

GIPSA RECEIVES ISO CERTIFICATION OF ANALYTICAL REFERENCE LABORATORIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Nov. 17, 1998) -- USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has received ISO 9002 certification of two laboratories--the Air Oven Laboratory and the Combustion Nitrogen Analyzer Laboratory--located at its Technical Services Division (TSD) in Kansas City, Missouri. Among other responsibilities, GIPSA's TSD provides reference analyses in support of the official grain inspection system.

GIPSA's Air Oven Laboratory supports inspection equipment used to determine moisture content of grains while the Combustion Nitrogen Analyzer Laboratory supports inspection equipment used to determine protein content of grains. ISO 9002 certification signifies that the operations of the Air Oven and Combustion Nitrogen Analyzer Laboratories are consistent with internationally recognized quality standards. Benefits associated with ISO certification include an improved quality of work and increased confidence, both nationally and internationally, that analytical results are accurate and reproducible.

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