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Member Update

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

Update No.: **10 of 13**

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

Proposed GTA Standards 2013/14 Season

1. Background

Member Update 2 of 13 sought industry feedback on proposed changes to Standards for 2013/14 and potential changes for the following seasons. Feedback was received from industry on the issues outlined in the Member Update and on a range of other Standards issues. Feedback received was both for and against changes and varied in detail provided.

The GTA Standards Committee (Committee) has recently met to consider feedback received from industry.

2. Industry Feedback

This document lists the following deliberations of the Committee:

- Section 3 – Agreed changes for adoption in the 2013/14 season;
- Section 4 – Issues raised by industry for change in 2013/14 but not accepted by the Committee;
- Section 5 – Potential changes for 2013/14 where further industry advice is required;
- Section 6 – Issues for future consideration beyond 2013/14.

In order to finalise the Standards for 2013/14, the Committee is seeking a final round of industry comment on the issues in this document and on any other Standards related issue. Submissions may refer to the initial submission however all relevant material should be provided in the current submission.

Submissions on this second round of the review process should be received by COB Friday 17 May 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 Recognition Standards Guide – Various Commodities

Industry supported the development of the Visual Recognition Standards Guide (VRSG) booklet by GTA. Industry encouraged GTA to develop a VRSG for all commodities and defect combinations as soon as practically possible. While a VRSG for all defects in all commodities is desired, those infrequently occurring defects (e.g., arising from disease) are not planned to be developed in the short-term due to allocation of effort to the more commonly occurring defects.

It was stressed by industry that the VRSG needs to be as clear and as descriptive as possible, to remove any doubt as to the individual defect description. The Committee is currently reviewing all existing photographs and wording in the VRSG for each defect as requested by industry.

The following lists the priority of development for other commodities not included in the existing VRSG:

a) Angustifolius lupins – in 2013
b) Albus lupins – in 2013
c) Red lentils
d) Faba beans
e) Field peas
f) Mungbeans
g) Soybeans
h) Kabuli Chickpeas
i) Cereal Rye
j) Triticale

A revised VRSG will be made available to industry in the latter half of 2013. The inclusion of the above listed commodities in the VRSG will continue in future years until completed. An update on their development will be provided to industry on an annual basis.

3.2 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.

The Committee has continued 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 following each harvest has been 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 Committee has considered all submissions on test weight provided by industry.
As advised in 2010 the policy is to increase the minimum test weight 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	

3.3 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 VRSG.

To date the following definitions have been revised and accepted for implementation in the 2013/14 standards.

a) Defects (all Cereals) – The current VRSG booklet states "All images in this guide unless otherwise identified are defective. These photographs depict the minimum standard for a grain to be assessed as defective. If a grain does not meet the physical attributes depicted in the photograph it is to be assessed as sound".

   Industry should refer to both the definition and photograph in the VRSG to determine whether an individual grain is classified as defective. It is apparent that industry in some circumstances has not referred to the photographs, only the definition. This has caused incorrect classification of grain.

   To increase clarity, for all commodities where there is an image available in the GTA VRSG, the following words will be inserted in each definition "This definition is to be read in conjunction with the photo in the Visual Recognition Standards Guide which depicts the minimum affected standard for a grain to be classified as [insert relevant defect name e.g., field fungi].

b) Defects (all Cereals) – In addition to the above, as industry does not currently have the tools to determine the exact size of a defect on a grain, for all commodities and defects where there is a figure listed in the definition relating to the size of the defect before it qualifies, the word "approximately" will be inserted. For example, for Wheat Stained Grains the following will apply:

   "A light grey to black fungal discolouration that may extend from the brush end of the grain but does not cover more than approximately 50% of the entire grain surface.

Kernels with greater than approximately 50% of a fungal like dark grey, brown or black discolouration are to be classified as Field Fungi.
Grains that exhibit small dots covering less than approximately 5% of the surface area of the kernel (a small proportion) are not to be classified as Stained and are otherwise whole sound grains.
This definition is to be read in conjunction with the photo in the Visual Recognition Standards Guide which depicts the minimum affected standard for a grain to be classified as Stained".

c) Sprouted (all Cereals) – the definition generally refers to "Sprouted grains are those in which the covering of the germ is split. It includes early and any further advanced stage of growth of the germ. Kernels exhibiting early stages of sprouting are those where the covering of the germ is split, but without further development of the shoot."

   As noted in point a) above, reference to the VRSG photograph will be made in this definition to clarify that "any visual split in the germ" does not necessarily result in that individual kernel being classified as sprouted. Industry should note that the photographs in the VRSG depict the minimum level of "germ split" before a grain is classified as sprouted. That is, for some commodities (e.g., sorghum, wheat) a small split in the germ is permitted and the grain is visually classified as being sound.

d) Damaged Grain (Oats) – clarified that the definition includes broken grain, commonly occurring during the harvesting and handling process.

e) Frost Damaged (Wheat, Cereal Rye, Oats, Triticale) – the reference to "affected by or during drying operations, or by any damage occurring during plant growth due to herbicides" has been removed. Frost Damaged is now defined as arising through one means, being frost during the development stage. Damage by other means such as the use of herbicides will generally result in grains being pinched/small. These smaller grains frequently fall through into the screen and are thus classified as Screenings.

f) Insect Damaged (Wheat, Barley, Sorghum, Maize, Cereal Rye, Oats, Triticale) – the definition has been simplified to refer to "These are grains eaten in part by Stored Grain Insects and any field pest of grains including *Heliothis spp*". The previous reference to "grains may have a hole or have a chewed appearance" has been removed as it is not required.

g) Field Fungi (Maize) – 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 VRSG will be updated as required.

h) Field Fungi (Sorghum) – clarified the definition in relation to the cause of this defect and the colours that may be depicted. The previous reference to "field fungi being able to be rubbed off and staining generally not being able to be rubbed off" has been removed as it is not always valid. In addition, it was noted that industry had in some instances previously mis-interpreted the definition and a submission was received to alter the standard for stained/field fungi. The Committee agreed that the current standard for both defects is suitable.
   The definition now states "Field Fungi refers to individual kernels where the seed coat is greater than approximately 50 percent discoloured which may or may not be caused by the development of fungi during periods of high moisture. The visible discolouration of affected grains can vary from white, to grey, to brown, to black in colour.
   Grains that are approximately 50 percent or less discoloured are to be classified as Stained. Grains that are soft and/or emit a mouldy odour are to be classified as Rotted.
   This definition is to be read in conjunction with the photo in the Visual Recognition

Standards Guide which depicts the minimum affected standard for a grain to be classified as field fungi".

i) Stained (Sorghum) – as noted in point h) above, some confusion existed in industry with the current definition. The wording in the existing definition has been modified for clarity, which now reads "Stained refers to a grain defect caused by either exposure to wet and damp conditions during growth and maturation phases or a stress related biochemical reaction, which causes individual grains to become visually discoloured. This discolouration may be caused by a relatively slow growing fungus that affects the appearance of the grain. It does not refer to the more serious storage moulds (refer Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt, Storage Mould Affected, Musty, Mouldy or Rotted).
The definition for Stained includes kernels that display a distinct light grey, to dark brown to black stain or fungal like discolouration on approximately 50% or less of the grain surface.
Kernels with greater than approximately 50% of a fungal like discolouration (may or may not be fungal like) are to be classified as "Field Fungi".
Grains that exhibit small dots covering less than approximately 5% of the surface area of the kernel (a small proportion) are not to be classified as Stained and are otherwise whole sound grains.
This definition is to be read in conjunction with the photo in the Visual Recognition Standards Guide which depicts the minimum affected standard for a grain to be classified as stained".

j) Skinnings (Barley) – Various types of Skinnings are defined in the barley standards (awn skinning, germ exposed, pearled, side skinning, split backs and split skirt). Each describes the attributes required for a grain to be classified as Skinnings. Therefore the Committee agreed to remove from the Skinnings definition the wording "in the two thirds of the grain closest to the germ end". The term Skinnings is now "Skinnings is defined as damage to the protective husk of the barley".

k) Cleaved (Barley) – the definition has been simplified to now read "Cleaved barley is generally caused by rainfall events or rapid changes in moisture when grain is maturing. This results in a split along the crease or a split down the back, front or side of the grain exposing the endosperm."

3.4 Agreed Change: Development of ASWS Cascade Rules

As previously advised to industry, the ASWS grade is listed in the 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. In addition, no approved varieties are listed for this grade.

In line with existing industry understanding, for the 2013/14 season onwards, for the ASWS grade:

- The eligible varieties will be Lorikeet, Rosella, and Sunsoft 98 only
- The grade cascade rule will be ASWS/ AGP1 / AUW1 / SFW1 / FED1

3.5 Agreed Change: Barley Varietal Master List

Barley Australia has recently reviewed the list of approved malting barley varieties. As a result of their deliberations, the following varieties will be added to the list of approved malting barley varieties for the 2013/14 season:

Grange	Henley
Scope	Westminster

The following varieties will be deleted from the list of approved malting barley varieties for the 2013/14 season and only permitted as Feed varieties:

Arapiles	Dhow
Grimmett	Sloop
Sloop SA	Tallon

3.6 Agreed Change: Prohibit the use of Grain Dryers for Malt Barley

For malt barley drying of grain using incorrect temperatures may adversely impact on grain quality. The Committee agreed that for all Malt barley grades, grain dryers are not permitted. This change will be implemented in the 2013/14 barley standards.

3.7 Agreed Change: Removal of Franklin in Barley Standards

The Franklin variety has a different Screenings tolerance than all other varieties in the Malt No.1 and Malt No.2 grades. As Franklin is no longer approved as a Malt variety, and is not listed as a Feed variety, the Committee agreed to delete this Franklin screenings tolerance and remove all references to Franklin in the barley standards.

3.8 Agreed Change: Removal of reference to Khapra Beetle

As Khapra beetle is not present in Australia, it was agreed to remove reference to this insect in all commodity standards.

4. Issues Raised by industry for change in 2013/14 but Rejected

4.1 Rejected Change: Field Fungi in the Wheat Grade AGP1

Industry sought an increase in the level of field fungi in the wheat grade AGP1 from 10 to 20 grains per half litre. This increase was sought on the basis that the current level of 10 was too restrictive.

The Committee rejected this proposal on the basis that:

- There was not a significant number of loads tendered for delivery that had been downgraded; and
- The current tolerance enabled AGP1 to be marketed as a general purpose grade "mid-way" between milling and Feed.

4.2 Rejected Change: Cleaved in Malt Barley

Industry sought an increase from 1% cleaved to 3% cleaved in Malt No.1. The increase was sought on the basis that for certain varieties, cleaved may be confused with other quality parameters, making classification difficult.

The Committee rejected this proposal on the basis that the current tolerance was appropriate to meet the quality requirements of the market.

4.3 Rejected Change: Adoption of ISO Standards

A submission was received noting that a range of international (e.g., ISO and Codex Alimentarius Commission) Standards for Grain Measurement instruments existed. GTA was requested to adopt those standards where relevant. The proposal included adopting allowances for sampling uncertainty and measurement tolerances in the standards.

The Committee rejected the proposal for various reasons including:

- The existing methods of analysis in general are meeting the requirements of the Australian grain industry;
- Reference methods for assessment of grain are listed in GTA standards, some of which were developed using international and overseas country methods of assessment;
- There is no immediate requirement for Australia to adopt international methods in areas where the existing Australian methods have differed;
- In certain instances adoption of international methods would require:
    - A significant review of existing standards (e.g., tolerances, definitions)
    - A significant cost to industry to purchase new equipment
    - May significantly alter the testing process used in the field, leading to increased times for sample assessment
- Where required, under the Code of Practice for the Management of Grain along the Supply Chain (Code of Practice), Technical Guideline Documents are to be developed to assist industry to conduct various grain quality tests as listed in standards; and
- "Tolerances" have traditionally been cited in laboratory certification for samples submitted, rather than listed for each quality parameter documented in the standards.

The abovementioned submission also sought development of appropriate "standards" (e.g., national reference methods) under the National Measurement Institute for test weight and Falling Number use. Industry is advised that the National Measurement Institute have considered those comments previously and are progressing the issues where relevant.

4.4 Rejected Change: Falling Number Assessment and Dispute Resolution

A submission was received requesting a dispute resolution mechanism be implemented for the use of the Falling Number test and all other tests outlined in the standards. For the Falling Number test, this also included increasing the sample size for assessment and guidelines on the number of repeat tests to be conducted.

The Committee rejected the proposal on the basis that:

- The Falling Number test is the recognised international standard to assess sprouted grain;
- A Falling Number reference method is documented in the standards, specifying minimum sample size requirements;
- Industry implement their own testing methods and choose the equipment to conduct those tests when applying industry standards;
- Industry is free to choose and implement their own dispute resolution procedure based on their own commercial operations; and
- Under the Code of Practice a Technical Guideline Document is to be developed to provide industry with guidelines on implementing dispute procedures for all quality tests listed in standards.

4.5 Rejected Change: Standards for Bulk Export Cargoes

A submission was received requesting standards be developed for bulk export cargoes and large grain sales, specifying specific sampling rates, an average value and allowable variation for each quality parameter.

The Committee rejected this proposal on the basis that:

- It was not directly related to standards;
- This proposal in part deals with the implementation of standards at various points along the supply chain following receival of grain. Industry may apply the GTA Trading Standards at any point in the supply chain and is free to vary those standards

(e.g., noting specific quality parameters that are not guaranteed on outturn in a Storage and Handling Agreement); and
- As outlined above, there are commercial implications of the application of variations to standards.

However the Committee agreed to develop a Technical Guideline Document under the Code of Practice to assist industry in this regard. This would include specifying appropriate sampling rates for application of the Trading Standards at various points along the supply chain.

4.6 Rejected Change: Cliff Face Pricing

A submission was received on various topics related to "cliff face pricing" and the application of standards. Various comments were included in the submission and actions were requested relating to issues such as:

- Extending the range of pay grades for milling and other premium grades;
- Introducing payment systems similar to the former "Golden Rewards"; and
- Developing a system of averaging delivery classifications, or load pairing.

The Committee rejected the various proposals on the basis they were not directly a technical standards issue. Industry participants manage some of these issues based on their own commercial operations.

However the Committee agreed that the various issues raised in the submission would be forwarded to the GTA Trade and Market Access Committee for their consideration.

4.7 Rejected Change: Over-riding Visual Fungal levels post-receival of Grain

A submission was received requesting that initial classification of a sample based on the visual presence of fungal levels be over-ridden following analysis of the sample for mycotoxins.

The Committee rejected the proposal on various grounds including:

- Classification of a sample (e.g., load tendered for delivery) must occur at the time of delivery;
- The range of mycotoxins that may or may not be present in a sample varies widely and is largely unknown at the time of sample collection and inspection, thus the range of tests to be done on each sample would be extensive;
- The presence of fungal grains is not always an indicator that mycotoxins are present;
- The timing of mycotoxin testing post-delivery would be problematic with the receival, segregation and marketing of that grain;
- The potential prohibitive cost of mycotoxin testing of each sample; and
- Industry generally introduces more suitable arrangements when fungal stained/field fungi/mycotoxins are detected or potentially present, such as pre-delivery testing.

4.8 Rejected Change: Standards to be set by an Independent Body

A submission was received requesting the standards be set by a suitable independent body.

The Committee rejected the proposal. Under the current industry standards setting process, one of the tasks of the GTA Standards Committee is to undertake the following on behalf of industry:

"Role

As a Committee appointed by the GTA Board of Directors, the role of the Standards Committee is to consider those issues listed below and to advise the Board on appropriate action.

Scope of Operation
The Standards Committee shall make recommendations to the Board on issues relating to:
(a) Grain standards - the review and maintenance of those Standards"

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

5.1 Proposed Change: Field Fungi Definitions – Various Cereals

Industry was advised in 2012/13 that the definitions for field fungi were altered for consistency across the various cereal commodities. During that review process, it was recognised that two sets of definitions were required for this quality parameter, being:

- One for commodities such as oats and barley where low levels of staining not classified as field fungi were permitted without an impact on quality; and
- One for commodities such as cereal rye, triticale, sorghum, maize and wheat where if field fungi did not meet the definition, the grain would be classified as defective due to staining.

The Committee has completed the review of this quality parameter. The following revisions have been agreed for the 2013/14 season. A further change has been the % coverage of the grain surface being reduced from 15% to 10% for both barley and oats:

Field fungi (Oats)
Alter the field fungi definition for oats to the following:

"Field Fungi refers to individual kernels where the seed coat may be affected by fungal growth which gives the grain the appearance of grey to black spotting occurring anywhere on the grain. Coverage greater than approximately 10% of the grain surface is considered defective. The fungus usually occurs during periods of high moisture or high humidity towards the end of the growing period into harvest.
Grains that show approximately 10% or less of fungal growth are to be classified as sound.
Grains that are soft (that are not classified as Sappy) and/or emit a mouldy odour are to be classified as Musty or Mouldy.
This definition is to be read in conjunction with the photo in the Visual Recognition Standards Guide which depicts the minimum affected standard for a grain to be classified as field fungi".

Field fungi (Barley)
Alter the barley field fungi definition to the following:

"Field Fungi refers to individual kernels where the seed coat may be affected by fungal growth which gives the grain the appearance of black spotting occurring anywhere on the grain. Coverage greater than approximately 10% of the grain surface is considered defective. The condition usually occurs during periods of high moisture or high humidity towards the end of the growing period into harvest.
Grains that show approximately 10% or less of fungal growth are to be classified as sound.
This definition is to be read in conjunction with the photo in the Visual Recognition Standards Guide which depicts the minimum affected standard for a grain to be classified as field fungi".

Industry comment is sought on the above proposals for oats and barley.

5.2 Proposed Change: Deletion of Gritting Maize Standard

GTA have been previously advised that the GTA Gritting Maize Standard CSG-44 is a grade that is not used by industry. For this market, varying standards are applied based on commercial contractual requirements. Therefore the Committee agreed to delete this standard from the 2013/14 season onwards.

Industry comment on this proposal is sought, including whether the standards should be deleted in 2013/14 or 2014/15.

6. Issues for future Consideration beyond 2013/14

6.1 Proposed Action: Weed Seed Categories and Tolerances - Cereals

Industry was advised in 2011 the Committee had commenced a review to simplify the categories of weed seeds, their tolerances and the method of assessment. A discussion paper on the proposed revised weed seed grouping and tolerances was released in September 2011. Following consideration of initial industry feedback, a further discussion paper incorporating various changes was released to industry in 2012.

The revised weed seed tolerances were trialled over the 2012/13 harvest. The Committee has also considered further industry feedback on the proposed changes. In summary:

- Generally the proposed tolerances altered the grade classification to some extent, however the impact on changes to grade classification and the extent varied by commodity.
- Brome grass, cereal grains and weed seed pods were present in main grades in higher numbers based on the proposed tolerances. The high levels permitted in some samples were an issue, especially in Malt barley.
- Given the difficulty of removing all Foreign Material (FM) from a sample and the increased time for this task, FM would be estimated only unless levels were close to the tolerance for that grade. However there was general support in "pursuing a FM category, or consistency where it currently exists in standards".
- There is a desire to maintain or reduce the time taken for assessment of a sample. The proposal does not reflect this intent.

As a result of the trial outcomes and industry feedback the Committee has determined that the revised proposal is no longer supported:

- Further work will be done to simplify the standards by reducing the number of categories (i.e., standardising the existing lists);
- The inclusion of a FM category where it does not currently exist will not progress under the current proposal. In addition, the existing proposal to standardise the FM definition will not occur, as this caused significant issues in some commodities;
- A further review of the proposed FM category will occur to determine if any changes are warranted;
- The revised proposal will be further trialled over the 2013/14 harvest;
- The revised proposal simplifies the current testing process without adding any time for sample assessment;
- This revised proposal supports the revision of categories and tolerances without compromising the marketability of the grain;
- A further review will occur in 2014 before a decision on implementation in 2014/15 is made; and
- No changes in the 2013/14 standards are proposed;

Should industry seek a copy of the newly revised weed seed proposal, please contact GTA. This paper will be made available on the GTA website in the latter half of 2013, at which time further industry comments will be sought.

6.2 Proposed Action: Falling Number/Germination – Malt Barley

Industry was supportive of the review of the Malt barley standards in relation to the interaction between the quality parameters Shot, Sprouted, Falling Number (FN) test, Rapid Visco Analyser (RVA) test, Germinative Energy and Germinative Capacity.

Analysis of data obtained from Malt barley received and stored during 2012/13 showed that:

- In some instances at receival barley may have a low FN but still have good germination;
- FN is a good indicator of storability over time;
- As no sprouting may be present FN may not be initially tested at receival (but values may be below the standard). On outturn required germination levels may not be met;
- There may be a case for lowering the FN or RVA tolerance however a significant amount of further data generation is required;
- Some larger storage providers monitor barley in storages over time and liaise with end-users on any "issues" identified with the quality of the stored barley;
- There may be varietal differences on the interaction of these quality parameters; and
- There remains a need for FN, RVA and Shot/Sprouted limits in the standards.

The Committee intends to liaise further with the malt barley industry to seek a resolution on the issues raised during the review of the abovementioned data.

It was agreed no changes to the standards could be recommended at present based on the data.

6.3 Proposed Action: Nil Tolerance

There was general support from industry to harmonise and/or clarify the definition of "Nil Tolerance" in standards where:

- There is no measureable impact on grain quality; and
- There are variances between outturn tolerances in storage provider agreements and standards applied at receival. This includes the parameters "storage and field mould".

Based on feedback the Committee is currently developing a revised proposal. This paper will be made available on the GTA website in the latter half of 2013, at which time industry comments will be sought.

As a consequence of this timing, no changes are proposed for the 2013/14 season.

6.4 Proposed Action: Snail Tolerances

Industry noted that snails were a concern in deliveries in some regions during the 2012/13 harvest. Based on that feedback, the Committee is reviewing the current definitions and tolerances for snails to determine if any changes are required. This review will consider the impact of any changes in the standards on available control methods for snails on-farm.

No changes are proposed for 2013/14. Industry will be advised on the outcome of the review during the development of the 2014/15 standards, at which time industry feedback will be sought.

6.5 Proposed Action: 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

In general, industry did not support changing the date for implementation of summer crop standards from 1 October to 1 November.

Despite the above two existing dates, GTA publishes standards for all commodities for implementation as of 1 August each year. As such, the current 1 October date for summer crops is in practice not relevant.

For 2014/15, 1 August will apply for implementation of standards for all commodities.

6.6 Proposed Action: Further Development of Code of Practice for the Management of Grain along the Supply Chain

The second draft of the Code of Practice was recently provided to industry for comment. GTA will review industry feedback and determine if there are any issues that may impact on the Standards and require Committee review.

In addition, industry submissions on the proposed changes to Standards for 2013/14 have been reviewed and issues relevant to the Code will be provided to the sub-committee developing the Code for their consideration.

6.7 Proposed Action: Actioning of Item relevant to Standards

Industry submissions were generally supportive of actioning the following items, especially where there may be some impact on the implementation and interpretation of standards. The following is a list of items raised by industry requiring actioning. The GTA Standards Committee will progress areas within its responsibility however does not intend to action those items where considerable resources or studies are required. For actioning those items, industry is encouraged to seek input from other more relevant industry sources.

Including those items raised in 2013/14 industry submissions, the current list is:

No.	Issue	GTA to Action	Comment / Action
Open Issues			
1	Development of more practical Earth & Sand assessment method	No	Extensive review required, resolution is a low priority.
2	Development of reference Screen Specifications for all commodities	No	Documenting current screens used by industry. Yet to determine if the information provided will enable recommended specifications to be made.
3	Foreign Material, Unmillable Material and Contaminants category simplification	Yes	Commenced under weed seed review. Further consideration will occur in 2013/14.
4	Vacuum v manual probe accuracy and suitability by commodity, standards for vacuum probes	No	Reviewing prior trials. Guidelines for use planned to be documented under the Code of Practice as a Technical Guideline Document.
5	Generation of Fact Sheets and data to support existing quality parameters and tolerances in standards	No	Will be considered under the Code of Practice as a Technical Guideline Document, however low priority.

No.	Issue	GTA to Action	Comment / Action
6	Image Analysis techniques and adoption by industry	Yes	A GTA sub-committee has been formed to consider development and adoption of all "new technology", provide guidelines to industry and liaise with the NMI where required.
Completed Tasks			
7	Falling Number machine vibration impact on results	Yes	Reviewed. No further action warranted as industry responsible for implementation of appropriate facilities and operating equipment as per recommended procedures.
8	Variation of NIR machines in regards to weather damaged wheat	Yes	Reviewed. No further action warranted as NIR machines should be monitored and verified throughout the season by industry users.
9	Consistency of Standards across Industry, including interpretation and application	Yes	Completed. Various references included in the Code of Practice.
10	Pyrrolizidine Alkaloid impacts on standards	Yes	GTA Food Safety sub-committee has provided input into the weed seed review.

6.8 Proposed Action: Development of Objective Testing Technology

For several years sectors of industry have been working with commercial equipment suppliers to develop objective testing technology for a range of quality parameters listed in GTA Standards. This technology has the potential to remove the subjectivity of testing a grain sample and will therefore have significant benefits for industry.

The Committee has been actively involved in that process and has recently been provided with a further update on progress of development of this technology by one commercial provider.

The GTA Standards Committee has formed a sub-committee to:

- Develop guidelines outlining requirements for equipment manufacturers when seeking to implement this technology for the assessment of grain as per industry GTA standards;
- Liaise with equipment manufacturers on industry requirements and the process of industry signoff of equipment; and
- Liaise with the National Measurement Institute on development of an appropriate "standard" as required for this technology.

6.9 Proposed Action: Review of Sticks and Stones

Industry noted that while producers strive for delivery of a sample free from sticks and stones, due to seasonal conditions and other factors compliance with the existing standards may not always be practical. On outturn from storage grain may be unintentionally contaminated. The current definition for sticks and stones may result in rejection of grain in these circumstances.

Based on that industry feedback, the Committee will review the current definitions and tolerances for sticks and stones to determine if any changes are warranted, provided the marketability of the grain is not compromised.

No changes are proposed for 2013/14. Industry will be consulted in development of the 2014/15 standards should any change be considered.

6.10 Proposed Action: Sample Size for Assessment of Defective Grains

For some defective grain quality parameters, standards require assessment of the entire half litre sample. Industry has advised this is problematic due to:

- The time to conduct the assessment
- The effort to detect these quality parameters in samples where a half litre sample may contain 8,000-12,000 grains
- The difficulty of applying low tolerances in these relatively large samples

The Committee will conduct a review of the sample size to be used for assessment of defective grains in all commodities. No changes are proposed for 2013/14. Industry will be consulted in development of the 2014/15 standards should any change be considered following the review.

6.11 Proposed Action: Review of Varietal Master List Publication Date

The current dates identified for Wheat Quality Australia (WQA) to provide the wheat Varietal Master list for industry adoption are no later than 29 July for publication on the GTA website by 1 August. However it is recognised that WQA may make decisions on varieties after that date, impacting on the grading of deliveries over the harvest.

The Committee agreed to:

- Consider the commercial consequences of the WQA inclusions and/or changes to the wheat Varietal Master List after 29 July. This review would consider the impact on the entire supply chain, including:
    - The classification of producer deliveries
    - The segregation requirements of the storage sector
    - Existing marketing contracts
- Determine whether these varieties affected by the change after 29 July will be adopted on the WQA wheat Varietal Master List as published on the GTA website; and
- Consider a revised mechanism such as by 29 July, along with the approved wheat Varietal Master List, WQA provide GTA with a list of anticipated new varieties and their potential classification and/or amendments to existing varieties pending the next Wheat Classification Council meeting.

6.12 Proposed Action: Review of Total Admixture in Sorghum

A submission was received requesting a deletion of the quality parameter Total Admixture in sorghum. The request cited the existing separate categories and tolerances in the standards of which Total Admixture is comprised (Foreign Material, Screenings and Trash).

A review will be conducted to determine the impact of this proposal on the marketability of sorghum and to determine if the existing quality parameters within the Total Admixture category require revision.

Note that no changes are proposed for 2013/14. Industry will be consulted in development of the 2014/15 standards should any change be considered following the review.

6.13 Proposed Action: Removal of Obsolete Wheat Grades

The Committee noted that two “noodle grades” are currently not segregated in Western Australia. These are:

- CSG – 123 PNC (Cadoux variety)
- CSG – 124 PNE (Eradu variety)

It was agreed to remove these grades in 2014/15. Note that these varieties would not be removed from the wheat Varietal Master List.

It was further agreed to review the complete list of GTA wheat grades and determine if further deletions were able to be made.