

GIPSA Amends Rice Inspection Fees

WASHINGTON, DC (February 12, 1999)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced a 3.6 percent increase in certain fees for Federal rice inspection services performed under the Agricultural Marketing Act (AMA) of 1946. The fee increase becomes effective on March 1, 1999.

GIPSA is required by the AMA to recover its costs for providing rice inspection services by establishing reasonable fees to cover their estimated costs. According to GIPSA administrator James R. Baker, the increase is intended to cover, as nearly as practicable, the operational costs associated with 3.6 percent cost-of-living increases to Federal salaries. The increase affects only that portion of the fees associated with the hourly salaries paid to Federal employees; overhead costs are not included in the increase.

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