Pulse Standards 2018/19 Season

1. Background

The Pulse Standards Committee (Committee) met during 2018 to consider Pulse Standards (Standards) to be adopted in 2018/19. During the development of the Standards, comments from industry were sought on changes required to the Standards. All industry submissions received were considered by the Committee and used to develop the Standards for 2018/19, for application and use by industry as of 1 August 2018.

2. Agreed Changes for Adoption in the 2018/19 Season

The following changes were adopted in the 2018/19 Standards.

2.1 Agreed Version: Visual Recognition Standards Guide (VRSG)

- The existing VRSG has not been altered for the 2018/19 season. Hence it was agreed to utilise the existing 2017/18 version for the 2018/19 season.
- A new VRSG version will be developed for the following 2019/20 season which will include several minor variations to definitions and photos.

2.2 Agreed Change: Minor wording updates

- Links to various Australia Government websites for use by industry in reference to maximum residue limits for chemicals and market quarantine requirements have been updated where necessary.
- For the assessment of Defects and Contaminants (either Total or sub-categories), the procedures documented in the Standards were not clear on the time allowed for assessment of these quality parameters. For clarity, the wording has been altered to specifically state there is unlimited time for assessment, as is current industry practice.

2.3 Agreed Clarification: Weed Seeds – All pulse commodities except Mung Beans

a) Ryegrass Stalk – Type 7b
The prior Standards did not specify a tolerance for Ryegrass Stalk. For clarity, Ryegrass Stalk has been listed in Type 7b, as currently applied by industry. The tolerance is 10 seeds in total per 200 gram sample (or 20 seeds per 400 gram sample).

b) “Pulses in a Pulse Commodity” – Type 7a
The prior Standards did not list all types of pulse contaminants that are to be assessed as a weed seed in Type 7a. For clarity, all other pulses other than the pulse being assessed, have been listed in Type 7a, as currently applied by industry, except for mung beans. The tolerance is 10 seeds in total per 200 gram sample (or 20 seeds per 400 gram sample).

Included in this definition the following has been added for clarity given it is not currently listed “Any other seeds or pods greater than 5mm diameter not listed in the Standards”.

c) Parthenium Weed – Type 1
The existing Standards did not refer to the tolerance to be applied for Parthenium weed which varies by State due to existing Regulations.

For clarity, the following has been added to Type 1 – "Parthenium Weed (QLD only)*, where the * refers to "Parthenium Weed is a NIL tolerance in NSW/VIC/SA".

d) Cereal Seeds – Green Lentils, Red Lentils and Vetch
The existing Standards for Green Lentils, Red Lentils and Vetch were unclear regarding the definition / tolerance for Cereal Seeds.

The definition in all sections of the Standards for these three commodities has been altered to clarify that Cereal Seeds refers to the following "In relation to green lentils, red lentils and vetch refers to wheat, durum, barley, oats, sorghum, triticale, cereal rye, maize and rice. Refer also to Appendix B."

e) Sow Thistle

A submission requested clarification on the tolerance for Sow Thistle. Contamination mainly occurs via the flower heads. Where seeds are present, as these are small, they are included in Small Foreign Seeds. The Committee agreed that Sow Thistle heads should be included in Type 6 for all pulses.

2.4 Agreed Change: Foreign Material / Soil – Split Red Lentils

The prior Split Red Lentil Standards were inconsistent in relation to the tolerances for Soil within the Foreign Material category, in particular for the No.2 grade. The Committee agreed that a separate reference to Soil is not warranted in the definition, given various factors such as:

- Machine Dressing removes significant levels of Soil that may / may not be present
- Tolerances exist on export for Soil

Therefore the Committee agreed to the following changes:

Grade	Tolerance 2017/18	Revised Tolerance 2018/19
CSP 7.4.1 Split Red No.1 Grade Minimum Export Standard	Foreign Material 0.25% by weight	Foreign Material 0.25% by weight
CSP 7.4.2 Split Red No.2 Grade Minimum Export Standard	Foreign Material 0.5% by weight, includes 0.3% maximum of soil	Foreign Material 0.5% by weight
CSP 7.4.3 Split Red No.3 Grade Minimum Export Standard	Foreign Material 1% by weight	Foreign Material 1% by weight

2.5 Agreed Clarification: Mechanical Damage – Broad Beans

The prior Broad Bean Standards listed a tolerance for Mechanical Damage and a definition of "In reference to Broad Beans means any cracking, splitting or removal of any part of the seed coat or kernel. For other pulses, refer to Broken/Chipped/Loose Seed Coat & Split."

The wording in this definition has been revised to clarify that it is a different definition to the definition that applies for other pulses (i.e., Broken / Chipped / Loose Seed Coat / Split).

2.6 Agreed Change: Number of Screen Shakes for Sizing – All Pulses

Industry was advised in 2017 of a potential reduction in the number of screen shakes from 40 to 10 when assessing various pulse commodities. Industry agreed with the proposed reduction and the change was implemented for the 2017/18 Standards.

A submission has been received from industry seeking a review of this change when sizing pulses. The submission indicated that 10 shakes is not sufficient during the sizing procedure and requested the number of shakes revert back to 40 for sizing only.

The Committee considered this request and sought industry comment on:

- Any data to support the prior or new procedure in terms of the number of shakes
- The practicalities of having two methods for shaking a screen (i.e., on receival 10 shakes and on export for sizing 40 shakes)
- Any other matters

Based on industry views, the Committee agreed that the number of shakes for sizing only should revert to 40 shakes for the 2018/19 Standards.

Note however that for assessment purposes of Total Defects and various Defective Grain sub-categories etc., the existing 10 shakes will continue to apply.

2.7 Agreed Change: Mungbean Standards

In prior seasons the Committee has received the Mung Bean Standards to apply from the commodity group responsible for developing those Standards, being the Australian Mungbean Association.

In releasing the 2018/19 Pulse Standards, the Committee has also sought and included in the Standards those Mung Bean Standards and published them on behalf of industry as at 1 August 2018.

2.8 Agreed Clarification: Sclerotinia – All pulses

Feedback was received from industry stressing the importance of the correct identification of Sclerotinia when assessing pulses. It was noted that mouse excreta had occurred in a previous season and due to its close visual appearance to Sclerotinia, incorrect classification had occurred.

In reviewing this issue, the Committee was advised that GTA had considered this issue and during that discussion it was noted that upon identification of "Sclerotinia like material", the need for rapid identification in early deliveries via a Plant Pathologist was recommended. The collection of this data was also needed to ensure consignments at export were not mis-identified.

The Committee agreed that Pulse Australia would note the industry information being developed by GTA on this matter and would provide that material to industry for information.

3. Rejected Changes in the 2018/19 Season

Following receipt and consideration of industry advice, the Committee has not made the following changes to the Standards for 2018/19.

3.1 Rejected Change: Sprouted – Faba Beans

The current definition in the Standards and VRSG refers to the need for the primary root to be visible before being deemed Sprouted.

In some circumstances, the Seed Coat may peel away from the Kernel, indicating initial stages of sprouting, without the primary root emerging. Industry comment was sought on a potential change to the definition to include this occurrence under the definition for Sprouting, noting a distinction between this occurrence and "splitting of the seed coat due to damage during handling".

Based on industry views, the Committee agreed no change to the definition was required. When reviewing and developing the VRSG for 2019/20, the definition will be modified to provide greater clarity to industry.

3.2 Rejected Change: Ergot Assessment – All Pulses

Industry was advised in 2017 of a review by Grain Trade Australia (GTA) of the current assessment method for Ryegrass Ergot, and the application of the tolerance. Research has been undertaken to determine the practicalities of altering ergot assessment from length to a weight basis, recognising potential issues such as the difficulty of assessing the weight of Ergot in the field to 2 decimal places.

The Committee has reviewed research data in conjunction with GTA and results of the review have indicated it is impractical to alter the method of assessment to a weight basis given the difficulty of measuring Ryegrass Ergot to two decimal places on balances in the field. Hence no change to the current tolerance or method of assessment will occur.

3.3 Rejected Change: Sizing – Red Lentils

In prior seasons the Committee had sought industry comment on a proposed change to the procedure for assessment of Red Lentils in relation to seed size.

Currently Red Lentils are segregated by variety. Customers choose Red Lentils based on a range of factors such as end-use, customer preference for variety, seed coat colour, seed size and seed shape.

During 2018 the Committee sought advice from industry on whether the current segregation strategy by variety continues to satisfy the red lentil market or whether any changes to that segregation strategy should be considered.

Industry advice received was that the current segregation strategy based on variety was satisfactory. On the basis of industry feedback, the Committee agreed that no change to the Red Lentil Standards to reflect the size and shape of the seed was required.

3.4 Rejected Change: Poor Colour – Field Peas

The Committee received a submission seeking a change in the tolerance for Poor Colour in CSP 10.2.1 Field Peas – No.2 Grade Minimum Receival Standard Farmer Dressed.

As there is no sub-category and separate limit on Poor Colour in this grade, poor colour field peas up to the total Defective tolerance could be received and thus exported. This was reported as being at odds with the potential uses for that commodity and grade.

Industry comment was sought on a possible tolerance for Poor Colour within this grade, and subsequently listed also in CSP 10.2.2 and 10.2.3.

Industry feedback indicated:

- Areas of Poor Colour at harvest are generally localised.
- There may also be local areas where varietal admixture (i.e., white peas) occurs, making it difficult to differentiate and correctly apply the Varietal Restrictions tolerance in Standards.
- Where customers have a requirement / restriction on Poor Colour, the No.1 grade may be suitable or other options may exist such as inclusion of a tolerance in the marketing contract.

It was therefore agreed that:

- Based on existing Standards and supply of field peas to customers, no change to the Standards for the No.2 grade was required.

- The importance of compliance with the tolerance for Varietal Restrictions was highlighted. Pulse Australia would develop an awareness campaign for the industry stressing the need to minimise the impacts, occurrence etc. of varietal admixture.

3.5 Rejected Change: Current versus Old Crop – Faba Beans

The Committee received a submission seeking consideration of the applicability of the Standards for Faba Beans in relation to trading of old versus new crop. In particular, the submission noted the frequent impact on appearance of old versus new crop seed coat colour.

The submission sought Committee consideration of a reference in Standards to current crop, thus making a distinction of old versus new crop.

The Committee considered this issue and sought industry comment on this topic, specifically on matters such as:

- Was this issue related to faba beans only or does it apply to other pulse commodities
- Should a reference in Standards be made to this issue
- Could other resources and reference material be used to assist industry interpretation of old versus new crop (i.e., Fact sheets, contract terminology) and the implications of the commercial aspects of this issue
- Are the current definitions and VRSG images adequate to distinguish between old versus new crop

Industry feedback indicated:

- Old crop faba beans may be of poorer quality (colour etc.) than new seasons, but this varies based on a range of factors such as the impacts of weather damage. Hence old crop may be better in some instances than new crop.
- The practicalities of proving the season of the crop would be difficult, as it would solely depend on a declaration that would be generally difficult if not impossible to verify.
- Storage conditions also impact on the colour changes in Faba Beans over time.
- Where there is a market requirement, reference to season can be included in contracts.

Based on the industry feedback, The Committee agreed that no change to the current Standards for Faba Beans (or other commodities) was needed.

4. Future Review/Change

The Committee has reviewed a number of issues raised by industry during development of the 2018/19 Standards. The following potential changes may occur for the 2019/20 season or in future seasons. Industry views on any potential changes on these matters will be sought during development of the 2019/20 Standards.

4.1 Future Change: Total Defective – Canning Grade Faba Beans

The Committee received a submission from industry seeking a change to the Total Defective tolerance in CSP 5.1.2 Faba Beans – Canning Grade Minimum Export Standard Machine Dressed. The submission indicated that the current tolerance of Total Defectives of 1.5% by weight is extremely difficult to achieve. The submission requested an increased tolerance to 3% by weight.

Industry views on this potential change were sought during development of the 2018/19 standards. As no negative comments were received from industry, the Committee agreed to a change in tolerance to these Standards for total Defectives from 1.5% to 3.0%. However given this change is relatively significant and there may be contractual issues with a change for this season, it was agreed the change would occur in the 2019/20 season.

4.2 Future Review: Defective Grain Sub-Categories – All Pulses

The existing Standards for many commodities list a tolerance for the Total Defective category, including separate tolerances for sub-categories via reference to "of which".

The application of these definitions and tolerances can be confusing to industry, potentially leading to incorrect assessment.

In line with changes made to these references in cereal/oilseed commodities, the Committee intends to review these tolerances during the 2019 year for possible revision in the 2019/20 Standards. Concurrently potential changes to photos for defective grains within those categories in the VRSG will be considered.

It is intended that a paper outlining potential changes will be produced in the latter half of 2018 and industry comments on those issues will be sought.

4.3 Future Review: Nil Tolerance – All Pulses

The Committee has previously advised industry of research being undertaken by GTA on the applicability of a nil tolerance in Standards. In conjunction with GTA the Committee will review various aspects related to this topic including:

- The definition of Nil.
- The applicability of a Nil tolerance to apply for each quality parameter in a bulk grain load.
- Regulatory impacts of any potential change away from Nil.
- Suitable tolerances by quality parameter and commodity to apply.
- The consistency of the definitions and tolerances across commodities.
- The method of assessment, including sample size.

Results of the review are expected to be provided to industry in time for industry comment during development of the 2019/20 Standards.

4.4 Future Change: Lupin Tolerance – All Pulses

Industry would be aware that Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) have declared that all foods containing lupins are to be labelled, given the potential for lupins to be an allergen. This change only applies where lupins are added to the food as an ingredient, not where lupins are a contaminant (i.e., unintended).

The Committee is aware that some in industry will choose to list lupins as a possible contaminant, given that the existing maximum tolerance for lupins under Type 7a weed seed is 10 seeds / 200 grams (or 20 seeds / 400 grams for larger commodities).

A submission was received from industry seeking a change in the tolerance for lupins only to 2 seeds / 200 grams. This change was requested on the basis that for smaller seeded commodities such as desi chickpeas, removal of lupins is difficult prior to / during processing.

The Committee considered this request and sought industry comment on the proposed change. Industry feedback indicated support for the change. The Committee agreed:

- The tolerance for lupin contamination be reduced from 10 seeds/200 grams (Type 7a) to 2 seeds/200 grams (new Type) for all pulses (not just desi chickpeas).
- The change would occur for both Angustifolius and Albus lupins.
- The change would occur for the 2019/20 season given the potential impact on stakeholders in the supply chain for a change this season (i.e., growers, traders etc.).

4.5 Future Review: Truck Sampling – All Pulses

In prior seasons the Committee has been made aware of variations in procedures used by industry for sampling of loads of pulses tendered for delivery. On various occasions the Committee has reviewed the current sampling procedures listed in the Standards (as also applied to a range of cereal and oilseed commodities) and determined that if applied correctly, those procedures are suitable for obtaining a representative sample from each load tendered for delivery.

The Committee was advised in 2018 of occurrences over the 2017/18 harvest where inconsistency in the application of those sampling procedures caused issues with deliveries of pulses. As a consequence the Committee was advised of a potential research project to further review the practicalities of using the documented sampling procedures for pulses, and the implications of varying those procedures.

The Committee welcomes any research and industry feedback on this issue and will consider its position in light of any data provided from that research, in conjunction with other commodity groups such as GTA.

4.6 Future Change: Speckling – Desi Chickpeas

The existing VRSG for Desi Chickpeas under Section 6.6 is not clear on the interpretation of Speckling.

For clarity, the Definition in the Standards and the wording in the VRSG will be altered to the following during development of the 2019/20 VRSG:

“In relation to Desi Chickpeas, Speckling may appear as a few to many small spots of varying colours. Speckling is not considered a defect when it appears to any extent on the Seed Coat. If Speckling is on the Kernel, it is considered a defect. Refer to the GTA Visual Recognition Standards Guide.”

4.7 Future Change: Tiger Striping – Desi Chickpeas

The existing VRSG for Desi Chickpeas under Section 6.6 is not clear on the interpretation of Tiger Striping.

For clarity, the Definition in the Standards and the wording in the VRSG will be altered to the Following during development of the 2019/20 VRSG:

“In relation to Desi Chickpeas, Tiger Striping may appear as dark coloured lines of striping, or sometimes extending down the seed coat as a mass of colour. Tiger Striping is not considered a defect when it appears to any extent on the Seed Coat. If Tiger Striping is on the Kernel, it is considered a defect. Refer to the GTA Visual Recognition Standards Guide.”

To assist that interpretation, the existing photos in the VRSG will also be reviewed and altered if necessary.