

PRACTICES IN OTHER COUNTRIES

To compare the recent U.S. legislation prohibiting the addition of water to grain with regulations in other countries, representatives from government agencies and industry were contacted in Australia, Argentina, France, U.K., Canada, and South Africa. Information from each country was collected to document whether they allow the use of water as a dust control method.

Policies related to dust control in Australia were obtained through personal contacts who pursued these issues with representatives of the Australian Wheat Board (AWB). There are no regulations that prohibit producers or private grain handlers from adding water to grain, the AWB prohibits application of water for marketing purposes. With a moisture base of 14%, there is little incentive for producers to add water and little opportunity for commercial handlers to add water. The AWB limits the moisture content of wheat accepted into storage to 12% moisture, which discourages the addition of any water to wheat by producers. Wheat is also handled fewer times than in the United States, resulting in less dust creation [Batterham, 1995]. The AWB follows a detailed set of regulations and practices to reduce the danger of dust explosions.

Argentina has no regulations concerning the addition of water nor any provisions for use of water for dust control. Base moisture for corn is 14.5 percent and higher moisture levels are not accepted in the marketing channel. There is little opportunity for economic gain through the addition of water [Gutierrez, 1995].

It is strictly forbidden to use water on grain in France, although it is possible to use food quality vegetable oil on grain for dust suppression. There is a scale of premiums and discounts for grain moistures (around 14.5%) which also serves as a disincentive to add water to increase weight. If this system of premiums for corn below base moisture is used, it would be an effective deterrent to rewetting [Cordier, 1995].

The U.K. does not prohibit the addition of water to grain and does not consider the use of water to be adulteration, since water is already present in grain. Equipment to add water to grain is available for purchase in the U.K. However, the most common dust control method at country elevator and port locations is aspiration [McLean, 1995].

The European Union uses dry matter pricing when cereals are purchased by the Intervention Board. The Intervention Board limits the maximum moisture content for wheat, barley and rye purchases to 14.5% moisture. Bonuses are paid for grain purchased when the moisture content ranges from 10.0% to 13.4% [Intervention Board, 1993].

In Canada, the use of water on grain is prohibited in licensed elevators unless special permission is granted by the Canadian Grain Commission [Storry, 1995].

There is limited need to control dust in maize in South Africa. The dust control systems that are present are pneumatic methods. There is no regulation to prohibit the addition of water to grain, however there are maximum moisture contents of 14.0% for corn handled by the Maize

Board and 13.0% for wheat handled by the Wheat Board. In South African import contracts, there is a stipulation that they will not accept corn loaded from export terminals in the United States where the addition of water is practiced. There is no price adjustments for moisture content delivered below the base moisture content of 12.5% for corn and 12.0% for wheat [Cronje, 1995].