

# Directive

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**SPECIAL QUALITY FACTOR INFORMATION FOR WHEAT AND MALTING BARLEY  
SHIPMENTS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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## 1. PURPOSE

This directive transmits procedures for reporting special quality factor information in the “Remarks” section of official export inspection certificates for wheat and malting barley shipments destined for countries in the European Union.

## 2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This is a new directive.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- a. Effective January 1, 2003, the European Commission (EC) adopted Commission Regulations (EC) No 2377/2002 and No 2378/2002 to recognize the Federal Grain Inspection Service’s (FGIS) Official Export Grain Inspection Certificate as a certificate of conformity for import duties.
- b. Import duties for wheat and malting barley are based on special quality factor information.

## 4. PROCEDURE

- a. Provide special quality factor inspection service, upon request. Applicants must include this request as part of their application for services.
- b. Determine special quality factors according to official inspection procedures and the Official U.S. Standards for Grain, as follows:
  - (1) Wheat Quality Factors:
    - (a) Protein. Determined using FGIS procedures.
    - (b) Test Weight. Determined using FGIS procedures then converted to kilograms per hectoliter (kg/hL).
    - (c) Impurities. The sum of dockage, foreign material, and heat damaged kernels as determined using FGIS procedures.
    - (d) Hard Vitreous Amber Color. Hard and vitreous kernels of amber color as determined using FGIS procedures. Applicable only to durum wheat.
  - (2) Malting Barley Quality Factors.
    - (a) Damaged Grains. Damaged kernels as determined using FGIS procedures.
    - (b) Sound and Fair Merchantable Barley. Sound barley and grains damaged by frost or fungus as determined using FGIS procedures.

- (c) Test Weight. Determined using FGIS procedures then converted to kilograms per hectoliter (kg/hL).
  - (d) Moisture. Determined using FGIS procedures.
- c. Report the special quality factor inspection results in the “Remarks” section of the inspection certificate.

## 5. CERTIFICATION

Show the following information in the “Remarks” section of the “Official Export Grain Inspection Certificate.”

a. Wheat Shipments.

- (1) Protein: \_\_\_\_\_%, (moisture basis).
- (2) Test weight: \_\_\_\_\_ kg/hL.
- (3) Impurities: \_\_\_\_\_%.
- (4) Hard Vitreous Amber Color: \_\_\_\_\_%.  
(Applicable only to durum wheat.)

b. Malting Barley Shipments.

- (1) Damaged Grains: \_\_\_\_\_%.
- (2) Sound and fair merchantable barley: \_\_\_\_\_%.
- (3) Test weight: \_\_\_\_\_ kg/hL.
- (4) Moisture: \_\_\_\_\_%.

## 6. QUESTIONS

Questions regarding this procedure should be directed to the Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch (PPMAB) at (202) 720-0228.