

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-08-02

01-28-08

REPLACEMENT PARTS FOR RICE INSPECTION EQUIPMENT

1. PURPOSE

This program notice announces that the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is implementing a program to purchase, evaluate, and inventory rice inspection equipment replacement parts.

2. BACKGROUND

Over the past few years GIPSA has experienced difficulty purchasing rice equipment replacement parts (e.g., screens, rubber rolls) that meet GIPSA quality specifications and delivery periods. We have had success, however, in working with Grain Machinery Manufacturing Corp. (Grainman) to resolve such difficulties. Based on the availability of replacement parts, and the manufacturer's willingness to work with GIPSA on equipment quality factors, we have decided to purchase replacement parts exclusively from Grainman.

3. PROCEDURES

In order to build an inventory of preapproved replacement parts and minimize the manufacture and delivery time, we have decided to prepare a consolidated purchase order to Grainman that will cover projected needs for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008.

After receiving the consolidated order, Grainman will manufacture the parts and ship them directly to Equipment Specialist James McLaurin at the Technical Services Division (TSD) for evaluation. Parts that do not meet GIPSA specifications will be returned to Grainman for modification or replacement.

TSD will maintain an inventory of parts meeting GIPSA specifications. Field offices in need of replacement parts must contact James McLaurin to request the pre-approved rice equipment parts from TSD inventory, as needed.

GIPSA is also providing Official Service Providers (OSP) the opportunity to use the TSD quality control service on their rice equipment purchases. To participate in the program the OSP must provide TSD with a copy of their purchase order with Grainman, and indicate on their purchase order that the order must be shipped to TSD for evaluation.

Upon receipt of the parts from Grainman, TSD will perform a quality control analysis, and ship (at GIPSA's expense) the parts that meet GIPSA specifications to the OSP. Parts that do not meet GIPSA specifications will be returned to Grainman for modification or replacement.

4. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File a copy of this program notice with Chapter 6 of the Equipment Handbook. The handbook will be revised at a later date to include the revised procedure.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions concerning parts procurement, quality control, and shipping to James McLaurin, Quality Systems and Services Unit, Technical Services Division, at (816) 891-0479, Fax (816) 891-8070 or email at James.H.McLaurin@usda.gov.

Direct any procedural questions to Beverly Whalen, Market and Program Analysis Staff, at (816) 823-4648, Fax (816) 891-4644 or email at Beverly.A.Whalen@usda.gov.

/s/ John Giler

John Giler, Director
Field Management Division