

Hello

My name is Gerard McMullen. I am a consultant in the grains industry, consulting to a number of industry organisations, industry companies, research organisations, Government etc on a range of quality and market access related issues, to name a few. I previously was Quality Assurance Manager for AWB for many years.

I noticed in the hearing of the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport on Monday 20 February 2012 that Pete Mailler of GPA stated (as reported online by the Age and Farm online):

“The reality is that our job is to get past a sample standard these days ... so legally if 51 per cent of my load is a certain variety, I could call it that variety, so I could blend it up with whatever I want,” he told the Senate committee hearing yesterday.”

That is incorrect (scenario 2). There are industry rules that apply to grower loads that are delivered containing more than one variety - copied below from the Grain Trade Australia Wheat Standards 2011/12. If the load is detected or declared as containing more than one variety, the following rules apply. The difficulty obviously is where the grower knowingly blends varieties but only declares the load is of one variety. Hence the issue of varietal classification is “relatively complex”.

Pete is quite correct though in his inference that once received, a storage agent / marketer may blend grain and “no rules apply” when exporting that grain.

I am happy to provide further details of my qualifications, clarify the above or provide further assistance to the Standing committee at any time.

Scenario 1: Load is Declared as Multiple Varieties of the Same Grade Classification Status

- Where the load is declared as being of more than the one variety, determine the different varieties contained in the load and for each, review the applicable maximum grade classification as per the Varietal Master List.
- Based on the quality results, Grade the load and record the variety with the greatest percentage in the load.

Scenario 2: Load is Declared as Multiple Varieties of Different Grade Classification Status

- Where the load is declared as being of more than the one variety, determine the different varieties contained in the load and for each, review the applicable maximum grade classification as per the Varietal Master List.
- No matter the percentage of each variety in the load, the maximum grade classification of the load can only be as per the lowest Grade classification of the declared varieties.
- Based on the quality results, Grade the load no higher than the lowest Grade classification and record that variety.

Regards
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