

Member Update

UPDATE 18 OF 23 • 01 August 2023

TOPIC: Trading Standards for 2023/24

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

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1. Issue

Trading Standards to apply for the 2023/24 season as of 1 August 2023 are now available on the GTA website.

2. Background

GTA Member Updates No.3 of 23 and No.9 of 23 sought feedback from industry on potential changes to Trading Standards (Standards) for the coming 2023/24 season. Feedback was received from a range of industry sectors on the proposed changes and a range of other issues.

The GTA Standards Committee (Committee) met in 2023 on several occasions and reviewed feedback from industry. The Committee recommended changes to the GTA Board and the Board has adopted recommendations as appropriate.

This document lists:

- Changes to Standards for implementation in 2023/24.
- Issues for Future Review.

All 2023/24 Standards and industry submissions received during 2023 on proposed Standards can be viewed on the GTA website at http://www.graintrade.org.au/commodity_standards.

3. Agreed Changes for Adoption in 2023/24

Unless otherwise noted in the following, industry did not object to the list of changes advised in the second round calling for industry submissions, as listed below.

3.1 Agreed Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guide – all commodities

As advised during 2023 the existing Visual Recognition Standards Guide (VRSG) produced by GTA was being reviewed for the commodities listed in that document.

General changes have been made to the document in many instances to provide greater clarity and aid interpretation. Changes are outlined in the table below.

Commodity	Standards Issue	Proposed Outcome
All	Introduction	The current Introduction section has been 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	Dark Tipped	Included a photo of a Sound grain with some degree of staining on the germ end.
Barley	Cleaved	Added a photo of a Cleaved grain that shows some form of pink colouration. Revised wording in the Barley Standards Booklet and VRSG to refer to this description "Kernels may or may not have a pink discolouration".
Barley	Field Fungi (Spotted / Field Fungi Affected – WA)	Added a photo of a grain with staining on the kernel only (i.e., missing the husk). Revise wording in the Barley Standards Booklet and VRSG to reflect those grains, being "Grey or brown surface discolouration on the kernel and/or husk".
Barley	Severely Damaged	Added a photo of a grain with severe staining on the kernel only (i.e., missing the husk).
Barley	Insect Damaged	Added a photo of a grain with an "insect chewed appearance".
Canola	Frost Damaged	Clarified that "Frost Damaged seeds are included in Admixture (WA)".
Canola	Mould	Revised the photo to better reflect the interpretation of Mould applied by industry (i.e., minor increase in the allowable level of Mould on a grain).
Chickpeas, Desi	Severely Damaged	Removed the previous last 2 photos depicting Mould and replaced with a photo more accurately depicting this defect.
Chickpeas, Desi	Hail Damaged	Revised the definition in the VRSG to reflect that in the Pulse Standards Booklet, by referencing "Any damage to the Seed Coat or kernel is classified as defective".
Chickpeas, Desi	Poor Colour	Revised 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." Added wording under Poor Colour Kernel pictures of "Defective Kernel, therefore this is classified as Poor Colour".

Commodity	Standards Issue	Proposed Outcome
Chickpeas, Desi	Fungal Affected (e.g., Ascochyta)	Removed one photo (no.2) depicting the Ascochyta Lesion as it was not needed. Replaced the kernel photo with one that provides greater clarity of the defect on the kernel.
Lentils, Red	Poor Colour Seed Coat	Added a photo of a grain that depicts Poor Colour via orange tipping. Revised 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."
Oats	Front Page – Oat and Groat image	Added wording of "Germ End" and "Awn end" to the photos of the Sound Groat and Sound Oat pictures.
Oats	Stained Grains	Revised wording and pictures to clarify that Septoria has a separate definition and tolerance in WA.
Peas, Field	Frost Damaged, Shrivelled and Wrinkled	Added a photo of a Sound grain with more "dimpling".
Sorghum	Severely Damaged	Added revised photos to better depict this defect.
Sorghum	Mould	For greater clarity, replaced the photo with a more appropriate one showing this defect.
Sorghum	Field Fungi	For greater clarity, replaced the photo with a more appropriate one showing this defect.
Wheat	Front Page - Wheat Image	Added wording of "Germ End" and "Brush end" to the photos of the White Wheat Sound and Red Wheat Sound pictures.
Wheat	Vitreous Kernels	Revised 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. Altered wording under the photos to reflect this definition.
Wheat	Pink Stained	Replaced the defective grain photo with a more appropriate one showing this defect.
Wheat	Sprouted	Replaced the Sound Pin Hole grain with a photo of a grain photo that is more appropriate.
Wheat	Severely Damaged	Added a photo of a grain depicting "Other Serious Visual Defects".
Wheat	White Grain Disorder / Head Scab	Removed in the definition in the Wheat Standards Booklet and the VRSG of "resembles tombstones" as this was not readily understood. Added wording to the definition in the Wheat Standards Booklet and the VRS of "Grains may also appear flaky with a white discolouration and may display some level of shrivelling". Replaced a number of grains to better reflect this defect.

The 2023/24 version of the VRSG can be obtained here https://www.graintrade.org.au/commodity_standards

3.2 Agreed Change: Minor Wording Changes & Other Issues – all cereal commodities

Minor changes to wording in all Standards charts and Standards booklets have occurred. These changes were made to refer to the latest versions of reference material available to assist industry implementation of Standards, including:

- Visual Recognition Standards Guide for 2023/24.
- The document entitled "Australian Grains Industry Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances 2023/24" (see <http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp>).
- Removed reference to "Bread Wheat" in Type 7b Weed Seeds for Durum No.1, No.2 and No.3. This had been incorrectly listed for several years given the tolerance for "Bread Wheat" of 3% by weight.
- Revised the reference to Opium Poppy in the sorghum Standards. As per all other cereals except wheat, this should have been listed in Type 2 rather than Type 1 weed seeds. NOTE: The tolerances in the wheat Standards will be reviewed in 2024 when developing the 2024/25 Standards.

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 made the following change for the 2023/24 season:

- For all cereal commodities and grades, removed the current nil tolerance level for gumnuts only.
- A low-level tolerance for gumnuts only, of 1 gumnut/2.5L is 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 is "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.
- A previously developed Fact Sheet on this topic has been revised and will be provided for information to industry.

3.4 Agreed Change: Varietal Master List – Wheat, Barley, Oats

The Varietal Master List for the above commodities have been reviewed following receipt of the changes from the industry sectors responsible for development and maintenance of those lists. Relevant changes have now been included in each Standards Booklet.

3.5 Agreed Change: AWW Class and New Grades - Wheat

In 2021, industry was advised of the introduction of a new wheat class of Australian White Wheat (AWW) by Wheat Quality Australia (now Grains Australia). Since then, the Committee has been reviewing the potential grades to be released under this new class. Various industry communications on this topic have been released, with the most recent being Member Update No. 22 of 22 "AWW Grade and Cascading Rules Industry Consult Paper". See https://www.graintrade.org.au/sites/default/files/GTA_Member_Updates/Member%20Update%20No.%2022%20of%2022%20-%20AWW%20Standards%20Cascading%20Rules.pdf

That paper proposed two grades be released under this Class, being AWW1 and AWW2. Specifications for those grades and cascading rules for deliveries failing specifications were also outlined.

Grains Australia has listed varieties for acceptance into the AWW Class in the 2023/24 Wheat Varietal Master List. Therefore, based on no objections from industry on specifications outlined in that most recent consultation paper, the Committee has agreed to implement AWW1 and AWW2 in the Wheat Standards for the 2023/24 season as previously provided.

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 extensive 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 agreed to form an industry Working Group 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.

Initial industry consultations have occurred in Western Australia, following a trial of an ASW grade with a minimum protein of 9% in that State. If released, this grade would apply across all regions and have the same specifications and cascading rules as ASW1 except a minimum protein of 9% would apply.

Industry comments are sought on the potential release of this new grade in the wheat Standards for the 2024/25 season. Comments are sought from industry by 31 August 2023.

Based on industry feedback, unless otherwise decided, the Committee intends to release this grade in the 2024/25 season.

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 by a change in the tolerance for Field Fungi and Severely Damaged.

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 will apply for the 2023/24 season and further discussion with industry will be undertaken.