

## **GIPSA Allows Unofficial and Official Weighing by Official Agencies**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (August 31, 1998) -- USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has announced that effective August 28, 1998, official agencies will be allowed to provide both official and unofficial weighing services within their assigned area of responsibility, but not on the same mode of conveyance at the same facility.

Designated agencies are agencies granted authority under the USGSA to provide official inspection services, or Class X or Class Y weighing services or both, at locations other than export port locations. Currently, agencies designated by GIPSA to provide official weighing services cannot provide similar unofficial services.

According to GIPSA administrator Jim R. Baker, the amended rule allows official agencies more flexibility in providing the weighing services needed by the U.S. grain industry thus benefitting the official agencies and the grain industry as a whole. Mr. Baker added further that an immediate effective date is deemed appropriate so that the agencies can provide these services to their customers at the beginning of their local harvest seasons.

The final rule was published in the August 27, 1998, Federal Register.

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End GIPSA Release #55-98

GIPSA Release #55-98  
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