

Member Update

Title: Weed Seed Review 2013/14 Industry Consultation Paper

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1. Purpose

To advise industry of revised weed seed tolerances proposed in Standards for all cereal commodities. The revised weed seed tolerances will be considered under a trial to be conducted over the 2013/14 harvest.

2. Background

Industry was advised during the development of the 2010/11 Standards that the GTA Standards Committee (Committee) were reviewing the weed seed categories and tolerances with a view to their simplification. Industry submissions on that paper and in subsequent years generally agreed with the review and sought input into the changes following further development of the changes by the Committee.

Following a trial in 2012/13, a further review of the proposed revised tolerances was conducted. That review has developed the attached paper with proposed revised tolerances for all cereal commodities. The revised proposal will be trialled over the 2013/14 harvest and results will be considered by the Committee in 2014. Follow that review by the Committee further industry input will be sought prior to potential adoption in all cereal standards for 2014/15.

3. Trial over the 2013/14 harvest

GTA would appreciate advice from those in industry who would like to participate in trialling the proposed changes to weed seed tolerances during the 2013/14 harvest. Factors to consider for inclusion in the trial are briefly described in this discussion paper with full details outlined in Appendix J.

Please advise GTA of your intended participation at admin@graintrade.org.au. A proforma spreadsheet for collection of trial data has been developed by the Committee and will be forwarded to industry participants in the trial. This spreadsheet is relatively simple to use and will assist the Committee to review the outcomes of the trial and compare industry data across all commodities and trial sites.

Revised Weed Seed Categories for Consideration

1. Principles for the weed seed review

The current Standards include a range of weed seed categories, in some Standards up to 15 direct weed seed categories and 3 associated categories. Different commodities have variations to the categories, the weed seeds listed in each category and tolerances that apply. This makes the classification process, including understanding of the Standards and correct implementation of the classification process difficult.

The Committee has developed the proposed changes on the basis of the following key principles:

1.1 Simplification when implementing

- Desire for the testing process to be readily understood by all approved samplers
- Samplers easily trained in new Standards and testing process

1.2 Fits into existing testing processes

- Testing process must be as rapid as possible without compromising the integrity of the process
- Desire for existing testing processes to be used, rather than implement a new process

1.3 Weight where possible versus count

- To aid the speed of assessment of various quality parameters, many processes are now undertaken on a weight basis rather than a count
- A mix of methods is proposed, with assessment for the new categories A-F to be done by count for most commodities

1.4 Complies with all relevant legislation

- Various State and Federal legislation exists in relation to noxious weed seeds, weed seeds movements and tolerances in commodities such as Stockfeed
- Any revised Standards must consider that legislation, noting that it may not be relevant for commodity standards to impose tolerances on weed seeds that are restricted in particular State or Federal legislation
- The Committee intends to write to all State Departments that have existing legislation seeking their views on the proposed changes and impacts on their legislation

1.5 All weed seeds and tolerances must be defensible

- Weed seeds must only be listed if they have a direct market impact
- Where possible weed seeds should not be listed as previously occurred in order to promote good crop management and weed seed control
- Tolerances must be set that are able to be readily complied with by the production sector, are able to be managed in the supply chain and reflect market requirements
- Given the conflict that may sometimes exist between those three sectors, individual weed seeds may be listed and tolerances set may be a “compromise” that meets the overall objective of the grain industry of ‘facilitating trade’

1.6 Consistency across all commodities

- While this paper is focussed on cereals, consistency in standards and test methods across all commodities is desirable to assist training of samplers, understanding of Standards and to simplify the testing and classification process
- It is recognised that variations may exist reflecting factors such as the end-use of the commodity, however any variations must be defensible and where possible minimised

1.7 Visual categorisation

- While some weed seeds may be difficult to assess at the species level, the desire is for all weed seeds with a specific tolerance listed to be readily identified visually, with minimal additional training other than already occurs
- The desire is that all other weed seeds not listed would be included in an “all encompassing” category, not requiring identification to the species level

1.8 Existing tolerances are not significantly altered

- Existing tolerances for individual weed seeds have generally been in place for many years, enabling the successful production and marketing of a range of commodities
- Unless there are compelling reasons, under any new system, the desire is to maintain tolerances as close as practically possible to existing ones
- The review also provides an opportunity to justify the existing tolerances and update those based on modern farming practices, increased marketing competition and a range of other factors
- Specific weed seeds listed in the new categories now include only those that are unsightly in a sample, impart a taint, have a feed intake impact, are considered allergens, have a potentially toxic effect if consumed or have quarantine restrictions
- The Committee has considered previous tolerances and under the proposed changes, some tolerances have increased and others decreased. These changes are highlighted and industry comment is sought specifically on those and other issues outlined in this document

2. Other Considerations

A number of other factors have been considered when conducting this review:

2.1 Seed Pods

- Weed seed pods, including any seeds they contain are currently defined and assessed in a number of different ways in various commodities. For example
 - Pieces of pods included in Unmillable Material above the Screen or Foreign Material
 - Tolerances for weed seeds or their pods are the same
 - Some pods are broken open and seeds counted, whereas others are not
- If weed seeds are not removed from pods at receipt, the potential exists for pods to break during storage and handling and for levels of individual weed seeds to violate the tolerance on outturn
- Any revised process must meet with the principles outlined in point 1 above and not add significantly to the assessment time or increase the difficulty of assessment
- In considering the future assessment of weed seeds in pods and pieces of pods, the Committee has proposed that
 - Weed seed pods be handled as per the weed seeds they may contain. Therefore pods should be broken and weed seeds counted.
 - Pieces of weed seed pods are not encouraged or wanted by the marketplace.
 - The exception is Peanut pods, which will remain as a NIL tolerance (Category A) due to potential allergenic effects

2.2 Foreign Material

- Foreign Material is generally defined as “all material other than whole or broken kernels of the commodity in question being assessed”
- While some commodities list a definition and tolerance, others do not. The Committee noted that many export contracts have a Foreign Material category
- Different definitions apply for various commodities, complicating the assessment process when changing from one delivered commodity to another
- To simplify the assessment process for weed seeds and associated categories, the Committee initially recommended that a Foreign Material category be developed for all Standards in accordance with the following principles:
 - The definition be consistent
 - As much material as possible will be included in this definition, thereby reducing the number of “other categories” to be individually assessed
 - Where an existing definition exists, this be reviewed to ensure consistency
 - Where a tolerance exists, this be reviewed to ensure it is appropriate for the revised definition
 - As per most Standards, the tolerance to apply will be the same within a Standard for bulk, container or the bag trade on receipt or outturn. The Committee considers the potential for “Foreign Material accumulation in a storage” and the implications of loading this material on outturn into a container or individual truckload as a commercial matter
- **As a consequence of the trial over the 2012/13 season, the Committee has recommended a Foreign Material category is not developed for each commodity.** The time taken to assess Foreign Material in each sample was considered excessive and not warranted given that time. Therefore existing Foreign Material categories will remain where currently listed in each standard.

2.3 Soil

- Soil may be associated with deliveries of some commodities and in coastal areas where sand may be prevalent
- Any revised assessment process for weed seeds must not compromise the assessment for soil, as there is a nil tolerance in exported product for soil
- The Committee does not consider that the recommendations outlined in this paper impact on the assessment of soil in a sample

2.4 Data Collection at Receival

- Some receival agents stipulate mandatory analysis and recording of various quality parameters in a sample. This also applies to some of the existing weed seed or associated categories
- The Committee considers that the proposed changes do not impact on this requirement, as industry will choose to record data where it is considered an operational or marketing requirement

2.5 End-user Sector and Regional Variations

- In existing Standards variations exist to cater for regional weed seeds of significance and based on specific commodity end-user sector requirements
- Where possible the Committee encourages consistency in Standards across the country but recognises the need for variations arising from commercial issues
- Industry is encouraged to provide supporting data where any regional or end-user variations are sought on the proposals in this document

2.6 Other Contaminants

- In many commodity Standards a range of categories and tolerances exist for other contaminants – for example, Small Foreign Seeds, Unmillable Material above the screen, pieces of weed seed pods (with seeds removed).
- These separate categories generally have low tolerances
- In the 2013/14 trial, the Committee will review those existing separate categories and tolerances in light of industry feedback and the outcomes of the 2013/14 season trial with a view to simplification of the Standards where possible via deletion of these individual categories and creation of one category that includes all of these contaminants
- Industry comment on those proposed changes will be sought during development of the 2014/15 Standards and whether maximum tolerances for sub-categories of these contaminants may be warranted

3. Proposed Changes for Trialling in 2013/14

Current categories and tolerances for weed seeds as listed in the 2013/14 standards will remain for the 2013/14 harvest. However the Committee will trial separately the following proposed changes to those categories and tolerances.

3.1 Proposed Weed Seed Categories

The following weed seed categories will be trialled for application across all cereal commodities.

Table 1: Revised Weed Seed Categories

Category/Reason	Current categories to be included*	Proposed Tolerance Max (seeds per half litre)
A. Nil	Type 2	Nil
B. High toxicity / Quarantine	Type 3a, 3b, 3c, 6 (Except Saffron Thistle), Parthenium weed	5
C. Medium toxicity / Quarantine	Type 1, 5 (Except Patterson's Curse), 6 (Saffron Thistle only)	10
D. Low toxicity / Quarantine	Type 4, Patterson's Curse, Black/Wild Oats (in Oats only)	30
E. Visual / Unsightly	Type 7a	Low for milling#
		Higher for off-grades#
F. Common Contaminants	Type 7b (except Black /Wild Oats in Oats)	Low for milling#
		Higher for off-grades#

* Variations may currently exist in some Standards. Refer to Appendix A for a list of specific weed seeds in each category and Appendix B for the reason for weed seed categorisation and a more detailed description of each category

Refer to the summary table 2 below and Appendix C-I for specific categories and tolerances by commodity

3.2 Other Weed Seed Contaminants

The existing definitions and tolerances of the three categories associated with weed seeds will remain, however the potential to combine these into one category will be explored. These include:

- Small Foreign Seeds
- Unmillable material above the screen (including where relevant milk thistle pods and wild radish pods)
- Whole or pieces of Weed Seed Pods (with weed seeds removed)

4. Specific Commodity changes requiring industry consideration

In conducting this review, the Committee specifically identified the following items that require further consideration and the committee invites industry comment.

4.1 Category A

- Branched broomrape has been deleted from this type and from being listed as a restricted weed seed as it cannot be assessed visually.

4.2 Category A-E – all commodities

- Prior tolerances applied to individual seeds in Type 1 only, with a tolerance for the total of all seeds in each category for all other Types.
- The proposal is for the tolerance to apply to individual seeds across all categories A to E.

4.3 Category F – all commodities

- The proposal is for all seeds to be combined in this category, as previously applied.
- This category now includes a number of weed seeds previously included in other types, generally with a tighter tolerance than is currently proposed.

4.4 Type 7a – all commodities

- In general, prior tolerances for lower grades have been reduced.

4.5 Small Foreign Seeds – all commodities

- Currently SFS are in most Standards, generally being 0.6% in the main grades. Unless levels of these weed seeds are considered excessive, these weeds are rarely removed from a sample and the level in a sample subsequently determined.
- The current method to remove SFS from a sample involves significant time and is a somewhat tedious process.
- The committee seeks industry views to determine if this category should:
 - Remain separate, with the existing definition and tolerance applying
 - Be combined into one category (as noted in 3.2 above)
 - Be combined into one category (as noted in 3.2 above) but have a maximum tolerance within that category to prevent excessive levels being present in a sample.

4.6 Unmillable Material Above the Screen

- In some Standards, this category or a similar category exists, while in others material defined in this category is included elsewhere.
- The definition for this category varies by commodity, making assessment of each commodity difficult.
- In commodities such as wheat, some weed seeds are also included in this category.

- It is proposed that the requirement to “remove seeds within chaff” remain. This test and “seed removal” is generally not done unless levels are approaching the applicable tolerances. This is not expected to alter under the proposed scenario.
- The committee seeks industry views to determine if this category should:
 - Remain separate, with the existing definition and tolerance applying
 - Be combined into one category (as noted in 3.2 above)
 - Be combined into one category (as noted in 3.2 above) but have a maximum tolerance within that category to prevent excessive levels being present in a sample.

4.7 Seed Pods – all commodities

- Seed pods are currently assessed within various weed seed categories, depending on the commodity.
- It is proposed that all seeds be removed before assessment.
- The committee seeks industry views to determine if this category should:
 - Remain as per the existing definition and tolerance
 - Be combined into one category (as noted in 3.2 above)
 - Be combined into one category (as noted in 3.2 above) but have a maximum tolerance within that category to prevent excessive levels being present in a sample.

4.8 Wheat – Appendix C

- The prior proposal to adopt a Foreign Material category to reflect most export contractual requirements is not supported.
- SFE2 (SA) has been removed from the list of milling grades for the purposes of weed seed tolerances.

4.9 Barley – Appendix D

- The prior “Foreign Grain, Variations and 7b” categories have been removed as separate categories and included in a new Category F. Comment is sought on the proposed tolerances that are tighter for F1/F2.
- With the inclusion of all material including “foreign grain, variations” and 7b in Category F, this may be a significant tightening or loosening from previous tolerances depending on the weed seed present in the sample

4.10 Oats – Appendix E

- Category C is a tightening from the previous tolerance
- Category F now includes the existing type 7b, however tolerances have been revised
- Black oats are in different categories depending on the grade
- SFS has been increased for consistency from 0.5% to 0.6% for Prime and Milling oats

4.11 Triticale – Appendix F

- Category F now includes the existing type 7b, however tolerances have been revised
- Category E contains pulses, with a tighter tolerance than previously applied
- Black oats have been removed from category D and placed into category F

4.12 Cereal Rye – Appendix G

- Category F now includes the existing type 7b, however tolerances have been revised
- Black oats have been removed from category D and placed into category F

4.13 Sorghum – Appendix H

- Grades No.2 and No.3 now split into separate categories due to differences in tolerances for categories E & F
- Existing SFS category and tolerance remains except for No.3
- For No.3, have a separate category E & F from all other commodities which is the previous grouping at 4% by weight. Includes saffron thistle and SFS

4.14 Maize – Appendix I

- Existing SFS category and tolerance remains except for Prime which moves from 0.5% to 0.6%
- Existing 7b, now F category, for Feed No.2 reduced from 100 to 50 seeds per half litre
- Gritting remains at 0.1% by wt all Foreign seeds in expectation grade will be deleted

5. Summary

The changes proposed are considered to simplify the testing process without significantly altering the tolerances for weed seeds in general, and therefore is unlikely to compromise the quality of grain or Australia's international competitiveness. Many of the existing weed seed or related tests are not conducted unless in the view of the sampler (based on experience and training) the levels are approaching the tolerances. This is not expected to alter under the proposed changes.

That said, it is recognised there are some significant changes to individual weed seeds and commodities as outlined in this paper that require further consideration. However the intent of these changes is to provide consistency in definitions, testing processes and tolerances across commodities.

As previously stated, the trial during 2013/14 will validate the assumptions made in this paper and assist in identifying any producer concerns, testing and marketing issues that may arise from the proposed changes.

This paper outlines a significant change to the contaminants area of Australian grain Standards, and the Committee believes the changes are for the benefit of industry in the longer term. Industry is encouraged to provide feedback on the above and any other related issue.

The following table lists the current weed seeds named in each category and the proposed new category. These categories are intended to apply across all cereal commodities. Note that variations may exist by commodity and further details on variations and commodities are outlined in the following Appendices.

Table 3: Current and future weed seed categories

Existing Standards		Proposed New Standards	
Current Category	Current Definition	Proposed Category	Proposed Definition
Unmillable Material Above the Screen Max (% by weight)	Includes whiteheads (with grains removed), chaff, backbone, Wild Radish pods, Milk Thistle pods or other seedpods not otherwise listed. Excludes contaminants where tolerances already exist	No change	No change
Small Foreign Seeds Max (% by weight)	All Foreign Seeds not specified in Types 1-7(b) that fall below the screen during the Screenings process	No change	All Foreign Seeds not specified in Categories A-F that fall below the screen during the Screenings process
Foreign Seed Contaminants Max - (count of individual seeds per half litre)			
Type 2	Branched Broomrape , Castor Oil Plant, Coriander, Crow Garlic/ Wild Garlic, Darling Pea, Peanut seeds and pods, Ragweed, Rattlepods, Starburr, St. John's Wort	A	Castor Oil Plant, Coriander, Crow Garlic / Wild Garlic, Darling Pea, Opium Poppy , Peanut seeds and pods, Ragweed, Rattlepods, Starburr, St. John's Wort
Type 3a	Bathurst Burr, Bellvine , Bulls Head/Caltrop/Cats Head, Cape Tulip, Cottonseed, Dodder, Noogoora Burr, Thornapple	B	Bathurst Burr, Bulls Head/Caltrop/Cats Head, Cape Tulip, Colombus Grass, Cottonseed, Dodder, Double Gees/Spiny Emex/Three Cornered Jack , Heliotrope (Blue), Heliotrope (Common), Johnson Grass, Noogoora Burr, Parthenium weed , Thornapple, Vetch (Commercial), Vetch (Tare)
Type 3b	Vetch (Tare), Vetch (Commercial)		
Type 3c	Heliotrope (Blue), Heliotrope (Common)		
Type 6	Colombus Grass, Johnson Grass, Saffron Thistle		
Type 1 (individual seeds)	Colocynth , Double Gees/Spiny Emex/Three Cornered Jack , Jute, Long Head Poppy , Mexican Poppy, Opium Poppy , Field Poppy , Horned Poppy , Wild Poppy , New Zealand Spinach , Parthenium Weed	C	Jute, Knapweed (Creeping/Russian), Mexican Poppy, Saffron Thistle
Type 5	Knapweed (Creeping/Russian), Sesbania Pea , Patterson's Curse/ Salvation Jane		
Type 4	Bindweed (Field), Cutleaf Mignonette , Darnel (Drake Seed), Hexham Scent/Meliot (only acceptable if no tainting odour is present), Hoary Cress , Mintweed, Nightshades, Paddy Melon, Skeleton Weed , Variiegated Thistle	D	Bindweed (Field), Darnel (Drake Seed), Hexham Scent/Meliot, Mintweed, Nightshades, Paddy Melon, Patterson's Curse/ Salvation Jane
Type 7a	Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, Lentils, Lupins, Peas (Field), Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower and any other seeds or pods greater than 5mm in diameter	E	Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, Lentils, Lupins, Peas (Field), Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower and any other seeds or pods greater than 5mm in diameter
Foreign Seed Contaminants Max - (count of all seeds in total per half litre)			
Type 7b	Barley (2 & 6 row), Bindweed (Australian), Bindweed (Black), Durum, Red/Spring Feed Wheats, Oats (Black/Wild) , Oats (Sand), Oats (Common), Rice, Rye (Cereal), Sorghum (Grain), Triticale, Turnip Weed and any other Foreign Seeds not specified in Types 1-7(a) , in SFS or in Unmillable Material Above the Screen that remain above the screen following the Screenings process	F	Barley (2 & 6 row), Bellvine , Bindweed (Australian), Bindweed (Black), Colocynth , Cutleaf Mignonette , Durum, Red/Spring Feed Wheats, Hoary Cress , New Zealand Spinach , Oats (Black/Wild) (except in Oats) , Oats (Sand), Oats (Common), Poppy (Field, Horned, Long Head, Wild) , Rice, Rye (Cereal), Sesbania Pea , Skeleton Weed , Sorghum (Grain), Triticale, Turnip Weed, Variiegated Thistle and any other Foreign Seeds not specified in Category A-E , in SFS or in Unmillable Material Above the Screen that remain above the screen following the Screenings process

Note: **bold and underlined** altered or removed from previous existing weed seed type and proposal is to be placed in a different specific category (A-F). Variations are proposed for Oats.

Categorisation of each Weed Seed

The following table 4 lists the reason individual weed seeds are placed in each category. Weed seeds have been added or deleted from their previous category based on those designations. Industry comment on the categorisation of individual weed seeds is sought.

Brief Explanation of Categories:

The following is a general explanation of the separate categories. Note that a particular weed seed in Table 4 may be listed for more than one reason in a category. There may also be varying levels of impacts within a category of each weed seed. Industry should note that as seeds are generally the main contaminant in commodity samples, categories have been created based on the seed, not other parts of the plant.

Quarantine

- Restricted by Quarantine regulations either domestically or by international markets

Toxicity / Allergen

- May pose a food safety issue when ingested for human and/or animal consumption

Taint

- May taint the end-product

Feed Impact

- May reduce feed intake for animals or impact on animal feeding

Unightly

- Affects the visual appearance of the grain, reducing its marketability

Agronomic

- May be a competitor of commercial crops if not readily controlled
- Included in this definition may be specific weed seeds that are legislated in individual Australian States and/or Territories legislation
- All other weed seeds not listed in categories A-E, SFS or unmillable material

Table 4: Weed seed categories and reasons for their inclusion/deletion

Proposed Category	Weed Seed	Reason for Inclusion in Category
A - Nil	Castor Oil Plant	Toxicity
	Coriander	Taint
	Crow Garlic / Wild Garlic	Taint
	Darling Pea	Toxicity
	Peanut seeds and pods	Allergen
	Poppy (Opium)	Quarantine, Taint
	Ragweed	Allergen
	Rattlepods	Toxicity
	Starburr	Feed Impact
	St. John's Wort	Toxicity
B – High Toxicity / Quarantine	Bathurst Burr	Feed Impact
	Bellvine	Propose to move to category F - agronomic
	Bulls Head / Caltrop / Cats Head	Feed Impact
	Cape Tulip	Toxicity
	Colombus Grass	Quarantine
	Cottonseed	Quarantine, Taint to milling
	Dodder	Quarantine

Proposed Category	Weed Seed	Reason for Inclusion in Category
	<u>Double Gees / Spiny Emex / Three Cornered Jack</u>	Feed Impact
	Heliotrope (Blue)	Toxicity
	Heliotrope (Common)	Toxicity
	Johnson Grass	Quarantine
	Noogoora Burr	Feed Impact
	<u>Parthenium weed</u>	Quarantine
	Thornapple	Toxicity
	Vetch (Tare)	Toxicity
	Vetch (Commercial)	Toxicity
	C – Medium Toxicity / Quarantine	<u>Colocynth</u>
Jute		Toxicity
Knapweed (Creeping/Russian)		Taint
<u>New Zealand Spinach</u>		Propose to move to category F - agronomic
<u>Poppy (Field)</u>		Propose to move to category F - agronomic
<u>Poppy (Horned)</u>		Propose to move to category F - agronomic
<u>Poppy (Long Head)</u>		Propose to move to category F - agronomic
Poppy (Mexican)		Toxicity
<u>Poppy (Wild)</u>		Propose to move to category F - agronomic
<u>Saffron Thistle</u>		Quarantine - Tasmania
D – Low Toxicity / Quarantine	<u>Sesbania Pea</u>	Propose to move to category F - agronomic
	Bindweed (Field)	Toxicity
	<u>Cutleaf Mignonette</u>	Propose to move to category F - agronomic
	Darnel (Drake Seed)	Taint
	Hexham Scent/Meliot	Taint
	<u>Hoary Cress</u>	Propose to move to category F - agronomic
	Mintweed	Toxicity
	Nightshades	Toxicity
	Paddy Melon	Toxicity
	<u>Patterson's Curse / Salvation Jane</u>	Toxicity
E – Visual / Unsightly	<u>Skeleton Weed</u>	Propose to move to category F - agronomic
	<u>Variegated Thistle</u>	Propose to move to category F - agronomic
	Broad Beans	Unsightly
	Chickpeas	Unsightly
	Corn (Maize)	Unsightly
	Cowpea	Unsightly
	Faba Beans	Unsightly
	Lentils	Unsightly
	Lupins	Unsightly
	Peas (Field)	Unsightly
F - Agronomic	Safflower	Unsightly
	Soybean	Unsightly
	Sunflower	Unsightly
F - Agronomic	All other weed seeds not listed	All other weed seeds not listed, except Black Oats/Wild Oats in Oats

Note: **bold and underlined** removed from previous existing weed seed type and proposal is to be placed in a different specific category (A-F)

Current and Proposed Weed Seed Categories - Wheat

The following table lists the proposed new categories for wheat.

Table 5: Current and proposed weed seed categories – wheat

Proposed Category	Proposed Definition	Grade		
		Milling Grade*	AUH2, AGP1, AUW1, HPS1, DR3, SFE2(SA), SFW1	Fed1
Count of individual seeds per half litre:				
A	Castor Oil Plant, Coriander, Crow Garlic / Wild Garlic, Darling Pea, Opium Poppy, Peanut seeds and pods, Ragweed, Rattlepods, Starburr, St. John's Wort	Nil		
B	Bathurst Burr, Bulls Head/Caltrop/Cats Head, Cape Tulip, Colombus Grass, Cottonseed, Dodder, Double Gees/Spiny Emex/Three Cornered Jack, Heliotrope (Blue), Heliotrope (Common), Johnson Grass, Noogoora Burr, Parthenium weed, Thornapple, Vetch (Commercial), Vetch (Tare)	5		
C	Jute, Knapweed (Creeping/Russian), Mexican Poppy, Saffron Thistle	10		
D	Bindweed (Field), Darnel (Drake Seed), Hexham Scent/Melilot, Mintweed, Nightshades, Paddy Melon, Patterson's Curse/ Salvation Jane	30		
E	Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, Lentils, Lupins, Peas (Field), Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower	1	10	20
Count of all seeds in total per half litre:				
F	Includes all other weed seeds not listed elsewhere in the Standards (includes black/wild oats)	50	150	400
Existing Definitions and Tolerances (Max % by weight per half litre sample) remain:				
Current Category	Current Definition	Milling Grade*	AUH2, AGP1, DR3, SFE2 (SA), SFW1	AUW1, HPS1, Fed1
SFS	All Foreign Seeds not specified in category A-F that fall below the 2.0mm screen during the Screenings process	0.6%	0.6% ANW2 1.2% all others	2.6%
Unmillable Material above the screen	Includes whiteheads (with grains removed), chaff, backbone, Wild Radish pods, Milk Thistle pods or other seedpods not otherwise listed. Excludes contaminants where tolerances already exist	0.6%	1.2%	1.2%

* Unless otherwise stated, Milling includes APH1, APH2, H1, H2, APW1, APW2, ASW1, ANW1, ANW2, PNC, PNE, ASWS, ASWS, APWN, DR1, DR2, SFE1 (NSW/VIC), SFE1 (SA), SFT1, SFE2 (NSW/VIC), SFT2

Current and Proposed Weed Seed Categories - Barley

The following table lists the proposed new categories for barley.

Table 6: Current and future weed seed categories – barley

Proposed Category	Proposed Definition	Grade				
		Malt1	Malt2	Malt3	Feed1	Feed2
Count of individual seeds per half litre:						
A	Castor Oil Plant, Coriander, Crow Garlic / Wild Garlic, Darling Pea, Opium Poppy, Peanut seeds and pods, Ragweed, Rattlepods, Starburr, St. John's Wort	Nil				
B	Bathurst Burr, Bulls Head/Caltrop/Cats Head, Cape Tulip, Colombus Grass, Cottonseed, Dodder, Double Gees/Spiny Emex/Three Cornered Jack, Heliotrope (Blue), Heliotrope (Common), Johnson Grass, Noogoora Burr, Parthenium weed, Thornapple, Vetch (Commercial), Vetch (Tare)	5				
C	Jute, Knapweed (Creeping/Russian), Mexican Poppy, Saffron Thistle	10				
D	Bindweed (Field), Darnel (Drake Seed), Hexham Scent/Melilot, Mintweed, Nightshades, Paddy Melon, Patterson's Curse/ Salvation Jane	30				
E	Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, Lentils, Lupins, Peas (Field), Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower	1		10		20
Count of all seeds in total per half litre:						
F	Includes all other weed seeds not listed elsewhere in the Standards [includes previous Type 7b, Variations (black/wild oats, wild radish), Foreign Grain (wheat, cereal rye, triticale, oats, rice)]	50		150		300
Existing Definitions and Tolerances remain:						
Foreign Material	Other than already specified (Max % by weight per half litre sample)	1.0%				
Coloured Aleurone Layer	Coloured Aleurone Layer (Blue/Black) (Max count per half litre)	Nil			100	
SFS	All Foreign Seeds not specified in category A-F that fall below the 2.2mm screen during the Screenings process (Max % by weight)	0.6%		1.2%	2.0%	

Current and Proposed Weed Seed Categories - Oats

The following table lists the proposed new categories for oats.

Table 7: Current and future weed seed categories – oats

Proposed Category	Proposed Definition	Grade		
		Prime	Milling No.1	Feed No.1
Count of individual seeds per half litre:				
A	Castor Oil Plant, Coriander, Crow Garlic / Wild Garlic, Darling Pea, Opium Poppy, Peanut seeds and pods, Ragweed, Rattlepods, Starburr, St. John's Wort	Nil		
B	Bathurst Burr, Bulls Head/Caltrop/Cats Head, Cape Tulip, Colombus Grass, Cottonseed, Dodder, Double Gees/Spiny Emex/Three Cornered Jack, Heliotrope (Blue), Heliotrope (Common), Johnson Grass, Noogoora Burr, Parthenium weed, Thornapple, Vetch (Commercial), Vetch (Tare)	5		
C	Black/Wild Oats (except Feed No.1), Jute, Knapweed (Creeping/Russian), Mexican Poppy, Saffron Thistle	10		
D	Bindweed (Field), Black/Wild Oats (Feed No.1 only), Darnel (Drake Seed), Hexham Scent/Meliot, Mintweed, Nightshades, Paddy Melon, Patterson's Curse/ Salvation Jane	30		
E	Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, Lentils, Lupins, Peas (Field), Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower	1	20	
Count of all seeds in total per half litre:				
F	Includes all other weed seeds not listed elsewhere in the Standards	20	50	250
Existing Definitions remain (tolerances may vary):				
Unmillable Material above the screen	Includes whiteheads (with grains removed), chaff, backbone, Wild Radish pods, Milk Thistle pods or other seedpods not otherwise listed (Max % by weight)	2.0%	n/a	
SFS	All Foreign Seeds not specified in category A-F that fall below the 2.0mm screen during the Screenings process (Max % by weight)	0.6%		3.0%

Current and Proposed Weed Seed Categories – Triticale

The following table lists the proposed new categories for Triticale.

Table 8: Current and future weed seed categories – triticale

Proposed Category	Proposed Definition	Grade
		Triticale
Count of individual seeds per half litre:		
A	Castor Oil Plant, Coriander, Crow Garlic / Wild Garlic, Darling Pea, Opium Poppy, Peanut seeds and pods, Ragweed, Rattlepods, Starburr, St. John's Wort	Nil
B	Bathurst Burr, Bulls Head/Caltrop/Cats Head, Cape Tulip, Colombus Grass, Cottonseed, Dodder, Double Gees/Spiny Emex/Three Cornered Jack, Heliotrope (Blue), Heliotrope (Common), Johnson Grass, Noogoora Burr, Parthenium weed, Thornapple, Vetch (Commercial), Vetch (Tare)	5
C	Jute, Knapweed (Creeping/Russian), Mexican Poppy, Saffron Thistle	10
D	Bindweed (Field), Darnel (Drake Seed), Hexham Scent/Meliot, Mintweed, Nightshades, Paddy Melon, Patterson's Curse/ Salvation Jane	30
E	Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, Lentils, Lupins, Peas (Field), Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower	1
Count of all seeds in total per half litre:		
F	Includes all other weed seeds not listed elsewhere in the Standards	150
Existing Definitions remain (tolerances may vary):		
Unmillable Material above the screen	Includes whiteheads (with grains removed), chaff, backbone, Wild Radish pods, Milk Thistle pods or other seedpods not otherwise listed (Max % by weight)	5.0%
SFS	All Foreign Seeds not specified in category A-F that fall below the 2.0mm screen during the Screenings process (Max % by weight)	1.2%

Current and Proposed Weed Seed Categories – Cereal Rye

The following table lists the proposed new categories for Cereal Rye.

Table 9: Current and future weed seed categories – cereal rye

Proposed Category	Proposed Definition	Grade
		Cereal Rye
Count of individual seeds per half litre:		
A	Castor Oil Plant, Coriander, Crow Garlic / Wild Garlic, Darling Pea, Opium Poppy, Peanut seeds and pods, Ragweed, Rattlepods, Starburr, St. John's Wort	Nil
B	Bathurst Burr, Bulls Head/Caltrop/Cats Head, Cape Tulip, Columbus Grass, Cottonseed, Dodder, Double Gees/Spiny Emex/Three Cornered Jack, Heliotrope (Blue), Heliotrope (Common), Johnson Grass, Noogoora Burr, Parthenium weed, Thornapple, Vetch (Commercial), Vetch (Tare)	5
C	Jute, Knapweed (Creeping/Russian), Mexican Poppy, Saffron Thistle	10
D	Bindweed (Field), Darnel (Drake Seed), Hexham Scent/Meliot, Mintweed, Nightshades, Paddy Melon, Patterson's Curse/ Salvation Jane	30
E	Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, Lentils, Lupins, Peas (Field), Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower	1
Count of all seeds in total per half litre:		
F	Includes all other weed seeds not listed elsewhere in the Standards	150
Existing Definitions remain (tolerances may vary):		
Unmillable Material above the screen	Includes whiteheads (with grains removed), chaff, backbone, Wild Radish pods, Milk Thistle pods or other seedpods not otherwise listed (Max % by weight)	3.0%
SFS	All Foreign Seeds not specified in category A-F that fall below the 1.6mm screen during the Screenings process (Max % by weight)	1.2%

Current and Proposed Weed Seed Categories – Sorghum

The following table lists the proposed new categories for Sorghum.

Table 10: Current and future weed seed categories – sorghum

Proposed Category	Proposed Definition	Grade		
		No.1 No. 1a	No. 2	No.3
Count of individual seeds per half litre:				
A	Castor Oil Plant, Coriander, Crow Garlic / Wild Garlic, Darling Pea, Opium Poppy, Peanut seeds and pods, Ragweed, Rattlepods, Starburr, St. John's Wort	Nil		
B	Bathurst Burr, Bulls Head/Caltrop/Cats Head, Cape Tulip, Colombus Grass, Cottonseed, Dodder, Double Gees/Spiny Emex/Three Cornered Jack, Heliotrope (Blue), Heliotrope (Common), Johnson Grass, Noogoora Burr, Parthenium weed, Thornapple, Vetch (Commercial), Vetch (Tare)	5		
C	Jute, Knapweed (Creeping/Russian), Mexican Poppy, Saffron Thistle	10		
D	Bindweed (Field), Black/Wild Oats, Darnel (Drake Seed), Hexham Scent/Meliot, Mintweed, Nightshades, Paddy Melon, Patterson's Curse/ Salvation Jane	30		
E	Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, Lentils, Lupins, Peas (Field), Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower	20	50	*
Count of all seeds in total per half litre:				
F	Includes all other weed seeds not listed elsewhere in the Standards	400		*
Existing Definitions remain (tolerances may vary):				
SFS	All Foreign Seeds not specified in category A-F that fall below the 2.0mm screen during the Screenings process (Max % by weight)	1.6%		4.0%*
Foreign Material	All material other than sorghum (Max % by weight)	4.0%		

* Assessment and tolerance based on maximum weight per half litre sample of all seeds in category E, category F and SFS combined. Tolerance of 4.0% by weight.

Current and Proposed Weed Seed Categories – Maize

The following table lists the proposed new categories for Maize.

Table 11: Current and future weed seed categories – maize

Proposed Category	Proposed Definition	Grade		
		Gritting	Prime	Feed No.1, Feed No.2
Count of individual seeds per half litre:				
A	Castor Oil Plant, Coriander, Crow Garlic / Wild Garlic, Darling Pea, Opium Poppy, Peanut seeds and pods, Ragweed, Rattlepods, Starburr, St. John's Wort	Nil		
B	Bathurst Burr, Bulls Head/Caltrop/Cats Head, Cape Tulip, Colombus Grass, Cottonseed, Dodder, Double Gees/Spiny Emex/Three Cornered Jack, Heliotrope (Blue), Heliotrope (Common), Johnson Grass, Noogoora Burr, Parthenium weed, Thornapple, Vetch (Commercial), Vetch (Tare)	Nil	5	
C	Jute, Knapweed (Creeping/Russian), Mexican Poppy, Saffron Thistle	Nil	10	
D	Bindweed (Field), Black/Wild Oats, Darnel (Drake Seed), Hexham Scent/Melilot, Mintweed, Nightshades, Paddy Melon, Patterson's Curse/ Salvation Jane	Nil	30	
E	Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, Lentils, Lupins, Peas (Field), Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower	Nil	20	
Count of all seeds in total per half litre:				
F	Includes all other weed seeds not listed elsewhere in the Standards	Nil	10	50
Existing Definitions remain (tolerances may vary):				
SFS	All Foreign Seeds not specified in category A-F that fall below the 4.75mm screen during the Screenings process (Max % by weight)	Nil	0.6%	1.6%
Foreign Material	All material other than maize (Max % by weight)	1.0%	3.0%	5.0%
Foreign Seeds	All foreign seeds other than maize (Max % by weight)	0.1%	n/a	

Proposed Trial 2013/14 Season

The following outlines considerations to be included in a trial of the proposed changes for the 2013/14 season. Industry should note that based on a successful outcome of the trial, the intention of the committee is to adopt the revised weed seed categories, definitions and tolerances for the 2014/15 season. However, industry feedback will be sought during 2014 prior to this proposed adoption.

Key Trial Principles

1. To be conducted across a range of regional areas representing the different weed seed status of the crop growing region
2. All commodities as listed in this document to be included in the trial
3. GTA will discuss with the pulse and oilseed industry the need for trials in 2014/15 with the pulse and oilseed industries or if these should be done in the following year
4. As many grades as possible be included in the trial
5. Preference for grower load samples to be used for the collection of data
6. Preference to target sites allocated to the export and domestic market and for some domestic end-users to be included in the trial
7. Proposed revised tolerances not to be introduced for 2013/14
8. Following classification of a load, a sample to be collected and assessed as per the proposed weed seed tolerances
9. Data collection per sample to be:
 - a. As per existing 2013/14 standards, with all data documented on an Excel spreadsheet developed by the Committee
 - b. As per proposed weed seed tolerances, including other changes as listed for each commodity
 - c. Sufficient data collected on each sample to enable a direct comparison of the two “standards” that exist/may apply
 - d. Sufficient information collected to enable a decision to be made on the impacts of the proposed changes on the classification of the sample
10. Preference is for samples to be assessed post-harvest or away from the sample stand so as to minimise impacts on delivery
11. A record be kept of the other implications of the proposed changes on the classification process as outlined in the “key principles under point 1” of this document, including the time taken for the assessment, the need for assessment of each category and the impact of the changes on the relative ease of classification
12. It is preferred that sites and samples be targeted where reasonably high levels of foreign material could be expected
13. Industry is encouraged to participate in the trials or conduct their own and provide data on a confidential basis to GTA. However to ensure adequate data is collected and provided, it is preferable if the trial protocol is reviewed by GTA prior to commencement