

GIPSA Proposes To Increase Grain Inspection Fees

WASHINGTON, DC (October 2, 1998)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is proposing to increase by approximately 3.6 percent its fees for official inspection and weighing services performed in the United States under the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA), as amended. GIPSA, also, is proposing an average increase of 1.2 percent to recover the salary and benefits portion of the administrative tonnage fee.

The proposed 3.6 percent increase would apply to all hourly rates and certain unit rates on tests performed at both an applicant's facility and other than an applicant's facility.

Under the USGSA, GIPSA's fees must cover, as nearly as practicable, its costs, including administrative and supervisory costs, for performing inspection and weighing services.

According to GIPSA administrator Jim R. Baker, the increase is designed to ensure that the service fees charged by the Agency generate adequate revenue to recover the additional costs created by the January 1999 Federal salary increase.

The current USGSA fees were published in the June 16, 1998, Federal Register (63 FR 32713) and became effective July 1, 1998.

Written comments on the proposal must be submitted by December 2, 1998, to George Wollam, USDA-GIPSA-ART; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., STOP 3649; Washington, D.C. 20250-3649; faxed to (202) 720-4628; or sent via electronic or Internet mail to gwillam@gipsadc.usda.gov

The proposal was published in the October 2, 1998, Federal Register; and also can be viewed on the GIPSA Home Page located at www.usda.gov/gipsa.

End GIPSA Release #65-98

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Joanne Peterson (202) 720-4300
E-mail jpeterson@gipsadc.usda.gov