



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and Stockyards
Administration

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Washington, DC 20250-3630

August 14, 2008

Reference #216

TO: FGIS POLICY BULLETIN BOARD

FROM: John Giler, Director /s/ *John Giler*
Field Management Division

SUBJECT: 11/64" x 3/4" slotted and oblong-hole sieves

ORIGINATING OFFICE: Policies and Procedures Branch

1. PURPOSE

This memorandum provides clarification regarding the use and availability of the 11/64" x 3/4" slotted and oblong-hole sieves used for determining uniformity of size in smooth yellow/green dockage-free peas, and for the removal of dockage in smooth yellow/green thresher-run peas

2. BACKGROUND

We have reviewed the past 37 years of the standards for Peas and have concluded that either the oblong and/or slotted-hole 11/64" x 3/4" sieves were approved at one time or another for official use for dockage-free and thresher run yellow/green peas. In 1997, Seedburo informed GIPSA that they would inventory only the 11/64" x 3/4" oblong hole sieve. Additionally, Seedburo advised FGIS that the 11/64" X 3/4" slotted-hole sieves would be available by "special order only" with a minimum order (50 sieves) requirement and at a significantly higher price.

In response to this announcement, the Technical Services Division (TSD) performed a comparison test between the 11/64" x 3/4" oblong and slotted-hole sieves and discovered a slight positive bias (@ 0.2% on average) with regards to the percent of dockage removed from the dry pea samples. While the oblong sieve showed a consistent bias, the sample-to-sample differences appeared to be minor and were not expected to have any significant marketing impact. Both sieves appeared capable of providing the consistency necessary for industry efficiently marketing thresher-run and dockage-free peas.

3. POLICY

Given the minor sample-to-sample differences between the two sieves, and the fact that each is capable of providing consistent results, it is not necessary to purchase an oblong sieve for the replacement of a slotted sieve in good condition. The 11/64" X 3/4" slotted and oblong sieves may both be used in the removal of dockage from smooth yellow/green thresher-run peas, as for the determination of uniformity of size in smooth yellow/green dockage-free peas.

4. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File a copy of this memo with the Pea and Lentil Handbook until the handbook is revised to include this change. Field office managers must ensure that a copy of this memo is provided to official agencies within their circuit.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions regarding this policy to Robert Lijewski, Policies and Procedures Branch, at (202) 720-0224 or email at Robert.S.Lijewski@usda.gov