



Official Grain Grading Guide

August 1, 2006

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Determining the size of buckwheat

1. Using a Boerner-type divider, divide a representative portion of approximately 250 g from the cleaned sample.
2. Set up the Carter dockage tester as follows.

Feed control	#6
Air control	Off
Riddle	None
Top sieve	No. 8 slotted
Centre sieve	Blank tray
Bottom sieve	None
Sieve cleaner control	Off

3. Turn on the Carter dockage tester.
4. Pour the portion into the hopper.
5. Turn off the Carter dockage tester.
6. Determine the percentage by weight of the kernels passing through the No. 8 slotted sieve.

If the percentage of kernels passing through the No. 8 slotted sieve is . . .	Then the buckwheat is . . .
20.0 or less	Large
More than 20.0	Small

Determination of dockage

Definition

Dockage is assessed and recorded to the nearest 0.1%.

Dockage is defined under the Canada Grain Act as “any material intermixed with a parcel of grain, other than kernels of grain of a standard of quality fixed by or under this Act for a grade of that grain, that must and can be separated from the parcel of grain before that grade can be assigned to the grain.” Dockage is removed by following the cleaning procedures described in this section of the guide.

The sample as it arrives is referred to as the uncleaned or dirty sample. Its weight is the **gross weight** of the sample. Dockage is assessed on the gross weight of the sample.

Dockage is assessed in two stages.

1. Follow *Normal cleaning procedures*, using the Carter dockage tester.
2. Follow procedures for *Cleaning for grade improvement*. This cleaning can be done at any time after normal cleaning has been completed.

Dockage not reported

- ▲ **Important:** Dockage is not reported for
 - *Buckwheat, Sample Canada (size) Account Fireburnt*
 - *Buckwheat, Sample Salvage*
 - *Buckwheat, Sample Condemned*

Assessing dockage in small buckwheat

Normal cleaning procedures

- ▲ **Important:** Wear gloves and a mask to handle any samples that you suspect may contain hazardous substances.

Buckwheat is considered small when more than 20.0% of the kernels pass through the No. 8 slotted sieve.

1. Set up the Carter dockage tester as follows:

Feed control	#6
Air control	#6
Riddle	No. 25
Top sieve	No. 6 buckwheat
Centre sieve	No. 5 buckwheat
Bottom sieve	No. 5 buckwheat
Sieve cleaner control	Off

2. Using a Boerner-type divider, divide the uncleaned sample to obtain a representative portion.
 - Official samples should be at least 900 grams.
 - Unofficial samples must be at least 750 grams.
3. Turn on the Carter dockage tester.
4. Pour the sample into the hopper.
5. After the sample has passed through the machine, turn on the sieve cleaner control briefly to dislodge kernels.
6. Turn off the Carter dockage tester.
7. Snap the retainer rod of the aspiration pan lightly to loosen material gathered on the screen.
8. Determine dockage, using the list under *Composition of dockage*.

Composition of dockage

- Material other than whole kernels of buckwheat removed by the No. 25 riddle
- Material removed through the bottom No. 5 buckwheat sieve
- Material removed by aspiration other than whole kernels of buckwheat
- Soft earth pellets handpicked from the clean sample
- Material removed by cleaning for grade improvement

Cleaning for grade improvement

If the grade of a delivery can be improved by additional cleaning, perform the cleaning and add the additional material to dockage. Cleaning for grade improvement can be done at any time after normal cleaning.

1. After normal cleaning, examine the material to be removed and select your equipment according to the material you want to remove. See the table for the list of equipment.
2. Sieve the sample by hand using the No. 6 buckwheat hand sieve.

▲ **Important:** When you use a hand sieve, move the sieve from left to right 30 times, using a sifting motion. One time is one complete motion from the centre, to one side, to the other side, and back to the centre. The total distance from left to right is 20 cm, or about eight inches.

3. Weigh the additional dockage and add it to the original dockage.

Cleaning for grade improvement—Small buckwheat

Material to be removed	Equipment	Effect on composition of dockage
Foreign material	No. 6 buckwheat hand sieve	The material passing through the sieve is included in the dockage

Assessing dockage in large buckwheat

Normal cleaning procedure

- ▲ **Important:** Wear gloves and a mask to handle any samples that you suspect may contain hazardous substances.

Buckwheat is considered large when 20.0% or less of the kernels pass through the No. 8 slotted sieve.

1. Set up the Carter dockage tester as follows:

Feed control	#7
Air control	#6
Riddle	None
Top sieve	No. 15 round-hole
Centre sieve	No. 6 slotted
Bottom sieve	Blank tray
Sieve cleaner control	On

2. Using a Boerner-type divider, divide the uncleaned sample to obtain a representative portion.
 - Official samples should be at least 900 grams.
 - Unofficial samples must be at least 750 grams.
3. Turn on the Carter dockage tester.
4. Pour the sample into the hopper.
5. Turn off the Carter dockage tester.
6. Determine dockage, using the list under *Composition of dockage*.

Composition of dockage

- Material other than whole kernels of buckwheat passing over the No. 15 round-hole sieve
- Material passing through the No. 6 slotted sieve
- Material removed by aspiration other than whole kernels of buckwheat
- Soft earth pellets handpicked from the cleaned sample
- Material removed by cleaning for grade improvement

Cleaning for grade improvement

If the grade of a delivery can be improved by additional cleaning, perform the cleaning and add the additional material to dockage. Cleaning for grade improvement can be done at any time after normal cleaning.

1. After normal cleaning, examine the material to be removed and select your equipment according to the material you want to remove. See the table for the list of equipment.
2. Sieve the sample by hand using the No. 8 slotted hand sieve.
 - ▲ **Important:** When you use a hand sieve, move the sieve from left to right 30 times, using a sifting motion. One time is one complete motion from the centre, to one side, to the other side, and back to the centre. The total distance from left to right is 20 cm, or about eight inches.
3. Weigh the additional dockage and add it to the original dockage.

Cleaning for grade improvement—Large buckwheat

Material to be removed	Equipment	Effect on composition of dockage
Foreign material	No. 8 slotted hand sieve	The material passing through the sieve is included in the dockage

Assessing dockage in processed large buckwheat

Processed buckwheat is buckwheat that

- Has been cleaned at a seed cleaning plant before being delivered to terminal or transfer elevators
- Contains the type of foreign material usually found after commercial cleaning, such as attritional material

Samples may contain foreign material such as Tartary buckwheat and barley.

Normal cleaning procedure

- ▲ **Important:** Wear gloves and a mask to handle any samples that you suspect may contain hazardous substances.

1. Set up the Carter dockage tester as follows:

Feed control	#6
Air control	#3
Riddle	None
Top sieve	No. 6 slotted
Centre sieve	No. 4.5 round-hole
Bottom sieve	Blank tray
Sieve cleaner control	Off

2. Using a Boerner-type divider, divide the uncleaned sample to obtain a representative portion.
 - Official samples should be at least 900 grams.
 - Unofficial samples must be at least 750 grams.
3. Turn on the Carter dockage tester.
4. Pour the sample into the hopper.
5. Turn off the Carter dockage tester.
6. Return all whole domestic buckwheat removed by aspiration to the cleaned sample.
7. Determine dockage, using the list under *Composition of dockage*.

Composition of dockage

- Material removed through the No. 4.5 round-hole sieve. Deduct up to 0.3% for fine attritional material. For example, if 0.95% of material is removed, record the amount as 0.65%.
- Buckwheat hulls and other material removed by aspiration, and material remaining on top of the #6 slotted sieve. Deduct up to 0.5% for broken or hulled buckwheat.
- Foreign material such as weed seeds, broken grain and roughage handpicked from the cleaned sample

Cleaning for grade improvement

Grade improvement procedures do not apply to samples of processed domestic buckwheat.

Optional analysis

Where a shipper requests special cleaning of a carlot of grain at a terminal or transfer elevator, and the elevator manager agrees, dockage material will be analyzed for the presence of grain. The percentage and grade of any grain contained in the dockage will be reported and elevator stocks will be adjusted on the basis of the analysis. Agreement of the shipper and unload elevator must be conveyed to the CGC in writing prior to the analysis being performed.

Procedures

1. Analyze the official sample.
2. Record the following on inspection records:
 - The percentage by gross weight to the nearest 0.1% and the grade of buckwheat.
 - The percentage by gross weight to the nearest 0.1% and the grade of grain separable from dockage.
 - The percentage of dockage.

Example

95.0% Buckwheat, No. 1 CAN

4.0% Domestic Mustard Seed, No. 1 CAN Oriental

1.0% dockage

Grading

Important definitions

Net weight of sample

The sample after cleaning and removal of dockage is referred to as the cleaned sample. Its weight is the net weight of the sample. Percentages by weight for grading refer to percentages of the net weight.

Kernel counts (K)

A kernel count is the number of kernel-sized pieces in a 500 gram sample.

- To do kernel counts, you must have 500 g of cleaned sample.
- All grading is done on representative portions divided down from the cleaned sample using a Boerner-type divider.

Hazardous substances in samples

Wear gloves and a mask to handle any samples that you suspect may contain hazardous substances. Hazardous substances are defined in the Regulations as “any pesticide, herbicide or desiccant.”

Representative portion for grading

All grading is done on representative portions divided down from the cleaned sample, using a Boerner-type divider.

When concentration of the grading factor is . . .	Then use . . .
Low	Optimum portion size
High	Minimum portion or more (do not use less)

Values in the table represent a range of recommended portions of samples for grading.

Representative portion of buckwheat for grading, grams

Grading factor	Minimum	Optimum	Export
Cereal grains	50	100	250
Damage	25	50	50
Dehulled	10	50	50
Ergot	500	1000	1000
Excreta	working sample	working sample	working sample
Fireburnt	500	working sample	working sample
Immature	25	50	50
Matter other than cereal grains	50	250	250
Odour	working sample	working sample	working sample
Sclerotinia sclerotiorum	500	1000	1000
Size	250	250	250
Soft earth pellets	working sample	working sample	working sample
Stones	250	500	1000

Grading factors

Cereal grains (CGRN)

Cereal grains in buckwheat include wheat, rye, triticale, barley, oats and groats, including wild oat groats that remain in the clean sample.

Representative portion for analysis

Minimum—50 g

Optimum—100 g

Export—250 g

Contaminated grain

▲ **Important:** Wear gloves and a mask to handle any sample that is suspected of containing contaminated grain.

Contaminated is defined in the “*Canada Grain Act*” as; “Contaminated means, in respect of grain, containing any substance in sufficient quantity that the grain is unfit for consumption by persons or animals or is adulterated within the meaning of the regulations made pursuant to sections B.01.046(1), B.15.001 and B.15.002(1) of the *Food and Drugs Act*.”

Samples deemed to be contaminated by the Grain Research Laboratory in consultation with the Chief Grain Inspector for Canada are graded *Buckwheat, Sample Condemned*.

Damage (DMG)

Damage includes all dehulled seeds and seeds that are frosted, mouldy, or otherwise unsound. The hull of damaged kernels collapses under pressure, as when rolled between the thumb and forefinger.

Representative portion for analysis

Minimum—25 g

Optimum—50 g

Export—50 g

Dehulled (DHULL)

Dehulled buckwheat is buckwheat with its hulls removed.

Representative portion for analysis

Minimum—10 g

Optimum—50 g

Export—50 g

Earth pellets (EP)

- Hard earth pellets are pellets that do not crumble under light pressure. See *Stones*.
 - Soft earth pellets are pellets that crumble under light pressure. See *Soft earth pellets*.
-

Ergot (ERG)

Ergot is a plant disease producing elongated fungal bodies that have a purplish-black exterior, a purplish-white to off white interior, and a relatively smooth surface texture.

Representative portion for analysis

Minimum—500 g

Optimum—1000 g

Export—1000 g

Excreta (EXCR)

▲ **Important:** Wear gloves and a mask to handle any samples that you suspect may contain excreta.

Representative portion for analysis

Minimum—working
sample

Optimum—working
sample

Export—working
sample

Fertilizer pellets (FERT PLTS)

Fertilizer pellets are typically either small, round and white or irregular shaped and pink or red. Fertilizer pellets are not considered a hazardous substance however there is no visible means of assuring that material resembling fertilizer pellets is not some other contaminant.

Representative portion for analysis

Minimum—working
sample

Optimum—working
sample

Export—working
sample

Procedures

- Handpick any fertilizer pellets and determine the concentration basis the net working sample.
- Fertilizer pellets are assessed as stones when the concentration does not exceed 1.0% of the net sample weight.
- Samples containing fertilizer pellets in excess of 1.0% of the net sample weight are graded *Buckwheat, Held IP Suspect Contaminated Grain*.

Note: Canadian Grain Commission personnel should refer to ISO national work instruction “*Suspect Contaminated Grain, Handling Procedures*” for procedures to be followed when handling samples containing fertilizer pellets.

Fireburnt (FBNT)

Fireburnt samples are samples that contain kernels that show any evidence of being charred or scorched by fire.

Representative portion for analysis

Minimum—500 g

Optimum—working
sample

Export—working
sample

Immature (IM)

Immature kernels

- Do not contain a goar or have a severely shriveled goar
- Have a hull which collapses under pressure

Representative portion for analysis

Minimum—25 g

Optimum—50 g

Export—50 g

Matter other than cereal grains (MOTCG)

Matter other than cereal grains includes weed seeds and other grains that are not readily removable and may include peas, lentils, beans, corn, and other domestic or wild seeds that remain in the cleaned sample.

Representative portion for analysis

Minimum—50 g

Optimum—250 g

Export—250 g

Odour (ODOR)

There is no numeric tolerance for odour. Consider

- The basic quality of the sample
- The type and degree of the odour
- The presence of visible residue causing the odour

Representative portion for analysisMinimum—working
sampleOptimum—working
sampleExport—working
sample

If odour is the grade determinant and there is . . .	Then the grade is . . .
A distinct objectionable odour not associated with the quality of the grain, but not heated or fireburnt	<i>Buckwheat, Sample Canada (size) Account Odour</i>
A distinct heated odour	<i>Buckwheat, Sample Canada (size) Account Heated</i>
A distinct fireburnt odour	<i>Buckwheat, Sample Canada (size) Account Fireburnt</i>

Sclerotinia sclerotiorum (SCL)

Sclerotinia sclerotiorum is a fungus producing hard masses of fungal tissue, called *sclerotia*. The sclerotia vary in size and shape, have a coarse surface texture, vary in exterior color from dark black to gray to white and have a pure white interior.

Representative portion for analysis

Minimum—500 g

Optimum—1000 g

Export—1000 g

Size

Size is evaluated using a No. 8 slotted sieve. The size, large or small, is added to the grade name; for example, *Buckwheat, No. 1 Canada Large*.

If the percentage of kernels passing through the No. 8 slotted sieve is . . .	Then the buckwheat is . . .
20.0 or less	Large
More than 20.0	Small

Representative portion for analysis

Minimum—250 g

Optimum—250 g

Export—250 g

Soft earth pellets (SEP)

Soft earth pellets are

- Earth pellets that crumble into fine dust under light pressure, using a finger only— if they do not crumble, they are considered *Stones*.
- Any non-toxic material of similar consistency

Representative portion for analysis

Minimum—working
sample

Optimum—working
sample

Export—working
sample

Procedures

1. Handpick soft earth pellets from a representative portion of the cleaned sample.
 2. Soft earth pellets are removed as dockage. See *Composition of dockage*.
-

Stones (STNS)

Stones are hard shale, coal, hard earth pellets, and any other non toxic materials of similar consistency. Fertilizer pellets are assessed as stones when constituting 1.0% or less of the net sample weight. (See *Fertilizer pellets* for specific procedures to be followed when samples contain fertilizer pellets.)

Representative portion for analysis

Minimum—250 g

Optimum—500 g

Export—1000 g

Procedures

1. Handpick stones from a representative portion of the cleaned sample.
 2. Determine stone concentration in the net sample.
- In western Canada samples of grain containing stones in excess of “basic grade” tolerances, up to 2.5% are graded *Buckwheat, Rejected “basic grade” Account Stones*. The “basic grade” refers to a grade established in the Canada Grain Regulations (grades listed in the first column in grade determinant tables) that would have been assigned to the sample if it contained no stones.
 - In eastern Canada samples of grain containing stones in excess of grade tolerances are degraded to lower grades. Samples containing stones in excess of the tolerance of the lowest grade established by regulation up to 2.5% are graded *Buckwheat, Sample Canada Account Stones*.
 - In western and eastern Canada grain containing more than 2.5% stones is graded *Buckwheat, Sample Salvage*.

Examples: Western Canada

Excerpt from grade determinant tables for
Buckwheat, Canada

Grade name	Stones
No. 1 Canada	3K
No. 2 Canada	3K
No. 3 Canada	3K

K Number of kernel-sized pieces in 500 g

Basic grade:..... *Buckwheat, No. 2 Canada Large*

Reason for basic grade:..... 2.0% Dehulled

If the above sample contained	Grade in western Canada
6K stones	<i>Buckwheat, Rejected No. 2 Canada Large Account Stones</i>
3.0% stones	<i>Buckwheat, Sample Salvage</i>

Examples: Eastern Canada

Excerpt from grade determinant tables for
Buckwheat, Canada

Grade name	Stones
No. 1 Canada	3K
No. 2 Canada	3K
No. 3 Canada	3K

K Number of kernel-sized pieces in 500 g

Basic grade:..... *Buckwheat, No. 2 Canada Large*

Reason for basic grade:..... 2.0% Dehulled

If the above sample contained	Grade in eastern Canada
6K stones	<i>Buckwheat, Sample Canada Large Account Stones</i>
3.0% stones	<i>Buckwheat, Sample Salvage</i>

Treated seed and other chemical substances

Treated seed

Treated seed is grain that has been coated with an agricultural chemical for agronomic purposes. These seed dressings contain a dye to render the treated seed visually conspicuous. The colour of the dye varies depending upon the type of treatment and the type of grain. The current Canadian colour standards for pesticide seed treatments are: cereals—pink or red, canola—baby blue or green. Seed treated with an inoculant may have a green stain. The coatings or stains may appear greasy or powdery and surface area distribution ranges from tiny flecks to complete coverage.

Other chemical substances

Other chemical substances refers to any chemical residues either adhering to the kernel or remaining in the sample and to samples having a chemical odour of any kind.

▲ **Important:** Wear gloves and a mask to handle any samples that you suspect may contain contaminated grain.

Representative portion for analysis

Minimum—working
sample

Optimum—working
sample

Export—working
sample

If a sample is suspected of being coated with a pesticide, desiccant, inoculant or if the sample contains evidence of any foreign chemical substance other than fertilizer pellets, the sample shall be graded *Buckwheat, Held IP Suspect Contaminated Grain*.

Note: Canadian Grain Commission personnel should refer to ISO national work instruction “*Suspect Contaminated Grain, Handling Procedures*” for specific procedures to be followed when handling samples suspected of containing treated seed or other chemical substances.

Varieties

Any variety of buckwheat registered for production in Canada is eligible for the grade of No. 1 Canada.

Primary grade determinants tables

Buckwheat, Canada (CAN)

Grade name	Minimum test weight kg/hL (g/0.5 L)	Degree of soundness	Damage			Foreign material					
			Dehulled %	Immature %	Total %	Cereal grains %	Ergot %	Matter other than cereal grains %	Sclerotinia %	Stones %	Total %
No. 1 Canada	58 (285)	Cool and sweet	1	<u>1.5</u>	4	1	Nil	0.2	Nil	3K	1
No. 2 Canada	55 (270)	Cool and sweet	2	<u>1.5</u>	8	<u>2.5</u>	0.05	1	0.05	3K	3
No. 3 Canada	No minimum	May have a ground or grassy odour, not musty or sour	5	5	20	5	<u>0.25</u>	2	<u>0.25</u>	3K	5
Grade, if No. 3 specs not met			<i>Buckwheat, Sample Canada (size) Account Damage</i>			<i>Buckwheat, Sample Canada (size) Account Admixture</i>	<i>Buckwheat, Sample Canada (size) Account Ergot</i>	<i>Buckwheat, Sample Canada (size) Account Admixture</i>	<i>Buckwheat, Sample Canada (size) Account Admixture</i>	2.5% or less— <i>Buckwheat, Rejected (grade) (size) Account Stones, or Buckwheat, Sample Canada (size) Account Stones</i> Over 2.5%— <i>Buckwheat, Sample Salvage</i>	<i>Buckwheat, Sample Canada (size) Account Admixture</i>

K Number of kernel-sized pieces in 500 g

Note: The size may be added to the grade name

Export shipments

Export shipments can be commercially clean or not commercially clean.

Commercially clean

Shipments defined as commercially clean when the net dockage does not exceed 2.5% of the sample weight.

Any whole domestic buckwheat removed in dockage assessment is returned to the clean sample. Dockage in shipments is reduced by up to

- 0.3% for fine attritional material which passes through the No. 4.5 round-hole sieve
- 0.5% for broken or hulled buckwheat removed by aspiration or passing through the No. 5 buckwheat or the No. 6 slotted sieve

Not commercially clean (NCC)

Shipments that do not meet the standards for commercial cleanliness are referred to as *not commercially clean*. Such shipments are permitted only with the permission of the CGC.

For samples representing not commercially clean shipments approved by the CGC for shipment from terminal and transfer elevators, dockage is reported to the nearest

- 0.1% for samples representing commercially clean shipments loaded from a single terminal or transfer elevator
- 0.01% for composite samples representing shipments loaded from more than one terminal or transfer elevator

Instead of the allowance for broken seed in commercially clean shipments, a direct deduction of 0.2% is applied to establish net dockage.

Assessing dockage for small buckwheat

Follow the primary dockage assessment procedures, with the Carter dockage tester set as follows.

Feed control	#6
Air control	#3
Riddle	None
Top sieve	No. 5 buckwheat
Centre sieve	No. 4.5 round-hole
Bottom sieve	Blank tray
Sieve cleaner control	Off

Dockage consists of the following:

- Material other than whole domestic buckwheat which passes through the No. 5 buckwheat or the No. 6 slotted sieve, less fine attritional material, broken or hulled buckwheat constituting not more than 0.5% of the sample by weight
- Material in excess of grade tolerances which is handpicked from the cleaned sample, other than cereal grains

Assessing dockage for large buckwheat

Follow the primary dockage assessment procedures, with the Carter dockage tester set as follows.

Feed control	#6
Air control	#3
Riddle	None
Top sieve	No. 6 slotted
Centre sieve	No. 4.5 round-hole
Bottom sieve	Blank tray
Sieve cleaner control	Off

Dockage consists of the following

- Material other than whole domestic buckwheat that passes through the No. 6 slotted sieve, less fine attritional material, broken or hulled buckwheat constituting not more than 0.5% of the sample by weight
- Material in excess of grade tolerances which is removed by aspiration, other than whole domestic buckwheat
- Material in excess of grade tolerances which is handpicked from the cleaned sample, other than cereal grains

Grading

Buckwheat on export is graded in accordance with export grade specifications.

Export grade determinants tables

Buckwheat, Canada (CAN)

Grade name	Total removable material %	Damage			Foreign material					
		Dehulled %	Immature %	Total %	Cereal grains %	Ergot %	Matter other than cereal grains %	Sclerotinia %	Stones %	Total %
No. 1 Canada	2.5	1	<u>1.5</u>	4	1	Nil	0.2	Nil	3K	1
No. 2 Canada	2.5	2	<u>1.5</u>	8	<u>2.5</u>	0.05	1	0.05	3K	3
No. 3 Canada	2.5	5	5	20	5	<u>0.25</u>	2	<u>0.25</u>	3K	5

K Number of kernel-sized pieces in 500 g