

Fees for Official Inspection and Weighing Services

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Dec. 22, 1998) -- Effective February 1, 1999, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is increasing fees for certain official inspection and weighing services it performs in the United States under the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA). An average 3.6 percent increase is implemented for all hourly rates and certain unit rates on tests performed at both an applicant's facility and other than an applicant's facility. In addition, an average increase of 1.2 percent is implemented to recover the salary and benefits portion of the administrative tonnage fee.

The USGSA requires GIPSA to charge and collect reasonable fees for performing official inspection and weighing services. The fees are to cover, as nearly as practicable, GIPSA's costs for performing these services, including related administrative and supervisory costs.

According to GIPSA administrator Jim R. Baker, the increase is designed to recover increased operational costs resulting from the average 3.6 percent January 1999 cost-of-living increase to Federal salaries.

The notice will be published in the December 23, 1998, Federal Register. This action also can be viewed on the GIPSA Home Page located at www.usda.gov/gipsa.

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