How to use this guide

This guide has been written for authorised officers as a reference guide to inspection techniques for plant export commodities. This will help to ensure that all authorised officers maintain nationally consistent inspection techniques for raw baled cotton.

The guide should be read in conjunction with the equipment guide for non-horticulture commodities and current instructional and reference material.

Before you start

Ensure that you:

- check the importing country requirements to determine the requirements for your inspection
- have the correct inspection equipment
- have the correct Export Compliance Record
- wear appropriate personal protective equipment
- have the current relevant instructional and reference material.
**Inspection process**

Inspect the outside of the bales by walking around the entire consignment looking for live pests, vermin and their waste, and contaminants.

Expose the top of the bale and inspect for live pests, vermin and their waste, and contaminants.

Check inside the top of the bale for live pests, vermin and their waste, and contaminants, by teasing apart the compacted cotton with your fingers.

To inspect cotton from elsewhere within the bale, make a horizontal 20 cm cut in the packaging on the side of the bale, then a second vertical 20 cm cut, to make an L-shape.
Check inside the packaging for pests and contaminants.

Use existing tears in the packaging, if they meet the above cut requirements, to access and inspect the cotton. This reduces the damage to the packaging.

Use a torch to help see inside the packaging and inspect cotton that is not readily accessible.
What to do if you find a pest or disease

Follow the rejection procedures outlined in the relevant instructional and reference material.

More information

Export Control Act 1982
Export Control (Orders) Regulations 1982
Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Order 2011
Plant export operations manual (PEOM):
Manual of Importing Country Requirements (MCoR—Plants):
www.daff.gov.au/micor/plants

Contaminants, pests and diseases

Contaminants

- sand and soil
- objectionable material (e.g. metal, plastic).

Pests and diseases

- live pests (e.g. insects)
- live vermin and carcasses (e.g. rats and mice)
- weed seeds.

Refer to the Plant export operations manual for more information on contaminants, pests and diseases of export non-horticulture commodities.