

GIPSA To Allow Exceptions To Geographic Areas In Some Cases

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 18, 2003) - USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today announced it will allow exceptions to geographic areas for designated official agencies to officially inspect and weigh grain under the U.S. Grain Standards Act (the Act) under certain specific circumstances.

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 Act was amended to give USDA discretion to allow more than one designated official agency to inspect or weigh grain within a single geographic area under certain circumstances.

GIPSA is now revising regulations under the Act to allow exceptions to geographic boundary regulations for specific situations related to nonuse of service, timely service, and barge probing.

According to GIPSA administrator Donna Reifschneider, this change will 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.

Effective May 19, 2003, Code of Federal Regulations sections 7 CFR 800.81, 800.99, 800.116, 800.117, 800.118, 800.185, and 800.196 will be revised to implement changes to the Act.

For further information on program criteria, visit GIPSA's website at:
<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/oversight/exception.htm>.

For technical information contact: Virginia Roseberry, telephone 202-720-9803, fax 202-690-2755, or e-mail virginia.v.roseberry@usda.gov.

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Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091
Dana.B.Stewart@usda.gov