Call for Industry Submissions on Pulse Standards 2018/19 Season

1. Background

This paper outlines a number of issues considered by the Pulse Standards Committee (Committee) when developing the 2018/19 pulse standards.

The Committee seeks comment from industry on the topics as outlined in this paper and on any other issue relating to pulse standards for potential adoption in 2018/19. All relevant comments from industry will be considered by the Committee and used to develop the pulse standards for 2018/19, due for release as of 1 August 2018.

2. Timeline & Method of Submitting Comments

Please lodge your submissions in writing to admin@pulseaus.com.au and title your email – "Pulse Standards Review 2018/19". Submissions are due by COB Friday 27th April 2018.

For reference, the current 2017/18 pulse standards can be downloaded here.

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

The Committee intends to implement the following changes in the 2018/19 standards.

3.1 Agreed Change: Updated Government Links – All pulse commodities

The current links in the Standards to various Australia Government websites for use by industry in reference to maximum residue limits for chemicals and market quarantine requirements will be updated.

3.2 Agreed Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guide – All pulse commodities in VRSG

- Existing sections for pulses (desi chickpeas, kabuli chickpeas, Angustifolius lupins, faba beans, field peas and red lentils) in the existing Visual Recognition Standards Guide (VRSG) located on the GTA website at http://www.graintrade.org.au/fact-sheets-publications will be reviewed and altered where required to improve clarity. This will include changes such as:
    - Revision of photos and adding new photos deemed necessary for clarity (i.e., addition of photo of Botrytis Grey Mould in Desi Chickpeas and Poor Colour dark seed in Field Peas)
    - Revision to definitions for clarity

  - Removal of the cause of the defect in the Terminology and definition, as commenced for the 2017/18 Standards
- Revision to all wording to clarify that defects such as Stained / Weather Damaged (and all other defects causing a colour change on the Seed Coat / Kernel such as Fungal Affected) are included in Poor Colour. Those changes will reflect current industry interpretation.

Industry nominations are sought on any other definitions or photos currently in the VRSG that require clarification or modification.

3.3 Agreed Clarification of Weed Seeds – All pulse commodities except Mung Beans

a) Ryegrass Stalk – Type 7b
The existing standards do not specify a tolerance for Ryegrass Stalk.
For clarity, Ryegrass Stalk will be listed in Type 7b, as currently applied by industry. The tolerance is 10 seeds per 200 gram sample (or 20 seeds per 400 gram sample).

b) "Pulses in a Pulse Commodity" – Type 7a
The existing standards do 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, will be listed in Type 7a, as currently applied by industry. The tolerance is 10 seeds per 200 gram sample (or 20 seeds per 400 gram sample).
Included in this definition the following will be 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 do not refer to the tolerance to be applied for Parthenium weed which varies by State due to existing Regulations.
For clarity, the following will be 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 are unclear regarding the definition / tolerance for Cereal Seeds.
The definitions in all sections of the Standards for these three commodities will be 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."

3.4 Agreed Clarification: Time for Assessment - All pulse commodities

For the assessment of Defects and Contaminants (either Total or sub-categories), the standards are not clear on the time allowed for assessment of these quality parameters. For clarity, the wording will be altered to specifically state there is unlimited time for assessment.

3.5 Agreed Clarification: 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:
"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.

3.6 Agreed Clarification: 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:
"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."

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

The existing Split Red Lentil Standards are 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	Current Tolerance	Revised Tolerance
CSP 7.4.1 Split Red No.1 Grade Minimum Export Standard	Foreign Material 0.25% by weight	No change
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

3.8 Agreed Clarification: Mechanical Damage – Broad Beans

The existing Broad Bean Standards list 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 will be reviewed and 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).

4. Industry Feedback Required

The Committee seeks industry advice on the following issues. Based on industry feedback, the following potential changes may occur for the 2018/19 season or future seasons.

4.1 Potential 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.

The committee seeks industry comment on this potential change for implementation in the 2018/19 Standards.

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 2018 year for possible revision in the 2019/20 Standards. Industry comments on any proposed changes will be sought during 2018 when the Committee releases a Discussion Paper on its deliberations.

4.3 Potential 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. The existing photo in the VRSG will be updated for greater clarity with this definition.

In some circumstances, the Seed Coat may peel away from the Kernel, indicating initial stages of sprouting, without the primary root emerging. Industry comment is 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".

4.4 Future Review: 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 is underway by GTA 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 will review research data in conjunction with GTA and results of the review are expected to be provided to industry in time for industry comment during the second round of industry consultations on Standards, due for release if required to industry in May 2018.

4.5 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 the second round of industry consultations on Standards, due for release if required to industry in May 2018. It is not expected any change would be applied to the 2018/19 Standards.

4.6 Potential 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 has considered this request and seeks 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

4.7 Potential 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 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 seeks industry comment on the proposed change, noting a number of issues need to be considered such as:

- The tolerance for lupins in the pulse Standards is significantly higher than for other commodities such as cereals
- The FSANZ decision that unintended contamination does not require food to be labelled as “may contain lupins”, noting some in industry will choose this or a similar labelling option
- The practicalities of a separate tolerance for lupin contamination only, separate from the existing Type 7a category that includes all pulse contaminants
- The frequency of lupin contamination in desi chickpeas, given the cropping system (rotations etc.) and storage and handling infrastructure (i.e., contamination arising through common infrastructure)
- Whether any change should also be made to other pulse commodities that are a similar size to lupins (i.e., field peas) where lupins may be present as a contaminant
- The suitability of the tolerance of 2 seeds / 200 grams as proposed in the submission

4.8 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 static loads of pulses tendered for delivery. On various occasions the Committee has reviewed the current sampling procedures (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 has been advised of occurrences over the 2017/18 harvest where industry 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 by industry, in conjunction with other commodity groups such as GTA.

4.9 Future Review: Sizing – Red Lentils

In prior seasons the Committee has 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, given a range of factors such as end-use, customer preference for variety, varying seed coat colours, seed size and shape.

Prior industry consultation considered a change in segregation strategy to reflect the size and shape of the seed, rather than segregate Red Lentils based on variety.

The Committee seeks 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.

4.10 Potential Change: Standards – Mung Beans

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 will also seek those Mung Bean Standards and publish them on behalf of industry by 1 August 2018.

4.11 Potential Change: Poor Colour – Field Peas

The Committee has 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, poor colour field peas up to the total Defective tolerance could be received and thus exported. This is at odds with the potential uses for that commodity and grade.

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

- Poor Colour is becoming a more significant problem for relatively newer varieties that tend to trade for a specific colour e.g., white pea varieties, as well as varieties such as Oura that is liked in some markets for its greenish colour
- If a tolerance was applied, what that tolerance should be (the submission indicated a possible tolerance of 3% or 5% out of the Total Defective tolerance of 7%)
- If adopted, should the tolerance apply for 2018/19
- Any other matters of relevance for Committee consideration

4.12 Future Review: Current versus Old Crop – Faba Beans

The Committee has 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 seeks industry comment on this topic, specifically on matters such as:

- Is 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
- If a change or reference is required in Standards, what should that reference be and could it be implemented in 2018/19 or await review of the 2019/20 Standards