Goods with a particle size less than the sieve hole

Plant export inspection techniques guide

PGG3001 Prescribed grain and plant products

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 less than the sieve hole (e.g. flour).

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

If inspecting flour from bags, draw appropriate samples using the correct size of trier.

Push the trier through the side of the bag to draw a sample. After drawing the sample, rub the flat end of the trier against the bag to seal the hole, to prevent further spillage.

If inspecting flour from smaller packages, select a sample from the packages. Pour the contents into the pan or tray. If lumps are present, sieve the sample to remove the lumps.
Spread the contents out thinly and evenly so that pests can be seen easily.

Inspect the contents of the pan.

Examine with a hand lens and torch, if necessary.
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 more information on pests, diseases and contaminants of export non-horticulture plant products.