

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-14-05

January 14, 2014

TRANSITION TO NEW STANDARD CARRIER WEIGHTS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1, 2014

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1. PURPOSE

This Program Notice announces that the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) will revise standard carrier weights used for data collection purposes on February 1, 2014.

Additionally, information is provided to address billing and reporting issues impacted by the new carrier weights. This information will be included in the next revision of the Grain Inspection Handbook IV, Chapter 4.

2. BACKGROUND

In an effort to standardize the carrier weights between the export and domestic programs, GIPSA will implement new standard weights on trucks, submitted samples, containers, rail, barges, and Pacific Northwest barges on February 1, 2014.

The forms FGIS-922 and FGIS-938 are completed by all official agencies and field offices. Information reported on the form FGIS-922 is used by GIPSA to assess fees for FGIS supervision of official inspections. Information reported on the FGIS-938 is used to assess administrative tonnage fees on all export grain shipments, outbound non-export shipments from export locations, and all grain container shipments where inspections are performed by official agencies.

The FGISonline Domestic/Export Counts (DEC) application collects the information provided on the forms. The current instructions for completing the forms FGIS-922 and FGIS-938 do not provide the correct procedures for the new standard weights. Accordingly, the forms must be amended.

3. HOW TO REPORT STANDARD CARRIER WEIGHTS

Standard carrier weights effective February 1, 2014:

Standard Weights in pounds (lbs):

Truck – 52,800 lbs. (approx. 23.95 metric tons (mt))

Submit – 52,800 lbs. (approx. 23.95 mt)

Container – 54,000 lbs. (approx. 24.49 mt)

Rail – 220,000 lbs. (approx. 99.79 mt)

Barge – 3,648,000 lbs. (approx. 1,654.70 mt)

Pacific Northwest (PN) Barge – 6,707,000 lbs. (approx. 3,042.24 mt)

Actual Official Weights in pounds will be used for shiplot cargoes, sacked grain lots, local, and other lots.

4. CHANGES TO FORMS

FGIS 922 “Monthly Inspection and Weighing Report”:

Columns “Local (mt)” and “Sacked (mt)” (definitions of columns) change:

- Local (mt) to Local (lbs) – Offices should begin reporting Local inspections in pounds effective February 1, 2014. OA’s should update any automated reporting systems used to complete the FGIS-922 to report in pounds.
- Sacked (mt) to Sacked (lbs) - Offices should begin reporting Sacked Lot inspections in pounds effective February 1, 2014. OA’s should update any automated reporting systems used to complete the FGIS-922 to report in pounds.

FGIS-938 “Report of Grain Inspected and Weighed for Export”:

Block 16 of FGIS-938 *QUANTITY (Pounds)*

Offices no longer have to complete the quantity field on container, truck, rail, or barge shipments. The standard weight will be calculated in DEC based on the carrier type. Offices must continue to show the actual weight for Ships and Other.

Export Data and Reports

Raw data info and reports will no longer contain information concerning bushels. All volumes will be stated in terms of pounds or metric tons.

5. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File a copy of this notice with the Grain Inspection Handbook IV, Chapter 4 until the Handbook is revised to reflect the changes addressed in this Program Notice.

6. QUESTIONS

Please direct any questions regarding this program notice to your local Field Office or Patrick McCluskey, Field Management Division, Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch, at (816) 659-8403, or email to Patrick.J.McCluskey@usda.gov.

/s/Robert Lijewski

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