

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-13-01

10-22-12

RECONDITIONING OPTIONS FOR AFLATOXIN CONTAMINATED LOTS

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this program notice is to notify field offices and official agencies (OA) of additional reconditioning options for aflatoxin contaminated corn.

2. BACKGROUND

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has recently reviewed its current policy concerning the number of attempts to recondition grain in excess of 20 parts per billion (ppb).

Screenings and broken corn (in most cases) typically are the major source of contamination after the reconditioning process. In an effort to improve customer service, and offer the grain industry additional mechanical cleaning options to recondition actionable lots of corn, FGIS and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have revised their current reconditioning policy to permit more than one attempt at mechanically cleaning an actionable lot. Additionally, FGIS and FDA will allow export sublots (combining of grain bins for weights and grade) to be separated and reconditioned on a bin by bin basis.

3. REVISED FDA RECONDITIONING GUIDELINES

The FDA will permit reconditioning of aflatoxin-contaminated corn lots at export locations by mechanical cleaning. Actionable lots can be reconditioned on either a subplot basis, or in the case of multiple bins per subplot, on a bin by bin basis.

The following conditions apply to reconditioning actionable lots.

- a. Applicants may request multiple passes across mechanical cleaners to recondition actionable corn lots or bins.
- b. Only one analytical test of a reconditioned lot by bin is allowed. The analytical results from the reconditioned lot or bin will be the final determination for disposition.

- (1) In the case of sublots separated and reconditioned on a bin to bin basis, the subplot (all bins) must be reconditioned in their entirety before analytical testing by FGIS/OA.
 - (2) If multiple passes across mechanical cleaners to recondition an actionable lot or bin are used, the reconditioning process must proceed in a continuous manner with cleanings/screenings being directed into a designated or empty bin, to obtain a representative sample.
- c. To assure proper reconditioning, the grain company must mechanically clean the lot at a rate not to exceed 50 percent of the rated cleaner capacity.
 - d. FGIS/OA must oversee the cleaning process, sample the reconditioned lot (cleaned corn) using a diverter-type mechanical sampler, and analyze the samples for aflatoxin.
 - e. FGIS/OA must sample the cleanings/screenings using the most practical procedures available and test the cleanings and/or screenings for aflatoxin contamination.

At interior locations, the local FDA office may modify the reconditioning procedures to provide for a cost effective process.

4. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File a copy of this notice with the Aflatoxin Handbook, Chapter 1 until the handbook is revised to reflect the changes to the attachment section, dated 12-08-08, Aflatoxin Sampling, and Reconditioning Procedures.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions concerning this policy to the Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch at (202) 720-0228.

/s/ Robert Lijewski

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