Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[Doc. No. AMS–FGIS–18–0092]

Grain Fees for Official Inspection and Weighing Services Under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA)

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) provides the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to charge and collect reasonable fees to cover the costs of performing official services and the costs associated with managing the program. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is announcing the 2019 fee schedule for official inspection and weighing services performed under the USGSA, as amended, and the Agriculture Reauthorizations Act of 2015. This notice publishes the annual review of Schedule A fees calculation and the resulting fees that went into effect on January 1, 2019.

DATES: Effective January 1, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Prospective customers can find the fee scheduled posted on the Agency's public website.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Denise Ruggles, FGIS Executive Program Analyst, USDA AMS; Telephone: (816) 659–8406; Email: *Denise.M.Ruggles@usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations require that Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) annually review the national tonnage fees, local tonnage fees, and fees for service. After calculating the tonnage fees according to the regulatory formula in 7 CFR 800.71(b)(1), FGIS then reviews the amount of funds in the operating reserve at the end of the fiscal year (FY2018 in this case) to ensure that it has 4½ months of operating expenses as required by section 800.71(b)(2) of the regulations. If the operating reserve has more, or less than 4½ months of operating expenses, then FGIS must adjust all Schedule A fees. For each $1,000,000, rounded down, that the operating reserve varies from the target of 4½ months, FGIS will adjust all Schedule A fees by 2 percent. If the operating reserve exceeds the target, all Schedule A fees will be reduced. If the operating reserve does not meet the target, all Schedule A fees will be increased. The maximum annual increase or decrease in fees is 5 percent (7 CFR 800.71(b)(2)(i)–(ii)).

Tonnage fees for the 5-year rolling average tonnage were calculated on the previous 5 fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018. Tonnage fees consist of the national tonnage fee and local tonnage fee and are calculated and rounded to the nearest $0.001 per metric ton. The tonnage fees are calculated as following:

National tonnage fee. The national tonnage fee is the national program administrative costs for the previous fiscal year divided by the average yearly tons of export grain officially inspected and/or weighed by delegated States and designated agencies, excluding land carrier shipments to Canada and Mexico, and outbound grain officially inspected and/or weighed by FGIS during the previous 5 fiscal years.

$$\text{National Tonnage Fee} = \frac{\text{FY2018 National Administrative Costs}}{\text{5 Year Rolling Average Export Tons}}$$

Fiscal year	Metric tons
2014	117,560,767
2015	118,758,937
2016	122,330,979
2017	135,017,935
2018	129,687,652
5-year Rolling Average	124,671,254

The national program administrative costs for fiscal year 2018 were $8,075,737. The fiscal year 2019 national tonnage fee, prior to the operating reserve review, is calculated to be at $0.065 per metric ton.

Local tonnage fee. The local tonnage fee is the field office administrative costs for the previous fiscal year divided by the average yearly tons of outbound grain officially inspected and/or weighed by the field office during the previous 5 fiscal years.

$$Local\ Tonnage = \frac{FY2018\ Field\ Office\ Administrative\ Costs}{5\ Year\ Rolling\ Average\ Export\ Tons\ (Local)}$$

The field offices fiscal year tons for the previous 5 fiscal years and calculated 5-year rolling average are as follows:

Field office	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	5-year rolling average
New Orleans	62,862,914	65,244,517	66,077,535	70,439,862	66,996,126	66,324,191
League City	12,623,510	12,474,343	12,581,236	13,307,780	8,424,216	11,882,217
Portland	6,065,934	4,111,533	4,645,754	5,175,459	4,643,241	4,928,384
Toledo	1,802,339	2,484,604	2,030,506	2,229,920	1,802,762	2,070,026

The local field office administrative costs for fiscal year 2018 and the fiscal year 2019 calculated local field office tonnage fee, prior to the operating reserve review, are as follows:

Field office	FY 2018 local administrative costs	Calculated FY 2019 local tonnage fee
New Orleans	$1,641,144	$0.025
League City	878,868	0.074
Portland	380,435	0.077
Toledo	239,862	0.116

Operating reserve. In order to maintain an operating reserve not less than 3 and not more than 6 months, FGIS reviewed the value of the operating reserve at the end of FY2018 to ensure that an operating reserve of 4 ½ months is maintained.

The program operating reserve at the end of fiscal year 2018 was $21,561,945 with a monthly operating expense of $3,276,796. The target of 4.5 months of operating reserve is $14,745,582. Therefore, the operating reserve is greater than 4.5 times the monthly operating expenses by $6,816,363. For each $1,000,000, rounded down, above the target level, all Schedule A fees must be reduced by 2 percent. The operating reserve is $6.8 million above the target level resulting in a calculated 12 percent reduction. As required by 800.71(b)(2)(ii), the reduction is limited to 5 percent. Therefore, for 2019, FGIS is reducing all the 2018 Schedule A fees for service in Schedule A in paragraph (a)(1) by the maximum 5 percent. All Schedule A fees for service are rounded to the nearest $0.10, except for fees based on tonnage or hundredweight. The resulting fees from the annual review went into effect on January 1, 2019 and this notice formalizes this change. The fee Schedule A has been published on the agency's public website.

GIPSA/AMS Merger

GIPSA formerly fell within the mission area overseen by the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP), along with AMS. The Under Secretary for MRP's authority over GIPSA is further demonstrated by the published delegations of authority in Part 2 of Title 7 of the CFR. In 7 CFR 2.22(a)(3), the Secretary of Agriculture delegated to the Under Secretary for MRP authorities ''related to grain inspection, packers and stockyards.'' In 7 CFR 2.81, the Under Secretary for MRP further delegated these authorities to the Administrator of GIPSA. In a November 14, 2017 Secretary's Memorandum, the Secretary directed that the authorities at 7 CFR 2.81 be re-delegated to the Administrator of AMS, and that the delegations to the Administrator of GIPSA be revoked. But these changes did not affect the existing delegations to the Under Secretary of MRP related to grain inspection, packers and stockyards at 7 CFR 2.22(a)(3).

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 71–87k.

Dated: March 26, 2019.

Bruce Summers,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2019–06079 Filed 3–28–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 26, 2019.

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Comments are requested regarding (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by April 29, 2019 will be considered. Written comments should be addressed to: Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20502. Commenters are encouraged to submit their comments to OMB via email to: *OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV* or fax (202) 395–5806 and to Departmental Clearance Office, USDA, OCIO, Mail Stop 7602, Washington, DC 20250–7602. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 720–8958.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Foreign Agricultural Service

Title: Agricultural Trade Promotion Program.

OMB Control Number: 0551–0049.

Summary of Collection: The authority for the Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP) is contained in the authority derived from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act, 15 U.S.C. 714c(f)—Specific Powers of Corporation. Program regulations were necessary to establish this new CCC program. The ATP is a cost-share program that is designed to reimburse nonprofit U.S. agricultural trade organizations, nonprofit state regional trade groups, U.S. agricultural cooperatives, and state agencies that conduct approved foreign market development activities and have suffered damages because of tariffs imposed on U.S. agricultural products in 2018/2019. Financial assistance for the ATP is made available on a competitive basis. The program is administered by the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

Need and Use of the Information: The information collected is used by FAS marketing specialists and program managers for the allocation of funds, program management, planning, and evaluation. The integrity of the program hinges on information received from or maintained by the industry.