



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and Stockyards
Administration

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Reference #202

TO: FGIS POLICY BULLETIN BOARD

FROM: David Orr, Director /s/ *John R. Sharpe*
Field Management Division

SUBJECT: Certifying Dehulled Oats

ORIGINATING OFFICE: Policies and Procedures Branch

1. PURPOSE

This memorandum establishes procedures for certifying the percentage of dehulled oats (dehulled common oats and hullless oats) present in samples inspected under the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA).

2. BACKGROUND

The U.S. Standards for grain defines oats as grain that consists of 50 percent or more of common oats (*Avena sativa* L and A. *Byzantina* C. Koch), and not more than 25 percent of wild oats and other grains that standards have been established for under the USGSA. The U.S. Standards do not address hullless oats (*Avena nuda* L) in the definition of oats, nor do they define hullless oats as "other grains." Samples found to contain more than 50 percent hullless oats are considered Not Standardized Grain.

According to the USGSA standards, hullless oats technically function as foreign material in common oats. But, because the exposed groat of dehulled common oats and hullless oats are indistinguishable, segregation is impracticable; therefore, considering hullless oats as foreign material is not practical. While the industry recognizes the uncertainty involved in identifying and separating the different oat groat species, some in the industry have expressed interest in having access to information that will enable end-users to make informed grain purchasing/disposition decisions with storage capability in mind. De-hulled common, and especially hullless oats, are more susceptible to spoilage and rancidity than intact common oats.

Normally, the level of dehulled oats in market samples is of little concern; however, due the extremely dry growing conditions in some oat producing areas in 2003, together with suspected blends of hullless oats, the percentage of dehulled oats appearing in market samples has, at times, increased to concernedly high levels. To address industry concerns and facilitate the uniform marketing of oats, an applicant may request the percentage of dehulled oats reported on the certificate.

3. INSPECTION PROCEDURES

If requested by the applicant for service, analyze a sample for the percentage of dehulled oat kernels and certify the results according to the procedures listed below.

- a. From the 30-gram portion used for the analysis of fine foreign material and fine other grains remove all oat kernels that are completely dehulled.
- b. Calculate the percentage of dehulled kernels.
- c. Record (to the nearest tenth percent) the percentage of dehulled oat kernels on the sample pan ticket.
- d. Certify the percentage (to the nearest tenth percent) of dehulled oat kernels in the "Remarks" section of the inspection certificate with the following statement:

"Sample contains _____% of dehulled oats."

4. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions concerning this policy to the Bob Lijewski, Policies and Procedures Branch, at (202) 720-0224.