

Member Update

Title: **GTA Standards Review – Call for Submissions**

Update No.: **02 of 13**

Date of Issue: **12 February 2013**

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

Proposed GTA Standards 2013/14 Season

1. Background

During deliberations on the development of Grain Standards (Standards) for the 2012/13 season, feedback was received by GTA from industry on the proposed changes for 2012/13 and potential changes for the following season 2013/14.

The GTA Standards Committee (Committee) has recently met to discuss prior industry feedback and potential Standards for 2013/14.

This document lists:

- Agreed changes for adoption in the 2013/14 season;
- Proposed changes for 2013/14 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 22nd March 2013.

Please lodge your submissions by sending to admin@graintrade.org.au and title your email – Standards Review 2013/14.

A proforma for lodging submissions is located on the GTA website at <http://www.graintrade.org.au/committees>.

3. Agreed Changes for Adoption in the 2013/14 Season

3.1 Agreed Change: Visual Quality Charts – Various Commodities

In 2012/13 GTA produced a revised version of the Visual Quality Charts Booklet that included wheat, barley, sorghum, oats, maize, canola and desi chickpeas. The Committee intends to review those charts to ensure they remain applicable. If any changes are required a revised version will be produced in the latter half of 2013.

Industry will be advised where definitions are proposed to be altered as part of that review process. Submissions from industry on those proposed changes will be sought in the second round of industry consultations on Standards for 2013/14, due for release in April 2013.

Visual Quality Charts for other commodities will be produced in 2013. A list will be provided to industry during the second round of industry consultation on Standards. In the interim, industry is encouraged to advise of other charts that should be produced, prioritising by commodity and defect type.

3.2 Agreed Change: Weed Seed Categories and Tolerances - 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. Following consideration of industry feedback, a further discussion paper incorporating various changes was released to industry in 2012 (see http://www.graintrade.org.au/commodity_standards “Weed Seed Review - Industry Consultation Paper”).

The revised weed seed tolerances were trialled over the 2012/13 harvest. The Committee is in the process of analysing that data and determining if any changes to those categories and tolerances proposed are required.

If further changes are required prior to implementation in 2013/14, industry will be advised during the second round of industry consultations in April 2013.

As previously advised in those discussion papers, industry should note:

- As advised to industry in 2012, for season 2013/14 for all cereals Branched Broomrape will be moved from Type 3a to Category B.
- The proposed changes are significant and will require an alteration to current industry processes when assessing grain for weed seed contaminants.
- The creation of a Foreign Material category, and change to the definition where a Foreign Material category currently exists, may also impact on grain contracts.
- All sections of each GTA Standards Booklet, including Definitions, Quality Charts and Methods and Procedures will be altered to reflect the revised weed seed categories and tolerances.
- The Committee will approach other commodity Standards Committees seeking adoption of the revised weed seed categories for other commodities where relevant.

3.3 Agreed 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 2013 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 – not justified. Item Closed.
- 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 justified. Item Closed.
- 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. Item Closed.
- 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 2012/13 harvest is currently being evaluated, and will be included in the paper referred to below.
- 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 is under development and will be made available to industry shortly for comment as part of the industry consultations on developing the 2013/14 Standards.

The minimum test weight will increase to 76kg/hl in the 2013/14 season for the following wheat grades:

APH1	APH2			
H1	H2			
APW1	APW2			
ASW1	ASWS			
ANW1	ANW2	PNC	PNE	APWN
DR1	DR2			
SFE1	SFT1	SFE2	SFT2	

3.4 Agreed Change: Various Defective Grain Definitions – Cereals

When developing the 2012/13 Standards, the Committee advised industry a review of the definitions for various defective quality parameters for each commodity would occur to ensure they are clearly defined and consistent with the Visual Quality Charts. A further review is underway.

To date, definitions to be altered include:

- Maize – Field Fungi. There are a number of other quality attributes that arise due to the presence of various field fungi on maize. A review will occur to determine which should be included in the definition of Field Fungi. Concurrently, the Visual Recognition Guide will be updated as required.

3.5 Agreed Change: Falling Number/Germination – Malt Barley

During 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 for the grade. Grain was rejected on that basis. Germinative Capacity was not affected and grain was subsequently determined suitable for malting.

During 2012, analysis of data obtained on Malt Barley received and during the storage period indicated the current Standards required clarification for various quality parameters related to Germination.

The Committee is currently reviewing that data and will alter the Malt Barley standards as required. Any proposed changes will be advised to industry during the second round of industry consultations in April 2013.

3.6 Agreed Change: Development of ASWS Cascade Rules

The ASWS grade is listed in GTA Standards as CSG-126 however there is no reference to it in the “grade cascading rules” in Section 4 of the Wheat Standards Booklet. It is intended to reference ASWS in those rules for the 2013/14 season.

4. Potential changes for 2013/14 where further industry advice is required

4.1 Proposed change: Definition of Nil Tolerance

There is support from industry to harmonise and/or clarify the definition of “Nil Tolerance” in standards. The Committee will review the definition and tolerances that apply, particularly:

- Where there is no measureable impact on grain quality and
- Where there are variances between outturn tolerances in storage provider agreements and standards applied at receipt.

The review will include the current definition and tolerance on receipt and outturn for mould.

Industry will be advised of any proposed changes in the second round of industry consultations in April 2013.

In the interim, industry is encouraged to provide comments on the current standards and suggested changes to definitions and tolerances by commodity and quality parameter.

4.2 Proposed Change: Snail Tolerances

Due to the increasing incidence of contamination of samples with snails in recent years, it is proposed that a review of the current definitions and tolerances be undertaken to determine if any changes are required.

Industry will be advised of any proposed changes in the second round of industry consultations in April 2013.

In the interim, industry is encouraged to provide comments on the current standards and suggested changes to the definition and tolerances by commodity and grade.

4.3 Proposed Change: Standards Implementation Date Summer Crops

Currently the GTA Standards are implemented on an annual basis as follows:

Winter crops – 1 August
Summer Crops – 1 October

To provide additional time for development of summer crop standards, the Committee has considered adopting a timeline of 1 November for all summer crops. Industry feedback on the impact of this proposed date change is sought.

5. Issues for further Industry Consideration

5.1 Development of Code of Practice

A draft Code of Practice for the management of grain along the supply chain was released for industry comment in 2012. Following a review of industry submissions on that draft, a further draft has been developed.

The second draft of the Code will be provided to industry for comment shortly. Industry is encouraged to advise GTA of any issues within that Code that may impact on the Standards and require an alteration to the Standards. Note that at this stage the Committee have not identified any changes that are needed.

5.2 Actioning of Research Items

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
Open Issues		
1	Development of more practical Earth & Sand assessment method	Will be reviewed, however low priority
2	Development of reference Screen Specifications for all commodities	Existing screens in use by industry being documented. A research plan to develop specifications is being developed
3	Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid impacts on standards	Funding of a Food Safety sub-committee being considered by GTA Board
4	Foreign Material, Unmillable Material and Contaminants category simplification	Commenced under weed seed review. Further consideration required following the weed seed review
5	Vacuum v manual probe accuracy and suitability by commodity, standards for vacuum probes	Will be considered under the Code of Practice
6	Generation of Fact Sheets and data to support existing quality parameters and tolerances in standards	Will be considered under the Code of Practice
Completed Tasks		
7	Falling Number machine vibration impact on results	Reviewed. No further action warranted as industry responsible for implementation of appropriate facilities
8	Variation of NIR machines in regards to weather damaged wheat	Reviewed. No further action warranted as NIR machines should be monitored and verified throughout the season
9	Consistency of Standards across Industry, including interpretation and application	Completed - Considered under the Code of Practice
10	Image Analysis techniques and adoption by industry	A GTA Visual Recognition Guide sub-committee has been formed to consider development and adoption of all “new technology”