

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-03-05

09/01/03

MOISTURE ADJUSTMENT FOR WESTERN PRODUCTION MEDIUM GRAIN BROWN RICE

1. PURPOSE

This program notice transmits procedures for manually adjusting moisture results obtained using the Dickey-john Corporation Grain Analysis Computer 2100 (GAC), for western production medium grain brown rice for processing (MGBR) when moisture results are equal to, or greater than, 13 percent.

2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This program notice is effective September 1, 2003.

3. BACKGROUND

On May 15, 2001, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) changed official moisture-measuring instruments from the Motomco 919 (Motomco) to the GAC, and released standardization calibrations for the GAC. However, these changes produced a significant difference in moisture results for western production medium grain milled rice (MGMR), and MGBR, especially at higher moisture levels. To lessen the impact to the Western rice market caused by these changes, GIPSA suspended the use of the GAC on Western production MGMR and MGBR.

GIPSA's Technical Services Division (TSD) collected additional market samples in all moisture ranges during the 2002 crop year for further evaluation. The data collected provided information needed to compare the results of the two testing methods at the critical higher moisture levels.

The MGMR data indicated that on average, the GAC predicts moisture content more closely to the standard reference air oven (AO) than does the Motomco. When comparing results between the GAC and the Motomco, the GAC tends to slightly over estimate the moisture content, except in the lowest moisture range. These discrepancies are minor and are not likely to cause market concern for MGMR.

The MGBR data indicated a change was needed, so GIPSA developed a new calibration 030325. The data indicated, on average, the new GAC calibration (030325) predicts moisture content more closely to the AO than does the Motomco. Compared to the AO, the GAC averaged -0.07 and the Motomco averaged -0.39 percent.

When comparing results produced by the new GAC calibration to those produced by the Motomco, the GAC measurements are higher than the Motomco, especially in the higher moisture ranges. The “average” difference in results between the new GAC calibration and the Motomco is 0.25 percent. However, in the “contract range” of 14.0 percent, the average difference is 0.44 percent.

The average moisture differences between the GAC and the Motomco were 0.3 percent greater in moisture levels above 13.0 percent.

Even though the results produced by the GAC compare much more favorably to the AO than those produced by the Motomco, the difference between the results produced by the two instruments could negatively affect the marketing of Western rice.

To lessen the impact of these differences to the western rice industry, GIPSA will gradually align the MGBR results produced by the GAC over a period of three years via a manual adjustment.

4. ACTION

To lessen the overall impact to the market and assist California rice mills in meeting MGBR contract specifications, GIPSA will gradually align the results produced by the new GAC calibration (030325) over a period of three years.

When MGBR moisture readings are 13.0 percent and above, official personnel will manually adjust the results, for certification purposes, as follows:

September 1, 2003, adjust GAC reading of 13.0 and higher by -0.3 percent.
September 1, 2004, adjust GAC reading of 13.0 and higher by -0.2 percent.
September 1, 2005, adjust GAC reading of 13.0 and higher by -0.1 percent.
September 1, 2006, no adjustment.

If you have any questions, contact the Policies and Procedures Branch at (202) 720-0252.

/s/ David Orr

David Orr, Director
Field Management Division