



**United States Department of Agriculture**

Grain Inspection,  
Packers and Stockyards  
Administration

Federal Grain Inspection  
Service

Field Management  
Division

1400 Independence Ave.  
SW, Stop 3630  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Voice (202) 720-0228  
Fax (202) 690-3951

Hotline 1-800-998-3447

[www.gipsa.usda.gov](http://www.gipsa.usda.gov)

Reference #270

August 22, 2016

TO: FGIS POLICY BULLETIN BOARD

FROM: Anthony Goodeman, Deputy Director */s/Anthony Goodeman*  
Field Management Division

SUBJECT: Hop Inspection Revision

ORIGINATING OFFICE: Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch

**1. PURPOSE**

This policy memorandum provides instructions for Hop inspections.

**2. BACKGROUND**

Due to significant growth within the U.S. hop industry and implementation of new industry practices, some language in the Hop Inspection Handbook no longer meets the needs of U.S. hop producers and marketers. The Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), state departments of agriculture, the Hop Growers of America, merchants, brewers, and customers worked collaboratively to draft handbook revisions that align with current industry practices and needs.

In some production areas, the hop industry is utilizing air drying as an alternative to kiln drying hops. In addition, some production locations are applying new harvest and packaging methods that utilize non-traditional bale sizes and weights. The traditional hop bales measure 20 x 30 x 55 inches, weigh approximately 200 pounds each, and are sampled with the bales vertically stacked on end, whereas the recently introduced bales weigh approximately 150 pounds and may be sampled with the bales stacked vertically or horizontally.

This Policy Bulletin Board notice transmits revised definitions that will be incorporated into the Hop Inspection Handbook at a later date, but are effective with the posting of this notice. These revised definitions are to be used beginning with the 2016 hops harvest.

### 3. REVISED DEFINITIONS

The following revisions to definitions will be made in the Handbook:

- Replace the word “bales” with “containers/bales” wherever found in the handbook.
- Add the definition: Applicant assisted lot inspection. At the discretion of the official agency or Field Office manager, non-licensed personnel may assist official personnel in obtaining samples, provided that: (1) all non-licensed personnel are under the direct, physical supervision of official personnel at all times; (2) the ratio of official personnel to non-licensed personnel is reasonable and practical; and (3) official personnel determine the general condition of the hops and whether additional samples are needed due to quality differences.
- Revise the definition of “dried hop” by deleting the word “kiln”. The revised definition is: Dried hop. Dried hop in bulk, in containers/bales, or in some other form of package.
- Replace FGIS-955 with FGIS-907 Attachment 2, in chapter 1.
- Section 2.3, LOT ACCESSIBILITY:  
Revise the first sentence to read: At least one side of 50 percent of the container/bales must be accessible for sampling. Container/bales may be presented in a vertical or horizontal format. Keep the language: At the applicant’s request, sample that portion of the lot that is accessible and issue a partial inspection certificate.
- Section 2.4, LOT IDENTIFICATION:  
Revise the first sentence to read: Each lot of hops tendered for lot inspection must be identified by the grower’s lot number, other lot number, or symbol affixed to each container or bale per the current requirements established by the Hop Growers of America. Delete a., b., and c. Item d. remains as written and becomes part of the LOT IDENTIFICATION paragraph instead of a sub-item.
- Section 2.6(b)(1), SAMPLING PROCEDURES:  
Revise the last sentence to read: If the lot contains fewer than 6 containers/bales or the container/bales are small in size, the container/bales may be sampled multiple times to achieve an adequate sample for analysis.
- Delete Section 2.6(d).

#### **4. FILING INSTRUCTIONS**

Retain this FGIS POLICY BULLETIN BOARD until the Hop Inspection Handbook is revised to include these new guidelines for hop inspection. Field Office Managers should provide a copy of this memorandum to the official agencies within their circuit that are responsible for hop inspection.

#### **5. QUESTIONS**

Direct any questions concerning this policy to Beverly Whalen, Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch (PPMAB) at (816) 659-8410 or email at [Beverly.A.Whalen@usda.gov](mailto:Beverly.A.Whalen@usda.gov).