

Member Update

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TOPIC: 1st Industry Call for Submissions on 2023/24 GTA Standards

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

1. Issue

During deliberations on the development of Grain Trading Standards (Standards) for the 2022/23 season, industry feedback was received by GTA on the proposed changes for 2022/23, and **potential changes for the following 2023/24 season.**

The GTA Trading Standards Committee (Committee) has recently met to discuss industry feedback received and the potential Standards for 2023/24.

This document is provided for industry consideration. It lists the following information on the 2023/24 Standards:

Table of Contents

1. Issue	1
2. Process for Industry Feedback	1
3. Agreed Changes for Adoption in 2023/24	2
4. Issues for Further Ongoing Consideration	5
5. Issues not approved for Future Consideration or Change	6

2. Process for Industry Feedback

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

Submissions should be received by COB Friday 17th March 2023.

Please lodge your submissions by sending to submissions@graintrade.org.au and title your email – Standards Review 2023/24.

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

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

3. Agreed Changes for Adoption in 2023/24

3.1 Agreed Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guide – All Commodities

While a revised version was published for the 2022/23 season, the Committee has agreed further changes are required for some commodities. A revised version for 2023/24 is intended to be published. In general, these changes include:

- Revised photographs and wording for various defective grain quality parameters to provide greater clarity and aid industry interpretation.
- Where required these minor wording changes will also occur in each commodity Standards Booklet to reflect these changes.

Proposed changes are outlined below:

Commodity	Standards Issue	Proposed Outcome
All	Introduction	The current Introduction section will be altered to include a reference that “unless otherwise stated, the grain defect may only appear on one side”. That is, the photographs depict the minimum to be assessed as defective, and only needs to be present on one side (unless otherwise stated).
Barley	Varietal List	Will update the list of varieties having a short versus long Rachilla based on varieties advised by Grains Australia.
Barley	Dark Tipped	Include a photo of a Sound grain with some degree of staining on the germ end.
Barley	Cleaved	Add a photo of a Cleaved grain that shows some form of pink colouration. Revise wording in the Barley Standards Booklet and VRSG to refer to this description.
Barley	Heavily Discoloured - WA	Revise wording to add more clarity on the appearance of these grains.
Barley	Pink Fungal Stained	Revise wording in the Barley Standards Booklet and VRSG to refer to alter this quality parameter from Pink Fungal Stained to Fungal Stained. Add a description and photo of a blue coloured kernel. Add a photo of pink staining on the kernel (i.e., missing the husk).
Barley	Field Fungi (Spotted / Field Fungi Affected – WA)	Add a photo of a grain with staining on the kernel only (i.e., missing the husk).
Barley	Severely Damaged	Revise wording in the Barley Standards Booklet and VRSG to refer to Mould being the minimum to be classified as Severely Damaged. Revise the photo to reflect the minimum required. Add a photo of a grain with severe staining on the kernel only (i.e., missing the husk).
Barley	Insect Damaged	Add a photo of a grain with an “insect chewed appearance”.
Canola	Mould	Seek the Australian Oilseeds Federation support to revise wording in the “Canola Standards Booklet” and VRSG to alter wording to reflect the minimum amount of the defect present to be classified as Mould. Revise the photo to reflect this revised definition more

Commodity	Standards Issue	Proposed Outcome
		accurately (i.e., minor increase in the allowable level of Mould).
Chickpeas, Desi	Severely Damaged	Remove the last 2 photos depicting Mould and replace with a photo more accurately depicting this defect. Seek Pulse Australia support to revise the wording in the Pulse Standards to more accurately depict the level of Mould required.
Chickpeas, Desi	Broken, Chipped, Loose Seed Coat and Split	Seek Pulse Australia support to revise wording in the "Pulse Standards Booklet" and VRSG to revise the definition for Split Seed Coat from "A split in the seed coat running more than half the entire length or across the entire width on one or both sides" to "A split in the seed coat running more than half the entire length or width on one or both sides". The current definition is not applicable to all pulses, especially those that are round. Recommend the definition applies to all pulses (except mung beans).
Chickpeas, Desi	Hail Damaged	Revise the definition in the VRSG to reflect that in the Pulse Standards Booklet, by referencing "Any damage to the Seed Coat or kernel".
Chickpeas, Desi	Poor Colour	Revise the wording in the Seed Coat section to add emphasis that it is strongly recommended that the kernel be inspected by adding clarity that "Poor Colour Kernel can only be assessed if the Seed Coat is removed."
Chickpeas, Desi	Pickling Compounds or Artificial Colour	Seek Pulse Australia comments on the potential for the commercial release of Desi Chickpea with a range of Seed Coat colours that may appear similar to Pickling Compounds.
Chickpeas, Desi	Fungal Affected (e.g., Ascochyta)	Remove one photo (no.2) depicting the Ascochyta Lesion as it is not needed. Replace the kernel photo with one that provides greater clarity of the defect on the kernel.
Chickpeas, Kabuli	Broken, Chipped, Loose Seed Coat and Split	Refer to the proposed change for Chickpeas, Desi above.
Faba Beans	Severely Damaged	Add a photo of a small black faba bean that could potentially show this defect as a result of being immature and weather affected.
Faba Beans	Broken, Chipped, Loose Seed Coat and Split	Refer to the proposed change for Chickpeas, Desi above.
Lentils, Red	Broken, Chipped, Loose Seed Coat and Split	Refer to the proposed change for Chickpeas, Desi above.
Lentils, Red	Poor Colour Seed Coat	Add a photo of a grain that depicts Poor Colour via orange tipping. Revise the wording in the Seed Coat section to add emphasis that it is strongly recommended that the kernel be inspected by adding clarity that "Poor Colour Kernel can only be assessed if the Seed Coat is removed."
Lentils, Red	Contrasting Colour	Seek Pulse Australia support to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Revise the Contrasting Colour chart to depict more recent varieties.

Commodity	Standards Issue	Proposed Outcome
		b) Add photos to depict the different sizes and Seed Coat colours of the various common varieties to assist classification.
Lupins, Angustifolius	Broken, Chipped, Loose Seed Coat and Split	Refer to the proposed change for Chickpeas, Desi above.
Oats	Front Page – Oat and Groat image	Add wording of “Germ End” and “Awn end” to the photos of the Sound Groat and Sound Oat pictures.
Oats	Severely Damaged	Add a photo of a grain depicting Mould.
Peas, Field	Broken, Chipped, Loose Seed Coat and Split	Refer to the proposed change for Chickpeas, Desi above.
Peas, Field	Frost Damaged, Shrivelled and Wrinkled	Add a photo of a Sound grain with more “dimpling”.
Sorghum	Severely Damaged	Add photos to better depict this defect.
Sorghum	Mould	For greater clarity, replace the photo with a more appropriate one showing this defect.
Sorghum	Field Fungi	For greater clarity, replace the photo with a more appropriate one showing this defect.
Wheat	Front Page - Wheat Image	Add wording of “Germ End” and “Brush end” to the photos of the White Wheat Sound and Red Wheat Sound pictures.
Wheat	Vitreous Kernels	Revise wording in the VRSG to that of the Wheat Standards Booklet to reflect “any level of non-vitreous” results in the grain being classified as non-vitreous. Alter wording under the photos to reflect this definition.
Wheat	Pink Stained	Add a Sound grain with some pink staining. Replace the defective grain photo with a more appropriate one showing this defect.
Wheat	Distorted	To assist interpretation, add a Sound white pinched grain and a Sound vitreous pinched grain.
Wheat	Sprouted	Replace the Sound Pin Hole grain with a photo of a grain photo that is more appropriate (i.e., whitish and less yellow in colour).
Wheat	Severely Damaged	Add a photo of a grain depicting “Other Serious Visual Defects”.
Wheat	White Grain Disorder / Head Scab	Remove in the definition in the Wheat Standards Booklet and the VRSG of “resembles tombstones” as this is not readily understood. Replace a number of grains to better reflect this defect: Replace the 2 nd defective grain with a grain depicting a white appearance all along the kernel. Add a photo of a grain that is white and with a “distorted appearance.” Add a photo that is flaky and pale, but not white in appearance.

3.2 Agreed Change: Minor Wording Changes & Other Issues – Various Cereal Commodities

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

- Visual Recognition Standards Guide for 2023/24 – all cereal commodities.
- The document entitled “Australian Grains Industry Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances 2023/24” (see

<https://www.graintrade.org.au/sites/default/files/NWPGP/Outturn%20Tolerances%20202223%20Final.pdf>) – all cereal commodities.

- Remove reference to “Bread Wheat” in Type 7b Weed Seeds for Durum No.1, No.2 and No.3. This has been incorrectly listed for several years given the tolerance for “Bread Wheat” of 3% by weight.

3.3 Agreed Change: Gumnuts – All Cereal Commodities

Industry was advised of a proposed change in tolerance for 2023/24 as part of a review of the practicality of a Nil Tolerance in Standards and the intention of the Committee to consider developing low level tolerances for some contaminants. The Committee proposed a change in the nil tolerance for gumnuts, given:

- The impracticality of removing a low number of gumnuts from a load.
- The implications of rejection of a truckload of grain for the presence of one gumnut, which may be of any size.
- The ability of many processors to remove gumnuts from a load prior to processing.

The Committee considered the most recent industry submission and the many prior discussions on this topic and has agreed to the following change for the 2023/24 season:

- For all cereal commodities and grades, removing the current nil tolerance level for gumnuts only.
- A low-level tolerance for gumnuts only, of 1 gumnut/2.5L be included for all cereal commodities and grades, similar to that applying for Stones.
- The definition of a gumnut be “whole or pieces of any size and maturity level”.
- The current definition and nil tolerance of other *Eucalyptus spp.* plant material remains in all Standards.
- Other industry sectors be encouraged to adopt the proposed changes i.e., pulses, oilseeds.

3.4 Varietal Master List – Wheat, Barley, Oats

As in previous seasons, the Varietal Master List for the above commodities will be reviewed following receipt of the changes from the industry sector responsible for maintenance of those lists. All Standards will be revised based on those changes and advised to industry when the 2023/24 season Standards are released. In the interim, refer to the Trading Standards Booklets for each commodity to view the existing varietal classifications.

4. Issues for Further Ongoing Consideration

4.1 Further Research: Vacuum Sampling of Road Trucks – All Commodities

Industry was advised of a proposal raised in 2018 to review the current use of vacuum probes to obtain a representative sample for the purposes of applying Trading Standards. It was agreed this project should be managed as a whole of industry review. GTA through GTA’s Trading Standards Committee offered to facilitate the project on behalf of industry, as it relates to the application of Standards.

The project development phase has been completed and funding sourced. There has been a delay in conducting the project due to Covid-19 restricting access to trial sites. It is hoped the trial can commence in 2023 on a smaller scale.

4.2 Further Research: New ASW Grade – Wheat

Industry was advised in 2022 a submission was received from industry seeking to create a new milling grade with a minimum 9% protein. The Committee had discussed the submission at length and noted:

- No change would occur to the current ASW1 Grade, which has no minimum or maximum protein.

- The protein content of the Western Australian crop has been declining in recent seasons, with receival data showing a decline from 2008.
- The Committee questioned the decline in protein and the needs of the market. Generally, the human consumption milling market has no demand for ASW below 9% protein.
- The current ASW1 protein range of the delivered crop is broad, creating a very different quality profile depending on the protein content.
- It was agreed there needs to be discussion across industry to assist with understanding the market requirements.
- It could be expected that growers who deliver higher protein ASW1 in the range of 9% - 10% may be missing out on higher returns if that grain was segregated rather than being commingled with ASW grain with a protein lower than 9%.

After discussion the Committee had agreed:

- An industry Working Group be formed to discuss the changes to the declining protein content of the WA crop, consider the impact of the proposal and consult with all relevant sectors of industry.

Further work on this issue will continue in 2023.

4.3 Further Research: Inconsistency of Quality Assessment – All Commodities

Industry would be aware of the variability in quality across a range of commodities during the 2022/23 harvest period. This inconsistency arose at all stages of the supply chain, from within paddocks through to the quality assessed in a truckload of grain tendered for delivery. Additionally for many commodities, a range of quality parameters (i.e., defects) arose that had not been seen for many years, if ever by receival agents.

The above caused immense frustration for all involved, from growers, receival agents samplers, BHCs and buyers/end-users. While it was not totally unexpected given the nature of the harvest, GTA has a role to assist industry by providing tools to correctly apply and implement the Trading Standards.

As a result of feedback from industry, the Committee has commenced a review of how improvements in interpretation and application of Trading Standards by industry can occur. This review will be wide-ranging and include training, Trading Standards, Fact Sheets and Technical Guideline Documents as part of the Code of Practice, and other relevant issues.

Industry will be kept updated on findings and the Committee would welcome industry suggestions for consideration by the Committee.

5. Issues not approved for Future Consideration or Change

The following is a list of topics that have been considered by the Committee in relation to various aspects of the Trading Standards. The Committee has considered these and concluded they:

- Are a low priority.
- Do not require further attention at this time unless warranted by industry.

5.1 Foreign Material – All Cereal Commodities

Industry had previously been advised of research that had commenced on ensuring clarity and consistency across commodities of the definition and method of assessment of Foreign Material (FM).

Since initiating the review the Committee had identified the need to consider a range of issues when developing recommendations. These issues included:

- Increased time for sample assessment of the FM content.
- Whether there are other implications and should the FM test be made a "mandatory" versus "voluntary" test.
- Extensive industry consultation is needed to reach agreement on FM definitions & levels to apply by commodity.
- Extensive discussions with traders and buyers (domestic/export) to explain all changes and reasons is required.
- The impacts of the change need to be considered across all States of Australia, for all end-use across all cereals.
- Industry views on the desire of the Committee to include the change across all Commodities given some commodity sectors may not desire such a change.
- Potential impacts of the change on all non-cereal commodities.

The Committee has determined that the current Standards are adequate and that no significant marketing issues arise as a result of the existing definitions and tolerances for Foreign Material. Therefore this item will not be explored further.