GRAIN TRADE AUSTRALIA
Facilitating Trade

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GTA Grain Assessment Technology Industry Gateway Protocol (Revised Oct 2026)

1. Preamble

The Australian grain industry continues to adopt digital imaging, artificial intelligence, machine learning and other technologies to improve the speed, consistency and efficiency of grain assessment.

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) supports innovation that facilitates trade and assists industry to interpret and apply GTA Trading Standards. GTA also recognises that grain assessment technology is developing rapidly and that responsibility for selecting, implementing and monitoring commercial technology rests primarily with technology providers and users.

This Protocol establishes a voluntary industry gateway through which GTA may review emerging grain assessment technology and provide industry with acceptance that the technology has undergone a reasonable proof-of-concept assessment.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this voluntary Protocol is to:

1. provide technology providers with a clear pathway for engaging with GTA;
2. establish consistent minimum information and evidence requirements;
3. determine whether a technology broadly aligns with relevant GTA Trading Standards and appears capable of outcomes broadly equivalent to competent human assessment or another appropriate benchmark;
4. provide industry participants with information to support their own commercial evaluation; and
5. support practical industry self-regulation without GTA becoming a technology certification or regulatory approval body.

3. Scope

3.1 Included technology

The Protocol may apply to technology used to assess grain parameters addressed in GTA Trading Standards, including:

- grain variety or varietal purity;
- grain defects;
- contaminants and foreign material;
- physical quality attributes; and
- other subjective or machine-assisted grain assessment functions accepted by GTA for consideration.

It may apply to cereals, pulses, oilseeds and processed grain products.

3.2 Exclusions

Unless expressly stated otherwise, acceptance under this Protocol does not:

- constitute NMI pattern approval or verification;
- replace any obligation under the *National Measurement Act 1960* or associated regulations;
- establish approval for export certification or phytosanitary inspection;
- constitute certification under any food safety, biosecurity or quality assurance system;
- certify every individual instrument, installation, calibration, algorithm or software release;
- warrant fitness for a particular commercial purpose; or
- replace confirmatory laboratory, DNA, visual or other testing required by a contract, regulator or GTA Trading Standard.

4. Principles

The following principles apply:

- **Voluntary participation:** A technology provider may voluntarily seek GTA Industry Gateway acceptance.
- **Technology neutrality:** GTA will consider relevant evidence and functionality rather than prescribe a particular engineering or software solution.
- **Defined scope:** Acceptance will apply only to the stated technology, commodity, parameter and purpose.
- **Provider responsibility:** The technology provider is responsible for the accuracy, completeness and currency of information supplied.
- **User responsibility:** Each user remains responsible for evaluating operational suitability, legal compliance, performance and commercial risk.
- **Proportionate evidence:** Evidence requirements will reflect the technology, parameter, intended use, risks and availability of an appropriate benchmark.
- **Transparency:** GTA will publish the scope and limitations of technology receiving acceptance.
- **No warranty:** GTA acceptance is not certification, an assurance engagement or a warranty concerning performance.

5. GTA Industry Gateway acceptance

Acceptance means that, based on information available at the time, GTA considers that:

1. the provider has demonstrated an understanding of relevant industry requirements;
2. the technology has undergone a reasonable proof-of-concept assessment;
3. the technology appears broadly aligned with relevant GTA Trading Standards;
4. there is evidence of comparison with competent assessors or another appropriate benchmark;
5. there is evidence of a calibration system or process; and
6. the technology is sufficiently developed for commercial users to consider undertaking their own evaluation.

Acceptance must be described as:

GTA Industry Gateway acceptance for commercial consideration within the stated scope.

The terms “GTA certified”, “GTA guaranteed”, “GTA Endorsed” or similar wording must not be used by the provider.

6. Application

A provider seeking acceptance must submit an application that includes:

1. provider identity, ownership and contact information;
2. technology and product name;
3. hardware, software or technology family covered;
4. proposed commodity, variety, defect, contaminant or parameter scope;
5. intended commercial use and operating environment;
6. explanation of how the technology relates to relevant GTA Trading Standards and assessment methods;
7. description of sample presentation, sample size and the representative nature of samples assessed;
8. results from comparative assessment against:
    a. competent, trained assessors;

b. an accepted reference method; or
c. another benchmark accepted by GTA;

9. information about the qualifications and independence of assessors, laboratories or reviewers;
10. evidence of commercial trials, industry experience or independent review;
11. performance information, including known limitations, exclusions, error rates or circumstances requiring human intervention;
12. approach to calibration, quality control, maintenance and performance monitoring;
13. management of material hardware, software, model or calibration changes;
14. relevant NMI, regulatory or certification status;
15. proposed customer guidance, training and dispute procedures; and
16. a declaration that the information supplied is accurate and not misleading.

GTA may request additional information where necessary.

7. Minimum assessment criteria

GTA will assess the application against the following criteria.

7.1 Industry and Standards knowledge

The provider demonstrates an understanding of:

- relevant GTA Trading Standards;
- applicable tolerances and terminology;
- industry sampling and assessment practices;
- the GTA Code of Practice; and
- relevant regulatory obligations.

7.2 Defined functionality

The provider clearly defines:

- the commodity or commodities;
- varieties or grain types;
- parameters assessed;
- intended operating environment;
- outputs provided; and
- limitations and exclusions.

7.3 Proof of concept

The provider supplies reasonable evidence that the technology can perform its stated function.

Evidence should normally include comparative assessment against competent, trained assessors or another benchmark accepted by GTA.

GTA does not prescribe a single statistical method for every application. The method must be reasonable for the parameter, evidence and subjective or objective nature of the assessment.

7.4 Independent or industry evidence

The application includes at least one of the following:

- independent review;
- assessment by an appropriately qualified laboratory or expert;
- documented commercial trialling by an industry participant; or
- evidence from experienced GTA members or users.

7.5 Appropriate sampling

The provider explains how:

- samples are obtained and prepared;

- sample size compares with industry practice;
- representative sampling is managed;
- a reasonable range of quality is included; and
- seasonal, regional or commodity limitations are addressed.

7.6 Quality and change management

The provider has processes for:

- checking performance;
- calibration or verification where relevant;
- equipment maintenance;
- software and model updates;
- customer notification;
- record keeping;
- investigation of performance issues; and
- managing material changes.

7.7 Regulatory considerations

The provider identifies relevant NMI and other regulatory requirements and explains how those requirements have been or will be addressed.

8. Assessment process

The provider submits an application to GTA.

GTA conducts an initial completeness and scope review.

GTA may:

- request further information;
- seek advice from technical experts, regulators or industry participants;
- agree confidentiality arrangements;
- advise that the application is not suitable for consideration; or
- refer the application to the Technology Sub-Committee.

The Technology Sub-Committee reviews the application against the Gateway Assessment Checklist.

The Sub-Committee may recommend:

- acceptance;
- acceptance subject to conditions;
- deferral pending further evidence; or
- no acceptance.

The Trading Standards Committee reviews the recommendation.

A recommendation for acceptance is submitted to the GTA Board for approval, unless the Board has delegated this function.

GTA advises the provider of the decision and publishes recognised technology on the GTA register.

9. Conditions and limitations

GTA may impose conditions including:

- restriction to named commodities or parameters;
- restriction to stated models or technology families;
- use of specified operating or quality-control procedures;
- availability of trained human review;
- confirmatory testing in specified circumstances;
- provision of additional post-commercialisation information;
- notification of performance concerns; or
- review by a specified date.

10. Technology changes

The provider must notify GTA of a change that could materially affect performance or the basis of acceptance.

Material changes may include:

- new or materially changed hardware;
- substantial calibration changes;
- addition of a commodity, variety, defect or contaminant;
- a material change in the intended use; or
- a change affecting regulatory status.

Following notification, GTA may determine that:

- the change is covered by the existing acceptance;
- the public register should be amended;
- limited additional evidence is required; or
- a new Gateway assessment is required.

GTA will not routinely approve every software update or minor product modification.

11. Provider obligations following acceptance

A recognised provider must:

- only describe acceptance within its approved scope;
- not represent acceptance as certification or a GTA warranty;
- keep GTA informed of material changes;
- maintain records supporting ongoing performance;
- advise GTA of significant performance, compliance or safety concerns;
- cooperate with any GTA review; and
- ensure promotional material accurately describes GTA's decision.

12. User responsibilities

Acceptance does not remove the obligation of a commercial user to:

- undertake its own technical and commercial due diligence;
- verify suitability for its commodities, sites and operating conditions;
- comply with NMI, contractual and regulatory requirements;
- train relevant personnel;
- maintain and monitor equipment;
- establish procedures for disputed or uncertain results;
- undertake confirmatory testing where necessary; and
- manage operational and commercial risk.

13. Public register

GTA will maintain a public register containing, where relevant:

- provider;
- technology or product name;
- technology family or model;
- commodity;
- parameter or function;
- date of acceptance;
- acceptance status;
- NMI status;
- conditions and limitations;
- date of last review; and
- a link to relevant user guidance.

GTA may also maintain a confidential internal register of applications and assessments.

14. Review, suspension and withdrawal

GTA may review, condition, suspend or withdraw acceptance where:

- information supplied was inaccurate or incomplete;
- there has been a material unnotified change;
- evidence indicates the technology no longer performs within its recognised scope;
- a regulator raises a relevant concern;
- the provider misrepresents GTA's acceptance;
- the technology is no longer commercially supported; or
- continued acceptance could adversely affect GTA Trading Standards or industry confidence.

Before taking final action, GTA will normally provide the provider with a reasonable opportunity to respond.

15. Confidentiality and conflicts

GTA will manage confidential information in accordance with any agreed arrangements and its applicable governance policies.

Committee members and advisers must declare actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest and manage those conflicts in accordance with GTA requirements.

GTA must publish sufficient information to ensure that the scope and limitations of acceptance are transparent, notwithstanding that detailed commercial information may remain confidential.

16. Fees and external advice

GTA may charge an application or assessment fee.

Where specialist technical, legal or statistical advice is required, GTA may require the provider to meet agreed external costs before work proceeds.

GTA may decline or defer an application where the necessary expertise or resources are not reasonably available.

17. Complaints and reconsideration

A provider may request reconsideration where it considers that:

- relevant evidence was overlooked;
- the Protocol was not correctly applied; or
- material new information is available.

A request must be made in writing and must identify the basis for reconsideration. GTA may refer the matter to persons who were not principally involved in the initial assessment.

18. Transitional arrangements

New technology previously considered or endorsed by GTA under GATS may be entered on the Industry Gateway register where GTA is satisfied that the evidence previously reviewed substantially meets the intent of this Protocol.

Before entry, GTA will confirm the precise technology, commodity, parameters, limitations and acceptance terminology.

19. Protocol review

This Protocol will be reviewed after its first 12 months of operation and thereafter at intervals determined by the GTA Board.

A future requirement for detailed technical certification, export assurance or phytosanitary acceptance must be considered separately with the relevant government and regulatory authorities.

Version Control

Owner: GTA CEO
Approval: GTA Board
Effective date: 27/10/26
Review date: 12 months after commencement

Date	Version	Amendments
27 October 2026	1.0	Original document developed and released

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Ends: