GRAIN TRADE AUSTRALIA

MemberUpdate

UPDATE 1 OF 2020 • 02 March 2020

TOPIC: 1st Industry Call for Submissions on 2020/21 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 2019/20 season, industry feedback was received by GTA on the proposed changes for 2019/20, and **potential changes for the following 2020/21 season.**

The GTA Standards Committee (Committee) has recently met to discuss industry feedback received and the potential Standards for 2020/21.

This document is provided for industry consideration. It lists the following information on the 2020/21 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 Monday 23rd March 2020.

Please lodge your submissions by sending to submissions@graintrade.org.au and title your email – Standards Review 2020/21.

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 2020/21

3.1 Agreed Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guide – all commodities

A number of changes have been recommended for inclusion in the 2020/21 season version of the VRSG to provide greater clarity and aid industry interpretation (Note that the following table also lists issues considered but not agreed by the Committee):

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
Barley	Varietal List (refer Section 3.3 below)	Update the list of varieties having a short versus long Rachilla based on varieties advised by Barley Australia.
Barley	Dark Tipped p5	Agreed to alter the wording in the definition to clarify that awn staining is not Dark Tipped.
Barley	Skinnings p6	Alter the wording in the definition to clarify that: • For dark grains that do not meet the definition of Severely Damaged; • For orange tinged grains/kernels; if those grains are not collapsed on the dorsal side as per the Distorted photos, but meet the definition of Skinnings (more than a third of the husk removed), they are to be classified as Skinnings. Add photos of the above grain.
Barley	Cleaved p6	Sometimes industry refers to "Hormonal Damaged grain". The grains may or may not be damaged due to hormones. It was agreed to reference this defect in the Standards Booklet definition under Cleaved.
Barley	Distorted p7	Alter the wording in the definition to clarify that: • For dark grains that do not meet the definition of Severely Damaged; • For orange tinged grains/kernels; if those grains are collapsed on the dorsal side to the extent shown as per the Distorted photos, they are to be classified as Distorted. Add photos of the above grain.
Barley	Severely Damaged p8	The following changes are recommended for adoption in 2020/21: • For small Shrunken Black Grains/Kernels, include a note to advise those falling below the screen are no longer to be included in Severely Damaged, but are to be considered sound. • For Black/Dark Grains to the extent in the VRSG, only those remaining above the screen following the screenings process are to be considered Severely Damaged. • Alter wording in the definition to refer to Skinnings, Distorted or Dark Tipped for those grains/kernels not meeting the definition of Severely Damaged.
Barley	Coloured Aleurone Layer p9	Include a reference that any blue/black colour to any degree is classified as Coloured Aleurone Layer.
Desi Chickpeas	Poor Colour p18	Seek Pulse Australia Standards Committee advice on the proposal to alter the definition of Poor Colour to that as proposed for barley i.e., Dark small grains that meet the definition in the VRSG falling below the screen are not to be included as Poor Colour. Consider addition of a photo to aid interpretation.
Kabuli	Poor Colour p21	Seek Pulse Australia Standards Committee advice on the proposal to alter the definition of Poor Colour to that as proposed for barley i.e., Dark small grains that meet the definition in the VRSG falling below the screen are not to be included as Poor Colour. Consider addition of a photo to aid interpretation.
Faba Beans	Insect Damaged p26 and Fungal Affected p25	Changes to photos in the VRSG were made last year, specifically the removal of the photo depicting a kernel with a hole as a result of Fungal Affected. Given the Committee were advised of ongoing issues in interpretation of that grain versus insect damaged, it was agreed to re-add the prior photo and alter the wording in the definition to aid interpretation.
Faba Beans	Frost Damaged, Stained p28	Add a note under all the photos to clarify that are images are defective. Clarify also that this defect is included in Poor Colour.

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
Faba Beans	Poor Colour p29	Seek Pulse Australia Standards Committee advice on the proposal to alter the definition of Poor Colour to that as proposed for barley i.e., Dark small grains that meet the definition in the VRSG falling below the screen are not to be included as Poor Colour. Consider addition of a photo to aid interpretation.
Faba Beans	Pea Seed Borne Mosaic Virus p30	Clarify that this defect is included in Poor Colour.
Red Lentils	Poor Colour p35	Seek Pulse Australia Standards Committee advice on the proposal to alter the definition of Poor Colour to that as proposed for barley i.e., Dark small grains that meet the definition in the VRSG falling below the screen are not to be included as Poor Colour. Consider addition of a photo to aid interpretation. Seek advice from Pulse Australia on the continued need to reference the outdated variety Aldinga and the photo of a Blonde Kernel.
Red Lentils	Contrasting Colours p36	Seek an update on the varieties depicted on the Contrasting Colours chart.
Red Lentils	Fungal Affected p37	Clarify that this defect is included in Poor Colour.
Lupins	Poor Colour p41	Seek Pulse Australia Standards Committee advice on the proposal to alter the definition of Poor Colour to that as proposed for barley i.e., Dark small grains that meet the definition in the VRSG falling below the screen are not to be included as Poor Colour (noting that a screen is not listed in Angustifolius lupin Standards). Consider addition of a photo to aid interpretation. Add a photo of a small dark grain under Frost Damaged if the above change is approved.
Maize	Fungal Affected p45	Change wording to reflect the decision outlined in 3.5 below.
Maize	Severely Damaged	Note: The change to reflect dark small grains falling below the screen are not included in Severely Damaged, as proposed for other cereals, is not required as that grain defect is not seen in maize (and no Severely Damaged category exists).
Oats	Severely Damaged p48	Note: The change to reflect dark small grains falling below the screen are not included in Severely Damaged, as proposed for other cereals except maize, is not required as that grain defect is not seen in oats.
Field Peas	Poor Colour p55	Seek Pulse Australia Standards Committee advice on the proposal to alter the definition of Poor Colour to that as proposed for barley i.e., Dark small grains that meet the definition in the VRSG falling below the screen are not to be included as Poor Colour. Consider addition of a photo to aid interpretation.
Sorghum	Severely Damaged p57	As per barley, the following changes are recommended for adoption in 2020/21: • For small Shrunken Black Grains/Kernels, include a note to advise those falling below the screen are no longer to be included in Severely Damaged, but are to be considered sound. • For Black/Dark Grains to the extent in the VRSG, only those remaining above the screen following the screenings process are to be considered Severely Damaged. • Revise wording to clearly differentiate the above grains from Mould.
Sorghum	Ergot p59	Agreed to simplify wording and clarify in the definition that Cerebella is included in the tolerance for Ergot.
Wheat	Distorted p63	As per barley, alter the wording in the definition to clarify that: • For dark grains that do not meet the definition of Severely Damaged; • For orange tinged grains/kernels; if those grains are collapsed to the extent shown as per the Distorted photos, they are to be classified as Distorted. Add photos of the above grain.
Wheat	Severely Damaged p64	As per barley, the following changes are recommended for adoption in 2020/21:

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
		• For small Shrunken Black Grains/Kernels, include a note to advise those falling below the screen are no longer to be included in Severely Damaged, but are to be considered sound. • For Black/Dark Grains to the extent in the VRSG, only those remaining above the screen following the screenings process are to be considered Severely Damaged.

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

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

- Visual Recognition Standards Guide for 2020/21.
- The document entitled "Australian Grains Industry Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances 2020/21" (see http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp).

3.3 Agreed Change: 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 sectors responsible for maintenance of those lists. All Standards will be revised based on those changes and advised to industry when the 2020/21 season Standards are released.

3.4 Agreed Change: Cleaved – Barley

Industry advised the Committee that during the 2019/20 harvest swollen barley grains were observed. These grains:

- Were swollen but smaller in size than normal.
- Were sometimes fused in groups of 2 or 3 grains.
- Were split, revealing the inner endosperm.

Given the grains were split to the extent under the current definition of Cleaved, the Committee agreed to alter the definition of Cleaved to include this particular defect, without requiring a photo in the VRSG. As some in industry were already using this interpretation, the Committee agreed this clarification and revised wording for Cleaved would occur in the 2020/21 Standards.

3.5 Agreed Change: Fungal Stained – Maize

The Committee received advice in 2019 that the current definitions and tolerances required updating. The submission requested the following changes were required and the Committee intends to make the following changes for 2020/21:

Silk Cut – It was noted that these types of kernels are not always affected by fungi/moulds but they are generally considered as Damaged by the maize industry when maize is used for human consumption. Of concern to industry is that a Silk Cut kernel creates an entry point for fungi or moulds to enter the kernel. Generally a Silk Cut kernel is damaged and does not hold the same test weight and nutrition as an undamaged kernel. It was recognised that generally these kernels will be taken out during the cleaning process if machine dressed. Hence the industry proposal agreed by the Committee is for Silk Cut to remain under the "Damaged" definition in the Standards for all grades.

Star Burst – Star Burst is generally considered by industry as a precursor to the Fumonisin mycotoxin being present. The Fusarium spp. mould creates the visual Star Burst. Industry has recommended and the Committee agreed that Star Burst therefore should be included under the quality parameter of "Dead, Mouldy or Storage Mould" in 2020/21 Standards.

Note that the above changes will be reflected in the next version of the VRSG, due for release in 2020.

4. Potential Changes for 2020/21 where further Industry Advice is required

4.1 Potential Change: Foreign Material – All Cereals

The Committee had previously advised industry of further research and work required on ensuring clarity and consistency across commodities of the definition and method of assessment of Foreign Material (FM). The Committee recently discussed raising the priority of Foreign Material amongst the further research items given the need for clarity and consistency across commodities of the definition and method of assessment of Foreign Material, and the current marketing difficulties this quality parameter is causing. For example:

- The current lack of consistency in FM definitions in all cereals leads to sampler confusion, leading to potentially incorrect sample classification.
- A desire for consistency in Standards - definitions etc.
- There is not a FM definition in all cereals, again causing wider industry confusion.
- A FM definition and tolerance applies on outturn for some commodities, but there is no clear or consistent industry definition. Hence variations apply, leading to potential differences in market and customer interpretation.
- Current Trading Standards applied at receival do not give sufficient information on total FM levels in grain.
- A separate FM category is required in Trading Standards as there is no suitable other category to capture FM in all commodities.
- The risk of outturning grain over FM contractual levels is sometimes high, especially where the major FM contaminants are larger weed seeds.
- For outturn, BHCs and/or marketers need to assess FM to determine suitability for a customer, leading to increased costs and other logistical difficulties.

For industry reference, current FM Definitions and Tolerances in cereal Trading Standards are as follows:

Foreign Material Definitions & Tolerances			
GTA Cereal Standards 2019/20			
Commodity	**Grade**	**Tolerance**	**Definition**
Barley	Malt 1,2,3	1% by wt	Material other than already specified
	Bar 1,2,3	1% by wt	Material other than already specified
Cereal Rye	n/a	no std	no std
Maize	Prime	3% by wt	All matter other than maize
	Feed No.1,2	5% by wt	All matter other than maize
Oats	n/a	no std	no std
Sorghum	No.1	2% by wt	Material other than already specified
	No.2	4% by wt	
Triticale	n/a	no std	no std
Wheat	n/a	no std	no std

In addition to the above benefits of creating a revised definition and addition of a tolerance for FM, the Committee noted there are issues that will need to be considered as part of the review including:

- Increased time for sample assessment of the FM content.
- Whether there are other implications and should the FM test be made a "mandatory" v "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 of all cereals.
- Industry views on the desire of the Committee to include the change across all Committees given some commodity sectors may not desire such a change.
- Potential impacts of the change on all non-cereal commodities.

From the discussion, the Committee resolved that:

- Foreign Material is to be re-prioritised and during 2020 the Committee will focus on addressing this issue.
- Industry views are sought to any potential changes.
- Following initial industry feedback, and further review by the Committee, an industry consultation paper be developed and provided to industry for consideration prior to release of the call to industry for the second round of industry submissions on standards.
- Any changes would not be implemented in the 2020/21 season.

4.2 Potential Change: Severely Damaged – Barley, Cereal Rye, Sorghum, Triticale, Wheat

Refer also to the discussion by commodity in 3.1 above.

The Committee advised in 2019 it intended to review the existing tolerances in all Standards and the photo of "black grain" in the Severely Damaged defective category. A range of different forms of this defect were seen in the 2019/20 harvest and in recent prior seasons. The Committee has considered all issues and is seeking industry comment on the following proposed changes, noting that as the changes are not expected to be significant, these changes are intended for implementation in 2020/21 season Standards.

a) Orange Tinged Kernels & Grains

- This defect generally appears on the kernel only, where the husk generally has been fully removed, but may also appear partially removed. Kernels generally are not distorted but may be distorted, frequently due to damage by environmental conditions such as frost. It may appear on the grain itself.
- Kernels appear orange in colour, to varying degrees. The colour is sometimes misinterpreted to be "dark enough" for kernels to be classified as Severely Damaged. In many cases this has been incorrect, leading to contractual disputes.
- At the levels permitted in the Standards, it is not thought that these grains/kernels have any significant impact on the malting process or are a food safety issue for stockfeed.

Recommendation:

- As this defect is not considered to be classified as Severely Damaged, these grains/kernels are to be classified as Distorted. All relevant definitions in the Standards will be altered to reflect this interpretation.
- Photos of orange tinged grains, orange skinned kernels and distorted orange kernels are to be added to the VRSG in the relevant section once agreed.

b) Small Shrunken Black Grains/Kernels

- This defect appears on grains or kernels that are small in size that fall through the screen during the Screenings process.
- Grains are distinctly black as per the existing photo in the VRSG.
- While high levels may render the grain visually unappealing, at the levels permitted in the Standards, it is not thought that these grains/kernels have any significant impact on the end-product or are a food safety issue for human consumption/stockfeed.
- These grains are generally removed in the "Screenings" before the grain is processed.
- These grains/kernels are currently classified and assessed as a "count per half litre". It takes time for samplers to remove these grains for the half litre given their size.
- The current VRSG photos of dark/black grains are suitable for industry interpretation of these grains.

Recommendation:

- As these grains/kernels are contained in the Screenings, any black grains/kernels as depicted as per the VRSG photos that fall below the screen are not to be included in the category of Severely Damaged. These grains/kernels are to be categorised under Screenings.
- No additional photos in the VRSG are required, however relevant definitions in the Standards will be altered to reflect this change.
- This change in interpretation be made for the 2020/21 Standards.

c) Larger Black/Dark Grains

- Given the recommendation under 4.2b) above, the Committee considered changes for black grains remaining above the screen and the appropriateness of classification under Severely Damaged.
- The Committee again noted that further assistance to industry to correctly interpret these grains was required.
- Grains appearing as dark as per the photo in the VRSG are classified as Severely Damaged.
- Grains appearing less dark than the photos in the VRSG are not to be classified as Severely Damaged. These "darkish" grains appear in various forms, generally being:
    - If grains are distorted to the extent shown in Distorted photos in the VRSG, they are to be classified as Distorted.
    - For barley, if grains are not collapsed on the dorsal side as per the Distorted photos in the VRSG but are skun more than 1/3rd as per the definition in the Standards, they are to be classified as Skinnings.
    - For barley, if grains are only black on the awn end, they do not meet the definition for Dark Tipped/Germ End Stained, hence are classified as sound.

Recommendation:

- Additional photos in the VRSG are required to reflect the proposed interpretation.
- Definitions in Standards in all relevant areas will be altered to reflect the proposed interpretation.
- As the Committee agreed that this proposed interpretation was consistent with the existing interpretation from sectors of industry, this change in definition and additional photos in the VRSG is to be made in the 2020/21 Standards.

5. Issues for Future Consideration

5.1 Further Research: Nil Tolerance Parameters – All Cereals

The Committee had previously advised industry of a review of various aspects related to this topic including:

- The definition of Nil.
- The applicability of a Nil tolerance to apply for each quality parameter in a bulk grain load.
- Regulatory impacts of any potential change away from Nil.
- Suitable tolerances by quality parameter and commodity to apply.
- The consistency of the definitions and tolerances across commodities.
- The method of assessment, including sample size.

The Committee has commenced this activity and considered potential changes to Standards. As no clear consensus could be reached by the Committee, the Committee will develop an industry consultation paper on its findings for industry consideration during 2020. In the interim, industry views on proposed changes to definitions and tolerances by commodity are sought.

5.2 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 Standards Committee offered to facilitate the project on behalf of industry, as it relates to the application of Standards.

The project development phase has commenced with the drafting and agreement of Principles that the project will cover. These Principles are currently under discussion with a potential sponsor for the project.

5.3 Further Research: Screen Specifications – All Cereals

Various commodities have reference screen specifications outlined in detail in the Standards whereas other do not. The Committee had commenced development of these specifications however this project had been deferred until the vacuum sampling project has been completed. This stance was again endorsed by the Committee given the relatively low impact on industry of this issue.

5.4 Further Research: Other Topics – All Cereals

The Committee has previously advised industry of several other quality related issues in the Standards where ongoing research is required. In summary, these included:

- Review of the suitability of sample sizes used for assessment of contaminants.
- Review of the suitability of sample sizes used for assessment of defects.
- Applicability of the existing barley Standards for Falling Number and germination.

As noted above for other lesser priority research projects, given the relatively low impact on industry, these have again been deferred until the vacuum sampling project has been completed.