Possible Defects

Defects include the superficial or intrinsic damage that adversely affect the appearance of the nut kernels. These include scorching, discolouration, blemishes, spots, shrivelling and immaturity, scrapes, adhering testa and speckles. These defects vary by grade.

Scorching

A discolouration due to over-heating during the roasting or drying process. Usually a light brown colour but can also possess shades of light grey, deep ivory and yellow.

Blemishes or Discolouration

Spots in aggregate in excess of 3mm from causes other than shelling or blanching.



Pitted Spots

Black brown or other coloured spots in excess of 1mm, caused by pre-harvest attacks on the kernel.



Shrivelling and Immaturity

Shrivelling - A complete withering of the kernel that distorts its natural shape

Immaturity – Kernels are underdeveloped and do not have the characteristic shape of a cashew kernel

Adhering Testa

Testa is the natural protective skin of the cashew. Kernels are scored as affected by adhering testa when a surface area greater than 2mm in aggregate is affected.

Superficial Damage and Scraping

Superficial Damage - Deep knife cuts on the surface of the kernel that change the characteristic shape of the nut.

Scraping – Damage of the outer surface of the kernel by knife scratches affecting an aggregate area of 5mm or more. Scrapes on the inside of the natural curve of the nut are not counted as scrapes.