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 are nuts.

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.

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**

Pour the produce from the packaging onto the inspection bench.

Inspect the packaging, using a torch to examine any dark areas.

Place the sample in a sieve.

Shake the sieve to enable the sample to move freely across the mesh and the small particles to fall through to the pan.
Inspect the pan for evidence of pests.

Uncover pests with equipment such as a small paintbrush or tweezers.

Examine with a hand lens, if necessary.

Return the sample to its packaging.
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 (MICoR—Plants):* 
www.daff.gov.au/micor/plants

Contaminants, pests and diseases

**Contaminants**

- artificial colouring
- foreign seeds (e.g. weed seeds)
- 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.