

Velvet Grading Guidelines

SUPER A				
	Minimum Weight	Tynes	Circumference	Max Top Length
SA Premium	2.3kg	2	> 18 cm	Equal to circumference <i>Good conformation</i>
SAT	1.8kg	2	> 18 cm	Equal to circumference <i>Traditional style</i>
SA	1.8kg	1 or 2	> 18 cm	Equal to circumference
SALT	1.8kg	1 or 2	> 18 cm	Greater than circumference

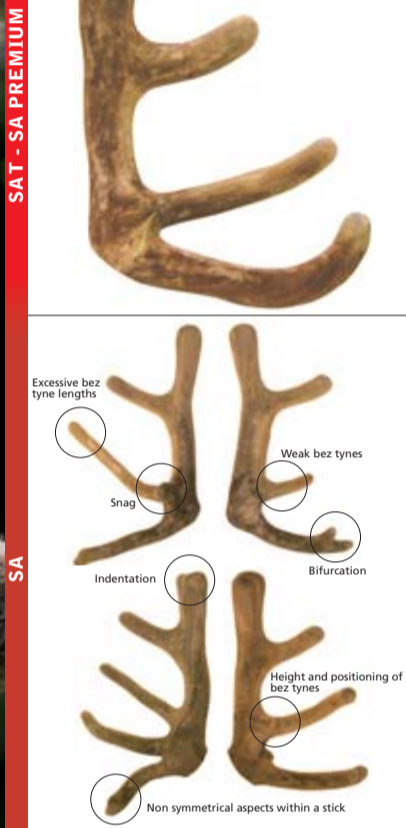
Note: SA velvet with top length > 28cm is downgraded to OG1.

Good conformation means NO:

- Bifurcation (splitting or dividing) of tynes
- Snags and basal hangers
- Excessive bottom tyne lengths
- Weak bez or trez tynes
- Non symmetrical aspects within a stick
- Height and positioning of bez tynes
- No indentation



	Circumference	Bottom Tynes	SHORT			MEDIUM			LONG TOP		OVERGROWN		
			Top Length Preferred	Top Length Maximum	Overall Length Maximum	Top Length Preferred	Top Length Maximum	Overall Length Minimum	Top Length		Top Length Minimum		
A1	16 - 18 cm	1	A1S < 13 cm	< 16 cm	< 45 cm	A1M As for AS	> 45 cm	A1LT	16 - 26 cm		OG1	26 cm	
A2	16 - 18 cm	2	A2S < 13 cm	< 16 cm	< 45 cm	A2M As for AS	> 45 cm	A2LT	16 - 26 cm		OG1	26 cm	
B1	14.5 - 16 cm	1	B1S < 11 cm	< 13 cm	< 40 cm	B1M As for BS	> 40 cm	B1LT	13 - 23 cm		OG2	23 cm	
B2	14.5 - 16 cm	2	B2S < 11 cm	< 13 cm	< 40 cm	B2M As for BS	> 40 cm	B2LT	13 - 23 cm		OG2	23 cm	
C1	13 - 14.5 cm	1	C1S < 8 cm	< 10 cm	< 35 cm	C1M As for CS	> 35 cm	C1LT	10 - 20 cm		OG2	20 cm	
C2	13 - 14.5 cm	2	C2S < 8 cm	< 10 cm	< 35 cm	C2M As for CS	> 35 cm	C2LT	10 - 20 cm		OG2	20 cm	
D1	11.5 - 13 cm	1	D1S < 7 cm	< 8 cm	< 30 cm	D1M As for DS	> 30 cm	D1LT	8 - 18 cm		OG3	18 cm	
D2	11.5 - 13 cm	2	D2S < 7 cm	< 8 cm	< 30 cm	D2M As for DS	> 30 cm	D2LT	8 - 18 cm		OG3	18 cm	
E	< 11.5 cm	N/A	ES N/A	< 5 cm	< 30 cm	EM As for ES	> 30 cm	ELT	5 - 15 cm		OG3	15 cm	



Antler in SA, A, B, C, D and E grades:

- must be of good conformation, ie. with a trez tyne and with all tynes and the beam in proportion.
- without a trez tyne is to be reduced one grade (eg from C to D).
- may be downgraded for poor conformation including excessive overall length regardless of time of cutting.
- is subject to grader discretion based on the principle of separating late and well cut velvet.

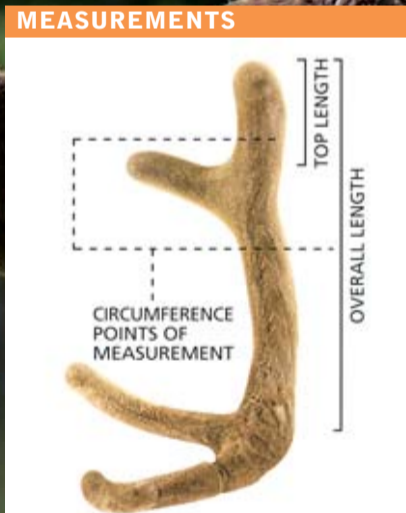
OVERGROWN

Overgrown 1
SA and A grade velvet which exceeds maximum top length.
SALT and ALT velvet which is indented.

Overgrown 2
B and C grade velvet which exceeds maximum top length or is indented.

Overgrown 3
D and E grade velvet which exceeds maximum top length or is indented.

Note: Damaged OG velvet is downgraded at grader's discretion. Severely damaged OG velvet is to be graded as Man2 or Man3.



Notes on measurements

Circumference
Circumference is taken as the lesser measurement of the circumference of the beam measured on the clear beam:

- immediately above the trez tyne
- midway between the top of the stick and the top of the inside cut.

'Clear' means that the measurement is not to be taken where webbing from a tyne or other growth on the antler would interfere with the measurement. The objective is to get a measurement representative of the average circumference of the beam.

Top Length
Top length is measured between the top of the stick and the bottom of the fork where the trez meets the beam.

Overall Length
Overall length is measured from the top of the stick to the top of the inside cut.

HYGIENE

Remember - velvet is a health food and should be handled and stored in a clean and hygienic manner.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Velvet removal is a Controlled Surgical Procedure and may only be performed by a Vet, or an approved person under the National Velveting Standards Body programme. Phone 04 473 4500 for more information. Illegal velvet removal is an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.



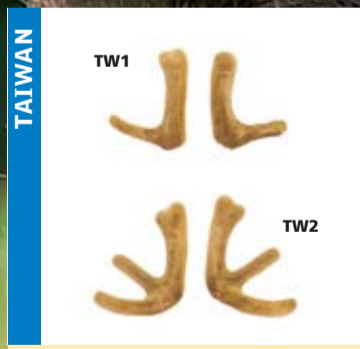
REGROWTH							
Regrowth	Circumference	Length	Tynes	Regrowth	Circumference	Length	Tynes
RG1	> 13 cm	10 - 25 cm	0 or 1	RG3	> 10 cm	10 - 20 cm	N/A
RG2	> 13 cm	10 - 35 cm	1 or 2	RG4	N/A	10 - 40 cm	N/A

RG1 must be fully rounded, straight stick or one tyne Regrowth (eg TW1 style, with the tyne fully attached to the beam, showing little or no calcification at the base).
RG2 must be rounded, straight stick, 1 or 2 tyne stick or Korean style. Early cut, minimal calcification.
RG3 is thinner and shorter regrowth of good shape and style, must be fully rounded on top, minimal calcification.
RG4 is other rounded Regrowth that has not started to taper or point on top. RG of mixed conformation.



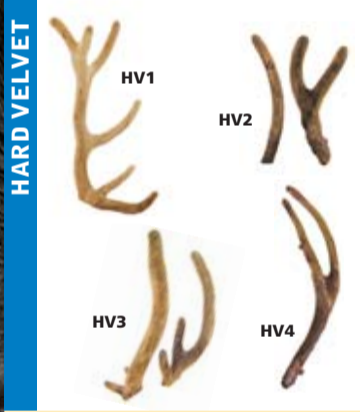
SPIKER			
Spiker	Circumference	Length	Tynes
SP1	> 9 cm	10 - 25 cm	0
SP2	< 9 cm	10 - 25 cm	0*
SP3	N/A	> 25 cm	Permitted
SPT	> 9 cm	< 25 cm	Permitted

No re-cut Spiker, ie Spiker that has been trimmed (so that it meets max lengths).
Spiker velvet must not be calcified and must be rounded on top.
*At grader discretion, Spiker velvet with Spiker 1 circumference but with a brow and/or bez tyne may be graded Spiker 2.
Otherwise Spiker 1 & 2 must have no tynes.
Spiker 3 is longer Spiker velvet and other good Spiker velvet with tynes. Must be rounded on top and uncalcified.
Any Spiker velvet that is tapering is graded HV2 or HV4.
Any Spiker velvet that is less than 10 cm is graded Man 1 or Man 2.



TAIWAN			
Taiwan	Circumference	Length	Tynes
TW1	> 13 cm	12 - 25 cm	1
TW2	> 13 cm	12 - 25 cm	2
TW3	> 11 cm	12 - 25 cm	1
TW4	> 11 cm	12 - 25 cm	2

Taiwan grades are for very early cut velvet. If a trez tyne is present it must not be prominent.



HARD VELVET

HV1
Fully developed antler with royals and velvet still attached. Soft at the tip.

HV2
Spiker velvet that is starting to taper at the tip. Spiker velvet that is calcified but still soft at the tip.

HV3
Regrowth Hard Velvet; heavily calcified regrowth that is starting to taper at the tip. Must still be soft at the tip.

HV4
Regrowth, spiker velvet and fully developed antler with royals that are stripping, or hard pointed, or totally calcified.



HARD ANTLER

HA1
Fully developed Hard Antler that is not bleached.

HA2
All other Hard Antler.

Note: Hard Antler needs no refrigeration for storage and is fully stripped antler.

DAMAGED VELVET				
GRADE	Repairable skin damage	Broken bottom tynes	Non repairable skin damage	Broken beam or trez tyne
SA	Dam 1	Dam 1	Dam 2	Dam 3
A	Dam 1	Dam 1	Dam 2	Dam 3
B	Dam 1	Dam 1	Dam 2	Dam 3
C	Dam 2	Dam 2	Dam 3	Dam 3
D	Dam 2	Dam 2	Dam 3	Man 2
E	Dam 3	Dam 3	Dam 3	Man 2

Other damaged velvet to Manufacturing

MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing 1
Spiker and Regrowth and other velvet. Must be rounded on top, not calcified, non-damaged. Between 3 and 10cm long.

Manufacturing 2
D and E velvet with broken beam or trez tyne. Any severely damaged velvet which is recoverable. Damaged Spiker that is not calcified. Spiker and Regrowth and any other velvet, which is not hard.

Manufacturing 3
Any severely damaged velvet which is not recoverable. Cut off pieces, and trimmed velvet. Any piece of velvet that is seen to be sub-standard to Man2 at grader discretion.



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