

The Official Inspection System



**OVERVIEW OF THE FEDERAL OFFICIAL
INSPECTION SYSTEM
NATIONAL GRAIN AND FEED ASSOCIATION
COUNTY ELEVATOR CONFERENCE**

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United States Department of Agriculture

United States Grain Standards Act



- **1916 - Established the framework for Official grain inspection**
- **1976 - Established Federal Grain Inspection Service**
- **Requires official marketing standards (not health and safety standards) for grains and oilseeds**
- **2015 – Reauthorized for five years**

United States Grain Standards Act



- **Twelve Grains Covered Under USGSA**

Barley

Sorghum

Canola

Soybean

Corn

Sunflowers Seed

Flaxseed

Triticale

Oats

Wheat

Rye

Mixed Grain

Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946



- Establishes official standards for:
 - Rice
 - Edible Beans
 - Peas
 - Lentils
- Allows for, but does not require, Official inspection

Official Inspection System



- Grains and oilseeds exported by vessel must be officially weighed and inspected – by Federal (or delegated) personnel.
- Domestically marketed grain and oilseeds may be, but are not required to be, officially inspected.
 - Third party service providers
 - Under the ‘supervision’ of FGIS
 - Using methods, equipment, instrumentation approved by FGIS

Official Inspection Services - Consistency



- **Licensed – All inspectors providing Official inspection are licensed by FGIS**
- **Fee for service – Fees approved by FGIS**
- **Equipment and Instruments – Approved for equivalency**
- **Monitoring**
- **Review - Reinspections, Appeals and Board Appeals**

Appeals



- All Official inspections subject to review
 - Export – **three** levels of inspection
 - ✦ Original
 - ✦ Reinspection or Appeal
 - ✦ Board Appeal
 - Domestic – **four** levels of inspection
 - ✦ Original
 - ✦ Reinspection
 - ✦ Appeal
 - ✦ Board Appeal
 - 3000 appeals FGIS wide for FY 2015

Board of Appeals and Review



- Six member body of experienced grain inspectors
- Chaired by FGIS grain inspector
- BAR ensures consistency for sensory inspection throughout the Official inspection system
- Final authority on inspection results
- 478 Board appeal results issued FY 2015

Questions/Discussion

