

GIPSA Implements Business Operating Procedures for Packers and Stockyards Program

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) released new business processes and standard operating procedures for its Packers and Stockyards Program on April 2, 2007. Headquarters and each regional office began implementing the new standardized business processes immediately upon release.

The new business processes provide GIPSA with performance measures and uniform national operating standards at all levels of the organization. These businesses processes will allow GIPSA to provide better service to the regulated industry and improve protection for producers that the Packers and Stockyards Act is intended to protect. Some of our 2007 goals are to:

- Inspect the scales at every packer that slaughters over 1,000 head per year
- Complete investigations in less than 180 days
- Process applications for registration in less than 5 business days
- Initiate rapid response investigations in 2 business days where risk of financial failure is high

The new business processes will enable GIPSA to quantify and compare progress to performance measures across the country. Accessing timeframes for completion of each core function and instilling quality measures are key components of the plan. The national operating procedures were developed from the best business practices identified throughout the organization.

This business process reengineering effort will allow the Packers and Stockyards Program to spend less time on administrative activities and more on program delivery to obtain a high level of compliance with the law and regulations.

The P&S Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.