

Directive

9180.17

January 4, 2011

INSPECTION OF EXPORT WHEAT LOTS FOR CANADA THISTLE SEED

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1. PURPOSE

This directive establishes procedures for examining export wheat shipments to Argentina and Korea for Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) seeds.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces Directive 9180.17, dated 7/20/04. This directive is revised to include inspection procedures for containerized export wheat shipments and to make other minor editorial changes.

3. POLICY

The Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), a program of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), will assist the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in the issuance of phytosanitary certificates for wheat shipments to Argentina and Korea by examining these shipments for thistle-like seeds. Official personnel will notify APHIS if thistle-like seeds are detected so APHIS may positively identify suspect seed before issuing a phytosanitary certificate since these countries prohibit the importation of Canada thistle seed.

4. PROCEDURE

- a. Basis of Determination. The analysis of Canada thistle seed is made on the same basis as the grading factors. For vessels, analyze each subplot for the presence of thistle-like seeds based on a 1,000-gram sample (sample as a whole). For container shipments; if the containers are inspected on an individual (per container) grade basis, the basis of determination for the presence of thistle-like seeds is a 1,000-gram sample (sample as a whole). If the containers are graded on a composite basis, the 1,000-gram sample (sample as a whole) composite sample for the containers is used for the analysis of Canada thistle seed.

Detecting Thistle-Like Seed. Canada thistle seed is much smaller than a wheat kernel and is easily removed from the analytical sample by using a dockage tester and hand sieves. Check the dockage and the fine material removed with a .064 x 3/8 oblong-hole sieve from the dockage-free sample to facilitate the detection of thistle-like seeds.

- b. Identifying Thistle-Like Seeds. The following photographs depict the relative size of Canada thistle to wheat and compares Canada thistle to Bull thistle (similar in size and appearance).



Inspection for thistle seed must also include a search for seeds contained in the flowering part of the plant. This material is usually removed as part of dockage.



- c. Reporting Results.

(1) Ship Sublots.

- (a) If a subplot sample does not contain any thistle-like seeds, record “Canada thistle seed – None found” in the “Remarks” section of the inspection log or work record.

Complete an “Insects in Grain Report” Form FGIS-921-2 with all pertinent information and in the “Remarks” section record “Canada thistle-seed – None found”.

- (b) If a subplot sample contains one or more suspect thistle-like seeds that are similar to Canada thistle seeds:

- 1 Record the number of suspect seeds in the “Remarks” section of the inspection log or work record along with who was notified and when.

- 2 Notify the exporter of the number of suspected seeds detected.
- 3 Notify the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch at 704-810-8870. Overnight the suspect seeds to the following address for final determination:

Chief
USDA, AMS
Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch
801 Summit Crossing Place, Suite C
Gastonia, NC 28054-2193
- 4 Complete an "Insects in the Grain Report" Form FGIS- 921-2 detailing all information involving the subplot sample, forward a copy of the FGIS-921-2 along with the mailed sample.
- 5 Field office/federal-state managers and managers of official service providers will coordinate the efficient transfer of information/suspect seed results with the local APHIS/Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) office and grain facility.

(2) Containerized Shipments.

- (a) If a containerized shipment sample, or a containerized shipment component sample does not contain any thistle-like seeds, record "Canada thistle seed – None found" in the "Remarks" section of the inspection log or work record.

Complete an "Insects in the Grain Report" Form FGIS-921-2 with all pertinent information and in the "Remarks" section record "Canada thistle-seed- None found".

- (b) If a containerized shipment sample, or a containerized shipment component sample contains one or more suspect thistle like seeds that are similar to Canada thistle seeds:
 - 1 Record the number of suspect seeds in the "Remarks" section of the inspection log or work record along with who was notified and when.
 - 2 Notify the exporter of the number of suspected seeds detected.
 - 3 Notify the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch at 704-810-8870. Overnight the suspect seeds to the following address for final determination:

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- 4 Complete an “Insects in the Grain Report” Form FGIS- 921-2 detailing all information involving the subplot sample, forward a copy of the FGIS-921-2 along with the mailed sample.
- 5 Field office/federal-state managers and managers of official service providers will coordinate the efficient transfer of information/suspect seed results with the local APHIS/Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) office and grain facility.

PPQ will not issue a federal phytosanitary certificate for any lot that has not had the Canada thistle seeds removed.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions regarding this procedure to the Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch at (202) 720-0228.