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 prescribed grain and plant products that have a particle size greater than the sieve hole (e.g. grain and seeds).

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

General notes on inspection techniques

Samples of some commodities are drawn using one of the following methods:

- automatically by an automatic sampler
- manually by an authorised officer.

Refer to the relevant work instructions for the right sampling procedures and sample sizes.

Alternative inspection techniques are needed for some commodities, such as:

- goods with a particle size greater than the sieve hole that flow (e.g. grains and seeds)
- goods with a particle size greater than the sieve hole that do not flow (e.g. nuts, meals and pellets)
- goods with a particle size less than the sieve hole (e.g. flour and semolina)
- goods in very small packages (e.g. seeds in packets)
- goods in very large packages (e.g. ‘Bulka’ bags).

You should assess the consignment and determine the most appropriate equipment and technique to draw the samples and to inspect the goods.
**Inspection process**

**Example 1**: This sampling machine automatically draws and sieves an appropriate sample.

Place the sampling tray under the sampling machine output area.

Inspect the sieved grain for pests, diseases, weeds and other contaminants.

Inspect the residue for pests, diseases, weeds and other contaminants.

**Example 2**: This automatic sampling machine draws an appropriate sample and sieves it, separating the grain and residue. The sieved sample and the residue run separately along the moving belt as the inspection is conducted.
Inspect the grain and residue for pests, diseases, weeds and other contaminants.

To detect moving insects, hold the pan very still for about 15 seconds to allow the insects to start moving after being shaken.

To make it easier to detect insect life-cycle stages, tap the base of the pan or shake the pan smoothly to create a thin layer of fines no greater than 2 mm thick.

Return the inspected samples to the commodity source.
What to do if you find a pest or disease

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

Contaminants, pests and diseases

Contaminants

- artificial colouring
- ergot fungi
- foreign seeds (e.g. Datura spp.)
- objectionable material (e.g. wood, metal, plastic)
- odour
- pickling compounds
- sand and soil.

Pests and diseases

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

More information

Export Control Act 1982
Export Control (Orders) Regulations 1982
Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Order 2011