

GIPSA Proposes to Allow Contracting for Specified Inspection Services

WASHINGTON, DC (January 15, 1998)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration is proposing to allow FGIS and State cooperators to use contractors to perform specified inspection services on processed commodities, beans, peas, lentils, and rice under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946.

Specifically, GIPSA is proposing to amend the regulations under the Act to allow FGIS and State cooperators to contract for service work and to license individual contractors and those employed by contractors.

According to GIPSA Administrator Jim R. Baker, the agency has determined that private firms, institutions, and individuals, working under contract with FGIS field offices and State cooperators may be able to perform some inspection services, at certain locations, more effectively or at less cost than if those services were performed by GIPSA or State employees.

The proposal was published in today's Federal Register. Public comments must be received on or before March 16, 1998, by: George Wollam, USDA, GIPSA, Stop 3649, Washington, DC 20250-3649; FAX (202) 720-4628.

End GIPSA Release #103-97

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