

SUBCHAPTER E—COMMODITY LABORATORY TESTING PROGRAMS

PART 90 [RESERVED]

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Subpart A—Administration

§ 91.1 General.

This part consolidates the procedural and administrative rules of the Science and Technology Program of the Agricultural Marketing Service for conducting the analytical testing and laboratory audit verification and accreditation services. It also contains the

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fees and charges applicable to such services.

[85 FR 62942, Oct. 6, 2020]

§ 91.2 Definitions.

Words used in the regulations in this part in the singular form will import the plural, and vice versa, as the case may demand. As used throughout the regulations in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms will be construed to mean:

Agency. The Agricultural Marketing Service agency of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Analyses. Microbiological, chemical, or physical tests performed on a commodity.

Applicant. Any individual or business requesting services provided by the Science and Technology (S&T) programs.

Legal holidays. Those days designated as legal public holidays specified by Congress in paragraph (a) of section 6103, title 5 of the United States Code and any other day declared to be a holiday by Federal Statute or Executive Order. Under section 6103 and Executive Order 10357, as amended, if the specified legal public holiday falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be considered the holiday, or if the specified legal holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday shall be considered to be the holiday.

[58 FR 42415, Aug. 9, 1993, as amended at 65 FR 64309, Oct. 26, 2000; 85 FR 62942, Oct. 6, 2020]

§ 91.3 Authority.

The Deputy Administrator is charged with the administration of this subchapter.

[58 FR 42415, Aug. 9, 1993, as amended at 65 FR 64309, Oct. 26, 2000]

Subpart B—General Services

§ 91.4 Kinds of services.

(a) Analytical tests. Analytical laboratory testing services under the regulations in this subchapter consist of microbiological, chemical, and certain other analyses, requested by the applicant and performed on tobacco, seed, dairy, egg, fruit and vegetable, meat and poultry products, and related proc-

essed products. Analyses are performed to determine if products meet Federal specifications or specifications defined in purchase contracts and cooperative agreements. Laboratory analyses are also performed on egg products as part of the mandatory Egg Products Inspection Program under the management of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) as detailed in 9 CFR 590.580.

(b) *Examination and licensure.* The manager of a particular Science and Technology program administers examinations and licenses analysts in laboratories for competency in performing commodity testing services.

(c) Agricultural Marketing Service Audit Verification and Accreditation Programs as described in 7 CFR 62.200.

(d) *Consultation.* Technical advice, statistical science consultation, and quality assurance program assistance are provided by the representatives for the Science and Technology programs for domestic and foreign laboratories.

[65 FR 64309, Oct. 26, 2000, as amended at 68 FR 69946, Dec. 16, 2003; 85 FR 62942, Oct. 6, 2020]

§ 91.5 Where services are offered.

(a) Services are offered to applicants at the Science and Technology laboratories and facilities as listed below.

(1) *Science and Technology Programs National Science Laboratory.* A variety of proximate for composition, chemical, physical, microbiological and biomolecular (DNA-based) tests and laboratory analyses performed on fruits and vegetables, poultry, dairy and dairy products, juices, fish, vegetative seed and oilseed, honey, meat and meat products, fiber products and processed foods are performed at the Science and Technology Programs (S&T) laboratory located at: USDA, AMS, Science and Technology Programs, National Science Laboratory (NSL), 801 Summit Crossing Place, Suite B, Gastonia, North Carolina 28054-2193.

(2) *Science and Technology (S&T) Programs Science Specialty Laboratories.* The Science specialty laboratories performing aflatoxin and other testing on peanuts, peanut products, dried fruits, grains, edible seeds, tree nuts, shelled corn products, oilseed products, olive

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oil, vegetable oils, juices, citrus products, and other commodities are located as follows:

(i) USDA, AMS, Science & Technology, Citrus Laboratory, 98 Third Street, SW., Winter Haven, Florida 33880-2905.

(ii) USDA, AMS, Science & Technology, Science Specialty Laboratory, 6567 Chancey Mill Road, Blakely, Georgia 39823-2785.

(3) *Program laboratories.* Laboratory services are available in all areas covered by cooperative agreements providing for this laboratory work and entered on behalf of the Department with cooperating Federal or State laboratory agencies pursuant to authority contained in Act(s) of Congress. Also, services may be provided in other areas not covered by a cooperative agreement if the Administrator determines that it is possible to provide such laboratory services.

(4) *Other alternative laboratories.* Laboratory analyses may be conducted at alternative Science and Technology Programs laboratories and can be reached from any commodity market in which a laboratory facility is located to the extent laboratory personnel are available.

(5) *The Plant Variety Protection (PVP) Office.* The PVP office and plant examination facility of the Science and Technology programs issues certificates of protection to developers of novel varieties of plants which reproduce sexually. The PVP office is located as follows: USDA, AMS, Science & Technology Programs, Plant Variety Protection Office, National Agricultural Library Building, Room 401, 10301 Baltimore Boulevard, Beltsville, MD 20705-2351.

(6) [Reserved]

(7) *Statistics Branch Office.* The Statistics Branch office of Science and Technology Programs (S&T) provides statistical services to the Agency and other agencies within the USDA. In addition, the Statistics Branch office generates sample plans and performs consulting services for research studies in joint efforts with or in a leading role with other program areas of AMS or of the USDA. The Statistics Branch office is located as follows: USDA, AMS, S&T Statistics Branch, Room 0603 South

Agriculture Bldg., Mail Stop 0223, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0223.

(8) *Laboratory Approval Service.* The Laboratory Approval Service (LAS) provides technical, scientific, and quality assurance support services to Agency programs, other agencies within the USDA, and private entities. In addition, the LAS provides audit verification and approval or accreditation services, including laboratory approval and accreditation programs of Federal and State government laboratories and private/commercial laboratories in support of domestic and international trade. The programs administered by LAS verify analyses of food and agricultural products showing that said food and products meet country or customer-specific requirements and that the testing of marketed products is conducted by qualified and approved laboratories. The LAS is located and can be reached by mail at: USDA, AMS, S&T, Laboratory Approval Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, South Building, Mail Stop 0272, Washington, DC 20250-0272.

(9) *Monitoring Programs Office.* Services afforded by the Pesticide Data Program (PDP) and Microbiological Data Program (MDP) are provided by USDA, AMS, Science and Technology Monitoring Programs Office, 8609 Sudley Road, Suite 206, Manassas, VA 20110-8411.

(10) *Pesticide Records Branch Office.* Services afforded by the Federal Pesticide Record Keeping Program for restricted-use pesticides by private certified applicators are provided by USDA, AMS, Science and Technology, Pesticide Records Branch, 8609 Sudley Road, Suite 203, Manassas, VA 20110-8411.

(b) The addresses of the various laboratories and offices appear in the pertinent parts of this subchapter. A prospective applicant may obtain a current listing of addresses and telephone numbers of Science and Technology Programs laboratories, offices, and facilities by addressing an inquiry to the Administrative Officer, Science and Technology Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 0725

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South Agriculture Building, Mail Stop 0271, Washington, DC 20250-0271.

[75 FR 17287, Apr. 6, 2010, as amended at 85 FR 62942, Oct. 6, 2020]

§ 91.6 Availability of services.

(a) Services may be furnished whenever a Science and Technology staff is available and the facilities and conditions are satisfactory for the conduct of such service.

(b) Laboratories may provide limited service on Saturdays and Sundays at a premium fee. Weekend service may be obtained by contacting the laboratory director or supervisor.

(c) Holiday and overtime laboratory service may be obtained with a minimum 24 hour advance notice, at a premium fee, by any prospective applicant through the laboratory director or supervisor.

[58 FR 42415, Aug. 9, 1993, as amended at 65 FR 64310, Oct. 26, 2000]

Subpart C—Application for Services

§ 91.7 Nondiscrimination.

All services under these regulations are provided to applicants without discrimination as to race, color, handicapped or disabled condition, religion, sex, age, or national origin.

§ 91.8 Who may apply.

An application for service may be made by any individual or interested party including, but not limited to, the United States and any instrumentality or agency thereof, any State, county, municipality, or common carrier, and any authorized agent on behalf of the foregoing.

§ 91.9 How to make an application.

(a) *Voluntary.* An application for analysis and testing may be made by contacting the director or supervisor of the Science and Technology laboratory where the service is provided, or by contacting the Technical Services Branch Chief at Science and Technology Headquarters, Washington, DC. A list of the Science and Technology laboratories is included in § 91.5.

(b) *Mandatory.* In the case of mandatory analyses, such as those required

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to be performed on eggs and egg products, application for services may be submitted to the office or USDA agency which administers the program, or by contacting an inspector or grader who is involved with the program.

[65 FR 64310, Oct. 26, 2000]

§ 91.10 Information required in connection with an application.

(a) An application for laboratory service shall be made in the English language and may be made orally (in person or by telephone), in writing, or by facsimile. If an application for laboratory service is made orally, written confirmation may be required by the laboratory involved.

(b) In connection with each application for a laboratory service, information that may be necessary to perform analyses on the processed product(s) shall also be furnished. The information shall include, but is not limited to, the name of the product, name and address of the packer or plant where such product was packed, the location of the product, its lot or load number, codes or other identification marks, the number of containers, the type and size of the containers, the analytical test requested, and the size of the sample. In addition, information regarding analysis of the lot by any federal agency previous to the application and the purpose of the desired laboratory service may be requested.

§ 91.11 Filing of an application.

An application for a laboratory service shall be regarded as filed only when made in accordance with the regulations in this part.

§ 91.12 Record of filing time and laboratory tests.

A record showing the date of receipt for each application for a laboratory service or an appeal of a laboratory service shall be maintained. In addition, the requested laboratory analyses shall be recorded at the time of sample receipt.

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(a) An application for a laboratory service may be rejected by the Administrator when deemed appropriate as follows:

- (1) For non-compliance by the applicant with the regulations in this part,
- (2) For non-payment of previous laboratory services rendered,
- (3) When the sample is not properly identified by a code or other marks,
- (4) When the samples are received in an unsatisfactory condition and are rejected for analysis,
- (5) When there is evidence or knowledge of tampering with the sample,
- (6) When it appears that to perform the analytical testing or laboratory service specified in this part would not be to the best interests of the public welfare or of the Government, or
- (7) When it appears to the Administrator that prior commitments of the Department necessitate rejection of the application.

(b) Each such applicant shall be promptly notified by registered mail of the reasons for the rejection.

(c) A written petition for reconsideration of such rejection may be filed by the applicant with the Administrator if postmarked or delivered within 10 days after the receipt of notice of the rejection. Such petition shall state specifically the errors alleged to have been made by the Administrator in rejecting the application. Within 20 days following the receipt of such a petition for reconsideration, the Administrator shall approve the application or notify the applicant by registered mail of the reasons for the rejection thereof.

§ 91.14 When an application may be withdrawn.

An application for a laboratory service may be withdrawn by the applicant at any time before the analytical testing is performed; *Provided*, That, the applicant shall pay, at the hourly rate prescribed in § 91.37, for the time incurred by the scientist or laboratory technician, in connection with such application and any travel expenses, telephone, facsimile, mailing, telegraph or other expenses, which have been incurred by the laboratory servicing of

office, in connection with such application.

Subpart D—Laboratory Service**§ 91.15 Basis of a laboratory service.**

Analytical testing and laboratory determination for analyte or quality constituent shall be based upon the appropriate standards promulgated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, applicable standards prescribed by the laws of the State where the particular product was produced, specifications of any governmental agency, written buyer and seller contract specifications, or any written specifications by an applicant which is approved by the Administrator; *Provided*, That, if such product is regulated pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), or the comparable laws of any State, such testing and determination shall be on the basis of the standards, if any, prescribed in, or pursuant to, the marketing order and/or agreement effective thereunder.

§ 91.16 Order of a laboratory service.

Laboratory service shall be performed, insofar as possible, in the order in which applications are made except that precedence may be given to any such applications which are made by the United States (including, but not being limited to, any instrumentality or agency thereof) and to any application for an appeal inspection.

§ 91.17 Postponing a laboratory service.

If the scientist determines that it is not possible to accurately analyze or make a laboratory determination of a sample immediately after receipt because standard materials, laboratory equipment and supplies need replacement, or for any other substantial reason, the scientist may postpone laboratory service for such period as may be necessary.

§ 91.18 Financial interest of a scientist.

No scientist shall perform a laboratory analysis on any product in which he is directly or indirectly financially interested.

§91.19**7 CFR Ch. I (1-1-25 Edition)****Subpart E—Samples****§91.19 General requirements of suitable samples.**

(a) Samples must be representative of the product tested and provided in sufficient quantity for the analyses requested.

(b) Each sample must be identified with the following information:

(1) Product type (specific description);

(2) Lot number or production date;

(3) Analyses desired;

(4) Date/time collected;

(5) Storage conditions prior to shipping;

(6) Name of applicant;

(7) Name of sampler;

(8) Any other information which is required by the specific program under which analysis or test is performed.

§91.20 Shipping.

(a) Samples must be submitted to the laboratory in a condition (including temperature) that does not compromise the quality and validity of analytical results.

(b) All samples must be submitted in sealed, leakproof containers.

(c) Containers for perishable refrigerated samples should contain ice or ice packs to maintain temperatures of 0° to 5 °C, unless a different temperature is required for the sample to be tested.

(d) Containers for frozen samples should contain dry ice or other effective methods of maintaining samples in a frozen state.

(e) The applicant is responsible for providing shipping containers and paying shipping costs for fee basis tests.

(f) A courier charge may apply for the shipment of some samples.

§91.21 Protecting samples.

Laboratory personnel shall protect each sample from manipulation, substitution, and improper or careless handling which would deprive the sample of its representative character from the time of receipt in the laboratory until the analysis is completed and the sample has been discarded.

§91.22 Disposition of analyzed sample.

(a) Excess samples not used in analyses will be placed in proper storage for a maximum period of 30 days after reporting results of tests.

(b) Any sample of a processed commodity that has been used for a laboratory service may be returned to the applicant at his or her request and expense; otherwise, it shall be destroyed or disposed of to a charitable institution.

Subpart F—Method Manuals**§91.23 Analytical methods.**

Most analyses are performed according to approved procedures described in manuals of standardized methodology. These standard methods are the specific methods used. Alternatively, equivalent methods prescribed in cooperative agreements are used. The manuals of standard methods most often used by the Science and Technology laboratories are listed as follows:

(a) Approved Methods of the American Association of Cereal Chemists (AACC), American Association of Cereal Chemists/Eagan Press, 3340 Pilot Knob Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55121-2097.

(b) ASTA's Analytical Methods Manual, American Spice Trade Association (ASTA), 560 Sylvan Avenue, P.O. Box 1267, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632.

(c) Compendium Methods for the Microbiological Examination of Foods, Carl Vanderzant and Don Splittstoesser (Editors), American Public Health Association, 1015 Fifteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

(d) Edwards, P.R. and W.H. Ewing, Edwards and Ewing's Identification of Enterobacteriaceae, Elsevier Science, Inc., Regional Sales Office, 655 Avenue of the Americas, P.O. Box 945, New York, NY 10159-0945.

(e) FDA Bacteriological Analytical Manual (BAM), AOAC INTERNATIONAL, 481 North Frederick Avenue, Suite 500, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2417.

(f) Manual of Analytical Methods for the Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Human and Environmental Samples,

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EPA 600/9-80-038, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Chemical Exposure Research Branch, EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD), 26 West Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268.

(g) Official Methods and Recommended Practices of the American Oil Chemists' Society (AOCS), American Oil Chemists' Society, P.O. Box 3489, 2211 West Bradley Avenue, Champaign, Illinois 61821-1827.

(h) Official Methods of Analysis of AOAC INTERNATIONAL, Volumes I & II, AOAC INTERNATIONAL, 481 North Frederick Avenue, Suite 500, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2417.

(i) Standard Analytical Methods of the Member Companies of Corn Industries Research Foundation, Corn Refiners Association (CRA), 1701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

(j) Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products, American Public Health Association, 1015 Fifteenth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005.

(k) Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, American Public Health Association (APHA), the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Water Pollution Control Federation, AWWA Bookstore, 6666 West Quincy Avenue, Denver, CO 80235.

(l) Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste Physical/Chemical Methods, Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Solid Waste, SW-846 Integrated Manual (available from National Technical Information Service (NTIS), U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161).

(m) U.S. Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center's Military Specifications, approved analytical test methods noted therein, Code NPP-9, Department of Defense Single Stock Point (DODSSP) for Military Specifications, Standards, Building 4/D, 700 Robbins Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094.

(n) U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Pesticide Analytical Manuals (PAM), Volumes I and II, Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), 200 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20204

(available from National Technical Information Service (NTIS), U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161).

[65 FR 64310, Oct. 26, 2000]

Subpart G—Reporting**§ 91.24 Reports of test results.**

(a) Results of analyses are provided, in writing, by facsimile, by e-mail or other electronic means to the applicant.

(b) Results of test analyses and laboratory determinations provided by AMS laboratory services only apply to the submitted samples and do not represent the quality, condition or disposition of the lot from which each sample was taken.

(c) Applicants may call the appropriate Science and Technology laboratory for interim or final results prior to issuance of the formal report. The advance results may be telegraphed, emailed, telephoned, or sent by facsimile to the applicant. Any additional expense for advance information shall be borne by the requesting party.

(d) A letter report in lieu of an official certificate of analysis may be issued by a laboratory representative when such action appears to be more suitable than a certificate: Provided, that, issuance of such report is approved by the Deputy Administrator.

[75 FR 17288, Apr. 6, 2010]

§ 91.25 Certificate requirements.

Certificates of analysis and other memoranda concerning laboratory service and the reporting of results should have the following requirements:

(a) Certificates of analysis shall be on standard printed forms approved by the Deputy Administrator;

(b) Shall be printed in English;

(c) Shall have results typewritten, computer generated, or handwritten in ink and shall be clearly legible;

(d) Shall show the results of laboratory tests in a uniform, accurate, and concise manner with abbreviations identified on the form;

(e) Shall show the information required by §§ 91.26 through 91.29; and

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(f) Show only such other information and statements of fact as are provided in the instructions authorized by the Deputy Administrator.

[75 FR 17288, Apr. 6, 2010]

§ 91.26 Issuance of certificates.

(a) The person signing and issuing the certificate of analysis shall be one of the following:

(1) The scientist who performed the analysis;

(2) Another technician of the laboratory facility, who has been given power of attorney by the scientist who performed the analytical testing and been authorized by the Deputy Administrator to affix the scientist's signature to a certificate. The power of attorney shall be on file with the employing office or laboratory of the Science and Technology program;

(3) A person designated as the "laboratory director in charge," when the certificate represents composite analyses by several technicians.

(b) The laboratory certificate shall be prepared in accordance with the facts set forth in the official memoranda made by the scientist or technicians in connection with the analysis.

(c) Whenever a certificate is signed by a person under a power of attorney, the certificate should so indicate. The signature of the holder of power shall appear under the name of the scientist who personally analyzed the sample, and whenever a certificate issued is signed by a scientist in charge, that title must appear in connection with the signature.

[58 FR 42415, Aug. 9, 1993, as amended at 65 FR 64311, Oct. 26, 2000]

§ 91.27 Corrections to certificates prior to issuance.

(a) The accuracy of the statements and information shown on certificates of analysis must be verified by the individual whose name or signature, or both, is shown on the certificate or by the authorized agent who affixed the name or signature, or both. When a name or signature, or both, is affixed by an authorized agent, the initials of the agent shall appear directly below or following the name, or signature of the person. Errors found during this

process shall be corrected according to this section.

(b) Only official personnel or their authorized agents may make corrections, additions, or other changes to certificates.

(c) No corrections, additions, or other changes shall be made which involve identification, quality, or quantity. If such errors are found, a new certificate shall be prepared and issued and the incorrect certificate marked "Void." Otherwise, errors may be corrected, provided there is evidence of satisfactory correction procedures as follows:

(1) The corrections are neat and legible;

(2) Each correction is initialed by the individual who corrects the certificate; and

(3) The corrections and initials are shown on the original and all copies.

§ 91.28 Issuance of corrected certificates or amendments for analysis reports.

(a) A corrected certificate of analysis or an amended letter report may be issued by the laboratory representative who issued the original certificate or report after distribution of the form if errors, such as incorrect dates, analytical results, or test determination statements, lot numbers, or errors in any other pertinent information require the issuance of a corrected certificate or an amended report.

(b) Whenever a corrected certificate or amended report is issued, such certificate or report shall supersede the original form which was issued in error. The superseded certificate or incorrect report shall become null and void after the issuance of the corrected certificate or the amended analysis report.

(c) The corrected certificates or amended reports shall show the following:

(1) The terms "Corrected Original" and "Corrected Copy;"

(2) A statement identifying the superseded certificate or incorrect letter report and the corrections;

(3) A new serial number or new date of issuance; and

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(4) The same statements and information, including permissive statements, that were shown on the incorrect certificate or the incorrect report, along with the correct statement or information, shall be shown on the corrected form.

(d) If all copies of the incorrect certificate or incorrect report can be obtained, then the superseded form shall be marked "Void" when submitted.

(e) Corrected certificates or amended letter reports cannot be issued for a certificate that has been superseded by another certificate, or superseded on the basis of a subsequent analysis or an additional laboratory test determination.

§ 91.29 Issuance of duplicate certificates or reissuance of an analysis report.

(a) Upon request by an applicant, a duplicate certificate or an additional report may be issued for a lost, destroyed, or otherwise not obtainable original form.

(b) The duplicate certificate or the reissuance of an analysis report shall be at the expense of the applicant.

(c) Requests for duplicate certificates or additional analysis reports shall be filed as follows:

(1) In writing;

(2) By the applicant who requested the service covered by the lost, destroyed, or otherwise not obtainable original form; and

(3) With the office that issued the initial certificate or original laboratory analysis report.

(d) The duplicate certificates or reissued analysis reports shall show the following:

(1) The terms "Duplicate Original," and the copies shall show "Duplicate Copy."

(2) A statement that the certificate or letter report was issued in lieu of a lost or destroyed or otherwise not obtainable certificate or laboratory analysis report; and

(3) The same statements and information, including permissive statements, that were shown on the original certificate or the initial analysis report shall be shown on the duplicate form.

(e) Duplicate certificates or duplicate analysis reports shall be issued as promptly as possible and distributed as the original certificates or original analysis reports and their copies.

(f) Duplicate certificates shall not be issued for certificates that have been superseded.

§ 91.30 Maintenance and retention of copies of certificates or analysis reports.

(a) At least one copy of each certificate or analysis report shall be filed in the laboratory for a period of not less than 3 years either from the date of issuance of the document, from the date of voiding a certificate, or from the date last payment is made by the applicant for a reported laboratory determination, whichever is later.

(b) Whenever any document, because of its condition, becomes unsuitable for its intended or continued use, the laboratory personnel shall make a copy of the original document.

(c) True copies shall be retained as photocopies, microfilm, microfiche, or other accurate reproductions and durable forms of the original document. Where reduction techniques, such as microfilming are used, suitable reader and photocopying equipment shall be readily available. Such reproductions shall be treated and considered for all purposes as though they were the original documents.

(d) All documents required to be maintained under this part shall be kept confidential and shall be disclosed only to the applicants or other persons with the applicants' knowledge and permission. Only such information as the Administrator deems relevant shall be disclosed to the public without the applicants' permission, and then, only in a suit or administrative hearing brought at the direction, or on the request, of the Administrator, or to which the Administrator or any other officer of the United States is a party.

Subpart H—Appeal of Laboratory Services**§ 91.31 When an appeal of a laboratory service may be requested.**

(a) An application for an appeal of a laboratory service may be made by any

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interested party who is dissatisfied with the results of an analysis as stated in a certificate or laboratory report, if the lot of the commodity can be positively identified by the laboratory service as the lot from which originally drawn samples were previously analyzed.

(b) An application for an appeal of a laboratory service shall be made within thirty (30) days following the day on which the previous analysis was performed. However, upon approval by the Deputy Administrator, the filing time for an appeal application may be extended.

[58 FR 42415, Aug. 9, 1993, as amended at 65 FR 64311, Oct. 26, 2000]

§91.32 Where to file for an appeal of a laboratory service and information required.

(a) Application for an appeal of a laboratory service may be filed with the supervisor in the office or the director of the laboratory facility that issued the certificate or laboratory report on which the appeal analysis covering the commodity product is requested.

(b) The application for an appeal of a laboratory service shall state the location of the lot of the commodity product and the reasons for the appeal; and date and serial number of the certificate covering the laboratory service of the commodity product on which the appeal is requested. In addition, such application shall be accompanied by the original and all available copies of the certificate or laboratory report.

(c) Application for an appeal of a laboratory service may be made orally (in person or by telephone), in writing, by e-mail, by facsimile, or by telegraph. If made orally, written confirmation shall be made promptly.

[65 FR 64311, Oct. 26, 2000]

§91.33 When an application for an appeal of a laboratory service may be withdrawn.

An application for an appeal of a laboratory service may be withdrawn by the applicant at any time before the appealed laboratory service is performed; *Provided*, That, the applicant shall pay, at the hourly rate prescribed in §91.37, for the time incurred by the laboratory personnel, any travel, tele-

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phone, telegraph, or other expenses which have been incurred by the laboratory service in connection with such application.

§91.34 When an appeal of a laboratory service may be refused.

An application for an appeal of a laboratory service may be refused if:

(a) The reasons for the appealed laboratory service are frivolous or not substantial;

(b) The quality or condition of the commodity product has undergone a material change since the laboratory service covering the commodity product on which the appealed laboratory service is requested;

(c) The lot in question is not, or cannot be made accessible for sampling;

(d) The lot relative to which the appealed laboratory service is requested cannot be positively identified as the lot from which samples were previously drawn and originally analyzed; or

(e) There is noncompliance with the regulations in this part. Such applicant shall be notified promptly of the reason for such refusal.

§91.35 Who shall perform an appealed laboratory service.

An appealed laboratory service shall be performed, whenever possible, by another individual or other individuals than the scientist(s) or the technician(s) that performed the original analytical determination.

§91.36 Appeal laboratory certificate.

(a) An appeal laboratory certificate shall be issued showing the results of such appealed analysis. This certificate shall supersede the laboratory certificate previously issued for the commodity product involved.

(b) Each appeal laboratory certificate shall clearly identify the number and date of the laboratory certificate which it supersedes. The superseded certificate shall become null and void upon the issuance of the appealed laboratory certificate and shall no longer represent the analytical results of the commodity product.

(c) The individual issuing an appeal laboratory certificate shall forward notice of such issuance to such persons as

he or she considers necessary to prevent misuse of the superseded certificate if the original and all copies of such superseded certificate have not previously been delivered to the individual issuing the appeal certificate.

(d) The provisions in the regulations in this part concerning forms and certificates, issuance of certificates, and retention and disposition of certificates shall apply to appeal laboratory certificates, except that copies of such appeal certificates shall be furnished to all interested parties who received copies of the superseded certificate.

Subpart I—Fees and Charges

§ 91.37 Standard hourly fee rate for laboratory testing, analysis, and other services.

(a) For each fiscal year, AMS will calculate the rate for laboratory testing, analysis, and other services, per hour per program employee using the following formulas:

(1) *Regular rate.* The total AMS laboratory service program personnel direct pay divided by direct hours, which is then multiplied by the next year's percentage of cost of living increase, plus the benefits rate, plus the operating rate, plus the allowance for bad debt rate. If applicable, travel expenses may also be added to the cost of providing the service.

(2) *Overtime rate.* The total AMS laboratory service program personnel direct pay divided by direct hours, which is then multiplied by the next year's percentage of cost of living increase and then multiplied by 1.5 plus the benefits rate, plus the operating rate, plus an allowance for bad debt. If applicable, travel expenses may also be added to the cost of providing the service.

(3) *Holiday rate.* The total AMS laboratory service program personnel direct pay divided by direct hours, which is then multiplied by the next year's percentage of cost of living increase and then multiplied by 2, plus benefits rate, plus the operating rate, plus an allowance for bad debt. If applicable, travel expenses may also be added to the cost of providing the service.

(b)(1) For each calendar year, based on previous fiscal year/historical actual costs, AMS will calculate the ben-

efits, operating, and allowance for bad debt components of the regular, overtime and holiday rates as follows:

(i) *Benefits rate.* The total AMS laboratory service program direct benefits costs divided by the total hours (regular, overtime, and holiday) worked, which is then multiplied by the next calendar year's percentage cost of living increase. Some examples of direct benefits are health insurance, retirement, life insurance, and Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) retirement basic and matching contributions.

(ii) *Operating rate.* The total AMS laboratory service program operating costs divided by total hours (regular, overtime, and holiday) worked, which is then multiplied by the percentage of inflation.

(iii) *Allowance for bad debt rate.* Total AMS laboratory service program allowance for bad debt divided by total hours (regular, overtime, and holiday) worked.

(2) The calendar year cost of living expenses and percentage of inflation factors used in the formulas in this section are based on the most recent Office of Management and Budget's Presidential Economic Assumptions.

(c) When a laboratory test service is provided for AMS by a commercial or State government laboratory, the applicant will be assessed a fee which covers the costs to the Science and Technology program for the service provided.

(d) When Science and Technology staff provides applied and developmental research and training activities for microbiological, physical, chemical, and biomolecular analyses on agricultural commodities the applicant will be charged a fee on a reimbursable cost to AMS basis.

[75 FR 17288, Apr. 6, 2010, as amended at 79 FR 67325, Nov. 13, 2014]

§ 91.38 Additional fees for appeal of analysis.

(a) The applicant for appeal sample testing will be charged a fee based on the formulas in § 91.37.

(b) The appeal fee will not be waived for any reason if analytical testing was

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completed in addition to the original analysis.

[75 FR 17288, Apr. 6, 2010, as amended at 79 FR 67326, Nov. 13, 2014]

§ 91.39 Premium hourly fee rates for overtime and legal holiday service.

(a) When analytical testing in a Science and Technology facility requires the services of laboratory personnel beyond their regularly assigned tour of duty on any day or on a day outside the established schedule, such services are considered as overtime work. When analytical testing in a Science and Technology facility requires the services of laboratory personnel on a Federal holiday or a day designated in lieu of such a holiday, such services are considered holiday work. Laboratory analyses initiated at the request of the applicant to be rendered on Federal holidays, and on an overtime basis will be charged fees based on the formulas in § 91.37.

(b) Information on legal holidays or what constitutes overtime service at a particular Science and Technology laboratory is available from the Laboratory Director or facility manager.

[75 FR 17288, Apr. 6, 2010, as amended at 79 FR 67326, Nov. 13, 2014]

§ 91.40 Fees for courier service and facsimile of the analysis report.

(a) The Science and Technology laboratories have a courier charge per trip to retrieve the sample package. The courier service charge is determined from the established single standard mileage rate and from the total authorized distance based on the shortest round trip route from laboratory to sample retrieval site. Pursuant to the requirements of paragraph (a) (1) of § 5704 of Title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.), the automobile reimbursement rate cannot exceed the single standard mileage rate established by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

(b) The faxing of laboratory analysis reports or certificates is an optional service for each S&T facility offered at a fee specified in table 8 in § 91.37.

[65 FR 64314, Oct. 26, 2000]

§ 91.41 Charges for demonstrations and courses of instruction.

Charges, not in excess of the cost thereof and as approved by the Deputy Administrator, may be made for demonstrations, samples, or courses of instruction when such are furnished upon request.

[58 FR 42415, Aug. 9, 1993, as amended at 65 FR 64314, Oct. 26, 2000]

§ 91.42 Billing.

(a) Each billing cycle will end on the 25th of the month. The applicant will be billed by the National Finance Center (NFC) using the Foundation Financial Information System (FFIS) on the 1st day, following the end of the billing cycle in which voluntary laboratory services and other services were rendered at a particular Science and Technology laboratory or office.

(b) The total charge or fee shall normally be stated directly on the analysis report or on a standardized official certificate form for the laboratory analysis of a specific agricultural commodity and related commodity products.

(c) The actual bill for collection will be issued by the USDA, National Finance Center Billings and Collection Branch, (Mail: P.O. Box 60075), 13800 Old Gentilly Road, New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0001.

[72 FR 15021, Mar. 30, 2007]

§ 91.43 Payment of fees and charges.

(a) Fees and charges for services shall be paid by the applicant, by check or money order payable, to the "Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA" and sent to the office indicated on the bill.

(b) Fees and charges for services under a cooperative agreement with a State or other AMS programs or other governmental agency will be paid in accordance with the terms of the cooperative agreement.

(c) As necessary, the Deputy Administrator may require that fees shall be paid in advance of the performance of the requested service. Any fees paid in excess of the amount due shall be used to offset future billings, unless a request for a refund is made by applicant.

[58 FR 42415, Aug. 9, 1993, as amended at 65 FR 64315, Oct. 26, 2000]

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA**§ 91.101****§ 91.44 Charges on overdue accounts and issuance of delinquency notices.**

(a) Accounts are considered overdue if payment is late with the National Finance Center (NFC). The timeliness of a payment will be based on the postmark date of the payment or the date of receipt by the NFC if no postmark date is present or legible. Bills are payable upon receipt and become delinquent 30 days from date of billing.

(b) Any amount due not paid by the due date will be increased by a late payment charge. The actual assessed rate applied to overdue accounts is set quarterly by the Department of the Treasury. This amount is one-twelfth of one year's late penalty interest rate computed at the prescribed rate.

(c) Overtime or holiday laboratory service will not be performed for any applicant with a notice of delinquency.

(d) Applicants with three notices of delinquency will be reviewed for possible termination of services. A deposit in advance sufficient to cover the fees and expenses for any subsequent service may be required of any person failing to pay in claim after issuance of such notice of delinquency.

(e) The Deputy Administrator of S&T program and personnel of the USDA, NFC Billings and Collections Branch (address as listed in §91.42) will take such actions as may be necessary to collect any delinquent amounts due for accounts in claim status.

[58 FR 42415, Aug. 9, 1993, as amended at 65 FR 64315, Oct. 26, 2000]

§ 91.45 Charges for laboratory services on a contract basis.

(a) Irrespective of hourly fee rates and charges prescribed in §91.37, or in other sections of this subchapter E, the Deputy Administrator may enter into contracts with applicants to perform continuous laboratory services or other types of laboratory services pursuant to the regulations in this part and other requirements, as prescribed by the Deputy Administrator in such contract. In addition, the charges for such laboratory services, provided in such contracts, shall be on such basis as will reimburse the Agricultural Marketing Service of the Department for the full cost of rendering such laboratory serv-

ices, including an appropriate overhead charge to cover administrative overhead expenses as may be determined by the Administrator.

(b) Irrespective of hourly fee rates and charges prescribed in this subpart I, or in other parts of this subchapter E, the Deputy Administrator may enter into a written Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or agreement with any administrative agency or governing party for the performance of laboratory services pursuant to said agreement or order on a basis that will reimburse the Agricultural Marketing Service of the Department for the full cost of rendering such laboratory service, including an appropriate overhead administrative overhead charge.

(c) The conditions and terms for renewal of such Memorandum of Understanding or agreement shall be specified in the contract.

[65 FR 64315, Oct. 26, 2000]

Subpart J—Designation of Approved Symbols for Identification of Commodities Officially Tested By AMS

SOURCE: 68 FR 69946, Dec. 16, 2003, unless otherwise noted.

§ 91.100 Scope.

Two approved information symbols in the form of AMS shields are available to indicate official testing by an AMS laboratory. The two approved AMS shields with the words "USDA AMS TESTED" and "USDA LABORATORY TESTED FOR EXPORT" are added to the USDA symbol inventory to enhance the acceptance of AMS tested agricultural commodities on a national or international basis.

§ 91.101 Definitions.

Words used in the regulations in this part in the singular form will import the plural, and vice versa, as the case may demand. As used throughout the regulations in this part, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms will be construed to mean:

AMS. The abbreviation for the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) agency of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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Export. To send or transport a product originally created or manufactured in the United States of America to another country in the course of trade.

Laboratory. An AMS Science and Technology (S&T) laboratory listed in § 91.5 that performs the official analyses.

Test. To perform chemical, microbiological, or physical analyses on a sample to determine presence and levels or amounts of a substance or living organism of interest.

USDA. The abbreviation for the United States Department of Agriculture.

§ 91.102 Form of official identification symbols.

Two information symbols in the form of AMS shields indicate commodity testing at an AMS laboratory listed in § 91.5 of this part. The AMS shield set forth in figure 1 of this section, containing the words "USDA AMS TESTED", and the shield set forth in figure 2, containing the words "USDA LABORATORY TESTED FOR EXPORT" have been approved by the USDA Office of Communications to be added to the USDA/AMS inventory of symbols. Each example of an AMS shield has a black and white background; however the standard red, white and blue colors are approved for the shields. They are approved for use with AMS materials. Shields with the same wording that are similar in form and design to the examples in figures 1 and 2 of this section may also be used.

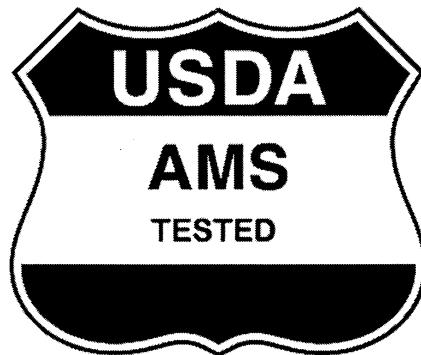


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

PART 93—PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**Subpart A—Citrus Juices and Certain Citrus Products**

Sec.

93.1 General.

93.2 Definitions.

93.3 Analyses available and location of laboratory.

93.4 Analytical methods.

93.5 Fees for citrus product analyses set by cooperative agreement.