



Explanation of Pulse Standards 2011/12 Season

1. Background

The Pulse Standards Committee (Committee) met on several occasions during 2011 to consider submissions from industry in relation to pulse Standards for 2011/12.

This document lists:

- Agreed changes for adoption in 2011/12
- Proposed changes for adoption in 2012/13 & beyond
- Changes proposed by industry that were not accepted by the Committee

2. Adoption Timeline

The pulse Standards with changes as listed below are for implementation for the 2011/12 season by industry as at 1 August 2011.

3. Agreed Changes for Adoption in the 2011/12 Season

3.1 *Agreed Change:* For all Standards, further revise wording for ease of interpretation

Further refinement has occurred to the 2011/12 Standards to assist correct interpretation by industry. Industry should note these format changes do not impact on the quality parameters and the respective tolerances stated in the Standards.

Several clarifications have occurred, including:

- Clarifying the interpretation of Defective grain relating to a reference to the presence at a minimum percentage on one/both sides
- Remove the reference to “screenings” for most Standards and refer to “pulse material below the screen following the sieving process” in the Defective grain category
- A thin, transparent seed coat is allowing the orange kernel to show through in red lentil varieties such as Aldinga and Nugget, hence the seed appears ‘orange’. Clarified this is deemed acceptable and not a defect
- Seeds that have partial transparency but an acceptable kernel colour are deemed acceptable
- Smashed snail shells that remain in the sample after cleaning are to be assessed as Foreign Material in the Unmillable Material category
- The definition for Mould, Ascochyta, Stained & Weather Damaged and Field Fungi clarified to distinguish these parameters
- The “whole skinless” tolerance of 2% by weight for CSP - 4.2 CHICKPEAS - SPLIT CHANA DHAL MINIMUM EXPORT STANDARD was clarified to ensure industry is aware of the intent of the Standards. Wording was revised to “Whole chickpeas with a missing seed coat”

- The “De-hulled whole Lentils” tolerance of 5% by weight in CSP - 7.4.1 LENTILS - SPLIT RED NO.1 GRADE MINIMUM EXPORT STANDARD was clarified to ensure industry is aware of the intent of the Standards. Wording was revised to “Whole lentils with a missing seed coat”
- Similarly, the wording for 7.4.2 and 7.4.3 Split Red Lentils was also changed
- The “Seed-coatless whole peas” tolerance of 2% Max by weight in CSP - 10.3 PEAS - YELLOW SPLIT MINIMUM EXPORT STANDARD MACHINE DRESSED was clarified to ensure industry is aware of the intent of the Standards. Wording was revised to “Whole Field peas with a missing seed coat”
- In addition, in 10.3, the “Caps, whole unshelled and discoloured yellow split peas” was altered to “Caps, Whole Field Peas with seed coat intact and discoloured yellow split peas”
- The wording for “whole unshelled Broad Beans” in CSP - 2.2 BROAD BEANS - NO: 1 SPLIT MINIMUM EXPORT STANDARD was clarified to read “Broad Beans with seed coat intact”
- The wording for “whole unshelled Faba Beans” in CSP - 5.5 FABA BEANS - NO.1 SPLIT GRADE MINIMUM EXPORT STANDARD MACHINE DRESSED was clarified to read “Faba Beans with seed coat intact”
- Removed the reference in many Standards to variations in Western Australia due to Foreign Seeds. There are many variations to Foreign Seeds and other quality parameters and the industry in Western Australia is informed of those variations via the Grain Industry Association of Western Australia. Hence there is no need for these to be included on the national standards

3.2 *Agreed Change: Assessment Procedures*

Two new procedures were documented for suggested use by industry:

- A procedure that may be used to de-hull grains, enabling assessment of kernel defects
- A sizing procedure, often required when exporting Machine Dressed product

3.3 *Agreed Change: “Blondes” in Aldinga Lentils*

3% ‘blondes’ is permitted in all Aldinga red lentil standards. This is in addition to the 1% poor colour kernel tolerance. ‘Blondes’ is a varietal trait that has arisen over time. It is not expected to have any significant impacts on the end-use of the product. This decision was adopted by the pulse industry in South Australia during 2010/11.

3.4 *Agreed Change: Locusts*

The previous tolerance for locusts under the Field Insects category of 15 per 200 gram sample or 30 per 400 gram sample was not suitable. Those high levels are not acceptable to the market. The committee agreed to alter the tolerance for locusts/grasshoppers to the equivalent level for cereals, being 2 per 200 gram sample. This decision was adopted by the pulse industry in South Australia during 2010/11.

The tolerance and definition for all other Field Insects has remained the same, being 15 per 200 gram sample or 30 per 400 gram sample.

3.5 *Agreed Change: Green Lentil Standard Numbering*

A new Farmer Dressed Export standard for green lentils was developed late in 2010 as a result of marketing opportunities and was listed as 7.1.3 for the 2010/11 season. Given the potential for existing written contracts, there may have been issues with changing the numbering for consistency with all other pulse standards at the time of its development.

The numbering of these Standards has now been altered. Thus in summary the following changes have occurred:

Standard	Standard Number	
	2010/11	2011/12
No.1 FD Receival	CSP 7.1.1	CSP 7.1.1
No.1 FD Export	CSP 7.1.3	CSP 7.1.2
No.1 MD Export	CSP 7.1.2	CSP 7.1.3

3.6 *Agreed Change: Screen Specifications for Boomer Green Lentils*

Following a request from Pulse South Australia, clarified the screen size for the larger green lentil variety "Boomer" at 2.2mm.

4. Proposed changes for adoption in 2012/13 & Beyond

4.1 *Proposed change for all pulses: Field Insects*

For consistency with cereals, it is proposed that further review occur for the current definitions and tolerances of Field Insects, Grasshoppers and/or Locusts and Stored Grain Insects. Categories will be combined where possible and tolerances and definitions reflect those adopted by the cereal industry in 2010/11.

4.2 *Proposed change for all pulses: Reference Screens*

Seek GTA assistance to develop reference screen specifications for a number of commodities:

- Desi chickpeas
- Faba beans
- Kabuli Chickpeas

5. Rejected Changes

5.1 *Rejected Change: Mould*

The Committee agreed no change to the nil tolerance at Receival in the No.1 grade or 1% on outturn for mould would occur. In addition, there would continue to be no distinction between field or storage mould.

Reasons for this decision include but are not limited to:

- a) At the receival stand, and frequently in the laboratory, it is difficult if not impossible to differentiate between field and storage mould
- b) While storage mould could reasonably only be expected to be present at some point following harvest (after storage of the grain), admixture with prior season's grain containing storage mould is possible
- c) The majority of markets do not differentiate between field or storage mould
- d) A nil tolerance is preferred by the marketplace due to concerns visually and the potential for food safety issues arising from the presence of mould
- e) It is difficult to have a nil tolerance for mould on outturn due to potential moisture issues and mould development in storage
- f) Many markets set a nil tolerance of mould on outturn despite the allowance in the Standards for 1% on outturn
- g) Industry is free to set their own individual grades as required based on harvest conditions, grain quality, market requirements and other commercial implications

5.2 *Rejected Change: Sampling Equipment*

The committee rejected a proposal to remove both manual and vacuum probes for obtaining a representative sample from a load of pulses tendered for delivery. Removing these two pieces of equipment would have had the effect of industry needing to purchase a pneumatic probe system.

While it is recognised pneumatic probes may assist in obtaining a more representative sample and are also relatively easy to operate in all situations, they are extremely expensive.

The Standards outline guidelines for using all probe types and industry is encouraged to use the approved probe types in the correct manner in order to obtain a representative sample.

Similarly, while sample dividers are recommended their use should not be made mandatory as industry has developed various methods to mix and sub-divide a sample prior to assessment. As there are several sample dividers available commercially, procedures for their use will not be included in the Standards but should be developed by industry through reference to the equipment supplier manual.

5.3 *Rejected Change: No.2 Grade for Desi and Kabuli Chickpeas*

The committee rejected a proposal to create additional No.2 grades for desi and kabuli chickpeas. At present there is no recognised industry wide need for a No.2 grade. As occurred during the 2010/11 harvest, localised quality issues lead to the development of various off-grade standards by selected industry participants in regional areas. These standards had variable quality parameters as required by the marketplace. A national No.2 grade may not be suitable for particular markets in some instances and the committee agreed to refer the development of off-grades to industry on a case by case basis in each regional area.

6. Other Considerations

6.1 Red Lentil Sizing & Segregation

Admixture of varieties has been detected in red lentils on outturn. Admixture is often difficult to detect at harvest. In future, all red lentils may have grey seed coats, but different sizes, making assessment complex and difficult. This will also significantly increase the required number of segregations to meet market requirements.

Industry comment was sought on the potential for changing the classification and segregation process from “varietal” based to “seed size” based.

In general there were concerns with the impact this may have on industry in a number of ways including:

- The potential increase in the number of segregations based on varying sizes that exist now and those under development
- Industry may still require varietal based segregations to meet some market requirements
- This decision would also place greater scrutiny on the procedure for the use of the screens and the need for consistency and accuracy of screen sizes
- The impact on the visual appearance of the sample given the varying colours that exist in some varieties

For the above and other reasons, the Committee will not consider this issue in future unless further submissions from industry are received.

6.2 Industry Training & Accreditation

A number of issues arose during the 2010/11 harvest resulting from differing industry interpretation of the Standards and different methods and procedures when assessing grain quality.

As with other similar industry committees, the Pulse Standards Committee provides a set of Standards and other tools such as methods and Visual Quality Charts that enable industry to trade pulses. Thus the Committee facilitates trade. The Committee does not consider commercial decisions nor specify that industry must use specific equipment, methods or procedures to assess the quality of pulses as per the Standards.

Industry is free to utilise whatever methods, procedures and equipment they require to assess pulse quality as per the Standards. Similarly, it is the responsibility of industry to utilise and train staff that meets their commercial obligations within the industry. There are a number of training courses available for industry in this regard. Alternatively some sectors of industry conduct their own training according to industry competency standards.

The Committee does not have a role in accrediting individual pulse receival and / or processing facilities as that is a commercial issue. Similarly, industry may or may not choose to implement the pulse Standards as developed by the Committee and published by Pulse Australia on behalf of industry. Some sectors in industry train their staff according to the recognised competencies and other chose not to.

The outcome of the discussion on the above issues was:

- The Committee agreed that, as previously occurred on a regular basis, workshops with industry to consider the interpretation of various defects in samples were warranted. A range of industry stakeholders should be involved, including growers, receival agents, processors, marketer/exporters and independent inspection companies. These workshops should occur as required
- A national approach to the development and use of Visual Quality Charts should be adopted for all commodities. Discussions with Grain Trade Australia (GTA) have occurred however a timeframe for resolution has not been set
- Solutions for the issues outlined such as consistency of interpretation, training and competencies of samplers and assessment staff should be considered following further discussions with GTA

6.3 Review the tolerances for all Weed Seeds

GTA has developed a revised group of weed seed categories. The revised groups and tolerances will be reviewed during the 2011/12 cereal harvest to assess the impact on industry. Following consideration of the outcome, the Pulse Standards committee will liaise with the pulse industry and seek views on proposed changes to the pulse Standards for 2012/13 or beyond that season.