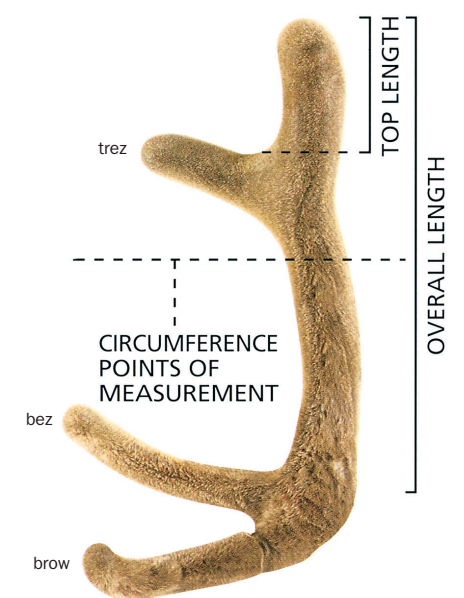


Velvet grading guidelines



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.

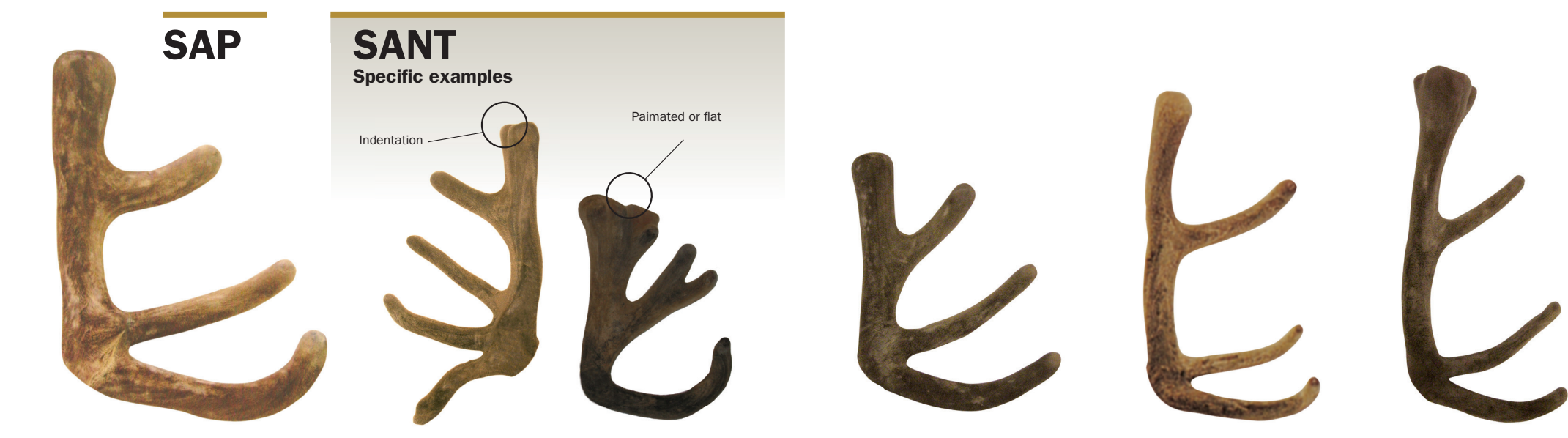
'Clear' means that the measurement is not to be taken where webbing from a tyne or other growth on the antler would interfere with the measurement. The objective is to get a measurement representative of the average circumference of the beam.

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.

HYGIENE

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



SUPER A	
SAP (Super A Premium)	Excellent conformation. Less than 50cm total length is preferred although grader discretion can be used for well balanced velvet exceeding this length. Top length should not exceed circumference. 2.3kgs minimum.
SAT (Super A Traditional)	Traditional style good conformation. Top length should not exceed circumference. Must be under 50cms in total length, round tips and minimum 2kgs.
SAL (Super A Long)	Traditional style good conformation. Top length exceeding circumference or overall length over 50cm. Minimum 2kgs. No indentation.
SANT (Super A Non Traditional)	Non-traditional shaped SA velvet, 2 kg minimum, under 55cm overall length and top length not exceeding circumference. Non-traditional traits include velvet beginning to indent, flat beamed, extra tyne, palmated or other non-symmetrical or poor conformation aspects.

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

Excellent conformation means NO:

- Bifurcation (splitting or dividing) of tyne
- No indentation
- Non symmetrical aspects within a stick
- Poorly positioned or high tyne
- Weak bez or trez tyne
- Noticeable snags and basal hangers
- Excessive bottom tyne lengths

	Circumference	SHORT			LONG			OVERGROWN	
		Preferred	Max	Overall Length	Preferred	Max	Overall Length	Top Length	Class
A	16 - 18cm	< 13cm	< 16cm	< 45cm	< 16 cm	< 26cm	> 45cm	26cm	OG1
B	14.5 - 16cm	< 10cm	< 13 cm	< 40cm	< 13 cm	< 23 cm	> 40cm	23cm	OG2
C	13 - 14.5cm	< 8cm	< 10 cm	< 35cm	< 10 cm	< 20 cm	> 35cm	20cm	OG2
D	11.5 - 13cm	< 7cm	< 8cm	< 30cm	< 8 cm	< 18cm	> 30cm	18cm	OG3
NT	Non-traditional shaped A grade velvet (See SANT for non-traditional traits)								

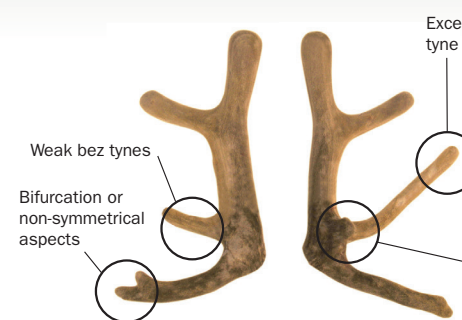
Antler in SAP, SAT, SAL, A, B, C, & D grades:

- must be of good conformation, ie. with a trez tyne and with all tyne 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. SAL and AL velvet which is indented.
- Overgrown 2**
B and C grade velvet which exceeds maximum top length or is indented.
- Overgrown 3**
D 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.

CONFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS INFLUENCING GRADING



TAIWAN



Taiwan	Circumference	Length	Tynes
TW	> 13cm	12 - 25cm	1 or 2

Taiwan grades are for very early cut velvet.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Velvet removal is a Controlled Surgical Procedure and may only be performed by a Vet, or an approved person under the National Velvetting Standards Body programme. Phone 04 473 4500 for more information.

Illegal velvet removal is an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.



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

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



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

DAMAGED VELVET				
Grade	Repairable skin damage	Broken bottom tyne	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



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

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. 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.