

Directive

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INSPECTION FOR RAGWEED SEEDS IN LOTS OF WHEAT

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1. PURPOSE

This directive establishes procedures for examining export wheat shiplots to Egypt for common (a.k.a. annual) ragweed seeds (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L.) and giant (a.k.a. great) ragweed seeds (*Ambrosia trifida* L.). The analysis of this inspection factor is provided under the authority of the United States Grain Standards Act, as amended.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Wheat merchandisers originating wheat for export to Egypt may request Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) field offices or official agencies to determine ragweed seed presence in wheat lots inspected at export port locations. Commonly the load order would state “Free from Ambrosia Seeds”.

3. REQUEST FOR SERVICE

The inspection of wheat lots for ragweed (a.k.a. Ambrosia) seeds is provided by AMS as a quantitative examination. Interested parties wishing to receive ragweed inspections should contact their local AMS field office, or delegated official agency. Please note that this determination is not required for most wheat shipments; ragweed inspections shall only be provided upon request.

4. PROCEDURE

For identification purposes, refer to the official line print “Common and Giant Ragweed (Ambrosia) Seed.” The basis of determination is on a 1000-gram representative portion before the removal of dockage.

For export sublots inspected using the CuSum loading program, record the count on the inspection log (factor name in APS is “Ragweed (Ambrosia) Seeds”; abbreviation AMBS). “Free from Ambrosia seeds” is defined to mean that any Ambrosia (Giant Ragweed) seed found in the 1000-gram analysis portion would constitute a material portion. Review inspections will follow the basic rules in Grain Inspection Handbook 3, Chapter 1. Review inspection results will be averaged with the previous inspection results for material portion(s) occurring during the original inspection.

5. CERTIFICATION

If an export shiplot does not contain any Ambrosia seeds, record “Free from Ambrosia seeds” in the “Remarks” section of the inspection certificate.

6. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions regarding this directive to the Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch (PPMAB) at (202) 20-0228.