

Member Update

Title: GTA Standards Review – Call for Submissions

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Distribution

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

Proposed GTA Standards 2012/13 Season

1. Background

During deliberations on the development of Grain Standards (Standards) for the 2011/12 season, feedback was received by GTA from a wide range of industry sectors on the proposed changes for 2011/12 and potential changes for the following season 2012/13.

The GTA Standards Committee (Committee) has recently met to discuss potential Standards for 2012/13.

This document lists:

- Proposed changes for adoption in the 2012/13 season;
- Proposed changes for 2012/13 where further industry advice is required; and
- Issues for further industry consideration.

In this document Cereals refers to wheat, barley, sorghum, maize, oats, cereal rye and triticale.

2. Industry Feedback

The Committee is seeking industry comment on the issues in this document and on any other Standards related issue.

Submissions should be received by **COB Friday 23rd March 2012**. Please lodge your submissions by sending to admin@graintrade.org.au and title your email – Standards Review 2012/13. A proforma for lodging submissions is located on the GTA website at <http://www.graintrade.org.au/committees>.

3. Proposed Changes for Adoption in the 2012/13 Season

3.1 Agreed Change: Reference Booklet - Maize

Following the introduction in previous seasons of Reference Booklets for wheat, barley, sorghum, oats, cereal rye and triticale, it was agreed to continue to produce and update Booklets. It is intended to produce a Booklet for the remaining cereal Maize and for this to be available for the 2011/12 harvest.

3.2 Agreed Change: Visual Quality Charts – Cereals

In 2011/12 GTA produced a revised version of the Visual Quality Charts for wheat and barley. The Committee intends to review those wheat and barley charts to ensure they remain applicable. If any changes are made a revised version will be produced for 2012/13.

Visual Quality Charts for sorghum and maize will be produced in 2012.

4. Potential changes for 2012/13 where further industry advice is required

4.1 Proposed Change: Review various defective grain definitions – Cereals

During the 2011/12 harvest, a number of industry participants sought clarification on the definition to apply for various defects. Enquiries mainly related to mould, stained and field fungi.

In developing the 2012/13 Standards, the Committee intends to review the definitions for the above quality parameters for each Cereal to ensure they are clearly defined and consistent with the Visual Quality Charts.

This will include a review of the wording for Field Fungi in Oats, Cereal Rye and Triticale, to ensure consistency where possible with the other cereal grains.

Industry is encouraged to provide feedback on any other quality parameters that should be included in this review, and to suggest alternative wording as required.

4.2 Proposed Change: Malt Barley Germination v Falling Number

For the 2011/12 season, industry advised in some circumstances grain was received as Malt according to the Standards with no visual identification of shot/sprouted grains. On outturn post-harvest this grain was tested at the destination using Falling Number equipment and results were below the tolerance. Grain was rejected on that basis. Germinative Capacity was not affected and grain was subsequently determined suitable for malting.

The Committee will review the Malt Barley standards regarding:

- a) The validity of Falling Number specifications for receival classification versus RVA specifications versus Germinative Energy/Capacity and visual shot/sprouted for all grades;
- b) Standards to apply on outturn of Malt Barley grades for the above quality parameters; and
- c) Any commercial implications for any suggested changes.

Industry is encouraged to provide any monitoring data that may assist in reviewing the applicable tolerances.

4.3 Proposed Change: Minimum Falling Number for Cereal Rye No.1 Grade

Industry support was received on the advice to industry in 2011 that a minimum Falling Number be introduced for the Cereal Rye Grade (GTA No.1 grade only). The intention is to adopt a tolerance of a minimum of 200 seconds, with no limit for visually sprouted grain. Upon detection of visually sprouted grain, a Falling Number test should be conducted. The Falling Number result will over-riding the visual sprouted grain level.

Any further industry comment is welcomed on this proposal for adoption in 2012/13.

4.4 Proposed Change: Minimum Varietal Purity Specifications - Wheat

It is intended to introduce minimum variety purity specifications for all wheat grades in the coming season. While there is a set of guidelines for determining the classification of a load that is declared as a “combination of varieties” (see page 90 of the Wheat Standards Booklet at http://www.graintrade.org.au/commodity_standards), further reference in the standards would assist industry to implement the intent of the varietal classification process.

While no minimum has been determined, industry should note the barley industry has a minimum of 95% for malt grades and this appears suitable for wheat. Industry comment is sought on suitable specifications to apply for the various milling and off-grade wheats.

5. Issues for further Industry Consideration

5.1 Proposed Change: Weed Seed Review – All Cereals

In 2011 the Committee commenced the review process to simplify the categories of weed seeds, their tolerances and the method of assessment. The review also included considering:

- Removing sticks from Objectionable Material and placing in the tolerance for Unmillable Material above the Screen;
- A full review of the need for a Foreign Material category; and
- Tolerances for the various contaminants listed in Standards.

A discussion paper on proposed revised weed seed grouping and set of tolerances was released in September 2011 and industry feedback was received.

The Committee will review that feedback and consider any changes prior to releasing a revised discussion paper in the first half of 2012. It is intended to trial the revised weed seed tolerances in 2012/13 prior to implementation in 2013/14.

Industry is encouraged to provide further comment on the existing proposals and to nominate for participation in the trials over the ensuing 2012/13 harvest.

5.2 Proposed Action: Development of Code of Practice

In response to industry concerns relating to various issues such as implementation and interpretation of standards, the GTA Board has determined that a Code of Practice be developed.

This Code of Practice will provide industry with detail on minimum requirements to apply Standards at all stages of the grain supply chain. It will also describe practices that the grain

industry uses to ensure Australian grain and grain products marketed meet domestic or export customer requirements. It will include but not be limited to sections on:

- Compliance with NMI regulations;
- Compliance with Competency Standards;
- Requirements in a Storage & Handling Agreement for those operating a receival facility;
- Training of staff;
- The need for documented procedures; and
- Auditing & monitoring staff and equipment.

The Code is currently being developed and will be provided to industry for comment prior to production.

5.3 Proposed Action: Actioning of Research Items – All Cereals

In recent seasons, a number of items relating to quality parameters listed in Standards have been raised that require review. While these items have no significant impact on the current adoption and implementation of Standards, in the longer term, consideration should be given to reviewing their status. At present, the following items are listed for Committee review:

No.	Issue	Comment / Action
1	Earth & Sand Assessment	Develop a more practical method of assessment
2	Reference Screen Specifications	Develop for a range of commodities where none exist
3	Reference Booklets all Cereals	Develop for all cereals – commenced
4	Weed Seed Categories	Revise categories - commenced
5	Pyrrolizidine Alkaloids	Review current standards – commenced under weed seed review
6	Foreign Material for all Standards	Review current standards – commenced under weed seed review
7	Foreign Material, Unmillable Material and Contaminants category simplification	Review current standards – commenced under weed seed review
8	Consistency of Standards across Industry	Is being considered as required
9	Image Analysis techniques and adoption by industry	Committee watching brief on current development of technology
10	Sample probe use in pulses (vacuum v manual)	Relates to all commodities - is being considered as required, with vacuum probes to be reviewed in 2012
11	Generation of Fact Sheets and data to support existing quality parameters and tolerances in standards	Is being considered as part of development of Code of Practice
12	Generation and Adoption of National Reference material : Visual Quality Charts	Planning underway for development for all cereals
13	Falling Number Machine	Review impact of vibration of machine on results of sample test
14	NIR protein and moisture calibration	Review suitability of calibrations for weather damaged wheat, and communication required to industry

5.4 Proposed Change: Test Weight – Wheat

As advised in 2010, the implementation date of the GTA Board Policy for an increase in test weight in milling grades of wheat is no later than 2013/2014.

In 2012 the Committee will continue to action the following remaining issues that are associated with this decision on test weight as outlined briefly below:

- Test weight will be reviewed annually with the intention to implement the 76 kg/hl test weight in milling grades at an earlier date if justified - At present, an earlier date is not proposed.
- Individual Grades be reviewed with a view to increasing Test Weight in the most appropriate grades first rather than a blanket all milling grades – not proposed at this time.
- Plant breeders (including AGT, Intergrain and Longreach) are contacted to determine realistic timelines for the availability of varieties with a propensity for higher Test Weight to determine the potential for existing and new varieties to meet this requirement. This discussion and analysis would involve interactions with the WCC and the National Variety Trials. NVT data would need to be analysed upon receipt – Wheat Quality Australia have been contacted and the Committee has received advice that test weight considerations “for new varieties during the varietal classification process” do not require to be modified.
- An annual review of this decision is conducted to analyse all relevant data re: availability of varieties, current crop quality, market opportunities / requirements – data on receivals during the 2011/12 harvest is currently being sought and evaluated.
- GTA produce a paper for distribution across Industry to outline the outcomes from the GTA Board decision with regard to changes in Test Weight limits – the paper will be produced in 2013 prior to implementation of the decision for the 2013/14 harvest.

Industry is invited to provide any additional comments and supporting evidence regarding the proposed adoption of the change in test weight planned for 2013/14.