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Member Update

Title: Review of Wheat and Coarse Grain Standards
Update No.: 6 of 08
Date of Issue: 4th March 2008

Action required as Submissions close Friday 21st March 2008

1 Grain Standards – who develops what

Standards used by the Australian grain industry are developed as follows:

- Oilseeds – Australian Oilseeds Federation
- Pulses – Pulse Australia
- Coarse grains – NACMA Standards Committee
- Wheat – last year NACMA developed wheat standards which were aligned to the AWB Wheat Receival Standards. This year AWB will not be releasing wheat standards and to ensure confidence in contractual integrity, NACMA will be the sole publisher of the industry wheat standards.

2 Review and placing submissions Wheat and coarse grains

The grain standards are reviewed annually and all participants in the industry are asked to review the current wheat and coarse grain standards and forward submissions regarding amendments/changes that they propose.

All wheat and coarse grain standards are located on the website under Commodity Standards. Please forward submissions to admin@nacma.com.au.

3 Review Process

Full details concerning the review process follow this Member Update.

4 Further information: Geoff Honey, 02 9402 9402 or geoff.honey@nacma.com.au

Australian Grains Industry Grain Standards Development

Procedure

1. Purpose

To outline the processes involved in the development of national Standards for grain.

2. Background

On behalf of industry, NACMA generates national Standards for grain. The Standards may be applied to deliveries of grain ex farm, through the Trade and along the supply chain. The Standards are developed each year and apply for the full 12 month period. In specific cases, other industry associations may develop Standards and in these instances, the Standards are simply published by NACMA.

Note that while specific timeframes may exist, significant issues raised by industry and agreed major changes to Standards may require further industry consultation and a lead-time prior to inclusion in Standards.

3. Method of Approach

In general, the following procedure is to be followed to generate Standards for the forthcoming season. Note that variations may exist depending on the extent of issues raised. Any significant variations will be advised to industry as required.

Capture of Industry Views

- All industry is to be encouraged to have input into Standards through NACMA making available a 1 page summary of the process of development of the Standards and a feedback form on the NACMA website.
- Feedback from industry to be welcomed for the entire 12 months. However there are specific timeframes that may need to be met for inclusion of any changes into the forthcoming season Standards.
- Industry is to provide feedback to NACMA using feedback forms via the website. A copy of all issues raised by industry is to be provided to the Standards Committee for discussion at the Grains Industry Grain Standards Conference.

Development of Draft

- Standards committee is to meet via hook-up if possible in mid to late March following compilation of issues raised by NACMA.
- Following the initial Standards committee meeting, NACMA is to develop draft Standards for the current season by mid April.

Provision to Industry

- During development of the draft Standards, any major issues of significance or changes etc are to be included in a Covering Note to the Standards.
- Standards, along with the Covering Note, are to be forwarded to key industry stakeholders via letter (email) and also made available on the NACMA website. Letters to be provided to industry as per the attached list.
- Industry is to provide comment by 31 May via the feedback form on the NACMA website or direct to NACMA.
- All submissions are to be tabled at the Grains Industry Grain Standards Conference held in mid June.

Grains Industry Grain Standards Conference

- NACMA to review all industry views and make available a summary by 15 June.
- NACMA to revise the draft Standards as per the outcome of the Standards committee meeting. Should further industry feedback be required, this is to be done directly by NACMA with specific industry sectors involved in the issue.

Final Development

- Final standards are to be developed by 31 July for signoff by NACMA Board (if required) and presentation to the Common Interest Forum.
- Standards are to be placed on the NACMA website with a summary of changes from the previous year and a summary of issues raised by industry from the previous year.

Timeframe Summary

The following tables summarises general timeframes for production of Standards. Variations may apply as required.

Action	Timeframe
Industry feedback	All year, immediately post-harvest preferred
Standards Committee meeting	Mid-late March
Draft Standards & Covering Note developed by NACMA	Mid April
Draft Standards & Covering Note available to industry	Mid April – end May
Summary of issues raised provided to Committee members	Mid June
Submissions reviewed at Grains Industry Grain Standards Conference	Mid June
Final Standards developed and presented to Common Interest Forum	End July
Standards available to industry	August

4. Industry to be Directly Consulted

Industry Sector	Representative Organisation
Growers	Grain Growers Association, Grains Council of Australia, AgForce, NSWFA, VFF, SAFF, WAFF
Storage Agents	All registered BHCs
Human Consumption	Flour Millers' Council of Australia, Manildra, Goodman Fielder
Stockfeed	Stockfeed Manufacturers Council of Australia, Lotfeeders' Association of Australia
Merchant & Industry Associations	QLD Produce & Merchants Association, RMSA, GIAV, NACMA SA, NACMA WA, Pulse Australia, Australian Oilseeds Federation

Additional contacts as required:

- researchers & breeders (GRDC, Australian Seeds Federation, CropLife)
- marketers and traders (AGEA)
- human consumption market domestically (other mills, organic sector)
- all stockfeed market domestically (cattle, chicken, pigs, sheep, dairy)
- industrial sector (biofuels, starch/gluten manufacturers)
- regulators (DAFF/AQIS, State Departments of Agriculture)
- consumers
- supply chain participants (transport road & rail, Australian Grain Harvesters Association)