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Explanatory Memorandum
GTA GRAIN STANDARDS
2014/15 Season

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1. Background

GTA Member Update No.4 of 14 and No.9 of 14 sought feedback from industry on potential changes to grain standards (Standards) for the coming season. Feedback was received from a range of industry sectors on the proposed changes and a range of other issues.

The GTA Standards committee (Committee) met in 2014 on several occasions and reviewed feedback from industry. The Committee recommended changes to the GTA Board and the Board has adopted recommendations as appropriate.

This document lists:

- Changes to all Standards for implementation in 2014/15;
- Those issues raised by industry where changes were not accepted; and
- Issues potentially to be addressed in the 2015/16 Standards and beyond.

2. Process for Implementation

As the 2014/15 Standards have been adopted by the GTA Board, the Standards for 2014/15 will apply as of 1 August 2014. The Standards have been published on the GTA website at www.graintrade.org.au and are now available for industry use.

3. Changes made for implementation in 2014/15

3.1 All Cereals (Section 2)

3.1.1 Visual Recognition Standards Guides

a) Existing Visual Recognition Standards Guides (VRSG) produced by GTA have been updated for barley, wheat, sorghum, oats, canola, desi chickpeas, maize, Angustifolius lupins and red lentils:
   - Definitions in the VRSG have been upgraded and made consistent with terminology in each Standards Booklet for the respective commodity. Changes are detailed in this document for each commodity below.
   - Additional photographs depicting particular defects have been added to aid interpretation.

b) GTA VRSGs have been developed for faba beans, field peas and kabuli chickpeas.

3.1.2 Minor Wording Changes & Other Issues

Minor changes to wording in Standards have occurred:

a) Updates in all Standards Booklets to refer to the latest versions of reference material available to assist industry implement Standards including:
   - Weed Seed Identification booklet.
   - Insect Identification booklet.
   - Visual Recognition Standards Guide.
   - The document entitled "Australian Grains Industry Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances 2014/15" (see http://www.graintrade.org.au/storage_and_handling). This document has been updated based on outcomes of the 2014 National Working Party on Grain Protection meeting.

b) It has been noted in each Standard that Australian MRLs are no longer on the APVMA website but are now located on the ComLaw website.

c) To reflect that the GTA Standards may be applied at any stage along the supply chain (i.e., not just at receival), all references have been changed to "Trading Standard".
d) Reference to the National Residue Survey has been altered to include "bulk export terminal operators, Bulk Handling Companies and processors" as these had previously not been included in the definition. This change reflects wording in the GTA Code of Practice for the Management of Grain along the Supply Chain.
e) The GTA Board has updated the Charter for all Technical Committees, including the Standards Committee (see http://www.graintrade.org.au/committees).

3.1.3 Number of Defects on each Grain

The previous Standards included a reference to allow one grain to have more than one defect. This was not implemented by the majority of industry in practice and has now been altered to the following:

"An individual kernel may only have one defect, being the defect type with the tightest tolerance in the standard".

3.1.4 Standards Implementation Date All Crops

There is no longer the need to have two dates for implementation of Standards as previously existed, being for summer and winter crops. To assist development and implementation of Standards, in future all Standards published by GTA are to be implemented as at 1 August each year.

The exception for 2014/15 is sorghum, where further revisions are currently being undertaken to the Standards. These upgraded Standards are due for release by 1 October 2014.

3.1.5 Stones

The prior definition and nil tolerance of Stones meant that very low levels of contamination would result in rejection of that grain. Many modern processing facilities can readily remove Stones prior to processing.

The following tolerances have been adopted for Stones for the 2014/15 season for all cereal commodities and all grades:

Maximum Tolerance to Apply	Commodity	Stone Definition
Max wt of 4.0g per 2.5L	Wheat	Maximum weight of all Stones retained above a 2.0mm screen per 2.5L
Max wt of 4.0g per 2.5L	Barley	Maximum total weight of all Stones retained above the 2.2mm plus 2.5mm screen per 2.5L
Max wt of 4.0g per 2.5L	Sorghum	Maximum weight of all Stones retained above a 2.0mm screen per 2.5L
Max wt of 4.0g per 2.5L	Oats	Maximum weight of all Stones retained above a 2.0mm screen per 2.5L
Max wt of 4.0g per 2.5L	Cereal Rye	Maximum weight of all Stones retained above a 1.6mm screen per 2.5L
Max wt of 4.0g per 2.5L	Triticale	Maximum weight of all Stones retained above a 2.0mm screen per 2.5L
Max wt of 4.0g per 2.5L	Maize	Maximum weight of all Stones above 2.0mm in width or diameter per 2.5L

Tolerances have been set based on the Stones being retained above the screen used for assessment. This was determined to be the most practical method of assessment. Note for Maize, a size limit continues to apply as per previous Standards as the screen hole size of 4.75mm would allow excessively sized Stones to be permitted in maize.

A recommendation was made to the GTA Board for adoption of the change in 2014/15 Standards rather than follow the usual procedure of providing advance notice to industry of the proposal and

adopting the change in the 2015/16 season. This was accepted on the basis of assisting industry to reduce the impact of low levels of Stones in grain as applied under the previous Standards.

All definitions and references in the Standards for Stones (and Sand/Earth as applicable) have been altered to reflect the change.

3.1.6 Sand

Given the altered definition for Stones by commodity based on the size of the screen, the change is also reflected in the definition for Sand for each commodity except for maize. For each commodity the definition now refers to "the screen size" as listed in 3.1.5 above for Stones, except maize where the previous definition of Sand being less than 2mm in diameter continues to apply.

3.2 Wheat

In addition to the points outlined in 3.1 above that apply to all cereals, the following changes were made to wheat Standards only.

3.2.1 Removal of Obsolete Grades

Given that the following grades are no longer in general use by industry, the grades listed below have been deleted from the 2014/15 Standards:

a) CSG123 - PNC
b) CSG124 - PNE

3.2.2 Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould

It was agreed to adopt the following for the 2014/15 season:

Maximum Tolerance to Apply	Grade
1 grain by count per 0.5L in total	All milling grades. This includes AUH2, AGP1, SFT2, ANW2, DR1, DR2, DR3, HPS1, SFW1
5 grains by count per 0.5L in total	FED1

This quality parameter is now referred to as Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould. The previous reference to Storage Mould Affected and Rotted has been deleted.

A recommendation was made to the GTA Board for adoption of the change in 2014/15 Standards rather than adopting the change in the 2015/16 season. This was accepted on the basis that implementation of the change would not have a significant negative impact on industry.

All appropriate references in the Standards and VRSG photos for Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould have been altered to reflect the change.

For a full explanation of the reasons for the adopted change, please refer to the previous discussion paper released in 2013 (Member Update No. 39 of 13 http://www.graintrade.org.au/news/member_updates).

For industry guidance, GTA will develop a Technical Guideline Document as an adjunct to the Code of Practice related to issues associated with management of these quality parameters in storage.

3.2.3 Wheat Quality Australia Wheat Variety Masterlist

As per the agreed procedure, changes to the Wheat Quality Australia Wheat Variety Masterlist for 2014/15 have been made:

a) Confirmed changes to the 2013/14 Master list are highlighted in red
b) The possible changes to be confirmed by 1 September 2014 are in blue and will be supplied to industry at that time.

3.2.4 Wheat Statement of Standards

The Statement of Standards spreadsheet listing all tolerances that apply for each quality parameter by grade has been updated based on all changes to the wheat Standards listed above.

3.3 Barley

In addition to the points outlined in 3.1 above that apply to all cereals, the following changes were made to barley Standards only.

3.3.1 Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould

It was agreed to adopt the following for the 2014/15 season:

Maximum Tolerance to Apply	Grade
1 grain by count per 0.5L in total	All malt grades (Malt 1, Malt2, Malt 3), Feed 1
5 grains by count per 0.5L in total	Feed 2

This quality parameter is now referred to as Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould. The previous reference to Storage Mould Affected and Rotted has been deleted.

A recommendation was made to the GTA Board for adoption of the change in 2014/15 Standards rather than adopting the change in the 2015/16 season. This was accepted on the basis that implementation of the change would not have a significant negative impact on industry.

All appropriate references in the Standards and VRSG photos for Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould have been altered to reflect the change.

For a full explanation of the reasons for the adopted change, please refer to the previous discussion paper released in 2013 (Member Update No. 39 of 13 http://www.graintrade.org.au/news/member_updates).

For industry guidance, GTA will develop a Technical Guideline Document as an adjunct to the Code of Practice related to issues associated with management of these quality parameters in storage.

3.3.2 Barley Variety Masterlist

The list of varieties for all barley grades has been updated based on the final varietal list for 2014/15 on the Barley Australia website, based on decisions made by Barley Australia in consultation with various groups such as the Malting and Brewing Industry Barley Technical Committee and Pilot Brewing Australia.

3.4 Cereal Rye

In addition to the points outlined in 3.1 above that apply to all cereals, the following changes were made to cereal rye Standards only.

3.4.1 Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould

It was agreed to adopt the following for the 2014/15 season:

Maximum Tolerance to Apply	Grade
1 grain by count per 0.5L in total	Cereal Rye

This quality parameter is now referred to as Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould. The previous reference to Storage Mould Affected, Mouldy and Musty has been deleted.

A recommendation was made to the GTA Board for adoption of the change in 2014/15 Standards rather than adopting the change in the 2015/16 season. This was accepted on the basis that implementation of the change would not have a significant negative impact on industry.

All appropriate references in the Standards and VRSG photos for Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould have been altered to reflect the change.

For a full explanation of the reasons for the adopted change, please refer to the previous discussion paper released in 2013 (Member Update No. 39 of 13 http://www.graintrade.org.au/news/member_updates).

For industry guidance, GTA will develop a Technical Guideline Document as an adjunct to the Code of Practice related to issues associated with management of these quality parameters in storage.

3.5 Maize

In addition to the points outlined in 3.1 above that apply to all cereals, the following changes were made to maize Standards only.

3.5.1 Removal of Obsolete Grade

Given that the GTA Gritting maize CSG44 is no longer in general use by industry, the grade and quality specific parameters listed for this grade only, have been deleted from the 2014/15 Standards.

3.5.2 Broken Grain

For consistency across commodities, the definition for Broken grain has been altered to "¾ of a grain is sound" (i.e., more than ¼ missing is defective) for the 2014/15 Standards. The VRSG photos have been altered to reflect this revised definition.

3.6 Oats

In addition to the points outlined in 3.1 above that apply to all cereals, the following changes were made to oats Standards only.

3.6.1 Broken Grain

For consistency across commodities, the definition for Broken grain (Damaged Grain) has been altered to "¾ of a grain is sound" (i.e., more than ¼ missing is defective) for the 2014/15 Standards. The VRSG photos have been altered to reflect this revised definition.

3.6.2 Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt, Mouldy and Storage Mould

It was agreed to adopt the following for the 2014/15 season:

Maximum Tolerance to Apply	Grade
1 grain by count per 0.5L in total	Feed No.1

This quality parameter is now referred to as Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt, Mouldy and Storage Mould. The previous reference to Storage Mould Affected and Musty has been deleted.

A recommendation was made to the GTA Board for adoption of the change in 2014/15 Standards rather than adopting the change in the 2015/16 season. This was accepted on the basis that implementation of the change would not have a significant negative impact on industry.

All appropriate references in the Standards and VRSG photos for Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould have been altered to reflect the change.

For a full explanation of the reasons for the adopted change, please refer to the previous discussion paper released in 2013 (Member Update No. 39 of 13 http://www.graintrade.org.au/news/member_updates).

For industry guidance, GTA will develop a Technical Guideline Document as an adjunct to the Code of Practice related to issues associated with management of these quality parameters in storage.

3.6.3 Variety Masterlist

The list of varieties approved for each grade has been updated, based on discussions with relevant industry sectors.

3.7 Sorghum

In addition to the points outlined in 3.1 above that apply to all cereals, the following changes were made to sorghum Standards only. Note that these changes will be reflected in the sorghum Standards due for release to industry by 1 October 2014.

3.7.1 Total Admixture

The category of "Total Admixture" has been deleted in all sorghum grades. In relation to this decision:

a) The category of Total Admixture is generally not assessed.
b) Individual quality parameters included in Total Admixture (Foreign Material, Screenings, Trash) are assessed separately and the levels detected are compared to those outlined in the Standards.

A recommendation was made to the GTA Board for adoption of the change in 2014/15 Standards rather than adopting the change in the 2015/16 season. This was accepted given the expected limited impact on industry.

3.7.2 Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould

No change has been made to the existing tolerance for Heat Damaged of 0.6%. However the category now includes a new maximum for Bin Burnt and Storage Mould of 0.05% by wt.

Given the above, the definition now refers only to Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould. The previous reference to Musty, Mouldy or Rotted has been deleted. Where a mouldy odour is detected, the nil tolerance continues to apply.

A recommendation was made to the GTA Board for adoption of the change in 2014/15 Standards rather than adopting the change in the 2015/16 season. This was accepted on the basis that implementation of the change would not have a significant negative impact on industry.

All appropriate references in the Standards and VRSG photos for Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould have been altered to reflect the change.

For a full explanation of the reasons for the adopted change, please refer to the previous discussion paper released in 2013 (Member Update No. 39 of 13 http://www.graintrade.org.au/news/member_updates).

For industry guidance, GTA will develop a Technical Guideline Document as an adjunct to the Code of Practice related to issues associated with management of these quality parameters in storage.

3.7.3 Revised Grades

In addition to the deletion of "Total Admixture" as outlined in Section 3.7.1, the Committee is currently undertaking a review of three aspects related to sorghum Standards:

a) Potential development of a new grade for use as a human consumption grade, or revision to the existing No.1 grade.
b) A review of all quality parameters in all sorghum grades to determine their applicability, definition and tolerance.
c) A review of the existing sorghum grades to determine if all grades are required or one or more can be combined.
d) This review has also included revision of all photographs of defective sorghum grain types in the VRSG.

The Committee will consider all of the above issues concurrently and provide the outcome of its deliberations to industry for consideration by 1 October 2014.

3.8 Triticale

In addition to the points outlined in 3.1 above that apply to all cereals, the following changes were made to triticale Standards only.

3.8.1 Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould

It was agreed to adopt the following for the 2014/15 season:

Maximum Tolerance to Apply	Grade
1 grain by count per 0.5L	Triticale

This quality parameter is now referred to as Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould. The previous reference to Storage Mould Affected, Mouldy and Musty has been deleted.

A recommendation was made to the GTA Board for adoption of the change in 2014/15 Standards rather than adopting the change in the 2015/16 season. This was accepted on the basis that implementation of the change would not have a significant negative impact on industry.

All appropriate references in the Standards and VRSG photos for Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould have been altered to reflect the change.

For a full explanation of the reasons for the adopted change, please refer to the previous discussion paper released in 2013 (Member Update No. 39 of 13 http://www.graintrade.org.au/news/member_updates).

For industry guidance, GTA will develop a Technical Guideline Document as an adjunct to the Code of Practice related to issues associated with management of these quality parameters in storage.

3.9 Oilseeds (Section 3)

The Committee agreed to adopt fully the Australian Oilseeds Federation (AOF) Standards for 2014/15.

A significant number of changes were made to these Standards by the AOF and an explanation of all changes will be placed on the AOF website at http://www.australianoilseeds.com/.

3.10 Pulses (Section 4)

The Committee decided to adopt fully the Pulse Standards for 2014/15 as provided by Pulse Australia.

An explanation of all changes will be placed on the Pulse Australia website at http://www.pulseaus.com.au/.

3.11 Other Commodities & Products (Section 5-10)

A review is being conducted of all Standards published on the GTA website. GTA is liaising with each industry organisation or other relevant body that provides Standards for GTA publication. The outcome is expected to be:

a) Creation of a formal procedure for development and provision to GTA of those Standards. Refer also to 3.1.3 above.
b) Where applicable, a process for classification of varieties into grades.

4. Issues Considered but Not Approved

The following issues were not approved by the Committee for adoption in the 2014/15 Standards. These issues will not be re-considered by the Committee unless a further submission is received from industry. Industry is free to provide their original submission or further information to support their views should they wish for any of these issues to be considered by the Committee in developing the 2015/16 or future Standards.

4.1 General

4.1.1 Animal Excreta

The previous decision of the Committee to introduce a tolerance in several commodities for Animal Excreta was not supported. Several responses from industry did not support the change and therefore the Committee did not progress the change on the basis of the lack of industry support.

The Committee will consider this issue when reviewing the Standards for 2015/16 and will consult further with industry on this matter.

See also Section 5.1.3.

4.1.2 Rejected Change: Snail Tolerances

The Committee confirmed its previous view that given there were no significant issues with snail contamination of loads and no major marketing issues with snail contamination of grain supplied on the domestic or export market during 2013, no changes were warranted in the 2014/15 Standards.

4.2 Oats

4.2.1 Rejected Change: Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould – Prime & Milling No.1 Oats

The Committee rejected the proposed change to the current nil tolerance for Prime and Milling No.1 Oats given the large domestic market for human consumption oats and the need to ensure strict standards for various food safety aspects such as mould. Therefore the existing tolerances and definitions will remain in the 2014/15 Standards for these two grades.

See also Section 3.6.

4.2.2 Rejected Change: Shot Grain – Prime & Milling No.1 Oats

It was noted by some sectors of industry the visual detection of Shot oats is problematic due to the difficulty of visually seeing Shot on individual grains as depicted in the VRSG.

However as this quality parameter is an important component when assessing the quality of oats destined for the human consumption market, it was agreed that the prior proposal of removing Shot from the Oats standard for 2014/15 was no longer supported.

5. Potential Changes for the 2015/16 & Beyond Standards

The following highlights potential changes for adoption in the 2015/16 and beyond Standards or highlights issues where further information and input from industry is required. Industry is encouraged to provide submissions on any of the following points, or any other issues, at any time by providing a detailed written response to GTA. GTA will formally seek submissions on the issues below and any other matters of interest early in 2015.

5.1 General

A number of potential changes to Standards in general were proposed by the Committee and listed in the GTA Member Updates provided to industry during 2014. Industry provided various responses which the Committee considered. In summary these included:

5.1.1 Proposed Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guides

a) It is planned to produce VRSGs for other commodities where relevant in future seasons. This will include various oilseeds and pulses.
b) Each commodity within the VRSG will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the Standards setting process.
c) A range of photographs of commonly observed Contaminants will be included.

5.1.2 Proposed Change: Weed Seed Categories and Tolerances

Industry was advised in 2011 the Committee had commenced a review to simplify the categories of weed seeds, their tolerances and the method of assessment. Several discussion papers on the proposed revised weed seed grouping and tolerances have been released for industry comment since that time.

In addition, the revised weed seed tolerances have been trialled over consecutive harvests. Based on the outcomes of those trials, the weed seed tolerances and categories have been revised as required.

Most recently, the Committee reviewed the results of the trial conducted over the 2013/14 harvest. Based on the outcome of that trial, a further industry discussion paper was released to industry during 2014 outlining the final decision of the Committee.

It is intended to implement the revised weed seed categories and tolerances for all cereals in the 2015/16 season. An industry discussion paper will be developed outlining the proposed changes by commodity and the reasoning for those changes and placed on the GTA website.

5.1.3 Proposed Review: Nil Tolerance

As outlined in Section 3, changes have been adopted in 2014/15 Standards for Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Mould, and Stones for various commodities.

There remains other quality parameters listed in the Standards which fall under the definition of “Nil Tolerance”. The Committee considers that a review of these parameters is warranted. This will occur during 2015 in developing the 2015/16 Standards at which time industry comment will be sought.

Refer also to Section 4.1.1.

5.1.4 Proposed Review: Development of Objective Testing Technology

For several years sectors of industry have been working with commercial equipment suppliers to develop objective testing technology for a range of quality parameters listed in GTA Standards. This technology has the potential to remove the subjectivity of testing a grain sample and is therefore expected to have significant benefits for industry.

A sub-committee of the GTA Standards Committee has undertaken the following:

a) Developed guidelines outlining requirements for equipment manufacturers when seeking to implement this technology for the assessment of grain as per industry GTA Standards. These guidelines "Technology Developer Guidelines" will be made available on the GTA website;
b) Is currently liaising with one commercial provider of equipment on industry requirements and the process of industry signoff of equipment. Discussions will occur on the potential for "industry approval" of this equipment for specific quality parameters for various commodities prior to the 2015/16 harvest; and
c) Is liaising with the National Measurement Institute on development of an appropriate "standard" as required for this technology.

5.1.5 Proposed Review: Sticks

Industry noted that while producers strive for delivery of a sample free from sticks, due to a range of factors compliance with the existing Standards may not always be practical. The current definition for sticks may result in rejection of grain in these circumstances.

Based on that industry feedback, the Committee will review the current definition and tolerances for sticks to determine if any changes are warranted, provided the marketability of the grain is not compromised.

No changes are proposed for 2014/15. Industry will be consulted in development of the 2015/16 Standards should any change be considered.

5.1.6 Proposed Review: Sample Size for Assessment of Defective Grains

For some defective grain quality parameters, Standards require assessment of the entire half litre sample. Industry has advised this is problematic due to:

a) The time to conduct the assessment.
b) The effort to detect these quality parameters in samples where a half litre sample may contain 8,000-12,000 grains.
c) The difficulty of applying low tolerances in these relatively large samples.

The Committee will conduct a review of the sample size to be used for assessment of defective grains in all commodities. No changes are proposed for 2014/15. Industry will be consulted in development of the 2015/16 Standards should any change be considered following the review.

5.1.7 Further Review: Foreign Material Category

As advised in early 2014, a trial is being planned to consider if a harmonised definition and inclusion of a Foreign Material category in all Standards can be achieved.

The outcome of that trial and any potential changes to Standards will be advised to industry during consultation on developing the 2015/16 Standards.

5.1.8 Further Review: Reference Screen Specifications

The committee is currently compiling information gathered from industry on screens used for the assessment of various commodities where reference specifications do not currently exist in Standards.

Once all relevant information has been received and reviewed, the Committee intends to develop reference screen specifications and list these in 2015/16 Standards if suitable.

Industry will be invited to provide comment on the appropriateness of those proposals before introduction into the Standards.

5.2 Wheat

5.2.1 Agreed Change: Frost and Take-all

Given the practical difficulty of differentiating these two parameters in a sample of grain, it was agreed that the categories should be combined. For each grade, the applicable frost tolerance would apply, given that it is not expected that a sample of grain would contain significant levels of both frost and take-all affected grains.

It is proposed that this change will occur for the 2015/16 Standards.

5.3 Barley

5.3.1 Further Review: Malt Barley Germination Assessment

Industry was supportive of the review of the Malt barley Standards in relation to the interaction between the quality parameters Shot, Sprouted, Falling Number (FN) test, Rapid Visco Analyser (RVA) test, Germinative Energy and Germinative Capacity.

Analysis of data obtained from Malt barley to date has showed that:

a) In some instances at receival barley may have a low FN but still have good germination;
b) FN is a good indicator of storability over time;
c) As no sprouting may be present FN may not be initially tested at receival (but values may be below the standard). On outturn required germination levels may not be met;
d) There may be a case for lowering the FN or RVA tolerance however a significant amount of further data generation is required;
e) Some larger storage providers monitor barley in storages over time and liaise with end-users on any “issues” identified with the quality of the stored barley;
f) There may be varietal differences on the interaction of these quality parameters; and
g) There remains a need for FN, RVA and Shot/Sprouted limits in the Standards.

The Committee continues to review this issue and liaise further with the malt barley industry to seek a resolution on the issues raised during the review of the abovementioned data.

It is noted that further research is required to support any potential change to existing Standards.

Industry will be advised in due course of the findings of the Committee.