



Proposed changes for adoption in 2010/11 & Beyond

4.1 *Proposed change for all pulses:* Review the tolerances for all weed seeds

For the past 12 months, the Grain Trade Australia Standards Committee has been conducting an extensive review of the various weed seed categories in all Standards. Pulse Australia has been involved in that process through various committee members. The proposal is to alter the categories, weed seed lists within each category and tolerances to better reflect domestic and export market and quarantine requirements, to provide greater consistency across all grain commodities where feasible and to make the assessment process less complicated. Concurrently the difficulties and practicalities of weed control on-farm and removal from harvested grain are being considered.

It is expected that recommendations for changes will be produced during the next 12 months. Following receipt of those proposals, the Committee will review the recommendations and provide them to the pulse industry for comment. Note that depending on the extent of the changes the timeframe for change may need to be altered to beyond 2010/11.

4.2 *Proposed change for all pulses:* Review the screen specifications

A research project has been proposed to review the current use of screens for all pulses during the classification process. Currently there is no adequate description of the specifications of reference screens for each commodity. In addition, different screen sizes are used by industry for a specific commodity.

As reference screens are required for a number of purposes including in dispute situations, the Committee over time will develop the required specifications. The research proposal will also review the current sieving method and recommend changes where required - a potential decrease in the number of shakes will be investigated.

As any change in the sieving process and screens to be used may have a significant impact on industry and require a lead-time for introduction, a fixed timeframe for introduction is not available at this point until the research project has been completed.

4.3 *Proposed change for desi chickpeas:* Review the definition and tolerance for chipped seed coat

During discussions with industry it has become apparent a different interpretation is being applied on the definition and tolerance to a chip in the seed coat for desi chickpeas. This is only where the kernel is not damaged. As any clarification of the definition will have a significant impact on existing Standards imposed by several sectors of industry, potentially leading to a large number of rejections, further advice from industry will be sought.

This advice will be in the form of an appropriate definition for a chipped seed coat and a review of the existing tolerances in all desi chickpea standards. The intent will be to apply the same definition as for other commodities if possible.