

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-26-02

February 17, 2026

UPDATES TO FGIS RAILROAD TRACK SCALE TESTING PROGRAM

Contents

1.	PURPOSE	1
2.	POLICY	1
3.	FILING INSTRUCTIONS.....	2
4.	QUESTIONS.....	2

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1. PURPOSE

The Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) is updating testing requirements and procedures for official railroad track scales due to the termination of the FGIS master scale testing program and the closure of the Master Scale Depot as of January 31, 2026.

With the closure of the Master Scale Depot, FGIS will no longer calibrate and certify railroad test cars or carts, or provide testing services for railroad track scales that are not used to perform official Class X or Class Y weighing services under the [United States Grain Standards Act \(USGSA\)](#) or bulk weighing services under the [Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 \(AMA\)](#).

This notice establishes new requirements for obtaining and conducting official railroad track scale testing services from FGIS.

2. POLICY

Railroad track scale testing services will be available for track scales used for Class X or Class Y weighing services under the USGSA and bulk weighing services under the AMA.

- a. General. Railroad track scales used for official grain or AMA commodity weight certification must be tested semiannually after initial acceptance testing is complete. To accomplish these tests, like an official vehicle (truck) platform scale test, the applicant must now utilize a State or private rail scale testing company to supply the certified test weights and test carts needed to perform the test. All scales used for official grain weight and inspection certification services provided by FGIS must meet applicable requirements contained in the [FGIS Weighing Handbook](#), the General Code, the Scales Code, the Automatic Bulk Weighing Systems Code, and the Weights Code of the 2008 edition of [National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\) Handbook 44](#), "Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices" (Handbook 44); and NIST Handbook 105-1 (1990 Edition), "Specifications and Tolerances for Reference Standards and Field Standard Weights and Measures," (Handbook 105-1). ([7 CFR 802.0](#))
- b. Applying for Official Track Scale Testing Services. Applicants who qualify for official railroad track scale testing services must complete and submit a [FGIS-907, "Application for Inspection and Weighing Services,"](#) electronically through [MyFGIS](#) or by e-mailing the completed form to your FGIS Field Office or FGIS scale specialist.

New applicants for railroad track scale testing services must also submit a [FGIS-1001, "Application for Approval to Operate as a Weighing Facility,"](#) to the FGIS Field Office or FGIS scale specialist. New railroad track scales or previously unapproved track scales must undergo additional acceptance testing.

- c. State or Private Scale Testing Companies. Applicants must use a certified State, local government, or private scale testing company to supply the test weights and carts used to perform the scale test. All test weights must have a calibration certificate traceable back to NIST of less than three (3) years old. A minimum of 80,000 pounds is required to test railroad track scales per the FGIS Weighing Handbook.
- d. Scale Testing Agreements. States, local governments, or approved scale testing organizations may perform railroad scale testing services when authorized through written agreement by FGIS. All scale tests performed on behalf of FGIS must be performed in accordance with the procedures and requirements outlined in the FGIS Weighing Handbook.

Additionally, delegated States are authorized to perform scale testing on behalf of FGIS within the export port locations they are delegated. For delegated States to perform scale tests outside of these export port locations, a separate written agreement with FGIS is required.

- e. Record Keeping and Forms. States, local governments, or approved scale testing organizations performing railroad scale testing services on behalf of FGIS must maintain scale testing records for five (5) years. Railroad track scale testing service records performed by States, local governments, or approved scale testing organizations must be reviewed by FGIS personnel and entered into the [FGIS Equipment Capability Testing Program \(ECT\)](#) following the completed test.

States, local governments, or approved scale testing organizations must use those forms approved by FGIS for documenting scale testing services. Alternative forms may be used if the form has been reviewed and approved in writing by FGIS and provides all the required information and testing requirements.

3. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

An electronic version of this notice is available on the [AMS website](#). Maintain a printed copy of this notice with the FGIS Weighing Handbook at locations where physical copies are required in accordance with FGIS Program Notice PN-25-04 Issuance Retention Policy, when applicable.

4. QUESTIONS

Please direct all questions to the FGIS Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch at FGISPoliciesProceduresMarketAnalysisBranch@usda.gov.