

GIPSA Proposes Exceptions to Geographic Areas

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 3, 2002)-USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today published in the Federal Register a proposed rule seeking comment on allowing more than one designated official agency to provide official inspection services within a single geographic area.

Currently, each official agency designated by GIPSA to provide official inspection services on the Agency's behalf in domestic markets operates in its own assigned geographic area. In 2000, the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) was amended to give USDA discretion, under certain circumstances, to allow more than one designated official agency to inspect or weigh grain within a single geographic area.

The proposed rule would allow exceptions to geographic boundary regulations for specific situations related to nonuse of service, timely service, and barge probing. The proposal is designed to enhance the orderly marketing of grain by providing segments of the grain industry with more cost-effective and responsive official grain inspection and weighing services while maintaining the integrity of the official grain inspection and weighing system.

Written comments may be submitted to GIPSA Regulatory Manager via mail to GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1647-S, Washington, DC 20250-3604; faxed to (202) 690-2755; or by electronic mail to comments.gipsa@usda.gov. Please state that your comments refer to Docket Number FGIS 2002-003, and submit comments prior to September 3, 2002.

For further information contact Neil Porter, Director, Compliance Division at telephone 202-720-8262 or via electronic mail to Neil.E.Porter@usda.gov.

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