Velvet grading guidelines

**MEASUREMENT NOTES**

**Classification**

Classified as stick with a length greater than 10cm that has been removed from the deer. All dimensions are measured to the nearest 0.5cm.

**Overall Length**

The overall length is the measurement from the top of the stick to the trez tyne.

**Circumference**

The circumference is taken as the lesser distance between the top of the stick and the trez tyne.

**Length**

Length is measured from the top of the stick to the trez tyne.

**DAM 1**

A record of the circumference of the beam, showing little or no calcification at the base.

**DAM 2**

A free velvet with any split or movement of the skin. Must be rounded, straight stick, 1 or 2 tyne stick or Korean style. Early cut, minimal calcification. New velvet must not be calced and must be fully stripped antler.

**DAM 3**

A tynes and skin damage. Must be handled and stored in a clean and hygienic manner.

**NEW ZEALAND INDUSTRY AGREED**

**HYGIENE**

Illegal velvet removal is an offence under the Horticulture Control Act 2010. Velvet removal is a Controlled Surgical Procedure (CSP) and must be conducted as a fully sterilised operation. Illegal velvet removal includes: (a) overgrown velvet (b) without a trez tyne is to be reduced one grade (eg from C to D). (c) any velvet is to be graded as Man2 or Man3. Note: Damaged OG velvet is downgraded at grader’s discretion. Severely damaged OG velvet still attached. Soft at the tip.

**CONFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS INFLUENCING GRAING**

**SUPER A**

- Dam 1 or Dam 2
- Non-symmetrical aspects
- Excessive bottom tynes
- Weak bez tynes
- Weak trez tynes
- Note: SA velvet with top length > 28cm is downgraded to OG1.

**SPICER**

- Dam 1 or Dam 2
- Any Spiker velvet that is tapering is graded HV2 or HV4.
- Spiker velvet with tynes. Must be rounded on top and uncalcified.
- Otherwise Spiker 1 & 2 must have no tynes.

**REGROWTH HARD VELVET**

- Regrowth Hard Velvet: heavily calcified but with the top of the velvet still soft at the tip. Spiker velvet that is calcified but still soft at the tip.

**REGROWTH**

- Regrowth 1: between 3 and 10cm long.
- Regrowth 2: more than 3cm and less than 10cm.
- Regrowth 3: more than 10cm.

**SPICER AND REGROWTH AND OTHER VELVET**

- All other Hard Antler.

**ANIMAL WELFARE**

- Manufactured velvet: Spiker and Regrowth and other velvet. Must be rounded on top, not calcified and non-damaged.

**MANUFACTURING**

- Hard Antlers: must be cut and shaped to the appropriate grade. velvet that is not bleached.

**REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLES OF GRADED VELVET**

**SA**

- Hard Antlers: must be cut and shaped to the appropriate grade.

**NORTH AMERICAN VELVET**

- Class A: 16 - 18 cm (diameter) is subject to grader discretion based on the principle of separation of the velvet from the beam. The velvet must be fully stripped and in a clean and uncalcified condition.

**Mand 2**

- Dam 2: 10 - 20 cm (diameter) must be handled and stored in a clean and hygienic manner. Velvet must be fully stripped and non-damaged.

**MANUFACTURING**

- North American Velvet: must be handled and stored in a clean and hygienic manner. Velvet must be fully stripped and non-damaged.

**SPICER**

- Spiker: 15 - 18 cm (diameter) is subject to grader discretion based on the principle of separation of the velvet from the beam. The velvet must be fully stripped and in a clean and uncalcified condition.

**REGROWTH**

- Regrowth 1: 15 - 18 cm (diameter) is subject to grader discretion based on the principle of separation of the velvet from the beam. The velvet must be fully stripped and in a clean and uncalcified condition.

**TOTAL VELVET**

- Total: 15 - 18 cm (diameter) is subject to grader discretion based on the principle of separation of the velvet from the beam. The velvet must be fully stripped and in a clean and uncalcified condition.

**MANUFACTURING**

- Hard Antlers: must be cut and shaped to the appropriate grade.

**SNAP**

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**REGROWTH**

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**MANUFACTURING**

- Hard Antlers: must be cut and shaped to the appropriate grade.

**BEZ AND TREZ**

- Bez and Trez Tyne: 15 - 18 cm (diameter) is subject to grader discretion based on the principle of separation of the velvet from the beam. The velvet must be fully stripped and in a clean and uncalcified condition.

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