

## **Member Update**

**Title:** **NEW Charter of the GTA Technical Committees**

**Update No.:** **15 of 10**

**Date of Issue:** **12 July 2010**

### **1. Introduction**

GTA has the following Technical Committees:

1. Biotechnology Committee
2. Commerce Committee
3. Standards Committee
4. Transport, Storage & Handling Committee

The above Committees had their own Terms of Reference which had common clauses. As part of the annual governance review conducted by the GTA Board Governance Committee, it was decided to review the structure of the Terms of Reference for the Technical Committees and to ensure they reflected the current operating environment of GTA.

An issue that arose from time to time was when a term changed that affected all the Committees. This necessitated the change being effected to four documents.

### **2. Structure of the Charter**

The Charter is comprised of three parts:

1. Common section which contains issues common to all Committees;
2. Terms of Reference for each Technical Committee; and
3. Confidentiality Agreement.

### **3. Comments**

1. The previous format of the Terms of Reference for each Committee meant that there were mismatches with some aspects of the common section. This new format overcomes this problem.
2. This Charter gives added clarity to the size of the Committee and clearly states that membership will be merit based. Accordingly;
  - the number of Committee members has been capped, though this can be varied with the recommendation of the Committee Chairman; and
  - all Committee members will be appointed based on their technical skill in the relevant field, i.e. membership will be merit based.

The Charter of the GTA Technical Committees can be found at <http://www.graintrade.org.au/committees>.