

MemberUpdate

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TOPIC: 1st Industry Call for Submissions on 2018/19 GTA Standards

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1. Issue

During deliberations on the development of Grain Trading Standards (Standards) for the 2017/18 season, industry feedback was received by GTA on the proposed changes for 2017/18, and potential changes for the following 2018/19 season.

The GTA Standards Committee (Committee) has met to discuss industry feedback received and the potential Standards for 2018/19.

This document is provided for industry consideration. It lists the following information on the 2018/19 Standards:

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2. Process for Industry Feedback

The Committee is seeking industry comment on the issues outlined in this document and on any other Standards related issue.

Submissions should be received by COB Friday 23rd March 2018.

Please lodge your submissions by sending to submissions@graintrade.org.au and title your email – Standards Review 2018/19.

Industry is encouraged to provide supporting evidence for any change proposed in Standards. Preference is for industry to use the pro-forma for lodging submissions located on the GTA website at <http://www.graintrade.org.au/committees>.

Unless marked “confidential” and appropriate supporting reasons are provided, all submissions will be placed on the GTA website for industry review.

3. Agreed Changes for Adoption in 2018/19

3.1 Agreed Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guide – all commodities

The existing Visual Recognition Standards Guide (VRSG) produced by GTA is being updated where relevant for the existing commodities (barley, wheat, sorghum, oats, canola, desi chickpeas, maize, kabuli chickpeas, Angustifolius lupins, red lentils, field peas, faba beans and mung beans). The following areas have been altered:

| Commodity | Standards Issue | Agreed Outcome |
|-----------|---|---|
| Barley | Varietal List | Update the list of varieties having a short versus long Rachilla based on varieties advised by Barley Australia. |
| Barley | Field Fungi - Clarify grey definition & photo does not include requirement for minimum of 10% spotting | Current wording implies Grey Discolouration must meet the minimum 10% requirement. Wording is to be altered to remove reference to 10% for Grey Discolouration as the picture only is the minimum requirement for a grain to be classified as Grey Discolouration. |
| Barley | Severely Damaged - A photo of Diseased Fusarium implies that Fusarium may be a relatively "common occurrence" | As Diseased Fusarium is a relatively rare occurrence, there is no need for Fusarium to be referenced in the VRSG. The existing definition refers to all diseases hence there is no need to specifically reference Fusarium. It was therefore agreed to remove the word Fusarium below the existing photo and in the definition. |
| Barley | Severely Damaged – the current Mould photo shows a significant level of Mould. | The intent of the VRSG is to show the minimum level of a defect before the grain is classified as defective. It was agreed to replace the existing photo with one which shows a lesser degree of Mould. |
| Durum | Vitreous – a trait in the Durum Standards that is required to be assessed. | It was agreed to include a description and a photo of a vitreous and non-vitreous durum grain. Further, as industry assesses non-vitreous grain by various means (whole grain, cut grain), a photo of a whole and cut non-vitreous grain is to be included. |
| Sorghum | Mould – the existing photo indicates a significant level of Mould is required on a grain before it is classified as such. | It was agreed to replace the existing photo with one which shows a lesser degree of Mould. |
| Oats | Heat Damaged or Bin Burnt – need to be consistent in terminology and definitions with other cereals. | <p>The definition is to be expanded to be similar to wheat/barley and other cereals, being the following:</p> <p>"Severely Damaged includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heat Damaged or Burnt. Heat damaged or burnt refers to those kernels that have become severely discoloured. Affected grains appear reddish brown, dark brown or in severe cases, blackened. - Mould. Affected grains appear discoloured and visibly affected by mould. (Note also that a photo is to be included in the VRSG depicting Mould). - Other Serious Visual Defects. Refers to those kernels that have become discoloured and / or have a serious visual defect that is not otherwise listed in these Standards. Affected grains may have a range of visual appearances. Does not include Field Fungi affected grains, refer to Field Fungi. <p>This definition is to be read in conjunction with the photo in the Visual Recognition Standards Guide which depicts the minimum affected standard for a grain to be classified as Severely Damaged."</p> |

| Commodity | Standards Issue | Agreed Outcome |
|------------------|---|---|
| Oats | Stained Grain/Stained Groat - For both quality parameters, the wording is to be modified to remove any reference to "must" and replaced with "it is recommended". | The wording is to be revised to the following: "Where Stained Grains are present in a sample it is recommended the husk is to be removed and the Groat examined to determine if the defect is present." "Where this staining has occurred, it is recommended the husk is to be removed and the Groat examined". |
| Maize | Dead – revise the photo of a Dead grain. | It was agreed to revise the photo for greater clarity with the definition. |
| Maize | Dead – definition is not clear. | For greater clarity the wording will be revised to state that a grain needs to be at least 50% opaque to be classified as Dead. |
| Maize | Storage Mould – the existing photo indicates a significant level of Mould is required on a grain before it is classified as such. | It was agreed to replace the existing photo with one which shows a lesser degree of Mould. |

Further sections are being reviewed and industry will be advised in the second call for industry submissions on the specific details of any proposed changes:

- Additional commodities will be added as requested by industry and where agreed by the Committee.
- Industry is encouraged to comment on any section of the VRSG where further clarification is required.
- Suggested changes to oilseeds and pulses in the VRSG have been forwarded to the Australian Oilseeds Federation and Pulse Australia for their consideration. These will be advised to industry during the second round of industry consultations on Standards, due for release to industry in May 2018.

3.2 Agreed Change: Minor Wording Changes & Other Issues – all cereal commodities

Minor changes to wording in all Standards will occur. These changes refer to the latest versions of reference material available to assist industry implementation of Standards, including:

- Visual Recognition Standards Guide for 2018/19.
- The document entitled "Australian Grains Industry Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances 2018/19" (see <http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp>).
- As it is currently not listed and does occur in grain, confirm that "Ryegrass on Stalk" is to be included in the catch-all category (generally Type 7b for most commodities).
- Ensure that Type 7a (or equivalent), being the weed seed category for all pulses, specifically lists all pulses (e.g., Adzuki beans is missing in many commodity grade lists).
- Review other common weed seeds that are frequently found in samples and list them in the applicable weed seed Type category, for greater clarity. This includes a range of weed seeds including Onion weed that are often found in barley.
- Parthenium weed has a tolerance in QLD only. A nil tolerance applies to Parthenium Weed in NSW/VIC/SA. This is to be listed in all standards where it is currently not stated.
- Soil / Earth is to have a consistent definition across all cereal commodities, being that of wheat with the reference to each commodities' applicable screen size being the only difference. The existing tolerances will not be altered.
- The quality parameter Insects (Large) is to have a consistent definition across all cereal commodities, being that of wheat. The existing tolerances will not be altered.
- The quality parameter Snails is to have a consistent definition across all cereal commodities, being that of wheat. The existing tolerances will not be altered.
- For the assessment of Contaminants, it is assumed but not specifically stated that there is no time limit for assessment. The Procedure for assessment of Contaminants will be altered to reference that unlimited time can be taken for assessment.
- For the assessment of Defects, it is assumed but not specifically stated that there is no time limit for assessment following the initial 30-60 seconds review. The Procedure for assessment of Defects will be altered to reference that unlimited time can be taken for assessment.

3.3 Agreed Change: Varietal Master List – Wheat, Barley, Oats

As in previous seasons, the Varietal Master List for the above commodities will be reviewed following receipt of the changes from the industry sectors responsible for maintenance of those lists. All Standards will be revised based on those changes and advised to industry when the 2018/19 season Standards are released.

Note: As advised to industry in 2017, GTA is working with the Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA) on the classification of oat varieties. The aim is to develop and release a national approach to oat variety classification during 2018.

3.4 Agreed Change: Falling Number Testing – Wheat

Issues arose in the last harvest whereby the current wording in the wheat Standards relates to the Falling number result over-riding the visual assessment where visual sprouting occurs. In some instances, Falling Number testing occurs when no visual sprouting is evident on the grain.

The wording in the definition and procedure will be altered to reflect that:

- Falling Number testing can occur at any time, even if no visual sprouting is evident; and
- Where industry may conduct Falling Number testing where there is no visual evidence of sprouting of the germ, the Falling Number result applies.

3.5 Agreed Change: Statement of Standards – Wheat

GTA currently produces a statement of Standards, being a summary table listing all wheat grades and their tolerances for each quality parameter. Industry uses this table as a reference to compare tolerances for various grades.

During 2017 GTA, on behalf of industry, undertook and completed a project to place all commodity Standards (including wheat) on a Standards Database. As industry can now use that database to download all relevant Standards (by applying to GTA for access), there is no further need to produce the Statement of Standards.

Hence the Committee has agreed that the Statement of Standards for wheat will no longer be produced.

3.6 Agreed Change: Snails - Barley

As advised to industry in 2017, it is recognised that there is a gap between the tolerance for snails in Trading Standards (applied at receipt) versus that required by some markets. While industry has implemented a range of effective measures to manage this difference, submissions were received during development of the 2017/18 Standards requesting a revision of the applicable tolerances in barley Standards. Some of those submissions requested an implementation date of 2017/18, whereas others agreed with a change for 2018/19.

When 2017/18 Standards were released, the Committee advised industry that it agreed that further changes to tolerances could occur in future to compliment the research and other activities being undertaken to manage snail contamination in grain consignments.

The following changes will be implemented in the GTA Barley Standards in 2018/19:

| Grade | Revised Tolerance |
|----------------------------|---|
| Malt 1, Malt 2, Malt 3, F1 | 1 snail per half litre (Dead or Alive) |
| F2 | No change - 4 snails per half litre (Dead or Alive) |

3.7 Agreed Change: Other Foreign Material - Oats

It was acknowledged the existing definition for Other Foreign Material lacked detail and should be made consistent with other cereals. The Committee agreed for the definition be altered to align with the wheat definition, (as follows), noting that the prior intent of the definition/tolerance is not altered:

“Other Foreign Material

Refers to other material not otherwise specified as having a tolerance in these Standards that has the ability to degrade the quality of oats. It includes, but is not limited to the following:

Fine Material

This refers to material such as dust and soil (<0.06mm in diameter) and minerals.

Snail Shell and Stored Grain Insects

This includes pieces of Snail Shell (less than half an entire shell), pieces of Stored Grain Insects (not whole) and pieces of Insects Large and Small.

Other

This includes pieces of Sticks that are smaller than the dimensions specified under Objectionable Material, and other non-vegetative material”.

3.8 Agreed Change: Temperature - Maize

It was agreed that as per sorghum, the receipt of maize at high temperature (i.e., immediately ex a grain dryer) should not be permitted. The Committee agreed to include in the maize Standards a reference to temperature as per sorghum, being:

“Temperature - Maximum

The maximum temperature of grain tendered for delivery when sourced direct from a grain dryer is 35°C for all Grades.”

3.9 Agreed Change: “Of Which” in Defectives - Triticale

The current Standards have the following tolerances:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------|---|
| Stained (max) | 15.0% | Includes Weather Stained, Field Fungi, Pink Stained |
| of which, Pink Stained (max) | 5.0% | Various fungal species that cause pink staining |

In line with other commodities, the Committee agreed to remove the “of which” statement to create two separate quality parameters independent of each other. It is not expected that this change will have a significant impact on the quality of Triticale received and traded under this Standard.

4. Potential Changes for 2018/19 where further Industry Advice is required

4.1 Potential Change: Stained - Durum

Advice was received from industry, that the existing tolerances for Stained in Durum was too high. There are two distinct markets for durum, being the domestic and the export market. Each may have different quality requirements.

GTA is seeking further clarification from the requestor of the change regarding their specific issues. Further advice will be provided to industry on this topic during the second round of industry consultations on Standards, due for release to industry in May 2018.

In the interim industry feedback on this topic is encouraged.

4.2 Potential Change: Feed Grade Names - Barley

In recent seasons, on several occasions, the Committee has received advice that there is some confusion among industry on the use of Feed 1 barley. This has implications for the segregation, pricing and other issues of the various barley grades.

In considering this issue further the Committee understands:

- The Feed 1 grade may be used for a number of different purposes by different markets, including for malting and for stockfeed.
- Further education for industry on its uses and market requirements may be warranted.
- On receipt of grain, the intended end-use may not be known.
- The current Standards for Feed 1 may or may not be reflective of the different end-uses, with one option for a resolution being to create two grades:
 - For example one for human consumption, and one for stockfeed.
 - Different grade names would be needed if this option were adopted.
 - Pricing and segregation issues would need to be considered.
- To meet specific market requirements:
 - Exporters may select stock of differing quality based on the end-use and market requirements.
 - There may be opportunities to blend more than one grade to meet those market requirements (e.g., Feed 1 and Feed 2), depending on the quality of each grade.

The Committee could not reach a firm decision on this issue. In general, the Committee agreed with the concept that a change in the grade name for Feed 1 and / or Feed 2 may assist to alleviate industry concerns. A range of options were considered by the Committee including:

- General Purpose 1 and General Purpose 2
- Barley 1 and Barley 2
- Other options as yet not identified

Industry comments are invited to assist the Committee in its further deliberations on this issue.

4.3 Potential Change: Total Defectives – Sorghum

In line with the Committee's changes in 2017/18 Standards to remove the reference to "of which" for various defective grain categories, a review continues on the removal of this terminology in sorghum Standards.

For sorghum, the Total Defective parameter has sub-categories of Field Fungi, Heat Damaged and Mould. In terms of Total Defective grains that add a significant contribution to the total count, the main quality parameters of concern are generally expected to be Insect Damaged and potentially Sappy.

The Committee is currently reviewing receival quality data and the impact on separation of these parameters via removal of the "of which" statement. Further advice will be provided to industry on this topic during the second round of industry consultations on Standards, due for release to industry in May 2018.

In the interim industry feedback on this topic is encouraged.

4.4 Potential Change: Field Fungi - Oats

It was acknowledged by the Committee that the current nil tolerance for Field Fungi in both Milling grades and the Feed grade causes issues with deliveries and is problematic for a bulk commodity such as oats where detection of 1 grain may lead to rejection of that grain parcel. There was general agreement to move away from a nil tolerance where feasible and no regulatory restrictions existed to prevent this change.

In moving to a tolerance, consideration of both the export and domestic processing industry needs to be taken into account. Other quality parameters such as Staining/Colour also interact with Field Fungi. Of high importance to end-users is the level of staining on the groat; although the practicalities of this being assessed for every sample was an issue. Industry does however implement appropriate practices to ensure groat quality is known and adequately maintained.

It is thought that in general, if low levels of Field Fungi are present then there may be relatively little impact on the groat.

Industry views are sought on the following proposed tolerances for Field Fungi and whether these changes should be implemented for 2018/19 or 2019/20:

- Prime Milling & Milling – 10 grains / 0.5L
- Feed No.1 – 30 grains / 0.5L

4.5 Potential Change: Septoria - Oats

Septoria is currently not listed in GTA Oat Trading Standards. The Committee considers there is a need for inclusion of this parameter in the Oat Standards.

While it is acknowledged alignment with GIWA standards may be beneficial, it was considered that the existing WA photo in the VRSG for Septoria was "too generous" for this quality parameter to be adopted in GTA Standards. The Committee agreed that a revised photo be included in the VRSG showing a lesser extent of Septoria damage before a grain is classified as Septoria.

A range of options exist for inclusion of this quality parameter in the Oat Standards. These include:

- The Committee's preferred approach, being that Septoria be included in the existing Stained Grain / Stained Groat definition for all grades.
- A separate category and tolerance be created for Septoria.
- Other options as yet not specified.

Industry views are sought on the preferred option outlined above, or any suggested alternative approaches to inclusion of Septoria in the GTA Oat Standards.

4.6 Potential Change: New By-Product Standard – Almond Hulls

Advice was received from industry that there needs to be a Standard for Almond Hulls, given the volume currently traded on the domestic market. If created, this Standard would be included in the By-Products section of the GTA Standards.

GTA is currently seeking advice on suitable quality parameters and tolerances for this new Standard. Further advice will be provided to industry on the draft Standard that is developed during the second round of industry consultations on Standards, due for release to industry in May 2018.

In the interim industry feedback on applicable quality parameters for this proposed Standard is encouraged.

4.7 Potential Change: New Standard – Spelt

Advice was received from industry that there needs to be a Standard for Spelt.

GTA is seeking further clarification from the requestor of the Standard for suitable quality parameters and tolerances. Further advice will be provided to industry on the draft Standard that is developed during the second round of industry consultations on Standards, due for release to industry in May 2018.

In the interim industry feedback on applicable quality parameters for this proposed Standard is encouraged.

5. Issues Raised by Industry but not Agreed

5.1 Rejected Change: Severely Damaged – Barley

Industry requested that a black kernel grain photo as well as the existing black husk grain be included in the VRSG section of Severely Damaged as the existing picture is somewhat confusing. The Committee did not agree on the basis that the existing image is suitable for representing black on the husk.

In addition, the wording in the VRSG clarifies that black may be evident also under the husk, hence there is no requirement for a photo depicting black grain without the husk.

5.2 Rejected Change: Protein – Barley

During development of the 2017/18 Standards, a submission was received seeking an increase in the minimum protein content for Malt 1 and Malt 2 barley. A range of issues arose during review of that issue, including the different requirements for protein in some domestic and export markets.

As a consequence, when the 2017/18 Standards were released to industry, no changes were made to the barley Standards, however industry was advised the Committee would keep the proposal for change in protein content on the agenda for the review of Standards in 2018/19.

Following consideration, the Committee has re-iterated their decision that no change is proposed for 2018/19.

6. Issues for future Consideration

6.1 Further Research: Foreign Material – All Cereals

The Committee has previously advised industry of further research and work required on Foreign Material. The Committee has commenced this activity and is currently reviewing various aspects related to Foreign Material in those applicable Standards. Consideration is being given to matters such as:

- The definition of Foreign Material.
- The consistency of the definition across commodities.
- The method of assessment including
 - Sample size; and
 - Whether Foreign Material is to be assessed in the entire sample, above the screen or below the screen, or a combination of all these areas.

Results of the review are expected to be provided to industry in time for industry comment during the second round of industry consultations on Standards, due for release to industry in May 2018.

6.2 Further Research: Nil Tolerance Parameters – All Cereals

The Committee has previously advised industry of further research and consultation required on the applicability of a nil tolerance in Standards. The Committee has commenced this activity and is currently reviewing various aspects related to this topic (other than those previously outlined in this Consultation Paper) including:

- The definition of Nil.
- The applicability of a Nil tolerance to apply for each quality parameter in a bulk grain load.
- Regulatory impacts of any potential change away from Nil.
- Suitable tolerances by quality parameter and commodity to apply.
- The consistency of the definitions and tolerances across commodities.
- The method of assessment, including sample size.

Results of the review are expected to be provided to industry in time for industry comment during the second round of industry consultations on Standards, due for release to industry in May 2018.

6.3 Further Research: Ergot Assessment – All Cereals

Industry was advised in 2017 of a review of the current assessment method for ryegrass ergot, and the application of the tolerance. Research is underway to determine the practicalities of altering ergot assessment from length to weight basis, recognising potential issues such as the difficulty of assessing the weight of Ergot in the field to 2 decimal places.

The Committee is reviewing research data and results of the review are expected to be provided to industry in time for industry comment during the second round of industry consultations on Standards, due for release to industry in May 2018.

6.4 Further Research: Screen Specifications – All Cereals

The Committee has previously advised industry of further research and work required on defining screen specifications where screens are used for the assessment of grain. The Committee has commenced this activity and is currently reviewing various aspects related to this topic.

Initially, the review will be for oats, in consultation with the Grain Industry Association of Western Australia.

Results of the review are expected to be provided to industry in time for industry comment during the second round of industry consultations on Standards, due for release to industry in May 2018.

6.5 Further Research: Other Topics – All Cereals

The Committee has previously advised industry of several other quality related issues in the Standards where ongoing research is required. Specific details are included in previous industry information papers.

In summary, the Committee will advise industry of the outcome and timing for any potential changes to Standards that subsequently arise from that research. Topics include:

- Review of the suitability of sample sizes used for assessment of contaminants.
- Review of the suitability of sample sizes used for assessment of defects.
- Applicability of the existing barley Standards for Falling Number and germination.

6.6 Future Review: Varietal Codes – All Commodities

Further consideration has been given by the Committee to a proposal, received from industry in 2017, that proposed adoption of common codes for varieties. In principle, the Committee agrees with the proposal that adoption of common codes would assist industry in several ways, including a reduction in resources, duplication of effort and errors.

Whilst this is not of direct responsibility of the Committee; further industry consultation will occur to progress the matter. This includes potential IT system issues in supporting the common code format should it be adopted.

Industry will be advised in due course of the progress of the project.

6.7 Future Review: Moisture – Tasmania, all Cereal Commodities

In developing the 2017/18 Standards, the Committee received a request to increase the maximum moisture content in Standards (receival and trading) for Tasmanian cereal grains to 13.5%. Following consultation, comments were received by the Committee from industry both for and against the change.

While no change was accepted for 2017/18, it was agreed that this issue required further consideration. The Committee and GTA management are currently considering options to address the issue and will advise industry on the matter in due course.