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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Official Moisture Meter for Corn, Soybeans, and Sunflower Seeds

AGENCY: **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA.**
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)** is announcing that as of August 1, 1998, and thereafter, all official moisture content measurements of corn, soybeans, and sunflower seed inspected under the United States Grain Standards Act will be made with the Grain Analysis Computer Model 2100 (GAC 2100). Official moisture content measurements of other grains and agricultural commodities will continue to be made with the Motomco Model 919 Moisture Meter until the changeover date for those grains is announced.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven N. Tanner, Director, Technical Services Division, GIPSA, USDA, 10383 N. Executive Hills Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri 64153; telephone (816) 891-0401; fax (816) 891-0478.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)** announced the selection of the Grain Analysis Computer Model 2100 (GAC 2100), manufactured by Dickey-john Corporation, Auburn, Illinois, to replace the Motomco Model 919 Moisture Meter for official moisture content measurements in the Federal Register (63 FR 17356) on April 9, 1998. Implementation of the new instruments for official measurements of grains, oilseeds, and processed commodities will be phased in, product by product, over a period of at least 2 years. For any given product, all official moisture measurements will be performed using the Motomco Model 919 until the transition date for that product; the GAC 2100 will be used exclusively thereafter. Transition dates for each product will be selected to minimize the impact of the changes on the value of carry-over stocks and will be announced by GIPSA through a Notice in the Federal Register prior to the transition.

The transition date for corn, soybeans, and oil-type sunflower seeds is hereby designated as August 1, 1998. The GAC 2100 will be used for all official moisture determinations on these grains after July 31, 1998. Official calibrations for the GAC 2100 to be used with corn (8% to 20% moisture), high moisture corn (19% to 40% moisture), soybeans (6% to 24% moisture), and oil-type sunflower seeds (4% to 20% moisture) are provided in GIPSA Directive 9180.61, dated May 5, 1998.

The tentative transition date for barley, oats, rough rices, sorghum, and all wheats is May 1, 1999. Transition dates for peas, beans, lentils, and other commodities may lie beyond 1999.

GIPSA's decision to use the GAC 2100 for official moisture measurements does not mean that the Agency endorses or recommends this instrument for unofficial purposes over other similar instruments that are not approved for the official system. The Agency's selection of this instrument was based on GIPSA's unique operational needs. Other

instrument models may be as suitable or more suitable for a commercial entity's needs.

In addition, this document corrects the authority citation as published in the April 9, 1998, Federal Register, 63 FR 17356, in the first column of page 17357, in a notice concerning implementation of a new official moisture meter. That notice inadvertently omitted reference to the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 in the authority citation. The April 9, 1998, citation should read the same as the authority citation for this document.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.); and Secs. 202-208, 60 Stat. 1087, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.).

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Dated: June 19, 1998.

David R. Shipman,
Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards
Administration.

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