

1 **Quality, Quotations, and Technical Standards Committee**
2 **Adopted at the 102nd Annual Convention**
3 **June 23, 2026**

4
5 The Quality, Quotations, and Technical Standards Committee recommends that ACSA:

6
7 **QUALITY AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS**
8

- 9 1. Acknowledge and express appreciation to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-
10 Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Cotton Program and area directors for their continued
11 cooperation in allowing trade committees to review cotton samples already classed;
12
- 13 2. Urge the USDA to provide all human and financial resources necessary to efficiently conduct
14 cotton classing operations administered by the USDA-AMS Cotton and Tobacco Program,
15 recognizing the transition into mandatory module averaging;
16
- 17 3. Continue to urge merchants involved in certification or reclassing to provide the Permanent
18 Bale Identification (PBI) numbers of bales being certificated or reclassified in order for the
19 USDA to assure the accuracy of the original USDA class, commend the USDA for
20 implementing the use of PBI numbers for certificated classing to assure the accuracy of the
21 original USDA class, and urge the continuation of this program;
22
- 23 4. Support the continuation of the current HVI Color Shift Study and commend
24 the USDA-AMS staff for gathering the data and providing reports on HVI color grades
25 RD, reflectance, and +B, yellowness study, recognizing the relevance and importance of this
26 data to implement expanded module averaging or similar fungibility programs that include all
27 quality specifications in addition to the consideration of the longevity of cotton classing;
28
- 29 5. Remind the USDA of the importance of calling grass, bark, prep, and other extraneous matter
30 as code 61/62 and for calling plastic contaminants as code 71/72;
31
- 32 6. Urge support and participation in industry efforts created for the detection, prevention, and
33 elimination of various plastic contaminants in U.S. raw cotton;
34
- 35 7. Express appreciation to the USDA for making any bale classed 71/72 non-reviewable and
36 commend the USDA's decision to keep the original plastic contamination call for any bale
37 under classing review, noting that for the integrity of trade, it is imperative that documentation
38 of plastic contamination stay with a bale either during the original classification or upon
39 reclassification;
40
- 41 8. Recommend the USDA make any bale classed 71/72 ineligible for a Commodity Credit
42 Corporation (CCC) loan;
43
- 44 9. Recommend ACSA representatives continue the annual review of the USDA Standard Boxes
45 and urge the USDA to test the current crop year Standard Boxes for HVI color and leaf to
46 ensure agreement with USDA parameters;
47
- 48 10. Commend the USDA for reporting the number of gins operating at time of classing (minimum
49 of two gins and five hundred (500) bales classed) and urge the continuation of this practice;

- 1 11. Support the implementation of module averaging as the only classing method; work with
2 Cotton Incorporated and USDA-AMS to make continual improvements to module averaging
3 classing; support efforts to improve the USDA cotton classification system through
4 instruments proven to be reliable and feasible through comprehensive testing and to enhance
5 cotton flow; urge all segments of the cotton industry to work for a reliable instrument-based
6 classing system so the USDA classing measurements are used throughout the entire cotton
7 marketing chain;
8
- 9 12. Support the National Cotton Council's (NCC's) Joint Flow / Quality Task Force Fungibility
10 Working Group's pilot project on cotton fungibility;
11
- 12 13. Urge producers to use only NCC-approved cotton module wrap material that meets the
13 American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) S615.3 Cotton Module
14 Cover Material Performance Standard; and,
15
- 16 14. Work with the USDA and NCC to make module wrap conformity with the ASABE S615.3
17 Cotton Module Cover Material Performance Standard an eligibility requirement for the non-
18 recourse cotton loan;
19

20 **SPOT QUOTATIONS**

- 22 1. Urge the USDA to clarify and provide visibility to calculations for three-year average premium
23 and discounts; further, urge the USDA to expeditiously correct calculations and notify
24 appropriate stakeholders in the event inaccurate information is publicly released;
25
- 26 2. Given the importance of the daily spot quotations in determining CCC Loan Premiums and
27 Discounts and tenderable differences, encourage members to report spot quotations to the
28 USDA-AMS Cotton and Tobacco Program with a target rate of a minimum of fifty percent
29 (50%) of the crop to achieve proper daily spot quotations, and to include in such reports grade,
30 staple, leaf, color, micronaire, and strength premiums and discounts;
31
- 32 3. Acknowledge and express appreciation to the USDA-AMS for the regulatory mandates to keep
33 spot market quotes by industry participants confidential as outlined in "The Cotton Statistics
34 and Estimates Act section 1905 of U.S. Code Title 18" and section 2276 of U.S. Code Title 7;
35
- 36 4. Urge the USDA to include spot quotes for all grades of cotton;
37
- 38 5. Encourage merchants to give their basis used and a sampling of recaps purchased to the USDA
39 at least weekly;
40
- 41 6. Recommend discussions with the USDA-AMS concerning the availability of spot market data
42 for micronaire premiums/discounts for longer staple lengths with the goal of reviewing the
43 need for a split between staples 33 and 34 or staples 34 and 35;
44
- 45 7. Recommend the USDA-AMS host periodic meetings with ACSA members to further discuss
46 spot quotes and the accuracy and validity of the USDA-AMS's Forward Contracting reporting;
47 and,
48
- 49 8. Urge the USDA-AMS to work with gins to participate in supplying weekly spot trades
50 electronically to the USDA and encourage more participation in this critical process;

1 **REPORT OF THE PIMA SUBCOMMITTEE**

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3 **QUALITY AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

- 4
5 1. Urge the USDA-AMS to maintain the integrity of current standards when considering the
6 creation of new Pima standards and encourage the continuation of Pima box review and
7 matching in the USDA office in Visalia, CA;
8
9 2. Recommend the USDA-AMS take all steps necessary to ensure consistent classing of Pima
10 cotton; and,
11
12 3. Work with NCC and USDA to develop more granular definitions and regulatory standards
13 around Pima cotton and related hybrid varieties;
14

15 **PIMA SPOT QUOTATIONS**

- 16
17 1. Given the underreporting of Extra Long Staple (ELS) spot quotations' negative impacts on the
18 validity of USDA Schedules of Premiums and Discounts, the absence of a price-discovery
19 mechanism, and to avoid the imposition of mandated regulation, urge members to report ELS
20 spot quotations on a minimum of a quarterly frequency for a minimum of twenty-five percent
21 (25%) of ELS sales;
22
23 2. With respect to the ELS Competitiveness Payment Program (CPP):
24
25 a) Support the continuation of the program;
26
27 b) Urge the USDA to announce in advance to the industry any consideration of program
28 changes;
29
30 c) Urge the USDA review the use of any foreign-produced competitive ELS / Long Staple
31 fiber, whether exported or not;
32
33 d) Recommend the USDA make available the daily calculation of the ELS CPP payment rate;
34 and,
35
36 e) Urge the USDA to collect data from ELS varieties competing with U.S. Pima;
37
38 3. Urge the USDA-Farm Service Agency to offer cotton under the catalog free from all and any
39 charges upon transfer of title of the cotton;
40
41 4. Recommend the USDA-Farm Production and Conservation continually use relevant data to
42 calculate the quality differential used to calculate the ELS Competitiveness Payment, including
43 giving further consideration of the comparability of Giza 94 and U.S. Pima #2;
44
45 5. Recommend the base grade for U.S. Pima be Grade 2-2-48, 3.5-4.9, 40.0 grams per tex, based
46 on international trade practices; and,
47
48 6. Work with the USDA-AMS to develop separate Pima quotes for "Spot Cash Trades" and
49 "Forward Contract Trades," acknowledging that no formal legislation or regulatory
50 rulemaking process shall be required.