

MemberUpdate

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TOPIC: 2nd 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**. GTA called for industry submissions on Standards via Member Update 3 of 23.

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:

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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 19th May 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. Those changes are being made and a revised version for 2023/24 will be published to apply as of 1 August 2023. 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 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 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

Commodity	Standards Issue	Proposed Outcome
		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. 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.

Commodity	Standards Issue	Proposed Outcome
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.
- Revise the reference to Opium Poppy in the sorghum Standards. As per all other cereals, this should be in Type 1 rather than Type 2 weed seeds.

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 limited impact of a low level of gumnuts in a tendered load, with limited to no impact on the end-product.
- It was also noted, that despite the nil tolerance, very low levels of gumnuts have been detected in some composite site running samples. These have been present as sampling of a bulk product using industry procedures may not provide 100% certainty all contaminants at a low level are readily detected. Despite this low-level presence, no marketing or end-product issues have arisen.

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 tolerance agreed is similar to other low-level contaminants such as Stones in many commodity Trading Standards. This similar level will be easily adopted by industry and understood from a training and application perspective.
- 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.
- A previously developed Fact Sheet on this topic will be revised and provided for information to industry. The Committee will consider the inclusion of appropriate photos of this contaminant.

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. A small-scale trial has commenced to determine if a more research project needs to be conducted in future.

Industry will be advised of the outcome of that small scale trial and the implications for future work in this area.

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 has 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 on the entire Australian crop make-up.
 - Consult with all relevant industry sectors more fully on the implications of any change, including the grower sector, BHCs in terms of segregations, payments and end-users including the human consumption and stockfeed sectors of industry.

4.3 Further research: SFW1 - Wheat

Industry was advised in 2020 of a submission requesting a change in the tolerances for a range of defective grain types in the SFW1 grade. That submission in total was not supported and no changes to the tolerances occurred. Since that time, a further submission requesting changes to Field Fungi and Severely Damaged grains only was received.

The submission requested changes as follows:

- Field Fungi increase from 10/half litre to 20/half litre.
- Severely Damaged increase from 1 grain/half litre retained above the 2mm screen to 5 grains/half litre retained above the 2mm screen.

Discussion by the Committee on this topic included:

- The proposed change would be more reflective of tolerances for a stockfeed grade, rather than the current tolerances that reflect a milling wheat grade.
- While some feedback from the stockfeed sector has been received, both supportive and non-supportive, further consideration of impacts is required.
- Responses received have not supported a change to the Field Fungi tolerance. However, there may be some potential for further discussion on the Severely Damaged proposed change.
- Higher levels of Field Fungi and/or Severely Damaged may require mitigation of potential toxins present, using enzymes, mycotoxin binders etc.
- Animal performance may also be impacted.

Given the potential implications of a change, it has been decided to discuss this issue more formally between the trade and the stockfeed sector to seek wider views and the impacts on such a change. Hence no change is to occur for the 2023/24 season and industry feedback on this proposal is sought.