

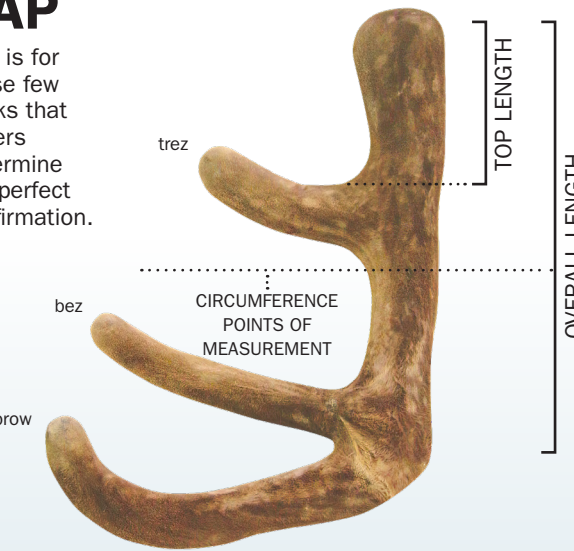
# Velvet grading guidelines

TRADITIONAL MARKET



### SAP

SAP is for those few sticks that buyers determine are perfect confirmation.



### MEASUREMENT NOTES

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

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

‘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.

### RCS

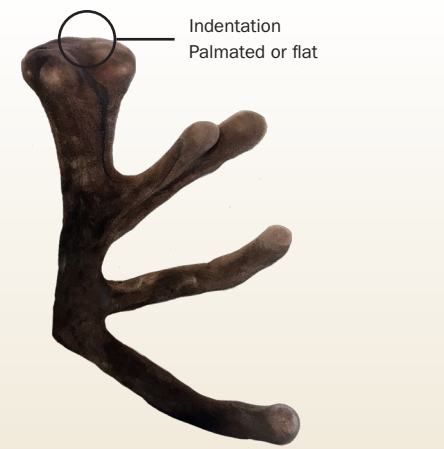
Regulated Control Scheme for Deer Velvet Harvest

Velvet for human consumption must meet the RCS conditions including hygiene, cold chain management, statutory declaration and traceability requirements For more information, go to: [www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/19379](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/19379)

### SAT

### SANT

Specific examples



SUPER A

<b>SAT</b> (Super A Traditional)	<b>Traditional style good conformation.</b> Top length should not exceed circumference. Must be under 55cm in total length, with a rounded top and minimum 2kg. Must be balanced and in proportion.
<b>SAL</b> (Super A Long)	<b>Traditional style good conformation.</b> Top length exceeding circumference or overall length over 55cm. Minimum 2kg. Must have no observable non-traditional traits as described in the box below.
<b>SANT</b> (Super A Non Traditional)	<b>Non-traditional shaped SA velvet.</b> 2kg minimum, under 55cm overall length and top length not exceeding circumference. Non-traditional traits include velvet beginning to indent, flat beamed, palmated or other non-symmetrical or poor conformation aspects.

	Circumference	Top Length		Overall Length	Top Length		Overall Length	Top Length		Overall Length
		Preferred	Max	Max	Preferred	Max	Max	Min	Class	
<b>A</b>	16–18cm	<13cm	<16cm	<45cm	<16cm	<26cm	>45cm	26cm	OG1	
<b>B</b>	14.5–16cm	<10cm	<13cm	<40cm	<13cm	<23cm	>40cm	23cm	OG2	
<b>C</b>	13–14.5cm	<8cm	<10cm	<35cm	<10cm	<20cm	>35cm	20cm	OG3	
<b>NT</b>	Non-traditional shaped A grade velvet (See SANT for non-traditional traits)									

**Antler in SAT, SAL A, B, and C grades:**

(a) must be of good conformation, ie. with a trez tyne and with all tynes and the beam in proportion.

(b) without a trez tyne is to be reduced one grade (eg from B to C).

(c) may be downgraded for poor conformation including excessive overall length regardless of time of cutting.

(d) is subject to grader discretion based on the principle of separating late and well cut velvet.

(e) can have one bottom tyne if the antler meets all other criteria of specified grade.

**OVERGROWN**

**Overgrown 1**  
SA and A grade velvet which exceeds maximum top length. SAL and AL velvet which is indented.

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

**Overgrown 3**  
C 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 Man 2 or Man 3.









SPIKER			
Spiker	Circumference	Length	Tynes
<b>SP1</b>	> 9cm	10–25cm	0
<b>SP3</b>	N/A	> 25cm	Up to 3
<b>SPmulti</b>	N/A	< 25cm	4+

No re-cut Spiker, ie Spiker that has been trimmed (so that it meets max lengths).

All spiker velvet must not be calcified and must be rounded on top.

Spiker 1 must have no tynes.

Spiker 3 is longer Spiker velvet and other good Spiker velvet with tynes.

Any Spiker velvet that is tapering is graded HV2 or HV4.

Any Spiker velvet that is less than 10cm is graded Man 1 or Man 2.

### 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 (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018.**









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

**RG1** must be fully rounded, straight stick or one tyne Regrowth (with the tyne fully attached to the beam, showing little or no calcification at the base).

**RG2** must be rounded, Korean style, early cut with 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.

DAMAGED VELVET				
Grade	Repairable skin damage	Broken bottom tynes	Non repairable skin damage	Broken beam or trez tyne
<b>SA</b>	Dam 1	Dam 1	Dam 2	Dam 3
<b>A</b>	Dam 1	Dam 1	Dam 2	Dam 3
<b>B</b>	Dam 1	Dam 1	Dam 2	Dam 3
<b>C</b>	Dam 2	Dam 2	Dam 3	Dam 3











HARD VELVET	HARD ANTLER
<b>HV1</b> Fully developed antler with royals and velvet still attached. Soft at the tip and no pointing.	<b>HA1</b> Fully developed hard antler that is not bleached.
<b>HV2</b> Spiker velvet that is starting to taper at the tip. Spiker velvet that is calcified but still soft at the tip.	
<b>HV3</b> Regrowth Hard Velvet; heavily calcified regrowth that is starting to taper at the tip. Must still be soft at the tip.	
<b>HV4</b> Regrowth, spiker velvet and fully developed antler with royals that are stripping, or hard pointed, or totally calcified.	<b>HA2</b> All other hard antler.
	Note: Hard antler needs no refrigeration for storage and is fully stripped antler.

MANUFACTURING
<b>Manufacturing 1</b> Spiker and Regrowth and other velvet. Must be rounded on top, not calcified, non-damaged. Between 3 and 10cm long.
<b>Manufacturing 2</b> Any severely damaged velvet which is recoverable. Spiker and Regrowth and any other velvet, which is not hard.
<b>Manufacturing 3</b> 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 Man 2 at grader discretion.