



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and Stockyards
Administration

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February 23, 2005

Reference #204

TO: FGIS POLICY BULLETIN BOARD

FROM: David Orr, Director /s/ *David Orr*
Field Management Division

SUBJECT: Probe Sampling Flat-bottom Trucks

ORIGINATING OFFICE: Policies and Procedures Branch

1. PURPOSE

This memorandum provides procedures for applying the 5-probe sampling pattern in flat-bottom trucks.

2. BACKGROUND

Currently, Book I of the Grain Inspection handbook provides instructions for probe sampling grain in flat-bottom trucks using the 7 and 9 probe patterns. The probe pattern is dependent on the depth of grain in the carrier. Typically, a 7 probe pattern is used when the grain in the carrier is more than 4-feet deep and the grain fills 8 probe compartments. A 9 probe pattern is used for containers that are less than 4-feet deep and fill fewer than 8 compartments in the grain probe. Both probe patterns are approved, provided that a sufficient amount of sample is obtained for inspection purposes.

When grain companies and official agencies converted to probe-type mechanical sampling systems, FGIS evaluated sample delivery systems and sample volumes and determined that a 5 probe sampling pattern (boxcar pattern) provided a sufficient amount of grain for testing and file sample retention purposes. Consequently, in 1987, FGIS approved the 5 probe pattern for sampling flat-bottom trucks with a probe-type mechanical sampler.

3. REVISED POLICY

Recently, FGIS reviewed the probe sampling patterns for flat-bottom trucks and determined that the 5 probe boxcar pattern could also be used for sampling with the hand probe method, provided that a sufficient sized sample was obtained. Therefore, FGIS has decided to amend Chapter 2 of the Grain Inspection Handbook, Book I, to include the 5 probe box car sampling pattern for flat-bottom trucks.

4. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File a copy of this memo with Chapter 2 of the Grain Inspection Handbook, Book I, until the handbook is revised to include this change.

Please provide a copy of this memo to the official inspection agencies operating within your circuit.

5. QUESTIONS

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