

# MemberUpdate

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**TOPIC:** 1st Industry Call for Submissions on 2025/26 GTA Trading Standards

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

## 1. Issue

During deliberations on the development of Grain Trading Standards (Standards) for the 2024/25 season, industry feedback was received by GTA on the proposed changes for 2024/25, and **potential changes for the following 2025/26 season.**

The GTA Trading Standards Committee (Committee) has recently met to discuss industry feedback received and the potential Standards for 2025/26.

This document is provided for industry consideration and feedback.

## 2. Process for Industry Feedback

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

Submissions should be received by **COB Friday, 14 March 2025.**

Please lodge your submissions by sending to [submissions@graintrade.org.au](mailto:submissions@graintrade.org.au) and title your email – Standards Review 2025/26.

Industry is encouraged to provide supporting evidence for any change proposed in Standards. Preference is for industry to use the proforma for lodging [submissions](#) located on the GTA website.

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 2025/26

### 3.1 Agreed Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guide – All Commodities

A revised version of the VRSG was published for the 2024/25 season. At present, the Committee has decided that whilst further major changes are not required, there are several minor amendments that may add value. As such, the Committee will re-publish a revised version for 2025/26 with the following changes proposed.

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
All	Pickling	Add photos for all commodities if samples can be obtained
Barley	Pg. 5 Varieties	Zena and Minotaur need to be added to the barley ID list.
Barley	Pg. 6 Sprouted	Replace photo to better depict this defect
Barley	Pg. 7 Skinnings	Replace Germ Exposed photo to better depict this defect Include a photo of side Skinnings
Barley	Pg. 8 Distorted	Determine if the orange grain photo adds value, if not remove
Barley	Pg. 8 Distorted	Add photo of a sound grain, depicting a long thin seed
Barley	Pg. 9 Field Fungi	Replace photo of Discolouration on Kernel to show a level of Field Fungi

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
Barley	Pg. 9 Pink Fungal Staining	Alter reference to “Pink Fungal”. Replace photos to better reflect pink grains seen in samples.
Barley	Pg. 10 Severely Damaged	Replace 3 <sup>rd</sup> image of a Sound Awn as the current one is depicting Skinnings and is open to misinterpretation
Barley	Smut	Include image if able to be sourced
Canola	Pg. 14 Discoloured seed coat	Alter reference in the Mould section to new terminology. Consider replacement of photo or a better description of the level of Mould on grain
Canola	Pg. 14 Frost Damaged	Remove as not needed
Faba Beans	Pg. 27 Severely Damaged	Remove 2 <sup>nd</sup> Heat Damaged grain as not needed
Faba Beans	Pg. 28 Shrivelled and Wrinkled	Replace Sound grain with one with less wrinkling. Replace 3 <sup>rd</sup> photo with one showing a higher level of wrinkling
Lentils, Red	Sappy Lentils	Include a photo of sappy lentils
Lentils, Red	Pg. 39 Contrasting Colour	Re-format to highlight “acceptable grains”
Oats	Pg. 50 Severely Damaged	Include photo of Mouldy
Peas, Field	Pg. 54 Severely Damaged	Replace Mould photo to better depict this defect
Peas, Field	Pg. 56 Shrivelled and wrinkled	Replace Sound photo to better depict a grain that is slightly wrinkled but not defective
Sorghum	Pg. 60 Field Fungi / Mould	Replace photos to aid interpretation
Wheat	Pg. 65 Distorted	Replace second and third photos to aid interpretation
Wheat	Pg. 65 Dry Green	Replace photo with one that is brightened

### 3.2 Agreed Change: Minor Wording Changes & Other Issues – Cereal & Pulse Commodities

Minor changes to wording in all relevant Standards charts and Standards booklets will occur. These changes will refer to the latest versions of reference material available to assist industry implementation of Standards, including:

- Visual Recognition Standards Guide for 2025/26 – all cereal and pulse commodities (except mung beans).
- The current links in the Standards to various Australian Government and industry websites and documents for use by industry on a range of issues such as maximum residue limits for chemicals and market quarantine requirements will be updated.
- The document entitled “Australian Grains Industry Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances 2025/26” for all cereal commodities.

### 3.3 Agreed Change: Varietal Master List – Wheat, Barley, Oats

As in previous seasons, the Varietal Master List for the above commodities will be reviewed following receipt of the changes from the industry sector responsible for maintenance of those lists. All Standards will be revised based on those changes and advised to industry when the 2025/26 season Standards are released. In the interim, refer to the Trading Standards Booklets for each commodity to view the existing varietal classifications.

Note that GTA will place the list of varieties for all commodities (except mung beans) on the GTA website for industry reference.

### 3.4 Agreed Change: Procedures – All pulse commodities except Mung Beans

Industry was advised during 2024 that as GTA now develops the Pulse Trading Standards (except mung beans) on behalf of industry, the Committee had commenced revising the Pulse Standards Booklet with the intention of making the Booklet appear as per cereals. While some procedures were revised for the 2024/25 Standards Booklet, several remain to be done, and the Committee intends to develop the remaining procedures during 2025 where technically feasible and timeframes allow.

### **3.5 Agreed Change: Screen Size – Fenugreek**

The Fenugreek Standards reference a screen and include “all Fenugreek seed material falling through the screen” in the Total Defective category. However, despite previous attempts for information, an appropriate screen size could not be obtained for reference in the Standard to assist industry interpretation.

The Committee has received advice that a 1.4mm slotted screen is appropriate, hence it is proposed to reference this screen in the 2025/26 Fenugreek Standards in the following areas:

- Total Defective – no current reference to screen size.
- Small Foreign Seeds – current reference is “below the 5.00mm screen”.

## **4. Issues for Further Ongoing Consideration**

### **4.1 Further Research: Vacuum Sampling of Road Trucks – All Commodities**

The project to review the appropriateness of sampling systems on receipt from road trucks has completed its initial phase. Based on initial findings, further research was highlighted as needed and is now being undertaken by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).

Industry will be advised of findings in due course.

### **4.2 Further Review: SFW1 – Wheat**

Industry was advised in 2020 of a submission requesting a change in the tolerances for a range of defective grain types in the SFW1 grade. That submission in total was not supported and no changes to the tolerances occurred. Since that time, a further submission requesting changes to Field Fungi and Severely Damaged grains only was received. The submission requested changes as follows:

- Field Fungi increase from 10/half litre to 20/half litre.
- Severely Damaged increase from 1 grain/half litre retained above the 2mm screen to 5 grains/half litre retained above the 2mm screen.

Discussion by the Committee on this topic included:

- The proposed change would be more reflective of tolerances for a stockfeed grade, rather than the current tolerances that reflect a milling wheat grade.
- While some feedback from the stockfeed sector has been received, both supportive and non-supportive, further consideration of impacts is required.
- Responses received have not supported a change to the Field Fungi tolerance. However, there may be some potential for further discussion on the Severely Damaged proposed change.
- Higher levels of Field Fungi and/or Severely Damaged may require mitigation of potential toxins present, using enzymes, mycotoxin binders etc.
- Animal performance may also be impacted.

The Committee continues consultation on the proposed changes with the stockfeed sector. Industry will be advised of the findings during 2025.

### **4.3 Further Review: Sorghum – Johnson Grass / Columbus Grass Tolerance**

A submission was received from industry seeking a change in the current tolerance in the No.1 grade sorghum Trading Standard for Johnson Grass / Columbus Grass. The submission highlighted that the current tolerance of 50 seeds / 0.5L significantly exceeds the tolerance required by a major market for Australian sorghum and advised that this difference makes sourcing grain and supplying the market difficult.

To assist compliance with the importing country requirement for Johnson Grass / Columbus Grass, the submission sought the reduction in tolerance of 50 seeds / 0.5L to 10 seeds / 0.5L for the No.1 grade for these two seeds only. The tolerance and weed seed inclusions in the existing Type 7(a) category in the current No.1 grade would remain.

The Committee discussed the submission and a number of other options to meet market requirements:

- Industry will recall that the reference includes both weed seeds, as they are often difficult to distinguish.
- There have been some non-compliances in consignments that have not met market requirements due to the presence of these two weed seeds.
- The Committee policy states that “any significant change in Standards requires a sufficient lead-time for industry to implement that change”. Hence if a change in tolerance was made, or a new grade developed, this would be considered a significant change and would only implement the change for the 2026/27 season.
- The Committee discussed the implications of the potential change on the production sector, the storage sector and the trade. The obligation of exporters to manage individual market requirements was also highlighted as mandatory.
- Three options were considered by the Committee to address this issue and are outlined below in order of Committee preference.
- The Committee is **seeking industry feedback** on these options as below, including:
  - **The preferred option.**
  - The impact on the production of sorghum and ability to meet the new specifications.
  - The impact on the marketing of Australian sorghum of the proposed weed seed changes.
  - Any supply chain issues with the proposed changes.
  - **Any other issues of relevance for Committee consideration.**

#### Option 1:

- Support the submission received and reduce the tolerance in the No.1 grade only for Johnson Grass / Columbus Grass.
- The reduction in tolerance of 50 seeds / 0.5L would be to 10 seeds / 0.5L for the No.1 grade for these two seeds only. The new Type 6(b) category would be created.
- The existing tolerance of 10 seeds / 0.5L for the other seeds listed in the Type 7(a) category would remain. In effect, this may result in a minor increase in tolerance for those weed seeds if no Johnson Grass / Columbus Grass is present.
- For clarity, the following table relating to the change would therefore apply.

Season	Current Standard	Tolerance	Weed Seed Category / Inclusion
2024/25	CSG 1 – Sorghum No.1	10 / 0.5L	Type 6 Saffron Thistle
2024/25	CSG 1 – Sorghum No.1	50 / 0.5L	Type 7(a) Adzuki Beans, Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, <b>Johnson Grass or Columbus Grass</b> , Lentils, Lupin, Onion Weed Pods regardless of size, Peas (Field), Medic Pods, Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower and any other seeds or pods greater than 5mm in diameter
2024/25	CSG 2 – Sorghum No.2	50 / 0.5L	Type 7(a) Adzuki Beans, Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, <b>Johnson Grass or Columbus Grass</b> , Lentils, Lupin, Onion Weed Pods regardless of size, Peas (Field), Medic Pods, Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower and any other seeds or pods greater than 5mm in diameter
Season	Proposed Standard	Tolerance	Weed Seed Category / Inclusion
2026/27	CSG 1 – Sorghum No.1	10 / 0.5L	Type 6(a) Saffron Thistle
2026/27	CSG 1 – Sorghum No.1	10 / 0.5L	<b>Type 6(b) Johnson Grass or Columbus Grass</b>
2026/27	CSG 1 – Sorghum No.1	50 / 0.5L	Type 7(a) Adzuki Beans, Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, Lentils, Lupin, Onion Weed Pods regardless of size, Peas (Field), Medic Pods, Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower and any other seeds or pods greater than 5mm in diameter
2026/27	CSG 2 – Sorghum No.2	No change	No change

### Option 2:

- Create two new grades with a lower tolerance for these two seed seeds only.
- The grade codes CSG 4 and CSG 5 would apply. Note that CSG 3 could not be used as this has previously been used for sorghum but no longer is in operation.
- CSG 4 – all other quality parameters remain the same as per CSG 1.
- CSG 5 – all other quality parameters remain the same as per CSG 2.
- For clarity, references to the new Type 6(b) and definitions in the relevant weed seed categories would be altered as required in CSG 4 and CSG 5 as follows.

Season	Current Standard	Tolerance	Weed Seed Category / Inclusion
2024/25	CSG 1 – Sorghum No.1	50 / 0.5L	Type 7(a) Adzuki Beans, Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, <b>Johnson Grass or Colombus Grass</b> , Lentils, Lupin, Onion Weed Pods regardless of size, Peas (Field), Medic Pods, Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower and any other seeds or pods greater than 5mm in diameter
2024/25	CSG 2 – Sorghum No.2	50 / 0.5L	Type 7(a) Adzuki Beans, Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, <b>Johnson Grass or Colombus Grass</b> , Lentils, Lupin, Onion Weed Pods regardless of size, Peas (Field), Medic Pods, Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower and any other seeds or pods greater than 5mm in diameter
Season	Proposed New Standards	Tolerance	Weed Seed Category / Inclusion
2026/27	CSG 4 – Sorghum No.1C	10 / 0.5L (NO CHANGE)	Type 6(a) Saffron Thistle
2026/27	CSG 4 – Sorghum No.1C	10 / 0.5L	Type 6(b) Johnson Grass or Colombus Grass
2026/27	CSG 4 – Sorghum No.1C	50 / 0.5L	Type 7(a) Adzuki Beans, Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, Lentils, Lupin, Onion Weed Pods regardless of size, Peas (Field), Medic Pods, Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower and any other seeds or pods greater than 5mm in diameter
2026/27	CSG 5 – Sorghum No.2C	10 / 0.5L (NO CHANGE)	Type 6(a) Saffron Thistle
2026/27	CSG 5 – Sorghum No.2C	10 / 0.5L	Type 6(b) Johnson Grass or Colombus Grass
2026/27	CSG 5 – Sorghum No.2C	50 / 0.5L	Type 7(a) Adzuki Beans, Broad Beans, Chickpeas, Corn (Maize), Cowpea, Faba Beans, Lentils, Lupin, Onion Weed Pods regardless of size, Peas (Field), Medic Pods, Safflower, Soybean, Sunflower and any other seeds or pods greater than 5mm in diameter

### Option 3:

- No change to current Standards.

#### **4.4 Further Review: Broad Beans – Colour References**

The current Broad Bean Standards have various references to colour, including evergreens, old seasons, dark beans, black beans and beans that are “distinctly off colour from the characteristic colour of the predominating class”.

While the Pulse Sub-Committee has considered this issue previously with a view to provide guidance on interpretation by industry, no changes were made to the Standards. Industry will also note that no photos exist in the VRSG for Broad Beans, as the current Faba Bean photos are to be used.

The Committee intends to review all colour related issues in the Broad Bean Standards and the need for further guidance to industry, which may include provision of photos for all colour parameters for Broad Beans in the VRSG. The Committee intends to contact the industry stakeholders directly involved in the Broad Bean supply chain however the Committee welcomes comments from any industry stakeholder on this matter.

The findings of the Committee will be provided to industry during the second round of industry consultations proposed for May 2025.

#### **4.5 Further Review: Kabuli Chickpeas – Sizing**

The current Kabuli Chickpea Standards refers to small as 5-6mm in diameter and large as greater than 6mm in diameter. The Committee has been advised that there may be a difference in the view of breeders/classification of Kabuli Chickpeas, with any Kabuli less than 8mm considered small.

The Committee will discuss this issue with the relevant industry stakeholders and advise findings to industry, including any potential change to Standards, during the second round of industry consultations proposed for May 2025.