



# REFERENCE

## Plant exports guide—hay and straw inspection techniques

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## Purpose of this document


This document has been written for authorised officers (AOs) as a reference guide on techniques to use when inspecting hay and straw for export.

## Inspecting hay and straw


The following table illustrates and describes methods of taking samples of hay and straw bales for inspection.

What does this look like	Description
	<b>Surface inspection</b> The surface of the bale is inspected for live pests, vermin and their waste and contaminants.
	<b>Surface inspection</b> The straps of the bale are cut.

What does this look like	Description
	<p><b>Subsamples</b></p> <p>The bale is split into subsamples ('biscuits') from across the bale.</p>
	<p><b>Inspection of biscuit</b></p> <p>All the surfaces and sides of the biscuit are inspected for live pests, vermin and their waste and contaminants.</p>
	<p><b>Preparing sample</b></p> <p>The AO breaks the biscuit into pieces to fit into a sieve. The broken pieces can be shaken over the inspection bench to remove the loose particles.</p>

What does this look like	Description
	<p><b>Sieving sample</b></p> <p>The remainder of the sample is placed in the sieve.</p>
	<p><b>Sieving sample</b></p> <p>The sieve is shaken vigorously for at least 30 seconds, but preferably longer (to 1 minute). The sieve is moved in all directions until all fines are in the pan.</p>
	<p><b>Inspect contents and fines</b></p> <p>The contents of the top section of the sieve and the lower pan of the sieve are inspected separately for live pests, vermin waste and contaminants.</p>



What does this look like	Description
	<p><b>Closer examination</b></p> <p>The sample in the sieve pan is spread over a large, clean area on the inspection bench for detailed examination using a magnifying lens and torch, if necessary.</p>

## Related material

- *Export Control Act 2020*
- Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Rules 2021
- [Manual of Importing Country Requirement \(Micor – Plants\)](#)
- [Plant exports operations manual \(PEOM\)](#)
  - Guideline: *Inspection of hay and straw for export*
  - Work Instruction: *Inspecting hay and straw bales for export in-line and end point*
  - Reference: *Plant exports guide – equipment*
  - Reference: *Plant exports guide – specimen collection*

## Contact information

- Authorised Officer Hotline: 1800 851 305
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## Document information

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## Version history

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Version	Date	Amendment details
1	16/11/2021	First publication of this reference.