

Program Notice

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TRANSITION TO NEW MOISTURE MEASUREMENT TECHNOLOGY

1. PURPOSE

This program notice announces that the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has developed an improved moisture meter technology and will implement new instrumentation for official moisture determination on September 1, 2012.

2. BACKGROUND

Moisture meters are used to determine the amount of moisture within grain, rice, and graded commodities presented for sale, which is a critical assessment of quality that affects their value and storability. GIPSA conducted research for refining moisture measurement of grain and created a new technology, the Unified Grain Moisture Algorithm (UGMA) that provides improved accuracy with the intention of replacing the current official meter, the Dickey-john Corporation's Grain Analysis Computer (GAC) 2100. In December 2011, GIPSA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee, representatives of the grain marketing industry who advise GIPSA on program issues, recommended that GIPSA implement the new UGMA technology in 2012.

Implementation of the UGMA-based technology for corn and other major fall crops beginning in September 2012 will be an important step for GIPSA's Federal Grain Inspection Service in achieving its primary objective under the U.S. Grain Standards Act to "certify the quality of grain as accurately as practical".

3. APPROVED INSTRUMENTS

GIPSA has approved two UGMA – compatible moisture meter models:

- Perten AM5200-A
- Dickey-john Corporation's GAC2500-UGMA

The UGMA-based moisture meters offer several advantages over the GAC 2100. UGMA-based moisture meters:

- a. Provide readings that align more closely with results achieved through the official (air- oven process) reference method.

- b. Have a sample temperature range of 0° to 113° F, which is greater than the GAC 2100 temperature range, and may reduce challenges for grain moving through marketing channels during winter months. The grain sample temperature range is more restricted for some grain types and moisture ranges.
- c. Are easier to maintain, requiring fewer calibration changes than the GAC 2100 moisture meter.

4. IMPLEMENTATION DATE

September 1, 2012: Corn, sorghum, soybeans, and sunflower seeds (oil and confectionary).

May 1, 2013: All other grains, rice, and graded commodities.

Note: After the specific implementation date, the GAC 2100 will no longer be used for official moisture analysis on the grains, rice, and commodities.

5. SAMPLE SIZE

The GAC2500 UGMA and the Perten AM 5200-A require a sample portion that is significantly larger than the sample used for moisture analysis in the GAC 2100 instruments. Corn, sorghum, and soybeans require a portion size of approximately 650 grams before the removal of foreign material, while sunflower seed requires approximately 400 grams before the removal of foreign material.

6. QUESTIONS

Please direct any questions regarding this program notice to Rob Dorman, Policies Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch at (816) 659-8411 or Robert.J.Dorman@usda.gov.

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