



## Explanatory Advice Pulse Standards 2022/23 Season

### 1. Background

During 2022, the Pulse Standards Committee (Committee) sought and received feedback from industry on pulse Standards. This paper outlines all issues considered and changes made by the Committee in development of the 2022/23 pulse Standards.

The 2022/23 pulse Standards are now adopted and should be used by industry as of 1 August 2022.

### 2. Changes Adopted in the 2022/23 Season

The Committee implemented the following changes in the 2022/23 Standards.

#### 2.1 Agreed Change: Minor Wording Changes - All pulse commodities except Mungbeans

- The current links in the Standards to various Australian Government and industry websites and documents for use by industry on a range of issues such as maximum residue limits for chemicals and market quarantine requirements have been updated.

#### 2.2 Agreed Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guide - All pulse commodities in VRSG

General changes have been made to the document including:

- Re-formatting of wording and photos.
- Added a 'sound grain' photo of each commodity on header pages for that commodity and where relevant, removed the photo of the sound grain in the specific defect section.
- For some commodities and defects as listed below, sound grain photos showing a portion of that defect have been added for greater clarity and comparison with the minimum Standard for a grain to be classified as that defect.

The following areas have been modified in the 2022/23 version to provide greater clarity and aid Interpretation.

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome / Change
Chickpeas, desi	Pickled	New photo added
Faba beans	Severely Damaged	New Burnt photo added
Faba beans	Sprouted sound	New Sound and defective Sprouted photo added
Faba beans	Wrinkled sound	New Sound Wrinkled photo added

#### 2.3 Agreed Change: Varietal Lists - All pulse commodities

The list of varieties by commodity on the Pulse Australia website has been reviewed to ensure all new pulse varieties by commodity are listed.



In addition, as Pea Weevil are included in the category of Stored Grain Insects, wording has been updated in the definitions and Appendix A for clarity.

### 3. Future Review & Standards Changes

#### 3.1 Potential Change: Gumnuts - All pulse commodities except Mungbeans

Industry has been previously advised of a review of the practicality of a Nil Tolerance in Standards and the intention of the Grain Trade Australia Trading Standards Committee to consider developing low level tolerances for some contaminants. Where practical, the outcome of that review would be considered by the pulse Standards Committee and implemented for consistency across commodities.

During deliberations, it was noted:

- The impracticality of removing a low number of gumnuts from a load.
- The implications of rejection of a truckload of grain for the presence of one gumnut, which may be of any size.
- The ability of many processors to remove gumnuts from a load prior to processing.
- *Eucalyptus spp.* may contaminate a grain sample in a number of ways including Gumnuts, whether whole or broken, of any size, immature or mature, or Pieces of plant material such as twigs, leaves of varying lengths and sizes.
- The presence of *Eucalyptus spp.* contamination of a load may lead to tainting of that load, with an obvious smell of eucalyptus. Depending on the size and amount of the material, and the maturity of the gumnuts, the tainting level and smell will vary. Even small amounts in a truckload of grain may lead to quality impacts.
- Where gumnuts are present, they may be immature or mature. As the gumnuts mature, the tainting varies, with less tainting generally occurring with more mature gumnuts. However, this varies depending on a range of factors.
- Market reaction to the presence of this material has generally been quite strong due to its potentially serious effects on end products and its high visibility amongst sound grain, even if the gumnuts have been removed.
- There is no test for the level of taint generated from the presence of *Eucalyptus spp.* material.

The Committee considered the above and the many prior discussions on this topic and agreed to review the following for the 2023/24 season:

- For all pulse commodities and grades, potentially removing the current nil tolerance level for gumnuts only.
- A low-level tolerance for gumnuts only, be considered for implemented.
- The definition of a gumnut could revert to “whole or pieces of any size and maturity level”.
- The current definition and nil tolerance of other *Eucalyptus spp.* plant material would remain in all Standards.

Industry will be consulted on any proposed changes during development of the 2023/24 Standards.

#### 3.2 Future Review: Total Defective and sub-category “of which” Defects

The Committee advised industry in 2021 it intended to review several aspects of the components of the defect quality parameters in all pulse Standards. Specifically, the review was to include any difficulties in grain sampler understanding of tolerances to apply for the “of which” category, within the Total Defective category.

In reviewing the potential for removal of the “of which” category, the Committee considered:

- Tolerances for various defects in many commodities were reviewed recently and considered suitable.
- Creating and reaching industry agreement on separate tolerances for all defects may prove difficult.
- Current Standards appear suitable for growers and for marketing that grain and meeting customer expectations.
- While the “of which” category can sometimes be difficult to understand, correct interpretation of the Standards relies on suitable training of samplers.
- Using IT systems to calculate Total Defective material in a sample may assist correct interpretation.
- Having a commodity standards chart format that is consistent across all pulses as per cereals may assist industry understanding and interpretation.

Following consideration, the Committee has decided to consider a potential revision of the format of the pulse Standards to aid industry interpretation.

### **3.3 Ongoing Review: Truck Sampling - All Pulses**

In 2018 the Committee was advised of planning for a research project to review the practicalities of using the documented industry agreed sampling procedures for all commodities including pulses, to obtain a representative sample for assessment against Standards. The research would include other aspects of sampling such as the suitability of the probes and reduction in the sample to the size required for assessment as per the Standards.

Development of the research component of the project has been conducted however the project has not commenced yet. Industry will be updated on the status of the project as it further develops and its implications for pulse assessment.