

# Program Notice

FGIS PN-15-02

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## VISUAL REFERENCE IMAGE INTERPRETIVE LINE PRINTS

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## 1. PURPOSE

This notice announces that the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Federal Grain Inspections Service (FGIS) is clarifying the requirement that all Official Service Providers (OSPs) ensure applicable Interpretive Line Prints (ILP) are available at all inspection locations. ILPs are printed Visual Reference Images (VRI) approved by FGIS's Board of Appeals and Review (BAR) for use within the Official inspection program. This notice clarifies guidance contained in section 3.2.b of the [Quality Handbook](#). This clarification will be incorporated into the Quality Handbook when the latter is updated.

## 2. BACKGROUND

VRIs are used to ensure consistent and uniform application of grading interpretations. The visual grading aid system represents the foundation for the national inspection system's sensory quality control program, providing an effective management tool for aligning inspectors and assisting them in making proper and consistent sensory grading decisions. VRIs are referenced throughout the Grain Inspection Handbooks and other Directives and guidance.

The ILPs are a series of commodity-specific printed VRIs illustrating types of damage and other factors in conjunction with written descriptions. The ILPs are designed to reduce the impact of perceptual differences between inspectors.

## 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

These program requirements are effective as of the date of this issuance.

## 4. REQUIREMENTS

All Official Service Providers, including both FGIS Field Offices and Official Agencies, are required to ensure access to current FGIS generated VRI-ILP for the commodities inspected by the OSP at every inspection location. The OSP is not required to have every VRI available at all times, just the VRIs that apply to the commodity for which they are providing official inspections at that time (e.g., if the OSP is inspecting Corn, the Corn VRIs must be on-site and accessible to the inspector). This requirement can be met in one of two ways:

- a. The OSP may provide each inspector with a "travelling" set of the applicable VRI-ILP, or
- b. The OSP may maintain a set of the applicable VRI-ILP at the specific service point.

## **5. ACTION**

Obtain copies of the VRI-ILP from the Technology and Science Division of FGIS. Contact Ruth Goff at [ruth.r.goff@usda.gov](mailto:ruth.r.goff@usda.gov) or 816-891-0499. FGIS will notify OSPs when an update of VRI-ILP becomes available.

Retain this Program Notice until the Quality Handbook is updated to reflect this requirement.

## **6. QUESTIONS**

Direct any questions regarding the use of VRI- ILP to the Board of Appeals and Review at 816-891-0421.