



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,  
Packers and Stockyards  
Administration

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February 27, 2012

Reference # 245

TO: FGIS POLICY BULLETIN BOARD

FROM: Robert Lijewski, Director *for Pat McChesky*  
Field Management Division

SUBJECT: Increasing Maximum Sublot Size to 100,000 bushels

ORIGINATING OFFICE: Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch

### 1. PURPOSE

This memorandum provides instruction on the implementation of expanded maximum sublot sizes for shiplots loaded or unloaded using the Uniform Shiplot and Combined Lot Inspection Plan (CuSum plan).

### 2. BACKGROUND

Recently some export grain companies requested FGIS to consider allowing increased sublot sizes to maximize efficiency at high volumes. FGIS studied the impact a larger maximum sublot size would have, and determined that there would be no issue with a measured increase to the maximum sublot size, provided that inspection personnel maintain the current sampling rate of the Diverter Type mechanical sampling system. To ensure uniformity and accuracy of inspections, FGIS is also introducing minimum and maximum component sizes, which were implied under previous instructions, but never explicitly outlined.

### 3. POLICY

**For shiplots loaded using the CuSum plan using sublot inspection, an applicant may request a sublot size up to 100,000 bushels (or the pound or metric ton equivalent). For lots inspected using component factor analysis (e.g. damage, BCFM, moisture) an applicant may request a sublot size up to 200,000 bushels.**

The minimum component size of 10,000 bushels remains the same, however to ensure uniformity within the sublot we are establishing a maximum component size of 40,000 bushels. This means that a 100,000 bushel sublot will be subject to a minimum of 3 and maximum of 10 component checks for condition and uniformity. Please use the following revised charts as a guideline for these criteria:

- a. **Sublot Restrictions** (replaces chart in Grain Inspection Handbook, Book III, Chapter 1, page 1-3).

<b><u>Carrier</u></b>	<b><u>Lot Size</u></b>	<b><u>Minimum Number of Sublots</u></b>	<b><u>Maximum Size of Each Sublot</u></b>
<b>Vessels and Lash Barges</b>	<b>100,000 bushels or less</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-----</b>
	<b>100,001 to 200,000 bushels</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100,000 bushels</b>
	<b>Over 200,000 bushels</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100,000 bushels <u>1/</u></b>
<b>Unit Trains</b>	<b>Less than 200,000 bushels (Less than 50 cars)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5 cars</b>
	<b>200,000 bushels or more (50 cars or more)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10 cars</b>
<b><u>1/</u> 200,000 bushels when component sample analysis is requested.</b>			

- b. **Lots loaded with Sublot Factor Analysis:**

<b><u>Sublot Size:</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Components per Sublot:</u></b>
<b>0 - 100,000 bu.</b>	<b>2* - 10 components</b>
<b>Minimum Component Size: 10,000 bu.</b>	
<b>*Maximum Component Size: 40,000 bu.</b>	

**Note: The minimum number of components per subplot does not apply to the last subplot in a lot.**

**c. Lots loaded using Component Factor Analysis:**

<u>Sublot Size:</u>	<u>Number of Components per Sublot:</u>	
	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
0 - 80,000 bu	2	4
80,001 - 120,000	3	5
120,001 - 160,000	4	6
160,001 - 200,000	5	8

**4. FILING INSTRUCTIONS**

File a copy of this memo with the Grain Inspection Handbook, Book III, Chapter 1, Inspection of Unit Trains, Shiplots, and Lash Barges, until the handbook is revised to include this change. Field office managers please ensure that a copy of this memorandum is provided to official agencies operating within their circuit.

**5. QUESTIONS**

Direct any questions concerning this policy to Pat McCluskey, Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch (PPMAB), at (816) 659-8403, or email at [Patrick.J.McCluskey@usda.gov](mailto:Patrick.J.McCluskey@usda.gov), or Tony Goodeman at (202) 720-0291, or email at [Anthony.T.Goodeman@usda.gov](mailto:Anthony.T.Goodeman@usda.gov).