



REFERENCE

Plant exports guide—raw baled cotton 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 raw baled cotton for export.



Before you start

Before starting their inspection, the AO ensures that they:




- check the importing country requirements to determine the requirements for the inspection
- have the correct inspection equipment
- have access to PEMS
- wear appropriate personal protective equipment
- have the current relevant instructional and reference material.



Inspecting cotton products

The following table illustrates and describes methods of taking samples of cotton products for inspection.

What does this look like	Description
	Inspection of bales The bales are visually inspected by walking around the entire consignment and looking for live pests, vermin and their waste and contaminants.
	Open top of bale The top of the bale is exposed and inspected for live pests, vermin and their waste and contaminants.

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What does this look like	Description
	<p>Inspect top of bale</p> <p>The compacted cotton is teased apart with fingers to check inside the top of the bale for live pests, vermin and their waste and contaminants.</p>
	<p>Inspect side of bale</p> <p>Cotton samples can be inspected from elsewhere within the bale by making a 20 cm horizontal cut in the packaging on the side of the bale then a second 20 cm vertical cut to make an L-shape.</p>
	<p>Inspect inside packaging</p> <p>The packaging material is checked from inside for pests and contaminants.</p>

What does this look like	Description
	<p>Inspect cotton</p> <p>If there is an existing tears in the packaging that meet the above cut requirements, it can be used to access and inspect the cotton. This reduces the damage to the packaging.</p>
	<p>Use a torch</p> <p>A torch can be used to see inside the packaging and to inspect cotton that is not readily accessible.</p>

What to do if you find a contaminant, pest or disease symptom

The Work Instruction: *Inspection of cotton for export* outlines the procedures to follow if contaminants, pests or disease symptoms are found during an inspection.

Contaminants, pests, and diseases

- Contaminants include
 - sand and soil
 - objectionable material such as metal and plastic
 - weed seeds
 - vermin carcasses and their waste.
- Pests and disease symptoms include
 - live pests, for example insects
 - live vermin.

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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 cotton for export*
 - Work Instruction: *Inspecting cotton for export*
 - Reference: *Plant exports guide – equipment*
 - Reference: *Plant exports guide – specimen collection*

Contact information

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Document information

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1	16/11/2021	First publication of this reference.