



Pulse Standards 2017/18 Season

1. Background

The Pulse Standards Committee (Committee) met during 2017 to consider pulse standards to be adopted in 2017/18. During the development of the standards, comments from industry were sought on changes required to the standards. All industry submissions received were considered by the Committee and used to develop the pulse standards for 2017/18, for application and use by industry as of 1 August 2017.

2. Agreed Changes for Adoption in the 2017/18 Season

The following changes were adopted in the 2017/18 standards.

2.1 Agreed Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guide (VRSG) - Mungbeans

- The existing mung bean charts as produced by the Australian Mungbean Association have been added to the VRSG. Appropriate wording has been included to clarify the requirements of the industry.

2.2 Agreed Change: Minor wording updates

- Clarified that mungbeans are included in the weed seed category under 7a, in all standards except for mungbeans.
- As sclerotes were previously not specifically listed, for clarity, all standards except mung beans have been altered to include sclerotes in the definition of Foreign Material, specifically in Unmillable Material. Note that visual images have not been developed for sclerotes given the difficulty of obtaining reference images that depict sclerotes and distinguish them from ryegrass ergot. However Pulse Australia is currently liaising with relevant industry sectors to determine the potential for a rapid assessment test to distinguish between sclerotes and ryegrass ergot.
- In the VRSG for pulses, several of the definitions have been altered to remove the cause of the defect. This has been done as the outcome of the defect is the main requirement to be considered, no matter the cause of the defect. Not all definitions have been altered however it is planned to complete making all changes in the 2018/19 standards. This will ensure consistency with other non-pulse commodities where these changes have been made. Note that tolerances or visual images in the VRSG have not altered from the previous year.
- In addition to the above, the terminology (heading) for various defects is also being altered to remove the cause of the defect. For example, the term Fungal Affected replaces Ascochyta, as fungal pathogens including Ascochyta may cause visual/quality impacts on a pulse. Again, only some have been altered for this season and it is planned to complete all changes in 2018/19 standards. Note that tolerances or visual images in the VRSG have not altered from the previous year.

2.3 Agreed Change: Reduction in the number of Shakes of the Screen

- For all pulses where a screen is specified, the Committee agreed to reduce the number of shakes of the screen from 40 to 10. Wording in the standards has been altered to allow

manual or automatic shaking devices to continue to be used for this purpose, however the number of shakes has been reduced from 40 to 10 given the relatively little impact of shaking the screen beyond 10 times.

- In addition, Pulse Australia continues to liaise with Grain Trade Australia in order to develop reference screen specifications for all pulse screens. A timeframe for this research and listing in the pulse standards is not known at present and industry will be provided with updates as required.

2.4 Green Poor Colour - Desi Chickpeas and other pulses except Mung Beans

The Committee agreed to a number of changes in relation to the definition of Poor Colour (Green) as follows:

All pulses, Definition of Poor Colour, Section 3.B.11 in the Standards Definitions:

- As Green is included in Poor Colour for several pulses, add “and green” to the Definition. It will now read “Poor Colour seed coats or kernels are not considered good colour. Seed coats and kernels vary from white to dark brown/black, and green, depending on the pulse type.” This change is a clarification of the existing definition.

For Desi Chickpeas:

- In all grades under Physical Characteristics, “of the seed coat” has been added. The description now reads “The Desi type chickpeas should be sound, dry, fresh and light to medium brown in colour (a slight greenish tinge of the seed coat is allowed). Black is excluded as the predominating class.” This change is a clarification of the existing definition.
- In the Comments/Variation description for Defective, the word “fully” in relation to green has been removed. It now reads “Desi type chickpeas that are broken, chipped, frost damaged, diseased, green, hail damaged, insect damaged, sappy, shrivelled, split, sprouted, weather damaged, wrinkled.” This change is a clarification of the existing definition.
- In the Comments/Variation description for Poor Colour, the words “including green” have been added. It now reads “Kernel is distinctly blemished and / or off colour from the characteristic yellow colour of the predominating class, including green.” This change is a clarification of the existing definition.
- Wording in the VRSB for desi chickpeas has been altered to reflect the above clarifications.

3. Rejected Changes in the 2017/18 Season

Following receipt of industry advice, the Committee has not made the following changes to the standards for 2017/18.

3.1 Rejected Change: Screen Size - Kabuli Chickpeas

Advice was sought from industry on the applicability of the existing screen sizes in the kabuli chickpea standards. Current standards refer to the following:

- Small kabuli chickpeas - 5mm round hole screen
- Large kabuli chickpeas - 6mm round hole screen

Given the preference in many markets for larger kabuli chickpeas, the existing screen sizes may no longer be relevant to the kabuli chickpea trade. The market preference for larger chickpeas is also reflected in the varieties available to growers.

Industry comments did not support a change in screen size at this time and the existing screen sizes remain.

3.2 Rejected Change: Mould - Desi Chickpeas

Current receival standards have a tolerance of 1 mouldy grain per 200 grams. Export standards allow 1% by weight of mould except when in conflict with the Storage and Handling Agreement or Marketing Contract. It is recognised some marketing contracts require a lower level or nil mould in shipments.

During the 2016/17 harvest, low levels of mould were experienced in desi chickpea loads tendered for delivery. Loads containing mould above the tolerance of 1 grain per 200 grams were rejected as they were outside of the receival standards.

The Committee sought industry comment on a potential change to 4.1.1 Receival Standard Farmer Dressed Desi Chickpeas for mouldy from the current "1 grain per 200 grams" to "0.5% by weight".

As the majority of industry did not support a change, the existing tolerance remains in the 2017/18 standards.

3.3 Rejected Change: Screen - Angustifolius Lupins

Current standards for Angustifolius lupins do not specify a screen to be used to aid the assessment of Defective Grains, specifically small Shrivelled/Wrinkled.

To determine whether the sample contains any Shrivelled/Wrinkled grains, the entire sample must be visually inspected by hand.

The Committee sought industry feedback on the potential inclusion of a screen for Angustifolius lupins, being a 3.75mm slotted screen (as per Field Peas and Faba Beans).

Industry did not support the need for the use of a screen in the lupin standards and as such, no change has been made to the standards for 2017/18.

3.4 Rejected Change: Jimbour Type - Desi Chickpeas

A request was received by the Committee to develop a list of "Jimbour type" varieties in desi chickpeas. This request was due to some customers' still requesting "Jimbour" variety desi chickpeas, even though this variety had been superseded by several newer varieties. These newer varieties have the end-user desired functional benefits of "Jimbour" such as size, colour, ease of splitting, but often with added agronomic benefits.

However, end-user demand for "Jimbour" has created a situation where in some instances growers are declaring "Jimbour". Marketing documentation has also referred to the grain as "Jimbour", even though the variety may have been one of the newer varieties.

This has led to two issues:

- Impact on the collection on End Point Royalty for the required varieties
- Creation of the term "Jimbour Type", but with no clarity as to which varieties are the "Jimbour Type".

The Committee rejected the development of a varietal list of "Jimbour type" given the potential negative impact on correct declaration of existing desi chickpea varieties. Referring to a variety as "Jimbour type" is not considered a standards issue and industry is free to include such wording in their marketing contracts or other documentation as required.

At all times, the Committee, and Pulse Australia, encourage industry to correctly declare varieties and comply with applicable End Point Royalty requirements.