

GIPSA To Certify Wheat Protein Content on Any Moisture Basis

WASHINGTON, November 3, 2000 - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration today announced that effective May 1, 2001, the agency will begin certifying wheat protein content results on any specified moisture basis requested by applicants, in addition to the current 12.0 percent moisture basis.

Wheat protein analysis and certification by GIPSA have always been optional: buyers and sellers contractually agree whether or not to request official protein testing services. Under the new program, wheat protein content would be certified on an alternative moisture basis in addition to the current 12.0 percent moisture basis only upon specific request by an applicant. In lieu of such a request, it would continue to be certified on the current 12.0-percent moisture basis.

According to GIPSA administrator James R. Baker, U.S. wheat importers asked GIPSA to provide this optional certification to facilitate trade. "This action," Baker said, "adds flexibility to the U.S. wheat marketing system and allows the U.S. industry to better meet its customers needs."

The change will be effected on May 1, 2001, to allow the grain industry and customers of U.S. wheat to familiarize themselves with the option and make necessary marketing adjustments.

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