GRAIN TRADE AUSTRALIA

MemberUpdate

UPDATE 09 OF 17 • 09 August 2017

TOPIC: 2017/2018 GTA Trading Standards

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

Contents

1. Issue

Trading Standards to apply for the 2017/18 season as of 1 August 2017 are now available on the GTA website.

2. Background

GTA Member Updates No.3 of 17 and No.6 of 17 sought feedback from industry on potential changes to Trading Standards (Standards) for the coming season. Feedback was received from a range of industry sectors on the proposed changes and a range of other issues.

The GTA Standards Committee (Committee) met in 2017 on several occasions and reviewed feedback from industry. The Committee recommended changes to the GTA Board and the Board has adopted recommendations as appropriate.

This document lists:

- Changes to all Standards for implementation in 2017/18;
- Those issues raised by industry where changes were not made; and
- Issues for Future Review & Agreed/Proposed Changes 2018/19.

3. GTA Standards Communication to Industry

In response to industry requests for additional information on decisions being considered and recommended by the Committee, relevant explanatory documents were developed and placed on the GTA website during development of the 2017/18 Standards. The documents outlined the specific changes being considered by the Committee as further guidance to industry.

These documents, along with the current 2016/17 and prior season Standards, and industry submissions are located on the GTA website at http://www.graintrade.org.au/commodity_standards.

4. Changes Made for Implementation in 2017/18

4.1 Agreed Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guides – Various Commodities

The existing Visual Recognition Standards Guide (VRSG) produced by GTA for 2016/17 (using the 2015/16 version) contained the commodities barley, wheat, sorghum, oats, canola, desi chickpeas, maize, Kabuli chickpeas, Angustifolius lupins, red lentils, field peas and faba beans.

The Committee reviewed the existing version and determined that significant changes were required. The existing VRSG has been updated for the commodities barley, wheat, sorghum, oats and canola for adoption in 2017/18. The Australian Mungbean Association visual charts for mungbeans have also been added. The final version for 2017/18 can be viewed here.

General changes for the commodities barley, wheat, sorghum, oats and canola include:

- Definitions for defective grain parameters have been revised with the intent to create greater clarity. Refer to point 4.8 onwards for more information on these changes for individual commodities.
- Where required the definition and photo(s) have been altered to create greater consistency between the definition and the photo.
- Various definitions have been altered to remove the cause of the defect.
- Where feasible, altered the definitions, tolerances and photos to be more compatible with those applying in Western Australia as developed by the Grains Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA).
- To assist industry understanding of these changes, a glossary of terms relating to Defective grain quality parameters has been developed and published along with Standards.

A summary of specific changes for each commodity is listed in the table below.

Quality Parameter	Definition	Photo
Barley		
Variety list	Updated as per the Barley Australia approved Master List.	
Dark Tipped	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Field Fungi	Added in the definition a reference to poor colour grey grain.	Added a photo of grey grain.
Skinnings	Refer to 4.12 for more detail on the following changes: Revised the definition to only refer to damage of the husk arising from any means. Clarified the definition to refer to the total amount of husk missing anywhere on the grain is considered defective. Deleted "Awn" in the Skinnings terminology. Definition now refers to damage only, not varietal Skinnings arising in some varieties. Removed from the definition Split Back, Side Skinnings and Split Skirt. Removed Pearled as this is included in the term "Skinnings".	Added more appropriate ventral Skinnings photo. Removed photos of Split Back, Side Skinning and Split Skirt.
Cleaved	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	Revised photos to show less darkness on grains.
Insect Damaged	Revised the definition to remove the reference to the insect species.	
Dry Green or Sappy	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Distorted	The heading is now Distorted, which includes the prior Frost	Added a Sound grain side

Quality Parameter	Definition	Photo
	Damaged category. Altered the definition to refer to the impact on the grain.	view for clarity.
Broken	Removed the reference to Germ Damage as that is covered in Skinnings. Change definition from ¼ to 1/3 of the total husk is missing before grains are classified as Broken.	New Sound grain for clarity. Revised the photo reflecting the new definition.
Pink Fungal Staining	Added a definition and tolerance.	Included photos of this defect.
Severely Damaged	The heading is now Severely Damaged, which includes the prior Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt, Storage Mould and Pink Fusarium. Removed the reference to Storage to refer to all Mould no matter where it is developed. Removed the reference to Bin to refer only to the visual appearance of burnt, not where it is developed. Included a reference to distinctly blackened grains. Included the prior *Fusarium* category as Diseased grain to reflect all diseases not just *Fusarium* are included in this category. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	New Sound grain for clarity. Added photo of blackened grain. Added revised photo of Diseased grain (previously *Fusarium*).
Shot	Revised the definition for greater clarity, by removing the reference to pin holes.	
Pickling Compounds	Removed the reference to the cause of the colouring agent on the grain.	
Wheat		
Pink Stained	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Insect Damaged	Revised the definition to remove the reference to the insect species.	
Stained	Simplified the definition to clarify it refers to staining on 50% or less coverage of the entire grain surface. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Distorted	The heading is now Distorted, which includes the prior Frost Damaged and Takeall affected grains. Altered the definition to refer to the visual impact on the grain. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Sprouted		Deleted one photo that was not needed
Dry Green or Sappy	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Field Fungi	Removed the reference to soft/rotted grains that are classified in other categories as these references do not add any further information or clarity to the definition.	
Severely Damaged	The heading is now Severely Damaged, which includes the prior Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould. Removed the reference to Storage to refer to all mould no matter where it is developed. Removed the reference to Bin to refer only to the visual appearance of Burnt, not where it is developed. Included a reference to various discoloured grains that arise.	Removed one Bin Burnt grain that was not needed. Added photo of a blackened grain.
White Grain Disorder, Head Scab	Altered the definition to reflect the impact on grain of these quality parameters. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect. Removed the reference to Flaked in the heading. Altered the definition to further clarify the impact of Flaky grains.	
Pickling Compounds	Removed the reference to the cause of the colouring agent on the grain.	
Sorghum		
Severely Damaged	Altered the heading to Severely Damaged, which includes the prior Heat Damaged and Bin Burnt. Revised the definition to reflect different colours arising from this defect. Included a reference to Diseased. Removed a reference to Temperature as that is not required.	Removed Bin Burnt photo as it is not required.
Sprouted	Removed the reference to scalloped as that is not relevant to sorghum.	
Insect	Revised the definition to remove the reference to the insect	

Quality Parameter	Definition	Photo
Damaged	species.	
Mould	Removed the reference to Storage. Definition refers to all mould no matter where it is developed. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Field Fungi	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	Replaced photo for greater clarity with the definition.
Pickling Compounds	Removed the reference to the cause of the colouring agent on the grain.	
Oats		
Damaged Grains	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	Replaced photo for greater clarity with the definition.
Heat Damaged or Bin Burnt	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect. Heading reflects the impact on quality, noting different varieties have varying colours for non-damaged grains.	Added a photo of the defect and a Sound grain for comparison.
Stained Grains	Revised the heading to refer to any form of staining by removing the reference to Weather. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	Added photo of ventral defective grain. Replaced photo of dorsal defective grain.
Stained Groats	Revised the heading to refer to any form of staining by removing the reference to Weather. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect. Altered the definition/photo to allow a low level of staining before the Groat is classified as defective.	Added photo of ventral defective Groat. Replaced photos of dorsal defective Groats. Added photos of sound Groats for comparison.
Insect Damaged	Revised the definition to remove the reference to the insect species.	
Dry Green or Sappy	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Canola		
Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt or Badly Damaged	Altered the heading to include Badly Damaged, in reference to the impact of heat on the grain.	Reduced darkness of the defective grain photo.
Weather Damaged	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	Replaced photo for greater clarity with the definition.
Mould	Altered the heading from Mouldy to Mould. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Green		Removed the previous intense green photos as these were too intensely green to be the minimum required.
Maize		
Broken	Removed the reference to Germ Damage as that not relevant. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Dead	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Mouldy	Altered the heading to Storage Mould to better distinguish from Fungal Affected. Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Field Fungi	Removed the reference in the definition of "Grains that are approximately 50 percent or less discoloured are to be classified as Sound" as it is not needed.	
Fusarium Infection	Altered the heading to Fungal Affected to be less specific on the fungal species causing the defect.	
Heat Damaged / Bin Burnt	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Insect Damaged	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Pickling Compounds or Artificial Colouring	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	
Pink Stained	Revised the definition to remove the cause of the defect.	

4.2 Agreed Change: Standards Database and VRSG/Weed Seed Booklet APP – All Commodities

Industry supported GTA in its endeavours to provide easier access to Standards for industry. The current GTA project continues to progress and based on current estimates is expected to be available for the start of the 2017/18 season. It 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.

4.3 Agreed Change: Minor Wording Changes & Other Issues – All cereal commodities

Minor changes have been made to wording in all Standards to refer to the latest versions of reference material available to assist industry implementation of Standards. These include reference to:

- The latest edition of the Visual Recognition Standards Guide.
- The version of the Weed Seed Booklet.
- The latest version of the APVMA MRLs that apply in Australia.
- The document entitled "Australian Grains Industry Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances 2017/18" (see http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp).
- Seeds and pods of Heliotrope in all Standards. Note that existing tolerances remain unchanged.

4.4 Agreed Change: Small Foreign Seeds – All cereal commodities

To assist industry interpretation, it was agreed to develop and publish a list of Small Foreign Seeds.

4.5 Agreed Change: Unmillable Material above the Screen – Wheat, Oats, Cereal Rye, Triticale

Unlike all other Types of weed seeds where parts of weed seeds are added together as a count (i.e., two halves make one seed), weed seeds listed in Unmillable Material above the screen are assessed in a different manner.

The Standards for these commodities have been clarified to indicate that for the category of Unmillable Material above the screen, if the weed seed listed in this category (i.e., wild radish pods, milk thistle pods) falls through a sieve then it is classified as Screenings as opposed to Unmillable Material above the screen.

4.6 Agreed Change: Varietal Master List – Wheat, Barley, Oats

The Varietal Master List for the above commodities has been reviewed following receipt of the changes from the industry sectors responsible for development and maintenance of those lists.

Wheat:
The Varietal Master List for wheat has been revised following receipt of initial changes from Wheat Quality Australia which is the industry body responsible for maintenance of that list. Any final amendments will be advised to industry by 1 September 2017 following a final review by Wheat Quality Australia. Note – as per the agreed procedure with WQA, the initial changes to the list will be provided to GTA for inclusion in the Wheat Standards on 25 July.

Barley:
Barley Australia has updated the Master List for 2017/18 and the following is to apply for barley:

State	Variety	Domestic Demand	Export Demand
Victoria	Baudin	-	Medium
	Commander	Medium	Low
	Gairdner	Low	Medium
	LaTrobe	-	High

	Scope	-	Medium
	Westminster	High	High
New South Wales			
	Baudin	-	Medium
	Buloke	-	Low
	Commander	High	Medium
	Gairdner	Medium	Low
	LaTrobe	-	High
	Navigator	Low	-
	Scope	-	Medium
Queensland	Commander	Medium	Medium
	Westminster	High	-
South Australia	Buloke	Low	Low
	Commander	High	High
	LaTrobe	Low	High
	Scope	Low	High
	Westminster	Medium	Medium
Western Australia	Bass	Low	High
	Baudin	High	High
	Flinders	Low	Low
	Gairdner	-	Low
	LaTrobe	-	Medium
	Scope	-	Medium

Oats:
GTA is working with GIWA on developing a procedure for the classification of oat varieties. The aim is to develop a national approach to oat variety classification.

In the interim the usual process of the classification of oat varieties for the 2017/18 season has occurred and approved oat varieties are listed in the GTA Oat Standards.

4.7 Agreed Change: Falling Number – Wheat, Barley, Cereal Rye

There are several manufacturers of Falling Number machines being used by industry. It is up to industry to evaluate instruments and identify which one they would like to use for assessment.

The Committee agreed it was no longer appropriate to refer to a specific manufacturer of a Falling Number unit (or any testing equipment) in the Standards. Therefore all references to Perten have been removed in the wheat, barley and cereal rye Standards.

4.8 Agreed Change: Distorted – Wheat, Barley

As outlined under 4.1 the Committee has removed terminology in Standards for various defective quality parameters where more than one causal agent may lead to a defective quality parameter. For wheat and barley, the visual impact on grains of frost and other conditions may be similar and indistinguishable. The impact leads to distortion of the grain. This impact is described in the revised definition and photos in the VRSG. Therefore it has been deemed appropriate to revise the terminology from Frost Damaged to Distorted.

4.9 Agreed Change: Stained Categories - Wheat

With a view to simplifying the Standards, without impacting on the quality of grain received and outturned, the Committee agreed to remove the "of which" statements for the Stained category. Therefore the prior tolerances for each grade will now apply, without reference to the "of which".

Analysis of receival data indicated relatively few loads being delivered with more than one of these quality parameters present. Hence the change, which in effect is an increase in the tolerance for each quality parameter, will not significantly impact on levels of defective grains allowed in wheat.

The change will also assist correct interpretation of Standards by sample classifiers.

Quality Parameter	Prior Tolerance (H1 example only)	Agreed Tolerance (H1 example only)
Stained	5% of which	5%
Pink Stained	2% of which	2%
White Grain Disorder / Head Scab*	1%	1%

* Refer to revised definition for this quality parameter in this document

4.10 Agreed Change: Severely Damaged – Wheat

As outlined under 4.1 terminology in Standards for various defective quality parameters where more than one causal agent may lead to a defective quality parameter has been removed. For wheat the visual impact on grains of various severe defects may be similar and indistinguishable. In addition these various factors have severe impacts on the quality of the grain visually whether the defect is caused in the field, during storage or transport and handling or anywhere else prior to grain assessment. This impact is described in the revised definition and photos in the VRSG which now includes defects such as:

- Heat Damaged
- Burnt
- Mould
- Severely discoloured grains

Therefore the heading has been altered to Severely Damaged to describe the impact of these factors on the grain. The previous tolerances continue to apply.

4.11 Agreed Change: Broken – Barley

The current definition requires ¼ or more of the grain to be missing before the grain is considered defective.

The definition has been altered to:

- 1/3 or more of the grain missing before it is classified as defective.
- The missing "section" can be anywhere on the grain.
- The previous reference to any piece of the germ missing also falling within this definition has been deleted as it is no longer relevant given the clarity on the definition for Skinnings listed below.

This definition change has been made on the basis that there is not expected to be any negative impact on the end-use of the grain.

4.12 Agreed Change: Skinnings – Barley

A number of changes to improve clarity have been made in this category.

Awn Skinnings

- The previous definition caused some confusion in industry:
  - Some used the reference to "husk removed from more than 1/3 of the way down from the awn end".
  - Others applied the definition as "more than 1/3 of the total area of the husk removed anywhere on the grain".
- The definition for Skinnings has been changed to refer to 1/3 or more of the husk removed in total, anywhere on the grain.
- The revised definition will apply to the total area of the husk removed which may be in more than one location on the grain.
- Given this change in definition, the reference to Awn Skinnings is no longer required and has been deleted.

Side Skinnings, Split Back, Split Skirt

- Reference to these quality parameters has been removed from the Skinnings definition.
- It is considered that these parameters have minimal to no impact on the end-use of the grain and are therefore not considered defective.

- Note that for Side Skinnings, some varieties are prone to this condition. Given this, and the relatively little impact on end-product quality, the reference to this quality parameter has been deleted and those grains are considered sound.

4.13 Agreed Change: Severely Damaged - Barley

A number of changes have occurred in this category, which has been created to include all severely damaged grains that significantly negatively impact on the visual appearance and end-use of the grain:

Heading / Definition

- The heading is now "Severely Damaged" reflecting the visual appearance and quality impact on the grain arising from these defects.
- Bin Burnt has been altered to Burnt, reflecting that this impact on the grain may occur in the field and / or during storage. Burnt has been retained with Heat Damaged but not in the heading for the category. The Committee recognised the concerns from industry in the 2016/17 season of grain being classified in this category despite the grain coming straight from the paddock and not being stored.
- Storage Mould has been altered to Mould, reflecting that mould may occur in the field and / or during storage.
- The quality parameters of Heat Damaged, Burnt and Mould have been included in the category given these quality parameters have a similar impact on the visual appearance and end-use of the grain.
- Blackened grains that arose in the field during the 2016/17 season have been included as these previously were not referenced in the Standards. These include blackening of the husk and under the husk on the kernel.
- Revised photos of these quality parameters have been included in the VRSG which shows the level of "discolouration" for a grain to be included in this new category. A Blackened grain, as seen in the 2016/17 harvest, has been included.
- Diseased has been added specifically to refer to a range of diseases that impact on the visual appearance of the grain.
- *Fusarium spp.* has been included given the potential food safety aspects associated with this fungus. However while an example of *Fusarium spp*. has been included in the VRSG, other diseases may also be present. Hence the heading of Severely Damaged does not include the words "*Fusarium*".
- Reference to other serious visual defects has been included in the definition, referring to other visual impacts not specifically stated.

Tolerance

- Industry provided a number of differing tolerance proposals for this new category. The Committee considered a number of options and agreed on the following tolerances to apply:

Malt 1, Malt 2, Malt 3	1 grain / 0.5L
F1	2 grains / 0.5L
F2	5 grains / 0.5L

- It was agreed that a nil tolerance was not appropriate given the impracticality of applying a nil tolerance in a bulk consignment of barley. Hence a "low level" tolerance was agreed for the Malt grades. This low level is not expected to have a significantly negative impact on the marketability or end-use of the malt grades.
- As F1 is used by some customers as either a food grade or a stockfeed grade, it was considered that a higher tolerance than Malt grades should apply, but not the tolerance for F2 which generally is used as a stockfeed grade.
- Given the agreed tolerances are newly created, the Committee agreed to review the impacts of this change when considering the 2018/19 Standards and industry comments on the applicability and impact of the change will be sought at that time.

4.14 Agreed Change: Pink Fungal Staining - 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 nor mycotoxins in the samples analysed.

Current GTA Standards for all barley grades do not list Pink Grain. While not listed, the intention in GTA Standards has been that there is a nil tolerance for Pink Grain in all barley grades. The removal of the reference to Pink Grain in the Standards several years ago has been determined to be an oversight and has now been rectified for 2017/18, with the following changes implemented in the 2017/18 Standards:

Heading / Definition

- A separate category has been created, called Pink Fungal Staining.

- Fungal is retained in the heading/terminology reflecting that the causal agent is a fungus.
- The definition refers to the colours depicted on the grain arising from the fungus, being orange, pink and red found anywhere on the surface.
- The VRSG photo depicts the minimum colour required for a grain to be assessed as defective.

Tolerance

- Industry provided a number of differing tolerance proposals for this new category. The Committee considered a number of options and agreed on the following tolerances to apply:

Malt 1, Malt 2, Malt 3	1 grain / 0.5L
F1	20 grains / 0.5L
F2	30 grains / 0.5L

- Industry had varying views on
  - The tolerance to be applied in each barley grade.
  - Whether a separate category be developed.
  - Whether this quality parameter be placed in the same category as *Fusarium spp*.
- A nil tolerance is not applicable due to the difficulty of managing a nil tolerance in a bulk parcel of grain and the potential for "rejection" of an entire load/consignment due to the presence of a single grain. Hence a "low level" tolerance was agreed for the Malt grades. This low level is not expected to have a significantly negative impact on the marketability or end-use of the malt grades.
- Some concerns were raised with the ability to differ between *Fusarium spp.* grains and Pink Fungal Stained grains. The Committee considered the issue and agreed that differences were apparent as per the revised photos in the VRSG for these two parameters.

4.15 Agreed Change: Field Fungi - Barley

A number of changes for this quality parameter are outlined below.

Heading

- Unlike some other quality parameters, the cause of the defect relates specifically to fungi in the field prior to harvest. Hence the reference to "Field" has not been removed from the heading.

Inclusion of Grey Discolouration

- The Standards had previously not referred to grains showing a grey discolouration. While heavy discolouration (black) is included in the newly created Severely Damaged, lighter grey discolouration is now included given the negative impact of these grains on the germination of the grain (and overall appearance and some end-use characteristics).
- Tolerances remain as per the existing Field Fungi category. It is rare for both Field Fungi and Grey Discolouration to be present in the same sample, hence the inclusion of grey grains in the definition should not negatively impact on deliveries.
- A photo has been included in the VRSG depicting the extent of the grey on grains required as the minimum to be included in this category.

Dark Tipped / Field Fungi

- With a view to simplifying the Standards without impacting on the quality of grain received and outturned, it was agreed to remove the "of which" statement for this category. Therefore the prior tolerances for each grade now apply, without reference to the "of which".
- Analysis of receival data indicates relatively few loads being delivered with more than one of these quality parameters present. Hence the change, which in effect is an increase in the tolerance for each quality parameter, is not expected to significantly impact on levels of defective grains allowed in barley.
- The change will also assist correct interpretation of Standards by sample classifiers.

Quality Parameter	Prior Tolerance (Malt1 example only)	Agreed Tolerance (Malt1 example only)
Dark Tipped	10% (10 grains / 100 grains), of which	10% (10 grains / 100 grains)
Field Fungi	5% (5 grains / 100 grains)	5% (5 grains / 100 grains)

4.16 Agreed Change: Weed Seed Category Variation - Barley

To assist industry interpretation and for consistency across grades, the categories for Wild Oats/Wild Radish Pods and Barley with Coloured Aleurone Layer have now been called Variation a and Variation b respectively. No change to the previously applied tolerances have been made.

4.17 Agreed Change: Severely Damaged - Sorghum

As outlined under 4.1 terminology in Standards for various defective quality parameters where more than one causal agent may lead to a defective quality parameter has been removed. For sorghum the visual impact on grains with various severe defects may be similar and indistinguishable.

In addition these various factors have severe impacts on the quality of the grain visually, no matter whether the defect is caused in the field, during storage or transport and handling or anywhere else prior to grain assessment. This impact is described in the revised definition and photos in the VRSG which now includes defects such as:

- Heat Damaged
- Bin Burnt
- Diseased
- Other serious visual defective grains

Therefore the heading has been altered to Severely Damaged to describe the impact of these factors on the grain. The previous tolerances continue to apply.

The previous Heat Damaged image in the prior VRSG has been selected to represent these grains.

4.18 Agreed Change: Total Defective – Sorghum

A reference has been included for the assessment of Total Defectives in sorghum as the Standards previously did not list a procedure for this quality parameter. The following has been included:

"Total Defective is the sum of all defective grain categories except Sprouted."

4.19 Agreed Change: Heat Damaged or Bin Burnt - Oats

A definition and photo depicting this quality parameter have been included in the VRSG. It has been noted in the VRSG that the colour of sound grain varies by variety, as some varieties are darker than others.

The tolerance for this parameter in each grade has not been altered from previous years.

Note that the terminology for this quality parameter will be reviewed on 2018/19.

4.20 Agreed Change: Stained Grains - Oats

A number of changes have occurred as follows:

- The previous reference to one of the causes of this defect, being Weather, has been removed from the heading and the definition.
- The previous photo depicting this quality parameter has been revised in the VRSG to be more representative of this defect.
- A photo of both a dorsal and ventral grain are now included.

The tolerance for this parameter in each grade has not been altered from previous years.

4.21 Agreed Change: Stained Groats - Oats

A number of changes have occurred as follows:

- The previous reference to one of the causes of this defect, being Weather, has been removed from the heading and the definition.
- The previous photo depicting this quality parameter has been revised in the VRSG and others added to be more representative of this defect.
- Both dorsal and ventral photos are now included in the VRSG.
- An allowance has been made for low levels of staining to be present on the Groat before it is considered to be defective. Previously the definition referred to any level of staining however this was considered too restrictive. This change is not expected to impact on the end-use or marketability of the oats.

The tolerance for this parameter in each grade has not been altered from previous years.

4.22 Agreed Change: Wild/Black Oats - Oats

It was acknowledged the previous reference to wild/black oats in Type 7(b) in Prime Milling Oats was an error and the reference in Type 1 was correct.

Subsequent to that clarification being provided to industry in late 2016, a submission was received seeking a change in the tolerance that applies in future Standards. The proposal was for an increase in the level permitted in Prime Milling and Milling grades. This was proposed on the basis that a major processor in Australia had permitted those levels in those grades for several years without any significant impact on the value of the grain or the end-product.

It was agreed that the previous tolerances for wild/black oats for all grades be altered as follows, with the tolerances to apply in Type 8 for all grades:

Grade	Previous Tolerance	Revised Tolerance
Prime Milling	5 individual seeds per half litre (Type 1)	20 individual seeds per half litre (Type 8)
Milling	10 individual seeds per half litre (Type Variation)	20 individual seeds per half litre (Type 8)
Feed	100 individual seeds per half litre (Type Variation)	No change - 100 individual seeds per half litre (Type 8)

4.23 Agreed Change: Total Admixture - Maize

A procedure has been developed for the assessment of Total Admixture in maize as the maize Standards previously did not list a procedure for this quality parameter. The following has been added:

"Total Admixture is the total of Foreign Material, Screenings and Trash. Following assessment of each of these separate parameters, calculate the percentage Total Admixture by adding the three separate categories".

4.24 Agreed Change: Bitter Dark - Lupins

Added another photo to the VRSG of a Bitter Dark lupin for greater clarity.

5. Issues Considered but not Approved

The following issues were not approved by the Committee for adoption in the 2017/18 Standards. Unless otherwise stated, these issues will not be re-considered by the Committee unless a further submission is received from industry. Industry is free to provide their original submission or further information to support their views should they wish for any of these issues to be considered by the Committee in developing the 2018/19 or future Standards.

5.1 Rejected Change: Durum/Red/Spring Feed Wheat in SFW1/Fed1 – Wheat

A number of issues were considered in relation to Durum/Red/Spring Feed Wheat contamination in SFW1 and Fed1 by the Committee but not agreed.

During deliberations on this issue the following points were noted and confirmed as continuing to apply in the 2017/18 Standards for these grades:

- There remains no need for a Durum Feed grade, as this is implemented by industry as required.
- Durum should remain as an unlimited tolerance in Fed1.
- The tolerance for Durum in SFW1 should remain as a Type 7b, being a total of 150 grains / 0.5L.

Industry should note that the following minor wording changes in SFW1 under "Varietal Restrictions" were made:

- Varietal Restrictions – change from "No" to "Yes"
- Comment section – include the words "All varieties permitted except Durum and Red/Spring Feed Wheat for which a tolerance under Foreign Seed Contaminants applies".

It is recognised that some domestic markets have issues with Red / Spring Feed wheat in stockfeed wheat. Where this is needed a separate segregation is created. Hence a separate grade is not required to be developed in GTA Standards.

5.2 Rejected Change: Protein - Barley

A submission was received from industry seeking a potential increase in the maximum protein content for Malt 1 and Malt 2 from 12.0% to 12.5%. This increase was proposed in order to slightly increase the protein content of malting barley provided to customers who had noted on occasions a lower than required protein content in these grades.

The Committee did not agree to the proposal on the basis that where there is a customer requirement for protein content industry could implement various tools such as stock selection to meet those customer needs.

6. Issues for Future Review & Agreed/Proposed Changes 2018/19

6.1 Research Issues, Future Consideration – All Commodities

The Committee had 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 http://www.graintrade.org.au/news/member_updates)

In summary, industry submissions supported further work by the Committee to review the various aspects listed and to develop recommendations for industry feedback as required on the following issues:

- 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

Industry will be advised over time as research is progressed on the above.

6.2 Snails, Ongoing Communication & Proposed Tolerance Change – All Commodities

All Commodities
Significant industry work is being undertaken to meet market requirements for snail contamination in grain. This includes measures to control snails on-farm, stock selection and communication of market requirements for snail contamination to industry.

While this work has focussed on wheat and barley it 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.

The Committee has agreed that GTA would continue to work with the existing industry associations, other industry sectors and GIWA with a view of adopting a national communication plan for snail management in all commodities.

Oats
The Committee noted that for oats 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, with the focus to continue to be on industry communication on snail control and stock selection in order to meet market requirements.

Barley
For barley it was recognised that there is a gap between the tolerance for snails in Trading Standards (applied at receival) versus that required by some markets. While industry has implemented a range of effective measures to manage this difference, submissions were received requesting a revision of the applicable tolerances in barley Standards. Some of those submissions requested an implementation date of 2017/18, whereas others agreed with a change for 2018/19.

The Committee agreed that further changes to tolerances could occur in future to compliment the research and other activities being undertaken to manage snail contamination in grain consignments.

The following changes were agreed for implementation in the GTA Barley Standards in 2018/19:

Grade	Current Tolerance	Revised Tolerance
Malt 1, Malt 2, Malt 3, F1	2 snails per half litre	1 snail per half litre
F2	4 snails per half litre	No change - 4 snails per half litre

During development of the 2018/19 Standards, further industry comment will be sought on the planned change as outlined above.

6.3 Future Review: GTA v GIWA Standards – All Commodities

A submission was received from industry proposing that GTA adopt GIWA Standards where no GTA Standard (or particular quality parameter) exists. The Committee noted that GTA and GIWA are working closely together on issues of mutual interest and where feasible and applicable, Standards were being modified for consistency.

However it was agreed that GTA must undertake a rigorous assessment of all Standards changes and that any change would be considered in light of various issues, including Standards that were applied by GIWA.

6.4 Future Review: Ergot – All Commodities

A submission was received from industry proposing a revision to the method of assessment (and thus tolerance) for ergot. Various tolerances currently exist in cereal Standards, being for:

- Ergot of the cereal being assessed
- Ergot of ryegrass

Most assessments are done via a length measurement, however some are by weight.

Tolerances for various ergots also exist at export and in some domestic regulations relating to stockfeed.

It was agreed that the Committee undertake a review of the practicality of assessment of all ergot by weight. Industry views on this change will be sought in future once the Committee has assessed the implications of any potential change. In the interim industry is encouraged to provide any data that may assist the Committee to reach a conclusion on this matter.

6.5 Future Review: Varietal Codes – All Commodities

A submission was received from industry proposing adoption of common codes for varieties.

There were various reasons for this request, including:

- Grain buyers are faced with a situation where they must spend time and resources to establish systems that can reconcile the different variety codes (for the same variety) into their grain management software/database when receiving data from BHCs who use different codes.
- Errors in variety codes may exist. Consequently, grain buyers either fail to deduct end point royalties from grower grain payments or do so erroneously, which in turn requires extra resources to be deployed to identify and rectify grain purchase transactions in coordination with the royalty managers.
- Given these errors, owners of royalty bearing varieties are being required to spend significant resources to issue and distribute a large number of invoices direct to growers that are unaware that they have not paid their end point royalty.
- Owners of royalty bearing varieties, are unable to fully collect all royalties owed through this direct invoicing procedure, which in turn reduces re-investment in plant breeding.

The Committee noted that implementation of Standards, including varietal codes, was not directed to industry by GTA.

It was agreed that this issue required further consideration by GTA management. One option for consideration by GTA management would be to encourage industry sectors responsible for maintenance of the Varietal Master Lists to include common codes that could be adopted by the industry. Notwithstanding that potential option, individual companies may not be able to adopt all codes due to IT system constraints.

Industry views will be sought following consideration of all options by GTA management.

6.6 Future Review: Moisture – Tasmania, all Cereal Commodities

Segments of Industry submitted a request to increase the maximum moisture content in Standards (receival and trading) for Tasmanian cereal grains to 13.5%. The submission stated several reasons for this proposed change, including:

- Tasmania's unique cooler, maritime climate is not recognized in the one-sized national approach. It is difficult for grain to be harvested to meet the 12.5% limit.
- An historical precedent was said to exist in Tasmania for moisture content of grain as previously in some seasons the Tasmanian Grain Elevator Board would accept grain up to 13.3% moisture.

- Tasmanian grown grain is almost universally used for stock feed and is rarely exported. Hence a change would not impact on Australia's reputation of a supplier of dry grain. Growers support the 12.5% limit applying to any grain for export.

Other Industry submissions opposed the request to increase the maximum moisture level, for several reasons including:

- The local conditions last harvest were an anomaly and had not occurred for several years, therefore changing standards based on one year was not appropriate, and local markets will adapt receival standards to infrequent seasonal conditions.
- Increasing the maximum moisture content has the potential to increase the risk of negative impacts on grain quality and hygiene, such as development of storage pests, mycotoxins and a decline in grain quality.
- Local consumptive markets would not accept grain in excess of 12.5% moisture.
- An increase in the moisture content would provide an incentive to purchase mainland grain at 12.5% moisture, thereby reducing demand for locally produced grain.

The Committee considered the points noted in Industry submissions, and also noted that such regional Trading Standards were not created by GTA, and that local industry and grain receivers have the scope to adjust parameters when receiving grain.

While no change was accepted for 2017/18, it was agreed that this issue required further consideration and that GTA management would consider options to address the issue and promote further industry engagement and consultation on the matter.

6.7 Future Review: Field Fungi - Oats

Differing views were received from industry relating to a change in the current nil tolerance for Field Fungi to allow a low level tolerance. In addition differing views were expressed on the need for inclusion of a tolerance for Septoria in Field Fungi or a separate category.

The Committee agreed that this issue required further consideration and will revisit it when developing the 2018/19 standards, at which time industry views will be sought.

6.8 Future Review: Screen Specifications - Oats

Several years ago GTA adopted the wheat screen for assessment of screenings in oats Standards. However it has been noted that 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. Based on industry feedback, in order for the Standards to revert to the prior oat screen specifications, being the 25.4mm slot screens, further research on the following will be conducted:

- Reviewing the impact of the change on the existing tolerances in the various oat grades
- Reviewing the correlation in screenings levels between the wheat and oat screen slot lengths
- Discussing the proposed changes with GIWA with a view to adopt a consistent approach nationally
- Developing reference screen specifications
- Determining relevant manufacturers of the screens

6.9 Future Development: Spelt Standards - Spelt

A submission was received from industry seeking development of a national Standard for Spelt. It was agreed that a Standard should be developed, however further consultation with all sectors of the industry associated with Spelt was required.

A working group will be formed to develop draft specifications for release to industry for comment, with the planned timeline for Standards to be developed for release in the 2018/19 season.

6.10 Future Review: Stained Specifications - Durum

A submission was received from industry seeking a change in the tolerance for stained in Durum. While the Committee agreed to conduct a review, further industry consultation was required prior to consideration of any potential change. It was agreed that a review should be considered during development of the 2018/19 Standards via further consultation with all sectors of the industry associated with Durum.