



United States
Department of
Agriculture

July 1, 2004

EOD-143

Farm and Foreign
Agricultural Services

NOTICE TO THE TRADE

REVISED U.S. PORT INSPECTION PROCEDURES

Farm Service
Agency

Kansas City
Commodity Office
P.O. Box 419205
Kansas City,
Missouri
64141-6205

TO: PORT FACILITIES, STEAMSHIP LINES, FREIGHT FORWARDERS

Effective July 1, 2004, a new port approval process will be put in place, superseding the terms of the previous process outlined in EOD-51.

The current port approval and inspection procedure was established on September 1, 1999, for all port facilities storing commodities under P.L. 480, Titles II and III, Food for Progress, and Section 416(b), to ensure that commodities purchased under foreign food assistance programs are stored in adequate, clean, and secure facilities. The primary intent was to protect the commodities from damage or contamination resulting from, among other things, infestation, mold, dirt, trash, etc.

It will now be required that all cargo, including container vans, be moved through approved facilities. Transloading facilities as well as storage facilities must be approved. Therefore, all port facilities and transloading operations handling food aid will be subject to at least an annual inspection. The inspections will be more frequent if the port facility or transloading operation handles a large quantity of food aid. A new completed port/transload facility approval application form must be submitted by each port/transload operation prior to scheduling the first annual inspection after the effective date of this notice.

Each inspection will consist of a review of requirements applicable to operating a port storage facility or transloading operation in the form of a checklist. For port storage facilities, the checklist is categorized into four sections, and each section is categorized into elements. For transloading operations, the checklist is similar but with only one section. Elements are graded on a pass/fail basis. A failure on an element will result in the issuance of a Corrective Action Report (CAR). The CAR will require that corrective action be taken by the port or operator, and that a proper written response of corrective actions taken be submitted to the Kansas City Commodity Office. Failure to take corrective action as a result of the CAR may lead to the port facility/transloading operation being excluded from the list of approved port/transload facilities.

A list of all currently approved port/transload facilities as well as the checklists and port/terminal approval application form have been placed on the internet and can be found at the address below. Please contact Tony Holland at 816-926-6577 regarding the listings or the approval process.

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/export>

/s/
Steven P. Miteff
Acting Director