

**GIPSA
Press
Release**

United States Grain Inspection, STOP 3601
Department of Packers and 1400 Independence Ave., SW
Agriculture Stockyards Washington, D.C.
Administration 20250-3601

GIPSA Release 93-12

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GIPSA Approves Two UGMA-Compatible Moisture Meters

WASHINGTON, Apr. 11, 2012 – The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today announced the approval of two instruments to measure moisture within the official grain inspection system. The instruments are Dickey-john Corporation’s GAC 2500UGMA and Perten Instruments’ AM-5200-A. The new instruments will replace the Dickey-john Corporation’s GAC2100.

Moisture measurement remains one of the most important official and commercial grain inspection activities because of moisture content’s impact on the end-use value and storability of grain. GIPSA developed the Unified Grain Moisture Algorithm (UGMA) approach to grain moisture measurement in conjunction with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary. The new technology, adapted into the two commercially available instruments approved for use by GIPSA, will improve grain moisture measurement by improving the accuracy of the measurement while reducing the cost of maintaining the calibrations used to measure moisture. GIPSA’s development of the UGMA has resulted in a means to measure grain that substantially reduces the effects of variables such as sample temperature, geographic origin, variety, crop year, density and kernel moisture distribution.

GIPSA provided information and assistance about the UGMA to any interested instrument manufacturer over the course of the last ten years in order to encourage development by multiple manufacturers. The approval of two UGMA-Compatible instruments is the first time that GIPSA has approved more than a single moisture measurement meter for use within the official inspection system. Permitting multiple manufacturers to design moisture meters using the UGMA technology to improve the accuracy and repeatability of grain moisture meter testing allows for competition within the instrument marketplace for the benefit of moisture meters users.

UGMA-Compatible moisture meters will be implemented in September 2012 for official inspection of major fall harvest grains, such as corn, soybeans, sorghum, sunflower seeds, and rough rice. Major summer harvest grains, such as wheat, barley, oats, and some varieties of beans, peas and lentils, will transition to the UGMA-Compatible instruments in May 2013. A complete list of commodities scheduled for implementation will be available on www.gipsa.usda.gov shortly.

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