

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-10-02

7/16/10

ONLINE RECORDKEEPING FOR INSPECTION AND WEIGHING EQUIPMENT

1. PURPOSE

This program notice announces the requirement to use the Equipment Capability Testing (ECT) online application as the permanent record of testing official inspection and weighing equipment. This electronic method of recordkeeping replaces the requirements in the Equipment Handbook and the Weighing Handbook to maintain completed paper test forms as permanent records of testing.

2. BACKGROUND

The Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) developed the ECT online application to automate its nationwide program for testing and verifying the accuracy of equipment used to officially determine the quality and quantity of grain and related products. The program stores electronic data on the performance and location of each piece of covered equipment in the official system; automates the equipment testing process; and immediately notifies official service providers of equipment performance. The program also speeds and streamlines the process of checktesting official inspection and weighing equipment and provides users with fast, accurate, and consistent feedback.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy becomes effective July 16, 2010.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. GIPSA will provide maintenance of the online system and provide storage of equipment test records.
- b. Field offices and the Technical Services Division will initiate data records for equipment that use grain samples including data entry of results for all field office equipment.
- c. Official agencies will enter their equipment testing results.
- d. Scale specialist will enter testing results for hopper scales, railroad scales, and vehicle scales.

5. EQUIPMENT COVERED IN THE ECT PROGRAM

The following equipment test results must be entered into the ECT online application:

- a. Barley Pearlors
- b. Dockage Machines
- c. Falling Number Apparatus
- d. Hand Sieves
- e. Hopper Scales
- f. Laboratory Scales
- g. Mechanical Diverter Samplers
- h. Moisture Meters
- i. Mycotoxin Test Kits
- j. Near Infrared Transmittance (NIRT) equipment
- k. Rice Millers and Shellers
- l. Railroad Track Scales
- m. Test Weight Kettles
- n. Vehicle and Commodity Scales

6. ACTION

Retain this notice until all handbooks, and program directives are updated to reflect recordkeeping changes.

7. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions regarding the ECT program to Mary Vick, Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch at (816) 823-2766 or email at Mary.L.Vick@usda.gov

Robert Lijewski, Director
Field Management Division