

Directive

9180.86

February 27, 2019

INSPECTION OF EXPORT SOYBEAN AND WHEAT LOTS FOR CANADA THISTLE

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1. PURPOSE

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

2. BACKGROUND

This is a new Directive to implement Vietnam's Plant Protection Department (PPD) import requirements as indicated by USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). New regulations by Vietnam prohibit the entry of Canada thistle seeds. The Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), a program of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), conducts phytosanitary inspections to assist APHIS under a memorandum of understanding.

3. POLICY

To assist APHIS in the issuance of phytosanitary certificates for soybean and wheat shipments to Vietnam, FGIS will examine these shipments for thistle-like seeds. This Directive is effective March 1, 2019. This Directive may also be applied to domestic movement of soybeans and wheat, upon request.

4. PROCEDURE

- a. FGIS will review shipments for Canada thistle-like seeds for shipments to Vietnam upon request of the applicant.

Basis of Determination. The analysis for Canada thistle-like seed in wheat and soybean is made on a representative portion of 1000-grams. The 1000-gram work portion may be used, or a separate 1000-gram portion may be obtained. For vessels, analyze one sample per subplot for the presence of thistle-like seeds. For container shipments inspected on an individual (per container) grade basis, analyze one sample per container for the presence of thistle-like seeds. For container shipments inspected on a composite basis, analyze one sample per composite for the presence of thistle-like seeds.

Detecting Thistle-Like Seed. Canada thistle seed is much smaller than soybean or wheat and is easily removed from the analytical sample by mechanical means and/or hand sieves. Use a sieve size and opening shape applicable to separating the fine material from the target grain, such as an 8/64 round-hole sieve for soybean and 0.064 x 3/8 oblong-hole sieve for wheat.

- 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 – 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 – 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 AMS Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch at 704-810-8871. 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 – 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- 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 AMS Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch at 704-810-8871. 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.

Note: If suspected weed seeds are confirmed by AMS to be Canada thistle, the service provider will contact and report this fact to the Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch at 202-720-0228 or email at FGISPoliciesProceduresMarketAnalsysBranch@ams.usda.gov.

Note: APHIS/PPQ cannot issue a federal phytosanitary certificate for any wheat or soybean consignment to Vietnam that has Canada thistle seed.

5. QUESTIONS

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