

GIPSA Removes Beans, Peas, and Lentils Standards from Code of Federal Regulations

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 13, 1997--USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today removed the voluntary U.S. grade standards for beans, whole dry peas, split peas, and lentils from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). GIPSA will make these grade standards and all subsequent revisions or new standards in separate publications.

According to GIPSA administrator James R. Baker, the agency strongly encourages public input and participation to ensure that future voluntary grade standards will be developed, issued, and revised in a uniform manner that ensures a fair and open process. He added, GIPSA has published in the CFR (868.102 and .103) its procedures for establishing and revising these standards in the future, and for notifying the public of such actions to ensure a fair and open decision making process. Such procedures and actions include requesting public comments and publishing such standards in the "Notices" section of the *Federal Register*.

GIPSA received no comments on a February 29, 1996, Interim Final Rule in the *Federal Register* that announced the agency's intent to remove the voluntary U.S. grade standards from the CFR. Consequently, GIPSA will implement this final rule upon publication in the February 13 *Federal Register*.

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