

Member Update

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

Update No.: **9 of 14**

Date of Issue: **28 April 2014**

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

Proposed GTA Trading Standards 2014/15 Season

1. Background

Member Update 4 of 14 sought industry feedback on proposed changes to Trading Standards (Standards) for 2014/15 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 2014/15 season;
- Section 4 – Issues raised by industry for change in 2014/15 but not accepted by the Committee;
- Section 5 – Agreed changes for adoption in the 2015/16 season;
- Section 6 – Issues for future consideration beyond 2014/15.

In order to finalise the Standards for 2014/15, 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 16th May 2014. Please lodge your submissions by sending to admin@graintrade.org.au and title your email – Standards Review 2014/15.

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

Unless marked “confidential” and appropriate supporting reasons are provided, all submissions will be placed on the GTA website for industry review.

3. Agreed Changes for Adoption in the 2014/15 Season

3.1 Agreed Change: Minor Changes – All Cereals

Minor changes to wording in standards will occur to increase clarity and reflect the timing of application of the standards:

- To reflect that the GTA Standards may be applied at any stage along the supply chain (i.e., not just at receipt), all references have been changed to “Trading Standard”.
- Reference to the document “Australian Grains Industry Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances” altered to refer to the most recent version for 2013/14 released and available on the GTA website (see http://www.graintrade.org.au/storage_and_handling)
- Reference to the National Residue Survey altered to include “bulk export terminal operators, Bulk Handling Companies and processors” as these had previously not been included in all Standards. This change reflects wording in the GTA Code of Practice for the Management of Grain along the Supply Chain.
- The GTA Board has updated the Charter for all Technical Committees, including the Standards Committee (see <http://www.graintrade.org.au/committees>).
- A review will be conducted of all Standards published on the GTA website. GTA will liaise with each industry organisation or other relevant body that provides Standards for GTA publication to develop a formal procedure for development of those Standards. Where applicable, this will include a process for classification of varieties into grades.

3.2 Agreed Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guide – Various Commodities

The Committee is currently undertaking the following changes to the VRSG for release in 2014:

- Updating existing photos to assist interpretation of the defect.
- Inclusion of additional photos for particular defects to aid interpretation.
- Altering definitions for particular defects as per the changes outlined in this industry discussion paper.
- Adding the commodities faba beans, field peas and kabuli chickpeas.
- Adding a new section to the VRSG depicting photographs of various contaminants found in grain.

3.3 Agreed Change: Broken Grain – Barley, Oats and Maize

It was agreed for consistency across commodities, the definition for Broken grain for Barley, Oats and Maize be altered to “ $\frac{3}{4}$ of a grain is sound” (i.e., more than $\frac{1}{4}$ missing is defective) for the 2014/15 standards, as per the current barley definition. The VRSG photos will be altered to reflect this revised definition.

3.4 Agreed Change: Standards Implementation Date Summer Crops – All Commodities

It was agreed that in future, all GTA published standards are to be implemented as at 1 August each year.

The Committee noted that other specialist commodity groups present their standards to GTA for publication on the GTA website. Each group will be contacted to ensure appropriate procedures are in place for receipt of the standards within a suitable timeframe for publication and according to the committee terms of reference.

3.5 Agreed Change: Removal of Obsolete Grades – Wheat and Maize

As previously advised given that the following grades are no longer in general use by industry, it was agreed the following grades will be deleted from the 2014/15 standards:

- Wheat – PNC
- Wheat – PNE
- Maize – Gritting Maize

3.6 Agreed Change: Revised Tolerance & Definition for Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould – all cereals except Maize, Prime & Milling No.1 Oats

See also section 4 below.

It was agreed to adopt the following for the 2014/15 season:

| Maximum Tolerance to Apply | Commodity & Grade |
|--|--|
| 1 grain by count per 0.5L | Wheat – All milling grades, including AUH2, AGP1, SFT2, ANW2, DR1, DR2, DR3, HPS1, SFW1 |
| | Barley – All malt grades, F1 |
| | Triticale |
| | Cereal Rye |
| | Oats – Feed No. 1 |
| 5 grains by count per 0.5L | Wheat – FED1 |
| | Barley – F2 |
| No change to the existing Tolerance for Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt (0.6% by wt). Includes a new maximum for Storage Mould of 0.05% (by wt). | Sorghum – All grades. Note – Definition now includes Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt, Storage Mould |
| No change to Tolerance | Maize – no change to definition or tolerance. Prime and Milling No.1 Oats – no change to definition or tolerance. |

A recommendation is to be made to the GTA Board for adoption of the change in 2014/15 standards rather than adopting the change in the 2015/16 season.

All appropriate references in the standards and VRSG photos for Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould will be altered to reflect the above.

For a full explanation of the reasons for the adopted change, please refer to the previous discussion paper released in 2013 (Member Update No. 39 of 13 http://www.graintrade.org.au/news/member_updates).

For industry guidance, GTA will develop a Technical Guideline Document as an adjunct to the Code of Practice related to issues associated with management of these quality parameters in storage.

3.7 Agreed Change: Revised Tolerance and Definition for Stones – All Cereals

It was agreed to adopt the following tolerances for the 2014/15 season:

| Maximum Tolerance to Apply | Commodity & Grade |
|---|--|
| Max weight of 4.0g for all stones per 2.5L retained above the applicable screen for that commodity. | All cereals and all grades. Note – material passing through the specified screen is classified as Sand/Earth. |

A recommendation is to be made to the GTA Board for adoption of the change in 2014/15 standards rather than adopting the change in the 2015/16 season.

The definitions and references in the standards for Stones (and Sand/Earth as applicable) will be altered to reflect the proposed revisions as outlined above.

3.8 Agreed Change: Revised Tolerance & Definition for Animal Excreta – All cereals except Prime & Milling No.1 Oats

See also section 4 below.

It was agreed to adopt the following in all cereals except Prime and Milling No.1 Oats for the 2014/15 season:

| Maximum Tolerance to Apply | Commodity & Grade |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 dropping by count per 2.5L sample. | All commodities and all grades. Note – definition changed to Rodent (rat or mice) Droppings. The existing nil tolerance for Other Animal Excreta is to continue to apply. |
| No change to Tolerance | Prime and Milling No.1 Oats – no change to definition or tolerance. |

A recommendation is to be made to the GTA Board for adoption of the change in 2014/15 standards rather than adopting the change in the 2015/16 season.

For a full explanation of the reasons for the adopted change, please refer to the previous discussion paper released in 2014 as [No. 4 of 14 1st Industry Call for Submissions on 1415 GTA Standards.pdf](#).

Industry should note that the proposed change for Prime and Milling No.1 Oats was not supported. See Section 4 below.

3.9 Agreed Change: Total Admixture - Sorghum

It was agreed to delete the category of “Total Admixture” in all sorghum grades. A recommendation is to be made to the GTA Board for adoption of the change in 2014/15 standards rather than adopting the change in the 2015/16 season.

In relation to this decision:

- The category of Total Admixture is generally not assessed.
- Individual quality parameters included in Total Admixture (Foreign Material, Screenings, Trash) are assessed separately and the levels detected are compared to those outlined in the standards.
- A review of all other quality parameters in sorghum standards is underway and any changes will be considered for the 2015/16 standards (see Section 6).

4. Issues raised by industry for change in 2014/15 but not accepted by the Committee;

4.1 Rejected Change: Revised Tolerance & Definition for Heat Damaged, Bin Burnt and Storage Mould –Prime & Milling No.1 Oats

See also Section 3.

The Committee rejected the proposed change to the current nil tolerance for Prime and Milling No.1 Oats given the large domestic market for human consumption oats and the need to ensure strict standards for various food safety aspects such as mould.

Therefore the existing tolerances and definitions will remain in the 2014/15 standards for these two grades.

4.2 Rejected Change: Revised Tolerance & Definition for Animal Excreta –Prime & Milling No.1 Oats

See also Section 3.

The Committee rejected the proposed change to the current nil tolerance for Prime and Milling No.1 Oats given the large domestic market for human consumption oats and the need to ensure strict standards for animal excreta.

Therefore the existing tolerances and definitions will remain in the 2014/15 standards for these two grades.

4.3 Rejected Change: Shot Grain –Prime & Milling No.1 Oats

It was noted the visual detection of Shot oats is problematic due to the difficulty of visually seeing Shot on individual grains as depicted in the VRSG.

However as this quality parameter is an important component when assessing the quality of oats destined for the human consumption market, it was agreed that the prior proposal of removing Shot from the Oats standard for 2014/15 was no longer supported.

4.4 Rejected Change: Snail Tolerances - All Cereals

The Committee confirmed its previous view that given there were no significant issues with snail contamination of loads and no major marketing issues with snail contamination of grain supplied on the domestic or export market during 2013, no changes are warranted in the 2014/15 standards.

5. Agreed changes for adoption in the 2015/16 season

5.1 Agreed Change: Weed Seed Tolerances – All Cereals

The Committee has considered industry feedback and all previous years' trial data. The previously advised weed seed categories and tolerances ([No. 4 of 14 1st Industry Call for Submissions on 1415 GTA Standards.pdf](#)) have been approved for adoption in the 2015/16 season except for those outlined below.

Prime and Milling No.1 Oats

Adopt all weed seed categories and tolerances as outlined in the abovementioned paper except category C and category D. For these two categories, the following definitions and tolerances will apply:

| Category | Revised Definition | Grade | | |
|---|---|-------|--------------|-----------|
| | | Prime | Milling No.1 | Feed No.1 |
| Count of individual seeds per half litre: | | | | |
| C | Black/Wild Oats, Jute, Knapweed (Creeping/Russian), Mexican Poppy, Saffron Thistle | 10 | 10 | 30 |
| D | Bindweed (Field), Darnel (Drake Seed), Hexham Scent/Meliot, Mintweed, Nightshades, Paddy Melon, Patterson’s Curse/ Salvation Jane | 10 | 10 | 30 |

Given the changes to weed seeds for all cereals will involve significant staff training, revision to existing documentation such as Standards charts and procedures, IT systems etc, the changes will not occur for 2014/15.

5.2 Agreed Change: *Frost and Take-all – Wheat*

Given the practical difficulty of differentiating these two parameters in a sample of grain, it was agreed that the categories should be combined. For each grade, the applicable frost tolerance would apply, given that it is not expected that a sample of grain would contain significant levels of both frost and take-all affected grains.

6. Issues for Future Consideration beyond 2014/15

6.1 All Grades – Sorghum

In addition to the deletion of “Total Admixture” as outlined in Section 3, the Committee is currently undertaking a review of three aspects related to sorghum:

- Development of a new grade for use as a human consumption grade. It is expected the grade will include a significant reduction from the existing No.1 grade in the tolerances for parameters such as Total Admixture and Defective grains.
- A review of all quality parameters in all sorghum grades to determine their applicability, definition and tolerance. For example:
 - Whether Stained grain is required to be assessed & its relationship with Field Fungi
 - The definition of Sprouted
 - The tolerance for Ergot
- A review of the existing sorghum grades to determine if all grades are required or one or more can be combined.

The Committee will consider all of the above issues concurrently and provide the outcome of its deliberations to industry for consideration during 2014.

6.2 Falling Number/Germination – Malt Barley

The Committee continues to review data generated on Malt barley at receipt and during storage to determine the relationship between visual sprouting, Falling Number, Rapid Visco Analyser and germination. Further research is required to support any potential change to existing standards.

Industry will be advised in due course of the findings of the Committee.

6.3 Review of Foreign Material Category – All Commodities

As advised in the first call for industry submissions, a trial will be conducted during 2014 to consider if a harmonised definition and inclusion of a Foreign Material category in all standards can be achieved.

The outcome of that trial and any potential changes to standards will be advised to industry during consultation on developing the 2015/16 standards.

6.4 Reference Screen Specifications

The committee is currently compiling information gathered from industry on screens used for the assessment of various commodities where reference specifications do not currently exist in standards. Once all relevant information has been received and reviewed, the Committee intends to develop reference screen specifications. Industry will then be invited to provide comment on the appropriateness of those proposals before introduction into the standards.