

MemberUpdate

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TOPIC: 1st Round Industry Submissions on 2024-25 Pulse Standards

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

1. Purpose

- The structure of the Australian grain industry has undergone some recent change with the responsibilities of Pulse Australia being transferred to other industry associations including GTA assuming the management of Pulse Trading Standards.
- This industry Call for Consultation seeks comments from industry on topics (including those that will align the Pulse Trading Standards to the other commodity Standards) as outlined below. As per standard practice GTA will again consult in February and April 2024.

Call for Industry Submissions on Pulse Standards 2024/25 Season

2. Background

- This paper outlines several issues being considered by the Pulse Standards Sub-Committee (Sub-Committee), a sub-committee of the Grain Trade Australia Standards Committee, during the development of the 2024/25 Pulse Standards (Standards).
- The Sub-Committee seeks comment from industry on the topics as outlined in this paper and on any other issue relating to Standards for potential adoption in 2024/25 or future seasons. All relevant comments from industry will be considered by the Committee and used to develop the Standards for 2024/25, due for release as of 1 August 2024. Further industry calls for submissions will occur during 2024, expected in February and April.

3. Timeline and Method of Submitting Comments

- Please lodge your submissions by sending to GTA, at admin@graintrade.org.au and title your email – Pulse Standards Review 2024/25. Submissions are due by **COB 8 December 2023**.
- For reference, the current 2023/24 pulse Standards can be downloaded from the GTA website at https://www.graintrade.org.au/commodity_standards

4. Agreed Changes for Adoption in the 2024/25 Season

- The Committee intends to implement the following changes in the 2024/25 Standards.

4.1 Agreed Change: Minor Wording Changes – All pulse commodities except Mung Beans

- The current links in the Standards to various Australian Government and industry websites and documents for use by industry on a range of issues such as maximum residue limits for chemicals and market quarantine requirements will be updated.

4.2 Agreed Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guide – All pulse commodities in VRSG

- Existing sections for pulses (desi chickpeas, kabuli chickpeas, *Angustifolius* lupins, faba beans, field peas and red lentils) in the existing Visual Recognition Standards Guide (VRSG) located on the GTA website at <http://www.graintrade.org.au/fact-sheets-publications> will be reviewed and will be altered if required to improve clarity.
- It is recognised that the Red Lentil Contrasting Colour chart in that VRSG requires updating and this will be pursued when the next version is published.
- If applicable, wording in the pulse Standards Booklet will also be altered to reflect the wording in the VRSG.
- As yet, no decision has been made whether a revised VRSG for 2024/25 will be developed.

4.3 Agreed Change: Varietal Lists – All pulse commodities except Mung Beans

The list of varieties by pulse commodity (and all other commodities) will be published on the GTA website.

4.4 Agreed Change: Gumnuts – All pulse commodities except Mung Beans

Industry was advised of an agreed change in tolerance for all cereal grains in 2023/24 as part of a review of the practicality of a Nil Tolerance in Standards and the intention to consider developing low level tolerances for some contaminants. A change in the nil tolerance for gumnuts for cereals was agreed, 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.

That change for cereals was made for the 2023/24 season as follows:

- For all cereal commodities and grades, removing the current nil tolerance level for gumnuts only.
- A low-level tolerance for gumnuts only, of 1 gumnut/2.5L be included for all cereal commodities and grades, similar to that applying for Stones.
- The definition of a gumnut be “whole or pieces of any size and maturity level”.
- The current definition and nil tolerance of other *Eucalyptus* spp. plant material remains in all Standards.

For consistency across commodities, the Sub-Committee has agreed to implement the above change for all pulses. For all pulses for the 2024/25 season, the Committee has agreed to implement a tolerance of 1 gumnut/2kg for all Farmer Dressed Receival and Farmer Dressed Export Standards. This is a similar level for cereals noting pulses are assessed on a weight basis and cereals on a half-litre sample basis. There will be no change to the nil tolerance for all other Standards (i.e., split, export).

4.5 Agreed Change: Lupin Screen – *Angustifolius* Lupins

Currently there is no requirement to use a screen during the assessment of *Angustifolius* lupins. Industry has sought inclusion of the use of a screen in the assessment process:

- *Angustifolius* is one of the few remaining pulse commodities where a screen is not referenced in the standards.
- For all other commodities a screen is used to assist determination of small, shrivelled pulses. In those standards, all pulse material being assessed, falling below the screen is considered defective. For

Angustifolius lupins, the assessment of small, shrivelled grains must be done visually without any reference to a guide for size. Inclusion of a screen will assist in the determination of shrivelled.

- The definition would be as per many other pulses, being “any Angustifolius lupin seed material would be defective lupin seed material if it falls through the screen”.
- The Sub-Committee reviewed the industry proposal and considered that utilising an existing screen would be justified rather than reference a screen that is not used by industry. The proposal is to refer to the use of the 3.75mm slotted screen, as referenced in standards for faba beans and field peas.

Therefore for 2024/25, the Angustifolius lupin standards will reference the use of the 3.75mm slotted screen to determine the defective grains that are shrivelled, i.e. that fall below the screen.

4.6 Agreed Change: New grade – Desi Chickpeas

In recent seasons industry has implemented an off-grade for desi chickpeas. This grade has been widely referenced in industry contracts based on the quality of grain that has been produced due to seasonal conditions. The marketplace has successfully bought and sold this grade, based on the agreed industry specifications for this off-grade.

Industry has sought creation of this grade as a formal industry grade and the Sub-Committee has agreed to introduce the specifications as currently used by industry as follows for the 2024/25 season:

- The grade will cater for a higher level of defective grains than the existing No.2 grade, with the same level of Severely Damaged to allow for any mouldy grains.
- The grade will be called No.3.
- Two grades will be created as per the [Table here](#), being receival farmer dressed and export farmer dressed.
- The Physical Quality Parameters, Foreign Weed Seeds and Other Contaminants will be as per the existing No.1 and No.2 grades.
- Total Defectives will increase to 15% on receival and 20% on export for containers and 25% for bulk, recognising limited bulk exports may occur.
- Separate tolerances for Poor Colour and Fungal Affected are not required given the quality of this grade.
- The same Severely Damaged tolerances as per No.2 grade will be used.

5. Further Information

For further information, please contact GTA at admin@graintrade.org.au