

USDA Reopens Comment Period on the United States Standards for Soybeans

WASHINGTON, July 24, 2007 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration is reopening the comment period on the United States Standards for Soybeans for an additional 30 days until August 20, 2007. GIPSA published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register on May 1, 2007, (72 FR 23775), initiating a review of the soybean standards to determine their effectiveness and responsiveness to current grain industry needs. The comment period closed on July 2, 2007. GIPSA is reopening the comment period to provide interested parties with additional time in which to comment.

This solicitation is part of a comprehensive GIPSA review of the United States Standards for Soybeans.

The standards define U.S. soybean quality in the global marketplace. They include definitions, the basic principles governing application of standards, such as the type of sample used for a particular quality analysis, grades and grade requirements, and special grades and special grade requirements.

"There have been many changes in the breeding and production of soybeans; the technology used to harvest, process, and test soybeans; and the marketing of soybeans," said GIPSA administrator James E. Link. "We are reopening the comment period for interested parties to provide input on how the soybean standards can best continue to effectively facilitate marketing."

GIPSA will consider comments received by August 20, 2007. Comments may be submitted via email to comments.gipsa@usda.gov; regular mail, courier, or hand delivery to Tess Butler, GIPSA, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1647-S, Washington, DC, 20250-3604; fax to (202) 690-2755; or via the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

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