

# TANZANIA SISAL BOARD

## APPROVED SISAL FIBRE GRADES DEFINITIONS

### 1. GRADE 1

Length of fibre should be from 90cm (3feet) upwards. Colour of fibre should be creamy white to cream. It should be free from defective decortications and be properly brushed. Free of undecorticated barks, harshness, knots, tousled and bunchy ends. It should also be free of tows.

### 2. GRADE A

Length of fibre should be from 90cm (3feet) upwards. Colour of fibre should be yellowish caused by over drying. It should be free of defective decortications and be properly brushed. Free of undecorticated barks, harshness, knots, tousled and bunchy ends. It should also be free of tows.

### 3. GRADE 2

Length of fibre should be from 75cm (2-½ feet) to 89cm. Colour of fibre should be creamy white to cream. It should be free of defective decortications and be properly brushed. Free of undecorticated barks, harshness, knots, tousled and bunchy ends. It should also be free of tows.

### 4. GRADE 3L

Length of fibre should be from 90cm (3 feet) upwards. Colour of fibre should be a mixture of whitish and yellowish. It should be free of defective decortications and be properly brushed. Free of undecorticated barks, harshness, knots, tousled and bunchy ends. It should also be free of tows.

### 5. GRADE 3 (or 3SHORT)

Length of fibre should be from 60cm (2 feet) to 89cm. Colour of fibre should be a mixture of whitish and yellowish. It should be free of defective decortications and be properly brushed. Free of undecorticated barks, harshness, knots, tousled and bunchy ends. It should also be free of tows.

### 6. GRADE UG (OR R)

Length of fibre should be from 60cm (2 feet) upwards. Colour of fibre may be brownish and spotted due to damaged leaf or greenish due to insufficient water during decortications. Black coloured fibre is not allowed in this grade because this shows that it is in the process of rotting (or rotten). Moreover, fibre should be properly brushed, free of undecorticated barks, harshness, knots, tousled and bunchy ends. It should also be free of tows.

### 7. GRADE S.S.U.G. (SUB STANDARD UNDER GRADE)

This is the fibre that does not conform to standard UG grade but can be exported as line fibre. Length of fibre should not be less than 60cm (2 feet). Colour of fibre may vary from yellowish to more dark and blemished.

Spots in a higher proportion are acceptable. But it should be free of undecorticated barks, harshness, knots, tousled and bunched ends, rotten fibre and tows.

**8. GRADE TOW 1 (TOW NO. 1)**

This is fibre which has been cut and thrown behind the brushing machines during the process of brushing. Colour of fibre should be creamy white to cream. It should be free of undecorticated barks, knots, dusts, and sweepings and should not contain fibre of other mentioned grades.

**9. GRADE TOW 2 (TOW NO. 2)**

This is fibre which has been cut and thrown behind the brushing machines during the process of brushing. Colour of fibre may be brownish, spotted, yellowish or greenish. Black coloured fibre is not allowed in this grade because this shows that it is in the process of rotting (or rotten). Moreover, fibre should be free of undecorticated barks, knots, dusts, and sweepings and should not contain fibre of other mentioned grades.

**10. GRADE UF (UNSPINNABLE OR UNEXPORTABLE FIBRE)**

Fibre of this grade can be of any length and colour. The fibre normally contains a lot of undecorticated barks, harshness, knots and heavily spotted. Generally this is fibre which can't be put in any of the above-mentioned grades.

**11. UNCARDED FLUME TOW**

It should be uniform in colour of creamy white to light brown, devoid of undecorticated strips of sisal leaf, rotten fibre and foreign materials. It should be dried properly with moisture content similar to other grades. Dust content not to exceed 15 percent when extracted by hand. The bales should be pressed to standard size weighing 200kgs per bale.

**12. CARDED FLUME TOW**

It should be the same as uncarded flume tow except the total dust content not to exceed 10 percent.

**TANZANIA SISAL BOARD**

**January 2008**