

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-11-10

08-30-11

YAMAMOTO FC2K RICE SHELLER APPROVAL FOR PROCESSING CALIFORNIA MEDIUM AND SHORT GRAIN ROUGH RICE

1. PURPOSE

This program notice announces that the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has approved the Yamamoto FC2K Rice Sheller for processing Medium and Short Grain Rough rice that is officially inspected in California. The Yamamoto FC2K approval is limited to those applications and cannot be used in California for Long Grain Rough rice or used in any official inspection capacity in other rice production regions. GIPSA and Authorized Service Providers officially inspect rice under the authority of the Agriculture Marketing Act of 1946 (AMA).

2. BACKGROUND

Rice shellers manufactured by McGill and Grain Machinery Manufacturing Corporation (Grainman) are approved equipment for removing hulls from rough rice kernels during official inspection for obtaining milling yield.

In 2009, GIPSA was approached by the California Rice Commission and the California Warehouse Association requesting that the Yamamoto FC2K be evaluated specifically on California Medium and Short Grain rice. They reported promising results and lower maintenance costs using the Yamamoto FC2K sheller when compared with GIPSA approved sheller models. Close agreement in head rice yield was reported for Short and Medium Grain rice. National rice industry stakeholders told GIPSA that it would be acceptable to specify different inspection processes and equipment for Southern and California rice production areas.

GIPSA conducted tests to determine whether the Yamamoto FC2K sheller could be used interchangeably with the McGill and Grainman shellers in California. Milling yield results compared favorably for Short and Medium Grain Rough rice. GIPSA concluded that the Yamamoto was not interchangeable with the McGill or Grainman unit but was comparable to such degree that it could be used in place of the McGill or Grainman. California's rice industry representatives concurred that the differences precluded the use of all three shellers interchangeably in official inspection.

Accordingly, GIPSA has decided to designate the Yamamoto FC2K as the sole approved rice sheller in California for official Short and Medium Grain Rough rice applications.

3. PROCEDURES

Beginning September 1, 2011, through August 31, 2012, all Medium and Short Grain Rough rice samples (California production) received for official inspection must be accompanied by a declaration of year of origin. The Grainman or McGill rice sheller will be used for officially inspected Medium and Short Grain Rough rice from the 2010 crop year until August 31, 2012. An applicant's statement "Applicant states that this rice is from the crop year (crop year)" will be recorded in the "Remarks" section of the official rice inspection certificate. As of September 1, 2012, the declaration of year of origin will no longer be required, and the Grainman rice sheller will no longer be used for official inspection of California production Medium and Short Grain Rough rice.

4. EQUIPMENT SETUP AND STANDARDIZATION

Basic setup for the Yamamoto FC2K will require measuring impeller speed and hopper feed rate and adjusting to the following values.

- (1) The impeller speed should be adjusted to 3312 ± 4 RPM.
- (2) The hopper feed should be adjusted to allow rice samples to flow at 25 ± 1 g/sec.
- (3) The airflow setting should be set to a value of 2 on an 8 point scale.
- (4) The air suction setting should be adjusted to the fully open position.

Initially, rice sheller checktest tolerances for the Yamamoto will be the same as those for other officially approved rice shellers.

5. APPLICATION

GIPSA will implement these changes on September 1, 2011.

6. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File a copy of this program notice with the Rice Equipment and Rice Inspection Handbook. The handbooks will be revised at a later date to include these changes.

7. QUESTIONS

Direct any technical questions to Richard Pierce, Inspection and Instrumentation Branch, Technology and Science Division, at (816) 891-0430, Fax (816) 891-8070 or email at Richard.O.Pierce@usda.gov.

Direct any policy or procedural questions to Beverly Whalen, Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch, at (816) 659-8410, Fax (816) 872-1258 or email at Beverly.A.Whalen@usda.gov.

/s/ Robert Lijewski

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