

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-99-20 10/13/99

CERTIFICATION OF TCK SMUT FOR SHIPMENTS TO INDIA

1. PURPOSE

This notice transmits procedures for official personnel to visually inspect and certify dwarf bunt (*Tilletia controversa* [Kuhn], or TCK smut) in wheat destined to India.

2. BACKGROUND

India has a maximum 0.005 percent tolerance for dwarf bunt (TCK smut) in wheat. This tolerance is equivalent to 5 smut balls per 100,000 kernels of wheat. Indian officials calculate this tolerance on both a count and weight basis.

GIPSA inspection data indicates there are approximately 33.3 kernels of wheat per gram of sample. Therefore, the average weight of each kernel is approximately 0.03 grams. Consistent with Indian practices, the weight of a smut ball shall be considered equal to the weight of an individual kernel. A smut ball is defined as a whole smut ball or portions of smut balls equal in quantity to a whole smut ball of average size.

Current official procedures for determining the presence of smut only measure the total number of smut balls present. Official inspection personnel cannot visually differentiate between specific types of smut. Therefore, in order to assure India's TCK tolerance is not compromised, any smut ball or portions of smut balls detected are assumed to be TCK.

In order to facilitate the marketing of U.S. wheat to India, GIPSA has determined that certification of TCK based on a visual assessment for smut balls is a practical method to determine compliance with their 0.005 percent tolerance.

3. PROCEDURES

- a. Basis of Determination. Upon request, determine the presence of smut before the removal of dockage based on a work portion of approximately 1000-1050 grams (approximately 33,300 kernels).

If one smut ball (or portions of smut balls which, in aggregate, equal one smut ball of average size) is found in the work portion, then the sample is considered within tolerance for both count and weight. (One smut ball in 33,300 kernels equals 0.003 percent by count and 0.03 grams in 1,000 grams equals 0.003 percent by weight).

If the sample contains whole and/or portions of smut balls exceeding one smut ball, but not more than the equivalent of 1.5 smut balls, then the sample meets the tolerance on a count basis. However, inspection personnel must then calculate the percent of smut balls by weight to determine if the weight tolerance has been exceeded.

If the sample contains whole and/or portions of smut balls exceeding the equivalent of 1.5 smut balls, then the sample does not meet the Indian tolerances for both count and weight.

Use the following guidelines for determining whether a sample meets or exceeds Indian tolerances:

Quantity of Smut Balls in Work Portion	Decision
0 – 1	Within TCK tolerance for count and weight
>1 to 1.5	Within TCK tolerance for count Calculate percentage by weight to determine if within tolerance
> 1.5	Does not meet TCK tolerance for count and weight

- b. Recording results. Two columns, one for count and one for weight, shall be maintained on the ship-loading log. In the count column, record the number of smut balls found in each subplot. In the weight column, indicate whether the subplot meets or exceeds the weight tolerance.
- c. Certification. Use the following statement when the tolerances for count and weight are met for the lot:

“Contains less than 0.005% of dwarf bunt (*Tilletia controversa*)”

4. QUESTIONS

Please direct any questions regarding this procedure to the Standards and Procedures Branch at (202) 720-0252.

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Field Management Division