



October 20, 2017

Notice to Accredited Seed Laboratories

Re: Classification of ergotized kernels in seed

During the 2016-2017 seed testing season, the CFIA was made aware that the required classification of partially ergotized kernels of cereals was not clear in the *Canadian Methods and Procedures for Testing Seed*.

A subsequent review by CFIA pathologists (Plant Health Risk Assessment Unit, Plant Health Science Division) of the infection biology, ergot development and life cycle of *Claviceps purpurea* indicated that ergot can infect kernels partially as well as fully. In addition, testing of partially ergotized kernels by CFIA pathologists at the Plant Pathology Laboratory of the Ottawa Plant Laboratory (Fallowfield) indicated the presence of ergot in these kernels. As such, partially ergotized kernels must be classified as ergot for the purposes of importing or grading seed.

Effective immediately, both kernels fully infected with ergot and those partially infected with ergot must be classified as ergot and counted towards the standard in Schedule I to the *Seeds Regulations* (i.e., the Grade Tables). This applies to all crop kinds with an ergot standard in the Grade Tables.

Note that this clarification has been approved by the CFIA to be incorporated into the July 2018 version of the *Canadian Methods and Procedures for Testing Seed*. This amendment was discussed at the 2017 CSAAC meeting and supported by the membership in attendance.

Should you have any question or concerns about the above changes, please contact:

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