
Domestic Services

Official inspection and weighing of U.S. grain in domestic commerce are not mandatory and are performed upon request by authorized private agencies. These official agencies employ personnel licensed by FGIS to provide official services.

For More Information

For further information on official grain inspection and weighing services or to request specific program information,

Visit GIPSA on the Internet at:

<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa>

Call or write to:

USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-3601
Telephone: (202) 720-9170
FAX: (202) 720-1015

Contact:

Your local FGIS field office or official grain inspection and weighing agency.

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To file a complaint, write to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

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FEDERAL

GRAIN

INSPECTION

SERVICE



cross America, U.S. grain flows from farm to elevator to destinations around the world.

The United States Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) helps move that grain into the marketplace by providing farmers, grain handlers, processors, exporters, and international buyers with information that accurately and consistently describes the quality and quantity of grain being bought and sold.

FGIS was created by Congress in 1976 to manage the national grain inspection system, which was initially established in 1916, and to institute a national grain weighing program. The goal of creating a single Federal grain inspection entity was to ensure the development and maintenance of uniform U.S. standards, to develop inspection and weighing procedures for grain in domestic and export trade, and to facilitate grain marketing.

Under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (AMA), FGIS:

- Establishes and maintains official U.S. grain standards for barley, canola, corn, flaxseed, oats, rye, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, triticale, wheat, mixed grain, rice, and pulses;
- Inspects and weighs grain and related products for domestic and export trade;
- Establishes methods and procedures, and approves equipment for the official inspection and weighing of grain; and

- Supervises the official grain inspection and weighing system. The official system is a network of FGIS field offices, and State and private grain inspection and weighing agencies across the nation that are authorized by FGIS to provide official inspection and weighing services.

FGIS and the official agencies that comprise the official system provide services under both the USGSA and the AMA on a fee basis for both export and domestic grain shipments.

Official Services

The basic services available from the official inspection and weighing system fall into four broad categories:

- **Sampling** -- The official system uses accurate and statistically sound methods to obtain representative samples of grain.
- **Weighing** -- A range of weighing services is available based on clients' needs. In addition, FGIS tests and calibrates scales used to weigh grain.
- **Inspection** -- Official inspections result in the issuance of official certificates, which report the grade of the grain based on characteristics such as test weight, moisture, cleanliness, and damage.
- **Stowage Exams** -- Official inspectors ensure that shipholds are clean, dry, and fit for loading.

Export Services

Under the USGSA, the following services are mandatory:

- Official weighing of most grain exported from the United States and of intercompany barge grain received at export port locations.
- Official inspection of most grain exported from the United States.
- Testing of all corn exported from the United States for aflatoxin prior to shipment, unless the contract stipulates that testing is not required.

FGIS field offices and delegated States provide mandatory official inspection and weighing services at key export port locations in the United States and in eastern Canada along the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Mandatory inspection requirements do not apply to grain which is not sold or described by grade. These requirements also are waived for grain exporters shipping less than 15,000 metric tons of grain abroad annually; for grain exported by train or truck to Canada or Mexico; for grain sold as "seed"; and for grain transshipped through the United States in a bonded identity preserved fashion. Furthermore, if stipulated in the contract, the mandatory aflatoxin testing requirement may be waived.