

MemberUpdate

UPDATE 3 OF 17 • 27 February 2017

TOPIC: 1st Industry Call for Submissions on 2017/18 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 2016/17 season, feedback was received by GTA from industry on the proposed changes for 2016/17 and potential changes for the following 2017/18 season.

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

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

Table of Contents

1. Issue	1
2. Process for Industry Feedback	1
3. Agreed Changes for Adoption in 2017/18	2
4. Potential Changes for 2017/18 where further Industry Advice is required	3
5. Issues for future Consideration	6

2. Process for Industry Feedback

The GTA Standards 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 Tuesday 21st March 2017**.

Please lodge your submissions by sending to 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 [GTA Standards Submission Form](#)

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 Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guide – all commodities

3.1.1 VRSG Commodities

The existing Visual Recognition Standards Guide (VRSG) produced by GTA will be updated where relevant for the existing commodities (barley, wheat, sorghum, oats, canola, desi chickpeas, maize, kabuli chickpeas, angustifolius lupins, red lentils, field peas and faba beans). The following areas are to be reviewed and industry will be advised in the second call for industry submissions on the details of any proposed changes:

- Definitions for various defective grain parameters will be reviewed with the intent to create greater clarity. This includes:
 - Providing clarity on the definition and photo for Heat Damaged / Bin Burnt / Storage Mould for various commodities.
 - Adding photos for Heat Damaged / Bin Burnt / Storage Mould for commodities such as oats where they currently do not exist in the VRSG.
 - Revision to the definition and photos in oats for Field Fungi, Weather Stained Grain and Weather Stained Groats.
 - Simplifying the definitions to remove the cause of the defect. Thus the definitions now only refer to the impact on the grain visually.
- Additional commodities will be added as requested by industry and where agreed by the Committee.
- Industry is encouraged to comment on any section of the VRSG where further clarification is required.

3.1.2 Standards Database and VRSG & Weed Seed Booklet APP

GTA is currently undertaking a project to provide easier access to Standards by industry. The project is expected to be available for the start of the 2017/18 season and 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.

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

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

- Visual Recognition Standards Guide and Weed Seed Booklet if updated versions are required to be published.
- The document entitled "Australian Grains Industry Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances 2017/18" (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 2017/18 season Standards are released.

Note: GTA is working with the Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA) on the classification of oat varieties. The aim is to develop a national approach to oat variety classification.

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

4.1 Potential Change: Standards Specifications – Oats

A GTA oats sub-committee has been formed to consider changes to GTA Oat Standards. The following changes are proposed and industry comment is sought on the proposed changes and a timeframe for their introduction if changes are approved:

4.1.1 Approved Varieties and Compliance with Varietal Master List - Oats

- Currently communication from the SARDI (South Australian Research and Development Institute) oat breeding program and from GIWA (Grains Industry Association of Western Australia) is used by GTA to revise the Oat Master List on an annual basis.
- Individual companies conduct various assessments of oat varieties due for release and provide input into those deliberations. These tests include quality analysis, sensory testing and mill scale trialling where possible.
- In general, there is a lack of milling industry involvement in varietal classification.
- There is support for a national approach to oat classification, being more robust and transparent than currently exists.
- It has been agreed that GIWA be approached for GIWA and GTA to jointly develop a national procedure for varietal classification using as a blueprint elements of the Wheat Quality Australia (wheat) and Barley Australia (barley) procedures.
- There is a need to ensure industry complies with varietal purity and the current standards assist that process, however a greater emphasis on compliance would assist.
- To highlight the need for compliance with the oat varietal classification master list, it is recommended to change the wording in the Prime Milling and Milling grades to include “prime milling” and “milling” respectively. The Standards would therefore refer to “Approved Prime Milling” varieties only and “Approved Milling” varieties only respectively in the comments section where a minimum 95% varietal purity exists.

4.1.2 Screen Specifications - Oats

- Several years ago GTA adopted the wheat screen for assessment of screenings in oats Standards.
- 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.
- The committee has recommended the Standards revert to the prior oat screen specifications, being the 25.4mm slot screens.
- As part of this process should the change proceed GTA will:
 - Develop reference screen specifications
 - Review the impact of the change on the existing tolerances in the various oat grades
 - Review the correlation in screenings levels between the wheat and oat screen slot lengths
 - Discuss any proposed changes with GIWA with a view to adopt a consistent approach nationally

Industry is encouraged to comment on the proposed change and to provide the Committee with any data which may assist in its deliberations.

4.1.3 Visual Recognition Standards Guide & Defective Definitions - Oats

Field Fungi and Septoria

- The current nil tolerance for Field Fungi, especially for the Feed grade is considered unrealistic.
- The Committee is currently considering adopting a low-level tolerance for Field Fungi in all oat grades and industry views on this change and a potential tolerance are sought.
- In addition, it is unclear how industry currently assess Septoria in oats, given GTA Standards make no reference to this quality parameter.
- Industry views are also sought on the need for a reference in the Standards to Septoria.

Weather Stained Grains & Weather Stained Groats

- As noted under 3.1.1 the current images in the VRSG for these quality parameters are to be reviewed.
 - Specifically, for Weather Stained Grains the definition will be reviewed to clarify what is included.

- For weather Stained Groats it is not appropriate for “any level of staining” on a groat to cause that groat to be classified as defective. There is a need for a minimum standard before a groat becomes defective.
- Industry will be advised on the revised definitions once developed. In the interim the Committee is seeking views from industry on this proposed change.

Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt, Mouldy or Storage Mould

- As noted under 3.1.1 the Committee intends to include images in the VRSG reflecting the minimum requirement for a grain to be classified under this definition.

4.1.4 Wild/Black Oats Tolerance

- A submission was received from industry seeking clarification of the tolerance of wild oats in Prime Milling oats and a change in the tolerance that applies.
- The Committee has acknowledged the previous reference to wild oats in Type 7(b) in Prime Milling Oats is an error and the reference in Type 1 is correct.
- After discussion it has been agreed that the current tolerances for wild oats for all grades are correct however industry views on any potential changes are sought.
- For clarity, the following tolerances currently apply:
 - Prime Milling – 5 individual seeds per half litre (Type 1)
 - Milling – 10 individual seeds per half litre (Type Variation)
 - Feed – 100 individual seeds per half litre (Type Variation)

4.1.5 Snails

- 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.
- It is acknowledged significant industry work is being undertaken to meet market requirements for snail contamination. This includes measures to control snails on-farm, stock selection and communication of market requirements for snail contamination to industry.
- This work has focussed on wheat and barley but 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.
- It was agreed that GTA would continue to work with the existing industry associations, other industry sectors and GIWA with a view on adopting a national communication plan for snail contamination in all commodities, including oats.

4.1.6 Other Quality Parameters

No other changes to oat Standards are proposed at this time, however industry is encouraged to comment on any other aspect of the GTA oat Standards.

4.2 Potential Change: Heavily Discoloured – Barley

During the 2016/17 harvest, discolouration was detected in some harvested barley. This discolouration was detected on both the husk and on the barley kernel below the husk. The discolouration ranged in colour but was mainly present as a dark grey to black colour.

As there is no specific reference to this quality parameter in GTA barley Standards, the Committee intends to include a definition and image in the VRSG. The terminology is proposed to be Heavily Discoloured. Industry comment is sought on the following for this quality parameter:

- The appropriateness of the term Heavily Discoloured.
- A suitable definition.
- The tolerance to be applied for each barley grade.
- Whether a separate category and tolerance be developed or whether this category be placed in an existing quality parameter (such as Field Fungi) and a maximum for Heavily Discoloured be applied within that existing category.

4.3 Potential Change: Pink Grain/*Fusarium* – 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. Following analytical testing of some samples, no mycotoxins were detected that are associated with *Fusarium spp.* infection of grain.

Current GTA Standards for all barley grades does not list Pink Grain/*Fusarium spp.* While not listed, the intention in GTA Standards has been that Pink Grain/*Fusarium spp.* is listed in all barley grades as a nil tolerance. The removal of Pink Grain/*Fusarium spp.* in the Standards several years ago has been determined to be an oversight.

As there is no specific reference to either of these quality parameters in GTA barley Standards, the Committee intends to include definitions and images for each in the VRSG. The terminology for each quality parameter is proposed to be Pink Grains and *Fusarium spp.* Industry comment is sought on the following:

Fusarium spp.:

- The suitability of the current nil tolerance applied to all grades, or whether a low-level tolerance should be applied. If the latter, what tolerance should be applicable and should this be applied to all grades.

Pink Grains:

- A suitable definition.
- The tolerance to be applied to each barley grade.
- Whether a separate category and tolerance be developed or whether this category be placed in an existing quality parameter (such as Field Fungi or Dark Tipped) and a maximum for Pink Grains be applied within that existing category.

4.4 Stained, Pink Stained, White Grain Disorder/Head Scab/Flaked Grain – Wheat

The current wheat Standards include a tolerance of Stained, which includes a separate tolerance for Pink Stained and White Grain Disorder, Pink Stained and White Grain Disorder/Head Scab/Flaked Grain. Various tolerances apply for each depending on the grade.

It is rare that more than one of these quality parameters appears in a sample of wheat. For assessment purposes, having these sub-categories and tolerances can lead to confusion in interpretation and correct application of the Standards.

It is proposed to remove the sub-categories of Pink Stained and White Grain Disorder/Head Scab/Flaked Grain within the category of Stained. The proposal is to apply the current tolerance for all three quality parameters independently of each other. For all grades, the existing tolerances for each quality parameter would apply. For example, for the APH1 grade the following is proposed:

Stained, including Staining due to Moist Plant Material Max (% by count)	5.0
Pink Stained Max (% by count)	2.0
White Grain Disorder/Head Scab/Flaked Grain Max (% by count)	1.0

It is expected that this change will have minimal if any impact on the quality of grain received. Industry comment on this proposal is sought.

In addition, the Committee is undertaking a review of all other commodities and defects where an “of which” category exists. Following a review of the implications of the possible deletion of this terminology, as per the above for wheat, industry will be advised of the recommendations. In the interim, industry is encouraged to comment on this proposal.

5. Issues for future Consideration

The Committee has 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 GTA Member Update 11 of 16 2016/17 Grain Trading Standards](#))

In summary, the Committee continues to work on the following issues and will advise industry of the outcome and timing for any potential changes to Standards that subsequently arise:

- 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

END