

## Overview of NAPPO RSPM 13

### Guidelines to Establish, Maintain, and Verify Karnal Bunt Pest Free Areas in North America

**Purpose:** Some importing countries will not accept wheat originating from North America without certification by a national plant protection organization (NPPO), that the wheat is free of Karnal Bunt (*Tilletia indica*). Karnal Bunt is a fungal disease of wheat, rye, and triticale. High levels of Karnal Bunt infection may result in an unpleasant fishy odor that makes wheat kernels unpalatable for manufacturing flour and pasta. This standard contains harmonized guidelines for establishing Karnal Bunt Pest Free Areas (KB PFA) in NAPPO member countries.

**Contents:** The body of the standard describes the requirements for: **i) establishing and maintaining** a KB PFA; **ii) verifying** continued KB PFA status; **iii) changing and reinstating** KB PFA status; and, in addition, provides guidance for contingency plans and documentation.

The standard also includes **Appendix 1** with diagnostic test protocols and methodologies currently used in NAPPO member countries to detect Karnal Bunt.



**Summary of RSPM 13: Establishment of a KB PFA** requires the NPPO to provide the following information: a geographic description of the PFA; nearby infested areas and buffer zones; information on production practices, wheat acreage, commercial storage, and processing facilities. It requires that regulated articles (for example grain, seed, wheat straw, durum wheat and triticale; trucks, railcars, and other conveyances; used bags, sacks and containers; used farm tools) moving into and out of the PFA be controlled through import requirements, domestic movement controls, and inspection. In addition, general surveillance and specific surveys are used to establish absence of Karnal Bunt in the PFA, and

sampling and testing methodologies approved by NAPPO member country NPPOs are used to detect the causative fungus. **Maintenance of the KB PFA** requires that the NPPO document the plant health measures used to regulate the movement of regulated articles, and for surveillance, testing and sampling. **Verification of compliance** with plant health measures for establishing and maintaining a KB PFA is undertaken by the NPPO. The **PFA status is immediately suspended if Karnal Bunt is detected**. Trading partners are notified, and the program is reviewed to identify the source of infestation and instances of non-compliance with required measures. **Reinstatement of the KB PFA** status occurs after the disease is eradicated and appropriate corrective actions are taken.

**Please read RSPM 13** for a more complete understanding of establishing a Pest Free Area for Karnal Bunt.

Photo by Lisa Castlebury (Wheat infected with *Tilletia indica*)

<https://www.ars.usda.gov/ARSUserFiles/oc/graphics/photos/300dpi/kesa/k8389-1.jpg>