

Program Notice

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4-06-09

EQUIPMENT CHECK TESTING TEST DECALS

1. PURPOSE

This program notice is issued to announce that effective March 30, 2009, equipment test decals are no longer required for laboratory equipment checktested under the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) equipment testing program.

2. BACKGROUND

Chapter 1, page 1-6 of the FGIS Equipment Handbook identifies the purpose and requirements for use of a test decal, and states "When a piece of equipment is checktested and approved, a FGIS test label (form FGIS-931, "Approved Label for Inspected Machinery,") shall be affixed on the device."

With the increasing number of official inspection laboratories at remote and seasonal-type locations, FGIS and official agencies have found that it can be difficult to comply with the requirement of the equipment testing program for applying test decals on approved laboratory equipment. With the development and recent deployment of the Equipment Capability Testing (ECT) program, official personnel can now readily access checktesting records of official equipment, therefore eliminating the need for test decals on each piece of equipment.

3. POLICY CHANGES

Since use of the test decals on laboratory equipment will no longer be a mandatory requirement of the equipment testing program, decals will only be issued upon request of an official agency. For agencies operating in state jurisdictions that require a test decal, please contact the supervising field office or the Quality Systems and Services Unit, Technical Services Division, as applicable, to inform them that test decals are needed for the approved laboratory equipment at a specific agency or service point.

To provide consistency in the Equipment Testing Program, FGIS and official agencies must ensure that:

- a. All outdated decals are removed from approved equipment if test decals are not used.
- b. Test decals are affixed to the equipment in a conspicuous place if they are used.

- c. Test decals are used as a sealing device on a piece of equipment, when needed, unless an alternate sealing method can be used.

NOTE: This policy does not affect the FGIS scale testing program. Test decals are required on all bulk hopper scales, vehicle scales, and track scales tested by FGIS/official agency weighing specialists.

4. ACTIONS

Retain this notice until the Equipment Handbook has been updated to reflect the changes.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions concerning this policy to Mary Vick, FGIS Policies and Procedures Branch, at (816) 823-2733 or email at mary.l.vick@usda.gov

/s/ John Giler

John Giler, Director
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