

# Member Update

UPDATE 2 of 21 • 18 February 2021

TOPIC: *China Proposes Change to its National Wheat Standards*

DISTRIBUTION: *GTA Members – primary contact list. Please circulate to all appropriate internal parties.*

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Member Update is to inform GTA members the Chinese State Administration for Market Regulation (Standardisation Administration of the P.R.C.) has notified the World Trade Organisation (WTO) of a proposal to change its National Wheat Standards GB 1351-2008.

## 2. Background

China has informed the WTO of a proposal to change its National Wheat Standards GB 1351-2008.

- The Chinese Wheat Standards specifies China's terms and definitions, classification, quality requirements, test methods, inspection rules, labelling, packaging, storage, and transportation requirements for wheat.
- These Standards are applicable to the purchase, storage, transportation, processing, and sale of commercial wheat.

## 3. Review of the Proposed Changes

A GTA review of the proposed Standard versus the existing Standard (in place since 2008) has been conducted.

The review confirmed it is unlikely for these changes to create any market access related issues for Australian wheat imports. However, to ensure a diligent review and procedure GTA is seeking any comments or other views **via Submission in relation to the proposed changes**.

## 4. Proposed Procedure to Respond

GTA will provide an industry response to the Australian Government on this draft Standard on your behalf. For GTA to develop that response and subsequently the Australian Government to revert to China with any comments, please respond by Tuesday 2 March 2021.

## 5. China's Supporting Documents

For your review and consideration, attached are:

- a) The Proposed 2021 China Wheat Standard with GTA comments, noting this is an unofficial translation only.
- b) A copy of the current China Wheat Standard GB1351-2008 - again, an unofficial translation from the USDA.
- c) The WTO notice from China on this proposed Standard, being SPS 1538.

## 6. Submissions

All industry feedback is required by **Tuesday 2 March 2021** and should be forwarded to [submissions@graintrade.org.au](mailto:submissions@graintrade.org.au)



8 February 2021

(21-0993)

Page: 1/2

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

### NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> CHINA <b>If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> State Administration for Market Regulation (Standardization Administration of the P.R.C.) <b>Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:</b>
<b>3. Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [ ], 5.6.2 [ ], 5.7.1 [ ], other:</b>
<b>4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Wheat; (ICS: 67.060)
<b>5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document:</b> National Standard of the P.R.C., Wheat (6 page(s), in Chinese)
<b>6. Description of content:</b> This document specifies the terms and definitions, classification, quality requirements, test methods, inspection rules, labelling, packaging, storage and transportation requirements for wheat.  This document is applicable to the purchase, storage, transportation, processing and sale of commercial wheat.  This document is not applicable to other varieties of wheat not listed in Clause 4.
<b>7. Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:</b> Prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection; Quality requirements
<b>8. Relevant documents:</b>  -
<b>9. Proposed date of adoption:</b> To be determined. <b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> To be determined.
<b>10. Final date for comments:</b> 60 days from notification

**11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:**

WTO/TBT National Notification and Enquiry Center of the People's Republic of China

Tel : +86 10 57954631 / 57954627

E\_mail: [tbt@customs.gov.cn](mailto:tbt@customs.gov.cn)

[https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/CHN/21\\_0981\\_00\\_x.pdf](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/CHN/21_0981_00_x.pdf)

## China Wheat Standard GB 1351-“2021”

### GMc (GTA) comment:

Unless otherwise stated, the following is a google translation of GB 1351-“2021”.

Comments on potential issues / new references are listed as such.

No issues with this draft that I can see in comparison to the prior Standard.

### A. Main Changes summary from GB 1351-2008:

This document replaces GB 1351-2008 "Wheat". Compared with GB 1351-2008 "Wheat", the main technical changes are as follows:

- Deleted GB 2715 National Food Safety Standard Grain and GB 13078 Feed Hygiene Standard in the normative references;
- Added the GB 5009.3 National Food Safety Standard Food Safety Determination of Water Content in the normative references;
- The English of the terms such as imperfect grains, worm-eaten grains, diseased grains, scab grains, impurities, sieve particles, etc. were revised;
- Modified black germ, budding grain, mouldy grain, impurities, organic impurities, inorganic impurities, colour, smell and wheat hardness index, etc.

Definition of terms:

- Added the term and definition of "heat-damaged grains";
- The term and definition of "wheat of no use value" has been added.
- Modified the description of wheat classification, and added "Note" to the "mixed wheat" classification;
- Revised the "minerals" in the impurities in Table 1 as "inorganic impurities";
- Modified the "moisture content inspection" in the inspection method, and added GB 5009.3 as the basic method.
- The chapter on "hygiene (sanitary) requirements" is deleted.

### B. Proposed Standards Content

#### 1 Scope

This document specifies the terms and definitions, classification, quality requirements, inspection methods, inspection rules, labelling, packaging, and storage of wheat, and transportation requirements.

This document applies to commercial wheat purchased, stored, transported, processed and sold. This document does not apply to special varieties of wheat other than those specified in Chapter 4 classification.

#### 2 Normative references

The following documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated reference documents, only the dated version applies to this article. For undated references, the latest version (including all amendments) applies to this document.

GB 5009.3 National Food Safety Standard Determination of Moisture in Food  
GB/T 5490 General Rules for Grain and Oil Inspection  
GB/T 5491 Grain and oilseed inspection samples and sampling method  
GB/T 5492 Grain and oil inspection Appraisal of colour, odour and taste of grain and oilseeds  
GB/T 5493 Grain and oil inspection types and mixed inspection  
GB/T 5494 Grain and oil inspection, impurity and imperfect grain inspection of grain and oilseeds  
GB/T 5497 Determination of Moisture Content in Grain and Oilseeds  
GB/T 5498 Grain and oil inspection bulk density determination  
GB/T 21304 Wheat Hardness Determination Hardness Index Method

### **3 Terms and definitions**

The following terms and definitions apply to this document.

#### **3.1 Test weight**

The quality of wheat grains per unit volume. Note: Expressed in grams per liter (g/L).

#### **3.2 Defective kernel**

Wheat kernels that are damaged but still worthy of use.

Note 1: Including worm-eaten grains, diseased grains, heat-damaged grains, damaged grains, sprout grains and mouldy grains.

Note 2: Insect-bored kernel refers to the kernel that is eaten by insects and damages the embryo or endosperm.

Note 3: Diseased kernels (diseased kernels; mottled kernels) refer to kernels with diseased spots on the grain surface that damage the embryo or endosperm; diseased kernels include black germs (Black point kernel), fusarium damaged kernel (fusarium damaged kernel). Black germ means the seed coat of the embryo or other parts is obviously dark brown colour or black, damage to the embryo or endosperm of the kernel. Fusarium head blight) refers to the grains that are shrunken, white, or the grains are purple, or there are obvious pink moulds with black Dice capsule shell.

Note 4: Heat-damaged kernels refer to seeds that have changed their normal colour or been damaged due to heat generation or heating due to microorganisms or other reasons.

Note 5: Broken kernels refer to kernels that are crushed, broken, and damage the embryo or endosperm.

Note 6: Sprouted kernel means that although the bud or young root has not broken through the seed coat but the seed coat of the embryo has been broken, or the bud or young root has broken through the seed coat but does not exceed Grains of this grain length.

Note 7: Mouldy kernel refers to the mouldy kernel.

#### **3.3 Impurities; useless material**

Substances other than wheat, and wheat with no use value.

Note 1: Including undersize, inorganic impurities and organic impurities.

Note 2: Screenings refer to materials that pass through a 1.5mm diameter round hole sieve.

Note 3: Inorganic impurities refer to soil, sand, bricks and tiles and other inorganic substances.

Note 4: Organic impurities refer to heterogeneous grains, wheat with no use value, and other organic substances except wheat.

Note 5: Wheat with no use value is the grain that cannot be used as a wheat raw material, including: completely discoloured and deteriorated wheat, and the sprout length exceeds the grain length of wheat, nematode disease wheat, bunt wheat and so on.

### 3.4 Colour and brightness

The colour and luster of a batch of wheat under specified conditions.

### 3.5 Odour

Under specified conditions, the taste of a batch of wheat.

### 3.6 Wheat hardness

The ability of wheat grains to resist deformation and breakage under external forces.

### 3.7 Wheat hardness index

Crush the wheat sample under the specified conditions, and the sample remaining on the screen accounts for the mass fraction of the sample, denoted by HI.

## 4 Categories

Wheat is classified according to the hardness of the kernel and the colour of the seed coat as follows:

4.1 Hard white wheat: wheat with white or yellowish-white seed coats not less than 90%, and wheat hardness index not less than 60;

4.2 Durum red wheat: the seed coat is dark red or reddish-brown with no less than 90% of the grains, and the wheat hardness index is no less than 60; **GMc – new reference to Durum as opposed to prior reference to Hard Red Wheat.**

4.3 Soft white wheat: wheat with white or yellow-white seed coat not less than 90%, and wheat hardness index not higher than 45;

4.4 Soft red wheat: The seed coat is dark red or reddish-brown with no less than 90% kernels, and wheat hardness index no higher than 45;

4.5 Mixed wheat: wheat that does not meet the requirements of 4.1 to 4.4.

Note: Wheat with purple or black seed coats is a special variety of wheat. **GMc - new**

## 5 Quality requirements

See Table 1 for the quality index requirements of various types of wheat. Among them, the bulk density is a graded index, and the third grade is medium.

Table 1 Quality requirements

Grade	Test Weight (g/L)	Imperfect Grain (%)	Impurity Content (%)		Moisture Content (%)	Smell
			Total	Inorganic Impurities		
1	$\geq 790$	$\leq 6.0$	$\leq 1.0$	$\leq 0.5$	$\leq 12.5$	Normal
2	$\geq 770$					
3	$\geq 750$	$\leq 8.0$				
4	$\geq 730$					
5	$\geq 710$	$\leq 10.0$				
Sub-standard	$< 710$	Not required				

GMc – previously listed colour as “normal” for all grades.

## 6 Testing method

- 6.1 Sampling and sub-sampling: according to GB/T 5491.
- 6.2 Wheat skin colour inspection: According to the "grain colour" inspection in GB/T 5493.
- 6.3 Wheat hardness inspection: implemented in accordance with GB/T 21304.
- 6.4 Colour and odour inspection: implement according to GB/T 5492.
- 6.5 Bulk density inspection: implemented in accordance with GB/T 5498.
- 6.6 Inspection of impurity and imperfect grain content: implement according to GB/T 5494. Among them, the inspection of inorganic impurities is in accordance with "6.1.4" in GB/T 5394 "Mineral Inspection" requires inspection.
- 6.7 Moisture content inspection: according to GB 5009.3 or GB/T 5497. Among them, GB 5009.3 is the arbitration law.

## 7 Inspection rules

- 7.1 The general rules of inspection shall be implemented in accordance with GB/T 5490.
- 7.2 Inspection batch: wheat of the same type, same origin, same harvest year, same transportation unit, and same storage unit.
- 7.3 Judgment rules: Bulk density should meet the requirements of the corresponding grade in Table 1, and other indicators shall be implemented in accordance with relevant national regulations.

## 8 Label identification

The name, category, grade, place of origin and harvest year of the product should be indicated in the packaging or accompanying documents.

GMc – previously also referred to production place which USA (& AUS also presumably) were not happy with. Also previously referred to month.

## **9 Packaging, storage and transportation**

### **9.1 Packaging**

The packaging should be clean, firm, and undamaged, and the seal should be tight and strong, and should not be spilled; it should not cause pollution and abnormal odours to the product.

### **9.2 Storage**

It should be stored in a clean, dry, rain-proof, moisture-proof, insect-proof, rodent-proof, and odour-free warehouse, and should not be mixed with toxic and harmful substances or moisture content. Higher substances coexist.

### **9.3 Transportation**

Transportation tools that meet sanitary requirements should be used, and care should be taken to prevent rain and contamination during transportation.





8 February 2021

(21-0993)

Page: 1/2

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

### NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

<b>1. Notifying Member:</b> <u>CHINA</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b> State Administration for Market Regulation (Standardization Administration of the P.R.C.) <b>Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:</b>
<b>3. Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [ ], 5.6.2 [ ], 5.7.1 [ ], other:</b>
<b>4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Wheat; (ICS: 67.060)
<b>5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document:</b> National Standard of the P.R.C., Wheat (6 page(s), in Chinese)
<b>6. Description of content:</b> This document specifies the terms and definitions, classification, quality requirements, test methods, inspection rules, labelling, packaging, storage and transportation requirements for wheat.  This document is applicable to the purchase, storage, transportation, processing and sale of commercial wheat.  This document is not applicable to other varieties of wheat not listed in Clause 4.
<b>7. Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:</b> Prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection; Quality requirements
<b>8. Relevant documents:</b>  -
<b>9. Proposed date of adoption:</b> To be determined. <b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> To be determined.
<b>10. Final date for comments:</b> 60 days from notification

**11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:**

WTO/TBT National Notification and Enquiry Center of the People's Republic of China

Tel : +86 10 57954631 / 57954627

E\_mail: [tbt@customs.gov.cn](mailto:tbt@customs.gov.cn)

[https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/CHN/21\\_0981\\_00\\_x.pdf](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2021/TBT/CHN/21_0981_00_x.pdf)