

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-05-08

7-18-05

CERTIFYING PROCESSED COMMODITY ANALYTICAL TEST RESULTS OF NON-GIPSA LABORATORIES

1. PURPOSE

This program notice announces that the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) will certify on the Official Commodity Inspection Certificate (form FGIS-993), processed commodity analytical test results obtained by laboratories other than GIPSA's Technical Service Division (TSD), when such tests are unavailable at TSD.

2. BACKGROUND

GIPSA has operated a user-fee funded program that, in part, tests U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-purchased processed grain products (wheat flour, corn soy blend, corn syrup, vegetable oil, etc.) for compliance with contract specifications. On January 1, 2000, USDA's Farm Services Agency, GIPSA's largest customer for laboratory testing services, implemented its Total Quality Systems Audit (TQSA) Program. In contrast to the traditional focus on end-item examinations of finished product characteristics, TQSA directs the emphasis on the manufacturing process and replaces federal product testing with audits of the manufacturing process to determine if suppliers of the USDA food aid programs have the capability to produce, and provide the desired products to food aid recipients.

Since the implementation of TQSA, work volume of user-fee laboratory activities supporting USDA purchases has declined beyond the level necessary to financially justify daily operations. Consequently, GIPSA adjusted its laboratory resources to reflect the significant decline in demand for processed commodity analytical testing services, and therefore limiting the availability of certain tests.

Until further notice, TSD will continue analytical testing services of processed commodities for the following factors:

moisture	oil
protein	ash
Falling Number	mycotoxins

Other analytical testing services that are not listed above may be available at TSD on an hourly rate depending on the testing method, time, and resources needed to provide the service. For testing service not listed above, please contact TSD for testing availability.

This limited availability of laboratory testing service has no effect on other services (e.g. sampling, checkweighing, checkloading, etc.) related to processed grain products, or the inspection of other commodities such as whole grains, beans, peas, lentils, and rice.

3. SOURCES FOR ANALYTICAL TESTING SERVICE

- a. For analytical testing services that are not available at TSD, official personnel may send commodity samples for analysis to:
 - (1) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Science and Technology, National Science Laboratories,
 - (2) Federal Laboratories,
 - (3) State Government Laboratories (e.g. Department of Agriculture), and
 - (4) Commercial Laboratories.
- b. Applicants are responsible for:
 - (1) Selecting the testing laboratory to perform the sample analysis,
 - (2) Providing official personnel with the shipping address of the laboratory for sample delivery,
 - (3) Providing courier service for sample delivery to the laboratory, and
 - (4) Charges associated with the delivery of the sample to the laboratory.
- c. Official personnel will:
 - (1) Retain custody of official sample until it is released to the courier service, and
 - (2) Maintain a reserve sample in case the sample sent to the laboratory is lost or damaged.
- d. For information on laboratories, applicants may refer to the following websites:
 - (1) AMS, Science and Technology, National Science Laboratories
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/science/nsl/EL/aboutEL.htm>
 - (2) The appropriate State website for State Government Laboratory testing services.
 - (3) Food Science Analytical Testing Laboratories
<http://www.nhb.org/foodtech/testing/labs.html>

4. CERTIFICATION

- a. Report analytical test results obtained by GIPSA, AMS' Science and Technology, National Science Laboratories, other Federal Laboratories, and State Government Laboratories on the Commodity Inspection Certificate.
- b. Report laboratory results from other laboratories on the Commodity Inspection Certificate, only if the laboratory is either International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025:2005 accredited or ISO-9001:2000 registered by an accredited registrar.
 - (1) For laboratories that are ISO-17025:2005 accredited, a copy of the accreditation certificate listing the specific test(s) that the applicant wants GIPSA to certify, must be provided to official personnel as proof of accreditation.
 - (2) For laboratories that are ISO-9001:2000 registered, in addition to a copy of the registration certificate, the laboratory must provide evidence of participation in an external proficiency program for the specific test(s) that the applicant wants GIPSA to certify.
- c. For laboratories that fail to provide the required proof, report in the "Remarks" section, of the official certificate only the results of non-laboratory service(s) (e.g., checkweighing, checkloading, condition of food containers, etc.) that were performed on the commodity lot. Do not place any analytical test results obtained by the laboratory or reference the testing laboratory on the official certificate.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any laboratory questions to Tim Norden, TSD, at (816) 891-0401. Direct all other questions to Henry C. Greenwood, Policies and Procedures Branch, at 202-720-0252.

/s/ David Orr

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Field Management Division