

Directive

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INSPECTION OF EXPORT LOTS OF SOYBEANS FOR RAGWEED SEEDS

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1. PURPOSE

This directive establishes procedures for examining export soybean shipments to Russia for common ragweed seeds (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) and giant ragweed seeds (*Ambrosia trifida* L.). The analysis of this inspection factor is provided under the authority of the U.S. Grain Standards Act, as amended.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Russian plant quarantine regulations prohibit the entry of certain lots of soybeans that contain more than 0.5 percent of common and giant ragweed seed.

3. REQUEST FOR SERVICE

The inspection of export lots for ragweed seeds is provided by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and delegated States as a qualitative examination. The examination may only be performed on subplot samples. Interested parties wishing to receive ragweed inspections should contact their local AMS field office or State inspection office. Please note that this determination is not required for most export shipments; ragweed inspections shall only be provided upon request.

4. PROCEDURE

For each subplot sample, official inspection personnel shall perform a cursory check on the 1,000-gram work portion for ragweed seed. For identification purposes, refer to the official line print "Common and Giant Ragweed (*Ambrosia*) Seed."

- a. If a subplot sample does not appear to contain an appreciable number of ragweed seeds (e.g., less than 100), show less than or equal to 0.5 percent (<0.5 percent) on the inspection log.
- b. If a sample appears to contain a significant number of ragweed seeds (e.g. 100 or more) perform a detailed analysis on the sample. Determine the percentage of ragweed seeds on the basis of the 125-gram portion that is used for determination of foreign material.
 - (1) If the subplot sample is found to contain an amount less than or equal to 0.5 percent ragweed seed, show "<0.5)" on the inspection log.
 - (2) If the sample is found to contain 0.6 percent or more ragweed seeds, show the percent of ragweed seeds on the inspection log to the nearest tenth percent. Immediately notify the applicant for inspection.

5. CERTIFICATION

Show one of the following statements on the inspection certificate or on letterhead paper. The wording of these statements may be modified provided the meaning is not altered and the appropriate FGIS field office or federal-state office manager approves the statements.

- a. If no subplot was found to contain 0.6 percent or more of ragweed seeds, show the following statement in the Remarks section of the export inspection certificate.

“This lot of soybeans was examined and found to contain 0.5 percent or less of ragweed seeds.”

- b. If one or more subplots were found to contain 0.6 percent or more of ragweed seeds, show the following statement in the Remarks section of the export inspection certificate:

“Approximately (number of bushels/tons) of soybeans were found to contain 0.6 percent or more of ragweed seeds.”

6. QUESTIONS

Questions regarding this procedure should be directed to the Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch (PPMAB).