

## PERMISSIVE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES

### 1. PURPOSE

This program bulletin serves to extend the Federal Grain Inspection Service's (FGIS) policy regarding optional issuance of official inspection certificates to include non-export, official sample-lot, and submitted sample inspection services.

### 2. BACKGROUND

Section 800.84 (c)(3) of the regulations under the U.S. Grain Standards Act (Act), as amended, provides for permissive issuance of official certificates "when certification is at the option of the applicant in accordance with instructions." To date, FGIS has issued only one instruction that specifically addresses optional certification: FGIS Program Directive 918-55, "Official Commercial Inspection Services."

There has been a growing number of situations in which an applicant for official sample-lot inspection services has indicated that official (white) certificates are not needed or wanted. Many of these applicants are now using advanced, electronic data transfer systems and they don't need hard-copy certificates. Others are automatically requesting review inspections (e.g., appeal inspections) on all original inspections, and they don't want voided certificates. Instead, these applicants would like official personnel to enter results into the elevator's computer system or on work records/logs.

### 3. POLICY

Upon request by the applicant, official personnel are not required to issue certificates for official sample-lot or submitted sample inspection unless deemed necessary by FGIS. If official certificates are not issued, the results of the inspection service may be provided via any form or format that suits the needs of the applicant and is approved by the FGIS field office manager in charge of the affected area (e.g., pan tickets, letterhead paper, inspection logs, or electronic/ computer records). Official personnel must complete and maintain a detailed work record for each official inspection performed. If results are transmitted electronically, official personnel must maintain either a printed copy of each transmission or an electronic datafile backup.

Direct questions to the Standards and Procedures Branch at (202) 720-0252. File this program bulletin with Book IV, Chapter 3, Certificates, until this information is incorporated into Book IV.

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