

Directive

9180.47

July 24, 2012

EXAMINATION OF GRAIN FOR THE PRESENCE OF TCK SPORES

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1. PURPOSE

This directive transmits sample handling and certification procedures for grain examined for the presence of *Tilletia controversa* Kuhn (TCK) smut spores.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces Program Directive 9180.47, Examination of Grain for the Presence of TCK Smut Spores, dated June 15, 1999. It updates the billing and certification responsibilities to the requesting Official Agency and/or Field Office.

3. POLICY

The Administrator has determined that the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) will, upon request, provide for analysis of grain samples for the presence of TCK smut spores under the guidelines of the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

4. BACKGROUND

TCK, also called Dwarf Bunt, is a smut fungus found in the soil or on the surface of wheat kernels. The organism only infects plants that grow during the winter. High levels of the disease are usually found after early and persistent snow cover. Wheat infected with TCK is obviously dwarfed in contrast to healthy plants and the inside of each kernel is converted into millions of fungus spores. The spores are not harmful to humans or livestock. Using current detection methodology, it is possible to adequately measure the presence of spores. Upon request, analysis of grain samples other than wheat for presence of TCK smut spores is permissible.

5. REQUEST FOR SERVICES

Due to an agreement reached with Chinese (PRC) officials, FGIS has arranged for TCK smut testing service (quantitative or qualitative) to be provided through the Wheat Marketing Center (WMC) laboratory in Portland, Oregon. The test may be performed on shiplot composite samples, unit train composite samples, bargelots, carlots, trucklots, and submitted samples. Interested parties wishing to receive TCK testing should contact their local field office for service. Shipments to China are restricted to quantitative analysis only.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Applicant for Service. The applicant shall request the optional testing service through their local service provider, Official Agency (OA), or Field Office (FO). The request must include the applicant's name, and telephone number, whether qualitative or quantitative certification is desired, and the destination of the lot, if known. A quantitative analysis (actual number of spores per 50 grams) is provided unless a qualitative analysis (a screening for the presence of TCK) is requested. The qualitative analysis will cease when the first teliospore is detected.

- b. WMC. The WMC is responsible for performing the original test and review (reinspection/appeal) analysis, if any, maintaining a file sample for 90 days, reporting the results to the OA or FO in a timely manner, and billing the official agency or field office for the specified per sample analysis rate. The WMC shall maintain all test records and documentation and provide to FGIS upon request.
- c. Official Agency/Field Office. The OA or FO shall forward the sample to WMC, at the applicant's expense, with the required information. WMC shall report the results to the official agency or field office. The Official Service provider (OA or FO) shall issue the certificate and bill the applicant.

For services performed for FGIS, the billing will consist of the current hourly rate, if applicable, plus the specified per sample analysis rate amount billed by WMC using non-contact rate G213, rounded to the closest quarter hour, plus the specified per sample analysis rate amount bill by WMC.

7. GENERAL SAMPLING AND ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES

The TCK analysis requires a 500-gram minimum sample. Original service points must maintain an additional 500-gram sample as a backup file sample. Upon completion of official sampling and/or inspection, the service point shall forward the official sample to WMC. The WMC shall maintain a file sample on each original and appeal inspection for 90 days.

The official service providers shall use a Boerner divider to obtain a 500-gram minimum sample from a representative sample (vessel or unit-train composite) and place it in an airtight container (e.g., double walled, sealed plastic bag) for shipment to the lab. The sample bag shall be marked with the carrier identification name or number, type of test requested, and accompanied by documentation identifying the carrier, lot number (if applicable), original inspection certificate number (if available), Field Office or Official Agency address and phone number, the date, destination (mandatory if going to the PRC), and a legible copy of the application for inspection. Retain a file sample of at least 500 grams in an airtight container.

Send the sample(s) and documentation by overnight delivery (if appropriate), at applicant's expense, to:

Wheat Marketing Center, Inc.
1200 N.W. Front Avenue, Suite 230
Portland, OR 97209-2800
ATTN: TCK TESTING

NOTE: Sample analysis will take hours and possibly days. The lab will notify the field office or official agency of the result(s) promptly upon completion of testing. However, in case of an emergency, the WMC may be contacted at (503) 295-0823 or a fax sent to (503) 295-2735.

8. REVIEW INSPECTIONS

Sections 800.125 and 800.135 of the regulations permit a review inspection on either official grade/factors or official criteria. When requested, a review inspection for official grade/factors and official criteria may be handled separately even though both sets of results are reported on the same certificate.

Applicants may request either qualitative or quantitative review analysis unless the original or a review analysis was quantitative. Then, only a quantitative analysis is available. All review inspection results replace previous results.

Review inspections will be limited to reinspection and appeals. WMC will perform review inspections on the basis of the file sample.

9. CERTIFICATION

Certify the results in the results section on the appropriate official certificate. All shipments to the PRC shall be analyzed on a quantitative basis.

Quantitative TCK testing:

Export shipments to the PRC:

Tilletia controversa Kuhn spores (exceed/do not exceed) 30,000 per 50 grams
of sample
and

All quantitative export and domestic analyses:

(number of spores) *Tilletia controversa* Kuhn spores per 50 grams of sample.

Qualitative TCK testing:

Tilletia controversa Kuhn spores (present/not present).

10. QUESTIONS

Any questions should be directed to the Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch (PPMAB) at (816) 659-8403.

/s/ Robert Lijewski

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