

# MemberUpdate

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**TOPIC: 2nd Industry Call for Submissions on 2017/18 GTA Standards**

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

## 1. Issue

In February 2017 Grain Trade Australia (GTA) released an industry submission paper calling for industry input into the development of Grain Trading Standards (Standards) for the 2017/18 season. Feedback was received by GTA from industry on the issues outlined in that paper.

The GTA Standards Committee (Committee) has recently met to discuss industry feedback and to develop potential Standards for 2017/18.

This document lists the following information on the 2017/18 Standards for further industry consideration:

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## 2. Process for Industry Feedback

The Committee is seeking a second and final round of industry comments on the issues outlined in this document and on any other Standards related issue.

Submissions should be received by COB **Tuesday 16th May 2017**.

Please lodge your submissions by sending to [submissions@graintrade.org.au](mailto:submissions@graintrade.org.au) and title your email – Standards Review 2017/18.

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 2017/18

#### 3.1 Agreed Changes: Multiple Commodities

##### 3.1.1 Visual Recognition Standards Guide – All Commodities

Industry agreed with the proposal to revise the existing VRSG produced by GTA where required in order to provide greater clarity on each quality parameter. The existing VRSG has been updated for the commodities barley, wheat, sorghum, oats and canola for adoption in 2017/18 and the draft version for industry comment can be viewed here [VRSG 2017/18 Draft](#).

General changes for the commodities barley, wheat, sorghum, oats and canola include:

- Definitions for defective grain parameters have been revised with the intent to create greater clarity. Refer to point 3.2 onwards for more information on these changes for individual commodities.
- Where required the definition and photo(s) have been altered to create greater consistency between the definition and the photo.
- Various definitions have been altered to remove the cause of the defect.
- Where feasible, altered the definitions, tolerances and photos to be more compatible with those applying in Western Australia as developed by the Grains Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA).
- To assist industry understanding of these changes, a glossary of terms relating to Defective grain quality parameters be developed and published along with Standards.

A summary of specific changes for each commodity are listed in the table below.

Quality Parameter	Definition	Photo
<b>Wheat</b>		
Pink Stained	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Insect Damaged	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Stained	Simplified the definition to clarify staining is less than 50% coverage of the entire grain surface. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Distorted	The heading is now Distorted, which includes the prior Frost Damaged and Takeall affected grains. Altered the definition to refer to the visual impact on the grain. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Sprouted		Deleted one photo that is not needed

Quality Parameter	Definition	Photo
Dry Green or Sappy	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Field Fungi	Removed references to soft/rotted grains that are classified in other categories as these references do not add any further information or clarity to the definition.	
Severely Damaged	The heading is now Severely Damaged, which includes the prior Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould. Removed the reference to Storage to refer to all mould no matter where it is developed. Removed the reference to bin to refer only to the visual appearance of Burnt, not where it is developed. Included a reference to various discoloured grains that arise.	Removed one Bin Burnt grain that was not needed. Added photo of a blackened grain.
White Grain Disorder, Head Scab	Altered the definition to reflect the impact on grain of these quality parameters. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect. Removed the reference to Flaked in the heading. Altered the definition to further clarify the impact of Flaky grains.	
Pickling Compounds	Removed the reference to the cause of the colouring agent on the grain.	
<b>Barley</b>		
Variety list	Updated as per the Barley Australia approved Master List.	
Dark Tipped	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Field Fungi	Added in the definition a reference to poor colour grey grain.	Added a photo of grey grain.
Skinnings	Revised the definition to only refer to harvesting damage. Clarified the definition to refer to the total amount of husk missing anywhere on the grain is considered defective (refer also to 4.5 for more details on this proposed change). Thus proposed to delete "Awn" in the Skinnings terminology. Definition now refers to mechanical damage only, not varietal Skinnings arising in some varieties. Proposed to remove from the definition Split Back, Side Skinnings, Split Skirt, (refer to 4.5 for more detail on this proposed change). Removed Pearled as this is included in the term "Skinnings".	Added more appropriate ventral Skinnings photo. Removed photos of split back, side skinning and split skirt (proposed).
Cleaved	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	Revised photos to show less darkness on grains than prior version
Insect Damaged	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Dry Green or Sappy	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Distorted	The heading is now Distorted, which includes the prior Frost Damaged category. Altered the definition to refer to the impact on the grain.	
Broken	Removed the reference to Germ Damage as that is covered in Skinnings. Proposed change from ¼ to 1/3 of the total husk is missing (refer 4.6 for details).	New Sound grain for clarity. Less severe broken grain reflecting the proposed definition.
Pink Fungal Staining	Added the tolerance in the GTA standards. Created a definition reflecting the impact of this defect on grain.	Included photos of this defect

Quality Parameter	Definition	Photo
Severely Damaged	The heading is now Severely Damaged, which includes the prior Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt, Storage Mould and Pink Fusarium. Removed the reference to Storage to refer to all mould no matter where it is developed. Removed the reference to Bin to refer only to the visual appearance of burnt, not where it is developed. Included a reference to distinctly blackened grains. Included the prior Fusarium category as Diseased grain to reflect all diseases not just Fusarium are included in this category. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	New Sound grain for clarity. Added photo of blackened grain. Added revised photo of Diseased grain (previously Fusarium).
Pickling Compounds	Removed the reference to cause of the colouring agent on the grain.	
<b>Sorghum</b>		
Severely Damaged	Altered the heading to Severely Damaged, which includes the prior Heat Damaged and Bin Burnt. Revised the definition to reflect different colours arising from this defect. Included a reference to Diseased. Removed a reference to Temperature as that is not required.	Removed Bin Burnt photo as it is not required.
Sprouted	Removed the reference to scalloped as that is not relevant to sorghum.	
Insect Damaged	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Mould	Removed the reference to Storage to refer to all mould no matter where it is developed. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Field fungi	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
<b>Oats</b>		
Damaged Grains	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	Replaced photo for greater clarity with the definition
Heat Damaged or Bin Burnt	Added a definition. Heading reflects impact on quality, noting different varieties have varying colours for non-damaged grains.	Added a photo of the defect and a Sound grain for comparison
Stained Grains	Revised the heading to refer to any form of staining by removing the reference to Weather. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	Added photo of ventral defective grain. Replaced photo of dorsal defective grain
Stained Groats	Revised the heading to refer to any form of staining by removing the reference to Weather. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect. Altered the definition/photo to allow a low level of staining before groats are classified as defective.	Added photo of ventral defective grains. Replaced photos of dorsal defective grains. Added sound grains for comparison.
Insect Damaged	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Dry Green or Sappy	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
<b>Canola</b>		
Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt or Badly Damaged	Altered the heading to include Badly Damaged, in reference to the impact of heat on the grain.	Reduced darkness of the defective grain photo.
Weather	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	Replaced photo for greater

Quality Parameter	Definition	Photo
Damaged		clarity with the definition.
Mould	Altered the heading from Mouldy to Mould. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Green		Removed the previous intense green photos as these were too intensely green to be the minimum required.

Mung Beans:

- The existing defective grain charts as published by the Australian Mungbean Association will be added to the final version of the VRSG on 1 August 2017.

### 3.1.2 Agreed Change: Standards Database and VRSG/Weed Seed Booklet APP – All Commodities

Industry supported GTA in its endeavours to provide easier access to Standards for industry. The current GTA project continues to progress and based on current estimates is expected to be available for the start of the 2017/18 season. It includes the following elements:

- Development of a Standards database. It is planned to load all Standards in this database enabling industry to select relevant grades and print their own Standards chart for each commodity. For this to occur, GTA has formed an Industry Advisory Working Group to lead direction on the project and discuss amongst other issues a revised and consistent format of Standards across commodities.
- Converting the VRSG and Weed Seed Booklet into downloadable apps for greater ease of access by industry. The APP will reflect the functionality of the existing VRSG and Weed Seed booklets. It is expected to be available on any mobile device.

### 3.1.3 Agreed Change: Minor Wording Changes & Other Issues – All cereal commodities

Industry agreed with minor changes to wording in all Standards to refer to the latest versions of reference material available to assist industry implementation of Standards. These include reference to:

- The latest edition of the Visual Recognition Standards Guide.
- The version of the Weed Seed Booklet.
- The document entitled "Australian Grains Industry Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances 2017/18" (see <http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp>).
- Seeds and pods of Heliotrope are listed in all Standards.

### 3.1.4 Agreed Change: Small Foreign Seeds – All cereal commodities

To assist industry interpretation, it was agreed to develop and publish a list of Small Foreign Seeds.

### 3.1.5 Agreed Change: Unmillable Material above the Screen – Wheat, Oats, Cereal Rye, Triticale

Unlike all other Types of weed seeds where part weed seeds are added together as a count, weed seeds listed in Unmillable Material above the screen are assessed in a different manner.

It was agreed to clarify that where a cereal lists the category of Unmillable Material above the screen, if the weed seed listed in this category (i.e., wild radish pods, milk thistle pods) falls through a sieve then it is classified as Screenings as opposed to Unmillable Material above the screen.

### 3.1.6 Agreed Change: Varietal Master List – Wheat, Barley, Oats

As outlined to industry, in previous seasons the Varietal Master List for the above commodities is reviewed following receipt of the changes from the industry sectors responsible for maintenance of those lists. Industry agreed all Standards should be revised based on those changes and advised to industry when the 2017/18 season Standards are released.

#### Wheat:

These are provided by Wheat Quality Australia. The list will be updated in Standards and provided to industry during August/September.

#### Barley:

Barley Australia has recently updated the Master List for 2017/18 and the following is to apply for barley:

State	Variety	Domestic Demand	Export Demand
<b>Victoria</b>	Baudin	-	Medium
	Commander	Medium	Low
	Gairdner	Low	Medium
	LaTrobe	-	High
	Scope	-	Medium
	Westminster	High	High
<b>New South Wales</b>			
	Baudin	-	Medium
	Buloke	-	Low
	Commander	High	Medium
	Gairdner	Medium	Low
	LaTrobe	-	High
	Navigator	Low	-
	Scope	-	Medium
<b>Queensland</b>			
	Commander	Medium	Medium
	Westminster	High	-
<b>South Australia</b>			
	Buloke	Low	Low
	Commander	High	High
	LaTrobe	Low	High
	Scope	Low	High
	Westminster	Medium	Medium
<b>Western Australia</b>			
	Bass	Low	High
	Baudin	High	High
	Flinders	Low	Low
	Gairdner	-	Low
	LaTrobe	-	Medium
	Scope	-	Medium

## Oats:

Industry supported GTA working with GIWA on the classification of oat varieties. The aim is to develop a national approach to oat variety classification.

In the interim the usual process of the classification of oat varieties for the 2017/18 season will occur. Approved oat varieties will be published in the GTA Oat Standards as released to industry on 1 August 2017.

### 3.1.7 Agreed Change: Falling Number – Wheat, Barley, Cereal Rye

There are several manufacturers of Falling Number machines being used by industry. It is up to industry to evaluate instruments and identify which one they would like to use for assessment.

The Committee agreed it was no longer appropriate to refer to a specific manufacturer of a Falling Number unit (or any testing equipment) in the Standards. Therefore all references to Perten will be removed in the wheat, barley and cereal rye Standards.

### 3.1.8 Agreed Change: Distorted – Wheat, Barley

As outlined under 3.1.1 the Committee has agreed to remove terminology in Standards for various defective quality parameters where more than one causal agent may lead to a defective quality parameter. For wheat and barley, the visual impact on grains of frost and other conditions may be similar and indistinguishable. The impact leads to distortion of the grain. This impact is described in the revised definition and photos in the VRSG. Therefore it has been deemed appropriate to revise the terminology from Frost Damaged to Distorted.

## 3.2 Agreed Changes: Wheat Standards

To assist industry to interpret the changes as listed in 3.1.1, the following outlines significant changes approved for Wheat Standards.

### 3.2.1 Agreed Change: Stained Categories - Wheat

With a view to simplifying the Standards, without impacting on the quality of grain received and outturned, the Committee agreed to remove the "of which" statements for the Stained category. Therefore the prior tolerances for each grade will now apply, without reference to the "of which".

Analysis of receival data indicated relatively few loads being delivered with more than one of these quality parameters present. Hence the change, which in effect is an increase in the tolerance for each quality parameter, will not significantly impact on levels of defective grains allowed in wheat.

The change will also assist correct interpretation of Standards by sample classifiers.

Quality Parameter	Prior Tolerance (H1 example only)	Agreed Tolerance (H1 example only)
Stained	5% of which	5%
Pink Stained	2% of which	2%
White Grain Disorder / Head Scab*	1%	1%

\* Refer to revised definition for this quality parameter proposed in this document

### 3.2.2 Agreed Change: Severely Damaged – Wheat

As outlined under 3.1.1 the Committee has agreed to remove terminology in Standards for various defective quality parameters where more than one causal agent may lead to a defective quality parameter. For wheat the visual impact on grains of various severe defects may be similar and indistinguishable. In addition these various factors have severe impacts on the quality of the grain visually whether the defect is caused in the field, during storage or transport and handling or anywhere else prior to grain assessment. This impact is described in the revised definition and photos in the VRSG which now includes defects such as:

- Heat Damaged
- Burnt
- Mould
- Severely discoloured grains

Therefore it has been deemed appropriate to revise the heading to Severely Damaged to describe the impact of these factors on the grain. The previous tolerances continue to apply.

### 3.3 Agreed Changes: Barley Standards

To assist industry to interpret the changes listed in 3.1.1, the following outlines significant changes approved for Barley Standards.

#### 3.3.1 Agreed Change: Field Fungi - Barley

A number of issues were raised by industry and considered by the Committee for this quality parameter. Agreed changes are outlined below.

##### Heading

- Unlike some other quality parameters, the cause of the defect relates specifically to fungi in the field prior to harvest. Hence the reference to "Field" has not been removed from the heading.

##### Inclusion of Grey Discolouration

- The Standards had previously not referred to grains showing a grey discolouration. While heavy discolouration (black) is included in the newly created Severely Damaged, the Committee agreed that lighter grey discolouration should be included given the negative impact of these grains on the germination of the grain (and overall appearance and some end-use characteristics).
- Tolerances remain as per the existing Field Fungi category. It is rare for both Field Fungi and Grey Discolouration to be present in the same sample, hence the inclusion of grey grains in the definition should not negatively impact on deliveries.
- Industry should refer to the VRSG for clarification of the extent of the grey on grains required as the minimum to be included in this category.
- As part of the discussion on Severely Damaged and Field Fungi, the Committee considered the tolerances for these parameters in F1. Following this discussion the Committee agreed it was appropriate to keep F1 tolerances as per the malt grades and not create a separate category with higher allowed tolerances. This decision was reached on the basis of pricing for this grade reflects the use of this grade for multiple purposes, as applicable by the market.

##### Dark Tipped / Field Fungi

With a view to simplifying the Standards, without impacting on the quality of grain received and outturned, the Committee agreed to remove the "of which" statement for this category. Therefore the prior tolerances for each grade will now apply, without reference to the "of which".

Analysis of receival data indicated relatively few loads being delivered with more than one of these quality parameters present. Hence the change, which in effect is an increase in the tolerance for each quality parameter, will not significantly impact on levels of defective grains allowed in barley.

The change will also assist correct interpretation of Standards by sample classifiers.

Quality Parameter	Prior Tolerance (Malt1 example only)	Agreed Tolerance (Malt1 example only)
Dark Tipped	10% (10 grains / 100 grains), of which	10% (10 grains / 100 grains)
Field Fungi	5% (5 grains / 100 grains)	5% (5 grains / 100 grains)

### **3.4 Agreed Changes: Sorghum Standards**

To assist industry to interpret the changes listed in 3.1.1, the following outlines significant changes approved for Sorghum Standards.

#### **3.4.1 Agreed Change: Severely Damaged - Sorghum**

As outlined under 3.1.1 the Committee has agreed to remove terminology in Standards for various defective quality parameters where more than one causal agent may lead to a defective quality parameter. For sorghum the visual impact on grains of various severe defects may be similar and indistinguishable.

In addition these various factors have severe impacts on the quality of the grain visually, no matter whether the defect is caused in the field, during storage or transport and handling or anywhere else prior to grain assessment. This impact is described in the revised definition and photos in the VRSG which now includes defects such as:

- Heat Damaged
- Bin Burnt
- Diseased
- Other serious visual defective grains

Therefore it has been deemed appropriate to revise the heading to Severely Damaged to describe the impact of these factors on the grain.

The Heat Damaged image in the prior VRSG has been selected to represent these grains. The previous tolerances continue to apply.

#### **3.4.2 Agreed Change: Total Defective – Sorghum**

A procedure has been developed for the assessment of Total Defectives in sorghum as the sorghum Standards previously did not list a procedure for this quality parameter. The following has been included:

Total Defective is the sum of all defective grain categories except Sprouted. Given the relatively little impact of Severely Damaged and Mould, these quality parameters are not required to be added to the Total Defective category.

### **3.5 Agreed Changes: Oats Standards**

To assist industry to interpret the changes listed in 3.1.1, the following outlines significant changes approved for Oats Standards. Other changes considered and approved by the Committee have also been outlined.

#### **3.5.1 Agreed Change: Heat Damaged or Bin Burnt - Oats**

A definition and photo depicting this quality parameter has been included in the VRSG. It has been noted that the colour of sound grain varies by variety, as some varieties are darker than others.

The tolerance for this parameter in each grade has not been altered from previous years.

#### **3.5.2 Agreed Change: Stained Grains - Oats**

A number of changes have occurred as follows:

- The previous reference to one of the causes of this defect, being Weather, has been removed from the heading and the definition.
- The previous photo depicting this quality parameter has been revised in the VRSG to be more representative of this defect.

- A photo of both a dorsal and ventral grain are now included.

The tolerance for this parameter in each grade has not been altered from previous years.

### 3.5.3 Agreed Change: Stained Groats - Oats

A number of changes have occurred as follows:

- The previous reference to one of the causes of this defect, being Weather, has been removed from the heading and the definition.
- The previous photo depicting this quality parameter has been revised in the VRSG and others added to be more representative of this defect.
- Both dorsal and ventral photos are now included.
- An allowance has been made for low levels of staining to be present on the Groat before it is considered to be defective. Previously the definition referred to any level of staining however this was considered too restrictive. This change is not expected to impact on the end-use or marketability of the oats.

The tolerance for this parameter in each grade has not been altered from previous years.

### 3.5.4 Agreed Change: Wild/Black Oats - Oats

The Committee acknowledged the previous reference to wild/black oats in Type 7(b) in Prime Milling Oats was an error and the reference in Type 1 was correct.

Subsequent to that clarification being provided to industry in late 2016, a submission was received seeking a change in the tolerance that applies in future Standards. The proposal was for an increase in the level permitted in Prime Milling and Milling grades. This was proposed on the basis that a major processor in Australia had permitted those levels in those grades for several years without any significant impact on the value of the grain or the end-product.

After discussion it was agreed that the current tolerances for wild/black oats for all grades are to be altered as follows:

Grade	Current Tolerance	Revised Tolerance
Prime Milling	5 individual seeds per half litre (Type 1)	20 individual seeds per half litre (Type Variation)
Milling	10 individual seeds per half litre (Type Variation)	20 individual seeds per half litre (Type Variation)
Feed	100 individual seeds per half litre (Type Variation)	No change - 100 individual seeds per half litre (Type Variation)

## 3.6 Agreed Changes: Maize Standards

### 3.6.1 Agreed Change: Total Admixture - Maize

A procedure has been developed for the assessment of Total Admixture in maize as the maize Standards previously did not list a procedure for this quality parameter. The following will be added:

Total Admixture is the total of Foreign Material, Screenings and Trash. Following assessment of each of these separate parameters, calculate the percentage Total Admixture by adding the three separate categories.

## 4. Potential Changes for 2017/18 where further Industry Advice is required

A number of issues were considered by the Committee and agreement could not be reached. Industry is encouraged to provide comment on the following, and where applicable provide supporting evidence and data for consideration by the Committee.

#### 4.1 Potential Change: Durum/Red/Spring Feed Wheat in SFW1/Fed1 – Wheat

A number of issues were considered in relation to Durum/Red/Spring Feed Wheat contamination in SFW1 and Fed1 by the Committee and agreement could not be reached on all issues.

Of note are the following points that were agreed by the Committee (included in this section for industry reference):

- There remains no need for a Durum Feed grade, as this is implemented by industry as required.
- Durum should remain as an unlimited tolerance in Fed1.
- The tolerance for Durum in SFW1 should remain as a Type 7b, being a total of 150 grains / 0.5L.
- The recommended wording in SFW1 under “Varietal Restrictions” be altered to
  - Varietal Restrictions – change from “No” to “Yes”
  - Comment section – include the words “All varieties permitted except Durum and Red/Spring Feed Wheat for which a tolerance under Foreign Seed Contaminants applies”.

As the Committee could not reach agreement, industry is encouraged to provide comment on the following, and where applicable provide supporting evidence and data for consideration by the Committee:

- It is recognised that some domestic markets have issues with Red / Spring Feed wheat in stockfeed wheat and thus a separate segregation may be required and created.
- Where there is an industry requirement for Fed1 that does not contain Red/Spring Feed wheat, various options exist to deal with this Red/Spring wheat contamination in Fed1, being:
  - Creation of a new Fed1 grade for Red/Spring wheat with an unlimited tolerance (allowing unlimited white wheat contamination) or
  - Revising the existing grade/tolerance for Red/Spring wheat.
- If the latter were to occur, for Fed1, this option would require a change in the Varietal Restriction to “YES” and inclusion of the wording “Except for Red Spring wheat for which a tolerance applies”.
- Other options may exist, including no change.

#### 4.2 Potential Change: Pink Fungal Staining - Barley

During the 2016/17 harvest, pink discolouration was detected in some harvested barley. The discolouration was detected mainly on the kernel but was also detected on the husk. The pink colour was not associated with pickling compounds nor mycotoxins in the samples analysed.

Current GTA Standards for all barley grades do not list Pink Grain. While not listed, the intention in GTA Standards has been that there is a nil tolerance for Pink Grain in all barley grades. The removal of the reference to Pink Grain in the Standards several years ago has been determined to be an oversight and is to be rectified for 2017/18.

Industry had varying views on the tolerance to be applied in each barley grade and whether a separate category be developed or whether this quality parameter be placed in the same category as *Fusarium spp.* Industry views ranged from keeping the nil tolerance to varying tolerances for each grade, up to a maximum of 5% by count in F1 and F2.

The Committee could not reach consensus however has provided the following for industry feedback:

##### Heading

- A separate category be created, called Pink Fungal Staining.
- Fungal is retained in the terminology reflecting that the causal agent is a fungus.

##### Definition

- The proposed definition refers to the colours depicted on the grain arising from the fungus, being orange, pink and red.
- The VRSG photo depicts the minimum colour required for a grain to be assessed as defective.

##### Tolerance

- A nil tolerance is not applicable due to the difficulty of managing a nil tolerance in a bulk parcel of grain and the potential for “rejection” of an entire load/consignment due to the presence of a single grain.
- Applicable tolerances by grade as follows:

Malt 1, Malt 2, Malt 3	1 grain / 0.5L
F1	20 grains / 0.5L
F2	30 grains / 0.5L

#### 4.3 Potential Change: Severely Damaged - Barley

A number of changes have occurred in this category, which has been created to include all severely damaged grains that significantly negatively impact on the visual appearance and end-use of the grain.

Of note are the following points that were agreed by the Committee (included in this section for industry reference):

- The heading is now “Severely Damaged” reflecting the visual appearance and quality impact on the grain arising from these defects. Heat Damaged / Bin Burnt has been retained but not in the heading for the category. The Committee recognised the concerns from industry in the 2016/17 season of grain being classified in this category despite the grain coming straight from the paddock and not being stored.
- The previous quality parameters of Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Mould have been included in the category given these quality parameters have a similar impact on the visual appearance and end-use of the grain.
- Blackened grains that arose in the field during the 2016/17 season have been included as these previously were not referenced in the Standards. These include blackening of the husk and under the husk on the kernel.
- Storage Mould has been altered to Mould, reflecting that mould may occur in the field and / or storage.
- To fully comprehend this agreed change industry should also refer to the link to the revised draft of the VRSG which shows the level of “discolouration” for a grain to be included in this new category. A Blackened grain, as seen in the 2016/17 harvest, has been included.
- Diseased has been added specifically to refer to a range of diseases that impact on the visual appearance of the grain. Included in this definition is *Fusarium spp.*, however while an example of *Fusarium spp.* has been included in the VRSG, other diseases may also be present. Hence the heading of Severely Damaged does not include the words “Fusarium”.
- Reference to other serious visual defects has been included in the definition, referring to other visual impacts not specifically stated.

For industry Consideration:

- Industry provided a number of differing tolerance proposals for this category, including varying views on a separate category or combining the categories.
- The Committee considered a number of options for this category and is seeking industry comment on the following proposal, noting that the Committee could not reach consensus:

Malt 1, Malt 2, Malt 3, F1	1 grain / 0.5L
F2	5 grains / 0.5L

- The above tolerance for this category would remain as per prior Standards.
- *Fusarium spp.* would be included given the potential food safety aspects associated with this fungus.

#### 4.4 Potential Change: Protein - Barley

A submission was received from industry seeking a potential increase in the maximum protein content for Malt 1 and Malt 2 from 12.0% to 12.5%. This increase was proposed in order to slightly increase the protein content of malting barley provided to customers who had noted on occasions a lower than required protein content.

The Committee could not reach consensus on the proposal and is seeking industry views on the proposed change and if appropriate, a timeframe for introduction of the change.

#### 4.5 Potential Change: Skinnings – Barley

A number of changes to improve clarity have been proposed in this category. The proposed changes have been made in the draft VRSG to fully clarify to industry these proposed changes. While comments have been sought from Barley Australia, other industry stakeholders are also encouraged to comment on these changes:

##### Awn Skinnings

- The previous definition caused some confusion in industry:
  - Some used the reference to "husk removed from more than 1/3 of the way down from the awn end".
  - Others applied the definition as "more than 1/3 of the total area of the husk removed anywhere on the grain".
- The reference to Awn Skinning is proposed to be deleted and the definition changed to refer to 1/3 or more of the husk removed in total, anywhere on the grain.
- The revised definition would apply to the total area of the husk removed which may be in more than one location.

##### Side Skinnings, Split Back, Split Skirt

- It is proposed that reference to these be removed from the definition.
- It is thought that these parameters have minimal to no impact on the end-use of the grain and should no longer be considered defective.
- Note that for Side Skinnings, some varieties are prone to this condition. Given this, and the relatively little impact on end-product quality, the Committee is proposing to delete this quality parameter and consider those grains sound.

#### 4.6 Potential Change: Broken – Barley

The current definition requires  $\frac{1}{4}$  or more of the grain to be missing before the grain is considered defective. The proposal is to revise this to  $\frac{1}{3}$  or more of the grain missing before it is classified as defective. This change has been made on the basis that there would be no significant negative impact on the end-use of the grain. The proposed change has been made in the draft VRSG to fully clarify to industry the visual impact of this proposal.

While comments have been sought from Barley Australia, other industry stakeholders are also encouraged to comment on this proposed change.

#### 4.7 Potential Change: Screen Specifications - Oats

Several years ago GTA adopted the wheat screen for assessment of screenings in oats Standards. However it has been noted that major domestic industry processors continue to use the larger slot length 25.4mm previously used before the change to the wheat screen. This larger slot size also reflects the grading process used in many of the domestic oat mills.

There is a need for consistency in the screens used across oat growing areas of Australia. Based on industry feedback, the Committee has recommended the Standards revert to the prior oat screen specifications, being the 25.4mm slot screens for the 2017/18 season.

As part of this process should the change proceed GTA is in the process of:

- Developing reference screen specifications
- Reviewing the impact of the change on the existing tolerances in the various oat grades
- Reviewing the correlation in screenings levels between the wheat and oat screen slot lengths
- Discussing the proposed changes with GIWA with a view to adopt a consistent approach nationally
- Determining relevant manufacturers of the screens

In order to make the proposed change for the 2017/18 season, the above issues need resolution. Industry is encouraged to:

- Provide further comment on the practicality of implementation of the proposed change this season; and
- Provide the Committee with any data which may assist in its deliberations.

## **5. Issues for Future Consideration & Agreed/Proposed Changes 2018/19**

### **5.1 Research Issues, Future Consideration – All Commodities**

The Committee had previously advised industry of several quality related issues in the Standards where ongoing research is required. Specific details are included in previous industry information papers ([see http://www.graintrade.org.au/news/member\\_updates](http://www.graintrade.org.au/news/member_updates))

In summary, industry submissions supported further work by the Committee to review the various aspects and to develop recommendations for industry feedback as required in the following issues:

- Reference screen specifications developed for all commodities
- Foreign Material definitions reviewed for all commodities
- Review of the suitability of sample sizes used for assessment of contaminants and defects
- Review of the applicability of the nil tolerance applied to various quality parameters
- Applicability of the existing barley Standards for Falling Number and germination

Industry will be advised over time as research is progressed on the above.

### **5.2 Snails, Ongoing Communication & Proposed Tolerance Change – All Commodities**

#### All Commodities

Significant industry work is being undertaken to meet market requirements for snail contamination in grain. This includes measures to control snails on-farm, stock selection and communication of market requirements for snail contamination to industry.

While this work has focussed on wheat and barley it has also occurred in relation to other commodities such as oats. In addition there are various industry associations and other sectors of industry involved in this task.

The Committee has agreed that GTA would continue to work with the existing industry associations, other industry sectors and GIWA with a view of adopting a national communication plan for snail management in all commodities.

#### Oats

The Committee noted that for oats the current tolerance for snails was raised as a concern when oats were received under the Standards but stored for several months, at which time on occasions an odour may be apparent. However no change to the Standards has been recommended at this time, with the focus to continue to be on industry communication on snail control and stock selection in order to meet market requirements.

#### Barley

For barley it was recognised that there exists a gap between the level of snails permitted in Trading Standards (applied at receipt) versus that required by the market. While industry has implemented a range of effective measures to manage this difference, submissions were received requesting a revision of the applicable tolerances in barley standards. The Committee agreed that further changes to tolerances could occur in future to compliment the research and other activities being undertaken to manage snail contamination in grain consignments.

The following changes were agreed by the Committee for the GTA Barley Standards for implementation in 2018/19:

Grade	Current Tolerance	Revised Tolerance
Malt 1, Malt 2, Malt 3, F1	2 snails per half litre	1 snail per half litre
F2	4 snails per half litre	No change - 4 snails per half litre

### 5.3 Future Review: GTA v GIWA Standards – All Commodities

A submission was received from industry proposing that GTA adopt GIWA Standards where no GTA Standard (or particular quality parameter) exists. The Committee noted that GTA and GIWA are working closely together on issues of mutual interest and where feasible and applicable, Standards were being modified for consistency.

However it was agreed that GTA must undertake a rigorous assessment of all Standards changes and that any change would be considered in light of various issues, including Standards that were applied by GIWA.

### 5.4 Future Review: Ergot – All Commodities

A submission was received from industry proposing a revision to the method of assessment (and thus tolerance) for ergot. Various tolerances currently exist in cereal standards, being for:

- Ergot of the cereal being assessed
- Ergot of ryegrass

Most assessments are done via a length measurement, however some are by weight.

Tolerances for various ergots also exist at export and in some domestic regulations relating to stockfeed.

It was agreed that the Committee undertake a review of the practicality of assessment of all ergot by weight. Industry views on this change will be sought in future once the Committee has assessed the implications of any potential change. In the interim industry is encouraged to provide any data that may assist the Committee to reach a conclusion on this matter.

### 5.5 Future Review: Moisture – Tasmania, all Commodities

A submission was received from industry proposing an increase in the moisture limit in Standards (receival and trading) for Tasmanian grain to 13.5%. There were various reasons for this request, including:

- Tasmania's unique cooler, maritime climate is not recognized in the one-sized national approach. It is difficult for grain to be harvested to meet the 12.5% limit.
- An historical precedent exists in Tasmania for moisture content of grain in that before the nationalization of the standards under GTA the Tasmanian Grain Elevator Board would accept grain up to 13.3% moisture.
- Tasmanian grown grain is almost universally used for stock feed and is rarely exported. Hence a change would not impact on Australia's reputation of a supplier of dry grain. Growers support the 12.5% limit applying to any grain for export.

The Committee noted that such regional Standards were not created by GTA.

It was agreed that this issue required further consideration and that GTA management would consider options to address the issue and promote further industry consultation on the matter.

## **5.6 Future Review: Field Fungi - Oats**

Differing views were received from industry relating to a change in the current nil tolerance for Field Fungi to allow a low level tolerance. In addition differing views were expressed on the need for inclusion of a tolerance for Septoria in Field Fungi or a separate category.

The Committee agreed that this issue required further consideration and will revisit it when developing the 2018/19 standards, at which time industry views will be sought.

## **5.7 Future Review: Varietal Codes – All Commodities**

A submission was received from industry proposing adoption of common codes for varieties.

There were various reasons for this request, including:

- Grain buyers are faced with a situation where they must spend time and resources to establish systems that can reconcile the different variety codes (for the same variety) into their grain management software/database when receiving data from BHCs who use different codes.
- Errors in variety codes may exist. Consequently, grain buyers either fail to deduct end point royalties from grower grain payments or do so erroneously, which in turn requires extra resources to be deployed to identify and rectify grain purchase transactions in coordination with the royalty managers.
- Given these errors, owners of royalty bearing varieties, are being required to spend significant resources to issue and distribute a large number of invoices direct to growers that are unaware that they have not paid their end point royalty.
- Owners of royalty bearing varieties, are unable to fully collect all royalties owed through this direct invoicing procedure, which in turn reduces re-investment in plant breeding.

The Committee noted that implementation of Standards, including varietal codes, was not directed to industry by GTA.

It was agreed that this issue required further consideration and that GTA management would encourage industry sectors responsible for maintenance of the Varietal Master Lists to include common codes that could be adopted by the industry. Notwithstanding that individual companies may not be able to adopt all codes due to IT system constraints.

END.