respect of any infringement of the rights of that grantee in respect of the protected variety which affects any right given under that licence and committed after the authorisation was granted.

**Compulsory licences**

**34.**—(1) Any person may apply to the Court for the grant of a compulsory licence to exploit a protected variety in Singapore.

(2) The Court may make an order for the grant of a compulsory licence, subject to any terms that it thinks fit, in accordance with an application under subsection (1) if, and only if, the Court is satisfied that the grant of a compulsory licence is in the public interest.

(3) Without limiting subsection (2), the Court may set out in its order —

(a) the extent to which the protected variety may be exploited;  
and

(b) the right of the licensee to obtain propagating material from the grantee to the extent reasonable.

(4) The Court is to set out in its order the equitable remuneration which the licensee must pay to the grantee.

(5) A licence must not be granted under this section to any person who is unable to demonstrate to the Court that the person will be able to exploit the protected variety in a manner acceptable to the Court.

(6) A licence must not be granted under this section unless the person applying for the licence has first taken all reasonable steps to obtain authorisation from the grantee on reasonable commercial terms and conditions and has failed to obtain such authorisation within a reasonable period of time.

(7) A licence granted under this section does not prevent the grantee from exploiting the protected variety himself, herself or itself or from granting a licence in this respect.

(8) A licence in respect of a protected variety granted under this section may be transferred to another person, but only together with the business activity in connection with which the protected variety is exploited or is intended to be exploited.

(9) A licence granted under this section may, upon the application of any interested party, be terminated by the Court where the Court is satisfied that the ground upon which the licence was granted has ceased to exist.

## PART 7

## NOTICE OF PROTECTION

**Notice of protection**

**35.**—(1) Where an applicant sells any propagating material of the plant variety in respect of which the applicant's application relates, the applicant must take all reasonable steps, by means of suitable labelling or other identification of that material to inform the purchaser of the existence of that application, unless and until that application is withdrawn or lapses or the Registrar declines to make a grant in respect of that application.

(2) Any person who —

(a) has acquired any rights in respect of any plant variety under section 21, or who is a licensee of such rights; and

(b) sells any propagating material of that plant variety,

must take all reasonable steps, by means of suitable labelling or other identification of that material, to inform the purchaser of those rights.

(3) In determining, for the purposes of section 30(4), whether or not any person had reasonable grounds for supposing that any action was an infringement of a grant of protection, the Court may take into account the extent (if any) to which a person mentioned in subsection (1) or (2) (as the case may be) has complied with that subsection in respect of any propagating material in relation to which that infringement occurred.

## PART 8

## DENOMINATION

**Approval and registration of denomination**

**36.**—(1) A plant variety in respect of which an application for a grant of protection is made is to have a denomination and, subject to subsections (2) and (3), the denomination must be approved by the Registrar and registered at the time the grant of protection is made.

(2) The Registrar must approve and register a proposed denomination for a plant variety if, and only if, in the opinion of the Registrar, it complies with the prescribed requirements.

(3) The Registrar must not approve or register a denomination for the plant variety which —

- (a) consists solely of figures, except where this is an established practice for designating plant varieties;
- (b) is likely to mislead or cause confusion concerning the characteristics, value or identity of the plant variety, or the breeder's identity;
- (c) is contrary to any written law or public order, or is likely to be offensive to the public;
- (d) is likely to cause confusion with a trade mark, a name, a business or any other rights for which any person other than the applicant enjoys protection under any law; or
- (e) is likely to cause confusion with a trade mark for any material of another plant variety or for goods similar to any material of the firstmentioned plant variety for which the applicant enjoys protection under any law.

(4) Where a denomination for a plant variety has previously been submitted in any UPOV member other than Singapore for the purpose of registration in that UPOV member, the denomination submitted for the purpose of an application in Singapore in respect of that plant variety must be the same as the denomination submitted in the UPOV member.

(5) The Registrar must approve the denomination submitted under subsection (4) upon the grant of protection, unless the Registrar considers the denomination to be unsuitable for use within Singapore.

(6) Where the Registrar refuses to approve a denomination under subsection (2), (3) or (5), the Registrar must require, and the applicant must propose, another denomination within the prescribed period.

**Use of denomination**

**37.**—(1) Any person who offers for sale or disposes of propagating material of a protected variety must use the registered denomination for that protected variety, whether or not the term of the grant of protection has expired.

(2) A person must not offer for sale or dispose of, under the registered denomination of a protected variety, propagating material of some other plant variety, whether or not the term of grant of protection has expired.

(3) A registered denomination for a protected variety or a denomination which is confusingly similar to the registered denomination must not be used for any plant variety of the same plant species as the protected variety or for a plant specie which is closely related thereto or for any material of such a plant variety, so long as —

- (a) the registration of the registered denomination of the protected variety is in force; or
- (b) the registered denomination of the protected variety is still in use in respect of the commercial exploitation of the protected variety, even if the term of the grant of protection has expired.

(4) A person who sells or markets the propagating material or harvested material of a protected variety may, for that purpose, associate a trademark, trade name or other similar indication which the person owns with the registered denomination of that protected variety.

(5) Where a person associates a trademark, trade name or other similar indication with the registered denomination under subsection (4), the denomination must nevertheless be easily recognisable and distinct from the trademark, trade name or other similar indication.

**Invalidation of registration of denomination**

**38.**—(1) An application for a declaration of invalidity of a registered denomination may be made to the Court on the ground that it is registered in breach of section 36(3).

(2) Where —

- (a) the registration of a denomination has been declared invalid by the Court under subsection (1); or
- (b) the use of the registered denomination by the grantee has been prohibited or restricted by an order of Court pursuant to any proceedings taken under any law,

the Registrar must require the grantee to submit another suitable denomination for registration within the prescribed period.

**PART 9****REGISTER OF PLANT VARIETIES****Register to be maintained**

**39.**—(1) The Registrar must maintain a register of plant varieties.

(2) There must be entered in the register —

- (a) grants of protection made;
- (b) every decision of the Registrar making or declining the making of a grant;
- (c) the approved denomination for a plant variety;
- (d) any particulars of the grantee that the Registrar may determine; and
- (e) any other matters and information relating to a protected variety or grant of protection whose entry in the register appears to the Registrar to be useful.

(3) The register may be kept in whole or in part using a computer.

(4) Any record of a particular or other matter made by using a computer used for the purpose of keeping the register, or any part of the register, is taken to be an entry in the register.

**Inspection of and extract from register**

**40.**—(1) The register is to be available at the Registry for inspection by any person during the hours when the Registry is open for business.

(2) If the register, or any part of the register, is kept by using a computer, subsection (1) is satisfied if a person who wants to inspect the register or that part of the register is given access to a computer terminal from which the person can read on a screen, or obtain a printed copy of, the particulars or other matters recorded in the register or that part of the register.

(3) Any person who applies for a certified copy of an entry in the register or a certified extract from the register is entitled to obtain such a copy or extract on payment of the prescribed fee.

(4) In relation to any portion of the register kept otherwise than in documentary form, the right to a copy or extract conferred by subsection (3) is a right to a copy or extract in a form in which it can be taken away.

[16/2012]

(5) In this section, “certified copy” and “certified extract” mean a copy and extract certified by the Registrar.

[16/2012]

**Rectification of register**

**41.**—(1) Any person having a sufficient interest may apply to the Registrar for the rectification of an error or omission in the register.

(1A) An application for rectification is subject to the rules mentioned in section 54(2)(*ea*).

[Act 7 of 2022 wef 26/05/2022]

(2) Except where the Registrar directs otherwise, the effect of a rectification of the register is that the error or omission in question is deemed never to have been made.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), an application for rectification may not be made in respect of a matter affecting the validity of a grant of protection.

(4) The Registrar may make any correction in the register pursuant to any Court order affecting a grant of protection.

(5) The Registrar may remove from the register any matter which appears to him or her to have ceased to have effect.

### **Changes reflected in register**

**42.**—(1) The Registrar may enter the following in the register:

- (a) any change in the grantee's name or address;
- (b) any change in ownership of the rights in relation to a grant of protection;
- (c) a note of any licence granted by a grantee,

upon receiving such information under section 24(3) or on request made in the prescribed manner by the grantee of a registered grant of protection.

(2) Where a grant of protection has been transferred to another person, or a licence (including a licence granted under section 34) has been granted or transferred, an entry of this fact must, upon request and the payment of the prescribed fee, be made in the register.

### **Registration to be prima facie evidence of validity**

**43.** In any proceedings before the Court relating to a grant of protection —

- (a) the entry in the register of a person as a grantee is prima facie evidence of the validity of the grant of protection; and
- (b) the entry in the register of any change in ownership of the rights in relation to the grant of protection is prima facie evidence of such change in ownership.



**PART 10  
OFFENCES**

**Falsification of register**

**44.** Any person who —

- (a) makes, or causes to be made, a false entry in the register;
- (b) makes, or causes to be made, any thing false purporting to be a copy of an entry in the register; or
- (c) produces or tenders, or causes to be produced or tendered in evidence any thing mentioned in paragraph (b),

knowing or having reason to believe that the entry or thing (as the case may be) is false shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to both.

**Falsely representing plant variety as protected variety**

**45.** Any person who —

- (a) falsely represents that a plant variety is a protected variety;  
or
- (b) makes a false representation as to the propagating material of a protected variety,

knowing or having reason to believe that the representation is false shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

**Misuse of denomination**

**46.** Any person who wilfully or negligently acts in contravention of section 37(1), (2) or (3) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

## PART 11

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Registrar not liable in respect of official acts**

**47.**—(1) The Registrar and any officer of the Registry are not to be taken to warrant the correctness or validity of a grant of protection or the registration of a denomination under this Act or under any international agreement or convention to which Singapore is a party.

(2) The Registrar, any officer of the Registry and any Examiner mentioned in section 17(1) and officer thereof (if the Examiner is not an individual), do not incur any liability by reason only of, or in connection with, any examination required or authorised by this Act, or any such international agreement or convention, or any report or other proceedings consequent on such examination.

[16/2014]

**Right of appeal**

**48.**—(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) or by rules made under this Act, there is no appeal to the Court from a decision of the Registrar for any matter under this Act.

(2) The following are subject to appeal to the Court:

- (a) a decision of the Registrar to decline to make a grant of protection;
- (b) a decision of the Registrar to make a grant of protection;
- (c) a decision of the Registrar approving or disapproving a proposed denomination.

(3) An appeal does not lie to the appellate court from a decision of the Court on appeal from a decision of the Registrar for any matter under this Act unless permission to appeal is given by the appellate court.

[Act 25 of 2021 wef 01/04/2022]

[23/2019; 40/2019]

(4) In this section, “appellate court” means the court to which an appeal under subsection (3) is to be made under section 29C of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act 1969.

[40/2019]

## **Forms and directions of Registrar**

**49.** The Minister may make rules for the publication by the Registrar of —

- (a) the forms to be used for any purpose relating to a grant of protection or any other proceedings before the Registrar under this Act; and
- (b) the practice directions issued by the Registrar.

## **Amendment of documents**

**49A.** Subject to the rules mentioned in section 54(2)(ea), the Registrar may, at the written request of a person who has made any application under this Act (including an application for a grant of protection for a plant variety), or filed a notice or other document for the purposes of this Act, or at the written request of the person's agent, amend the application, notice or document —

- (a) to correct a clerical error or an obvious mistake; or
- (b) if the Registrar is of the opinion that it is fair and reasonable in all the circumstances of the case to do so.

*[16/2012]*

*[Act 7 of 2022 wef 26/05/2022]*

## **Fees**

**50.—**(1) There must be paid in respect of applications, grants, registrations and other matters under this Act such fees as may be prescribed.

*[16/2012]*

(2) The Minister may make rules as to the remission of fees under prescribed circumstances.

(3) All fees collected must be paid into the funds of the Office.

*[16/2012]*

## **Hours of business and excluded days**

**51.—**(1) The Registrar may issue practice directions to specify —

- (a) the hours of business of the Registry; and
- (b) the days which are to be treated as excluded days.

(2) The Minister may prescribe the effect of doing any business under this Act —

- (a) on any day after the hours of business of the Registry; or
- (b) on any day which is an excluded day.

(3) For the purposes of subsections (1) and (2) —

- (a) different hours of business may be specified for different classes of business;
- (b) different excluded days may be specified for different classes of business; and
- (c) different effects of doing business —
  - (i) outside the hours of business of the Registry; or
  - (ii) on an excluded day,may be prescribed for different classes of business.

### **Composition of offences**

**52.**—(1) The Registrar or any person authorised by the Registrar in writing may compound any offence under this Act which is prescribed as a compoundable offence by collecting from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding \$2,000.

(2) The Office may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations to prescribe the offences which may be compounded.

*[2/2007]*

(2A) On payment of the sum of money, no further proceedings are to be taken against such person in respect of the offence.

*[2/2007]*

(3) All sums collected under this section must be paid into the funds of the Office.

*[2/2007]*

### **Jurisdiction of court**

**53.** Despite any provision to the contrary in the Criminal Procedure Code 2010, a District Court has jurisdiction to try any offence under

this Act and has power to impose the full penalty or punishment in respect of the offence.

## **Rules**

**54.—**(1) The Minister may make rules —

- (a) for prescribing anything authorised or required by this Act to be prescribed; and
- (b) generally for regulating practice and procedure under this Act.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), rules made under this section may make provision —

- (a) as to the manner of making applications and filing other documents and in respect of anything that is to accompany or to be furnished together with any application;
- (b) as to the procedure to be followed in connection with any application or request to the Registrar or in connection with any proceedings or other matter before the Registrar, and the rectification of irregularities of procedure;
- (c) providing for the testing and treatment of plant varieties to which applications relate;
- (d) requiring and regulating the translation of documents and the filing and authentication of any translation;
- (e) as to the service of documents;
- (ea) to enable the Registrar to publish —
  - (i) an application to rectify an error or omission in the register; and
  - (ii) a request to amend an application (including one for a grant of protection for a plant variety), a notice or other document filed for the purpose of this Act,and to provide for the making of objections to the rectification or amendment by a person claiming to be affected by it;

*[Act 7 of 2022 wef 26/05/2022]*

- (f) prescribing time limits for anything required to be done under this Act;
- (g) providing for the extension of any time limit prescribed or specified by the Registrar, whether or not it has already expired;
- (h) providing for the forfeiture of any priority given in respect of an application;
- (i) authorising the preparation, publication, sale and exchange of copies of diagrams, photographs and documents filed with the Registry, and indexes and abridgments to them;
- (j) prescribing the mode of publishing any matters required by this Act to be published;
- (k) prescribing the requirements to be met in selecting the denomination of plant varieties, and providing for the approval or rejection by the Registrar of any denomination or the amendment to any denomination; and
- (l) prescribing fees and charges for the purposes of this Act.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY  
PLANT VARIETIES  
PROTECTION ACT 2004

This Legislative History is a service provided by the Law Revision Commission on a best-efforts basis. It is not part of the Act.

**1. Act 22 of 2004 — Plant Varieties Protection Act 2004**

Bill	:	21/2004
First Reading	:	19 May 2004
Second and Third Readings	:	15 June 2004
Commencement	:	1 July 2004

**2. 2006 Revised Edition — Plant Varieties Protection Act (Chapter 232A)**

Operation	:	31 January 2006
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**3. Act 2 of 2007 — Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2007**  
(Amendments made by section 7 of the above Act)

Bill	:	14/2006
First Reading	:	8 November 2006
Second and Third Readings	:	22 January 2007
Commencement	:	1 March 2007 (section 7)

**4. G.N. No. S 743/2013 — Plant Varieties Protection Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2013**

Commencement	:	9 December 2013
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**5. Act 16 of 2012 — Intellectual Property (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2012**

(Amendments made by section 2 of the above Act)

Bill	:	14/2012
First Reading	:	14 May 2012
Second and Third Readings	:	10 July 2012
Commencement	:	7 March 2014 (section 2(a)) 30 July 2014 (section 2(b) to (h))

**6. Act 16 of 2014 — Plant Varieties Protection (Amendment) Act 2014**

Bill	:	9/2014
First Reading	:	17 February 2014

Second and Third Readings : 13 March 2014  
 Commencement : 30 July 2014

**7. Act 23 of 2019 — Intellectual Property (Dispute Resolution) Act 2019**  
 (Amendments made by Part 6 of the above Act)

Bill : 17/2019  
 First Reading : 8 July 2019  
 Second and Third Readings : 5 August 2019  
 Commencement : 21 November 2019 (section 26)

**8. Act 40 of 2019 — Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Act 2019**  
 (Amendments made by section 29(12) and section 28(1) read with item 118 of the Schedule to the above Act)

Bill : 32/2019  
 First Reading : 7 October 2019  
 Second Reading : 5 November 2019  
 Notice of Amendments : 5 November 2019  
 Third Reading : 5 November 2019  
 Commencement : 2 January 2021 (section 29(12) and section 28(1) read with item 118 of the Schedule)

**9. 2020 Revised Edition — Plant Varieties Protection Act 2004**

Operation : 31 December 2021

**10. Act 25 of 2021 — Courts (Civil and Criminal Justice) Reform Act 2021**  
 (Amendments made by section 179 of the above Act)

Bill : 18/2021  
 First Reading : 26 July 2021  
 Second and Third Readings : 14 September 2021  
 Commencement : 1 April 2022

**11. Act 7 of 2022 — Intellectual Property (Amendment) Act 2022**

Bill : 39/2021  
 First Reading : 1 November 2021  
 Second and Third Readings : 12 January 2022



Commencement : 26 May 2022

### Abbreviations

C.P.	Council Paper
G.N. No. S (N.S.)	Government Notification Number Singapore (New Series)
G.N. No.	Government Notification Number
G.N. No. S	Government Notification Number Singapore
G.N. Sp. No. S	Government Notification Special Number Singapore
L.A.	Legislative Assembly
L.N.	Legal Notification (Federal/Malaysian Subsidiary Legislation)
M. Act	Malayan Act/Malaysia Act
M. Ordinance	Malayan Ordinance
Parl.	Parliament
S.S.G.G. (E) No.	Straits Settlements Government Gazette (Extraordinary) Number
S.S.G.G. No.	Straits Settlements Government Gazette Number

**COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**PLANT VARIETIES**  
**PROTECTION ACT 2004**

This Act has undergone renumbering in the 2020 Revised Edition. This Comparative Table is provided to help readers locate the corresponding provisions in the last Revised Edition.

<b>2020 Ed.</b>	<b>2006 Ed.</b>
<b>22—(4)</b>	<b>22—(3A)</b>
(5)	(4)
—	<b>40—(4)</b> [ <i>Deleted by Act 16 of 2012</i> ]
<b>40—(4)</b>	(5)
(5)	(6)
—	<b>THE SCHEDULE</b> [ <i>Deleted by Act 16 of 2014</i> ]