



Applying for Designation Under the United States Grain Standards Act (New Applicants) Updated: May 31, 2024

FGIS Quality Assurance & Compliance Division



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Overview



- The following instructions outlines the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) online designation application process, designation criteria and requirements, and is primarily written for new applicants (not currently designated) who may be seeking designation in unassigned or assigned geographic areas. These instructions also apply to a currently designated applicant seeking to apply for designation in a new geographic area.
- If you are a currently designated applicant who intends to apply for their current designated geographic area, please see "Applying for Designation (Current Applicants)".
- Any person, State, or local government may apply for designation as an official agency to perform official inspection and/or weighing services.
- Section 79(f)(1)(A) of the USGSA lists the conditions and criteria for designation, and Section 79(f)(1)(B) says that an applicant must be better able to provide service than any other applicant for designation.



USDA Agricultural Marketing Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Establish an Identify Verified Account

Establish an Identify Verified Account

All new users to the *FGISONLINE / MYFGIS* system must have a Login.gov account.

- 1.To gain a Login.gov, navigate to: <u>https://fgisonline.ams.usda.gov/default_home_FGIS.aspx</u>
- 2.Click Login in the upper right corner



- 4.Select the Login.gov option
- 5.Toggle the Login.gov option to Create an Account and follow the prompts

If you are unable to successfully complete the online identity verification process, you must create a helpdesk ticket at <u>https://www.eauth.usda.gov/eauth/b/usda/helpdesk/requesthelp</u>.

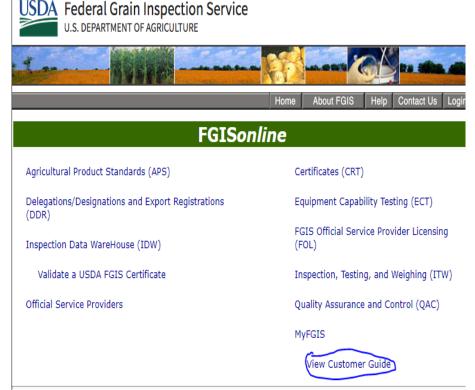
You may also reference Login.gov Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): <u>https://www.eauth.usda.gov/eauth/b/usda/faq</u>



Create a MyFGIS Account

Create a *MyFGIS* Account and *MyFGIS*# Using *FGISonline*

- As a new entity applying for designation, the next thing you will need to do is create a *MyFGIS* account and register with FGIS using our *FGISonline* internet-based system.
- Go to https://fgisonline.ams.usda.gov/default_home_FGIS.aspx and click on View Customer Guide. The Customer Guide instructs you how to log into *MyFGIS* and how to request a new *MyFGIS#* for your organization. Your *MyFGIS#* will be linked to all of your organizational activities conducted through *FGISonline*.
- Once your organization is set up and your *MyFGIS#* is assigned, you will be able to request access to the Delegations, Designations, and Export Registrations system where our online designation application process is administered.



AMS | USDA.gov

FOIA | Accessibility Statement | Privacy Policy | Non-Discrimination Statement | Information Quality | USA.gov | White House



Request Access to Delegations, Designations, and Export Registrations (DDR)

- Next you will need to request access to the DDR system through *FGISonline*.
- The DDR system can be accessed at the following link: <u>https://fgisonline.ams.usda.gov/</u>. Click on Delegations/Designations and Export Registrations (DDR).
- Upon initial request, you will be prompted to complete and submit an online form to request access to the *FGISonline* resource. It may take up to 24 hours for your access request to be reviewed and granted.
- Once access is granted, you will have the ability to complete an online application for designation, <u>but</u> <u>only when an Opportunity for Designation notice has been published in the Federal Register for the area</u> <u>you would like to apply and when FGIS has opened the area for application within the online system.</u>



Federal Register Notices

Monitor the Federal Register for Opportunity for Designation Notices

- All Opportunities for Designation are published in the *Federal Register* and viewable by the public, whenever a geographic area is open for applications.
- In many cases, the application acceptance period will open the same day the opportunity is published and will close following the date specified in the notice (usually 30 days). Some application periods will open on a later date specified in the notice, usually when multiple opportunities under different designation periods are consolidated into one single publication.
- The *Federal Register* may be accessed at the following link: <u>https://www.federalregister.gov/</u>
- To be notified when an opportunity is published, sign up for a subscription at the link above using your e-mail account and entering the keyword **'FGIS'** in your subscription preferences.



Apply Online Using DDR

- Once the Opportunity for Designation you have been waiting for has published, and the announced application period has started, you must log into DDR at <u>https://fgisonline.ams.usda.gov/</u>. Click on Delegations/Designations and Export **Registrations (DDR)**.
- On the DDR home page, click on **My Information,** then select I want to submit a new application for **Designation.**
- Alternatively, if you have the Organization Manager Role, you may click on Designations in *MyFGIS*. This will take you to the DDR home page where you can click on **My Information**.





Apply Online Using DDR

Each of the pages within the DDR application is numbered. When you start or resume an application, a progress bar will appear at the top of each page. To navigate to different pages within the form, click the appropriate circled number, or click Finish to review all information. The circles also indicate the status of the information you are entering:

- Grey circles indicate a page where you have not entered any data. 6_7 1.2
- Grey with black border indicates the current page.
- Green circles indicate a page where you have entered data that was saved into the form.
- Red circles indicate partially completed pages or invalid data. You may only submit an application if you provide the minimum required data.
- For additional navigation within the form, use the buttons at the bottom of the page:
 - Cancel, to stop the application process and return to the My Information page without saving your data. This option is only available on the first page of the form. Previous, to navigate back to a previously viewed page of the form.
 - Save and Exit, to save a partially completed application and return to finish it at another time. You will
 return to the My Information page, where your new application will be listed under Saved Applications.
 - **Save and Continue**, to save the current page's data and continue to the next page.
 - Do not use the back button on your browser to navigate through the form. Use the circled numbers, the control buttons, or the left-hand <u>Browse by Subject</u> menu panel.



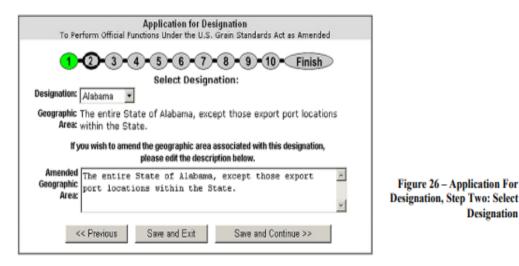


Apply Online Using DDR - continued

- **Step One** (Fig. 25). Enter the exact name of the private firm, individual, or state organization applying for designation. Include your web site address, if any.
- **Step Two** (Fig. 26). Use the drop list to select the designation for which you are applying. You can only select a designation which is currently unassigned and accepting applications. Once you select a designation, the following information will appear on the screen:
 - Geographic Area. The FGIS definition of the geographic area, in readonly format.
 - Amended Geographic Area. The text of the definition, in edit-ready format. You can choose to apply for the designation as currently defined, or you can request that the designation be amended to include or exclude counties, areas, service points or other facilities, or services (such as inspections or weighings). *If you are NOT* changing the geographic area of the designation, do NOT enter any changes to the text. Simply select your designation from the drop list, and then save and continue (or save and exit).

To	Application for Designation Perform Official Functions Under the U.S. Grain Standards Act as Amended
1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Finish
	Name of the Applicant (individual or firm):
	X
	Web Site:
	Cancel Save and Exit Save and Continue >>

Figure 25 – Application For Designation, Step One: Applicant Name





Apply Online Using DDR - continued

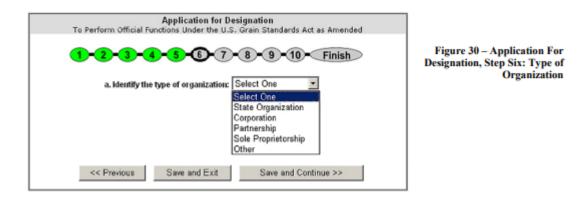
- **Step Three** (Fig. 27). Indicate your scope of services by clicking the checkboxes for inspection, weighing, or both.
- **Step Four** (Fig. 28). Enter the business address. Once you enter the zip code, the application will automatically fill in the city and state (note: do NOT hit the Enter key. Use the tab key or mouse to advance to a new field after entering the zip code).
- **Step Five** (Fig. 29). Enter the business title, name, phone number, and email address of the person who can be contacted regarding your application.

Application for Designation To Perform Official Functions Under the U.S. Grain Standards Act as Amended	
1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-Finish	Figure 27 – Application For
Scope of Services:	Designation, Step Three:
Official Inspection Official Weighing	Scope of Services
<< Previous Save and Exit Save and Continue >>	
Application for Designation To Perform Official Functions Under the U.S. Grain Standards Act as Amended	
1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10- Finish	
a. Enter the business address :	
Address 1:	
Address 2: Zip Code:	Figure 28 – Application For
City:	Designation, Step Four: Business Address
State:	
<< Previous Save and Exit Save and Continue >>	
Application for Designation To Perform Official Functions Under the U.S. Grain Standards Act as Amended	
1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-Finish	
Denses to contact personalize this shall a state	
Person to contact regarding this application:	Figure 20 Application For
Title: First: Middle: Last:	Figure 29 – Application For Designation, Step Five: Point
	of Contact
Phone Number: Email:	
<< Previous Save and Exit Save and Continue >>	



Apply Online Using DDR - continued

• **Step Six** (Fig. 30). Select your organization type from the drop list. DDR will require different information for different organizations.



- **State Organization** (Fig. 31 next slide): Enter the names and titles of all agency officials (i.e., Commissioner, Director, Bureau Chief, Official Agency Manager), and provide a chart of your organizational structure. For this page you can manually enter the records, upload a file, or email the information.
- **<u>Corporation</u>** (Fig. 32 next slide): Use the Add New button to manually enter the names of all stockholders, officers, and directors. Also indicate each stockholder's percent of ownership.
- **Partnership** (Fig. 33 next slide): Use the Add New button to manually enter each partner's name and percent of ownership.
- **Sole Proprietorship** (Fig. 34 next slide): type in the owner's name.



Apply Online Using DDR - continued

- On screens 6, 7, 8, and 9, you can manually add information by clicking the **Add New** button. Once the information is added, you can edit by clicking the **Edit** button and delete by clicking the **Delete** button.
- You can also upload one or more files in Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF, or Microsoft Excel file containing the required information. To upload a file, click **Browse**, select the correct file(s) from your computer hard drive or local network, and click **Upload File**. To view a previously uploaded file, you may click View next to the file and to delete the file, click Delete.
- **NOTE:** Do not edit an existing officer, stockholder, trustee, etc. if a previous individual has left and you are adding a new individual. • Delete the previous individual and add a new individual.

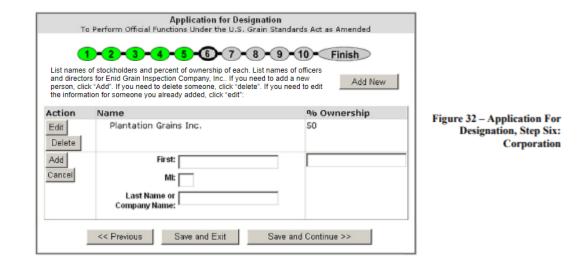
Figure 31 – Application For

Designation, Step Six: State

Organization

For example, if you need to add a new trustee or stockholder, click **Add New**. Add the trustee's information, then click **Add**. If a trustee • or officer has left, click **Delete** next to the trustee's name. If you need to edit the name of a trustee or officer, click **Edit** next to the name.

To Perform 0	Application for Design fficial Functions Under the U.S. G	
1-2-	<mark>3-4-5-6</mark> -7-	8-9-10- Finish
	of all officials (i.e., Commissioner, I	
of the state bureau or	Agency Manager) for Test Company department conducting inspection/	
also be submitted.		
Action	Title	Name
	No Officials records fo	und.
	You may upload files to submit t	his information
(Microsoft Word	You may upload files to submit t , Microsoft Excel, or Adobe PDF f	
	, Microsoft Excel, or Adobe PDF f	ormats only, up to 4 MB per file.)
	, Microsoft Excel, or Adobe PDF f	ormats only, up to 4 MB per file.)





Apply Online Using DDR - continued

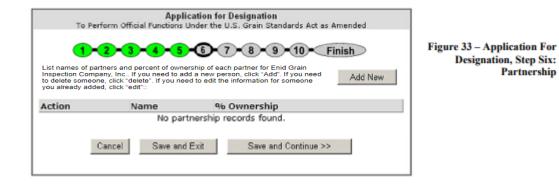




Figure 34 - Application For Designation, Step Six: Sole Proprietorship

Other (Figs. 35 and 36): enter a text description of the organization (such as Cooperative). On the next page, manually enter the full name of all ownerships and trustees.

Application for Designation To Perform Official Functions Under the U.S. Grain Standards Act as Amended 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-Finish a. Identify the type of organization: Other b. What is the type of organization? << Previous Save and Exit Save and Continue >>	Figure 35 – Application For Designation, Step Six: Other Organization Type	Application for Designation To Perform Official Functions Under the U.S. Grain Standards Act as Amended 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-Finish List ownership and trustees, if any for Enid Grain Inspection Company, Inc. If you need to add a new person, click 'Add'. If you need to delete someone, click 'delete'. If you need to edit the information for someone you already added, click 'delete'. Add New Action Ownership/Trustee Name Add Cancel Select One Mt Owner Inste Last	Figure 36 – Application Fo Designation, Step Six Ownership of Othe Organization Typ
a. Identify the type of organization: Other	Designation, Step Six: Other	Action Ownership/Trustee Name Add Cancel Select One Select One Mt	Designation, Ownership



Apply Online Using DDR - continued

• **Step Seven** (Fig. 37).). Provide the names and addresses of the facilities requesting service for your organization. This information is not required since as a new applicant, you may not have facilities requesting service yet.

Furnish a li	-2-3	-4-5-6-7	rain Standards Act as Amended 8-9-10-Finish		If you geogr docum If you	are a new aphic area tents requ are a new	Application for Designation Official Functions Under the U.S. Grain Star 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 applicant or previous applicant applying for a ne attach below your business plan and any assoc red as part of the business plan. applicant or a previous applicant, attach below c cation Regarding Drug-Free Workplace' form.	•10 Finish	Figure 38 – Application
Action	Name	Addr	855		You may upload files to submit this information (Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, or Adobe PDF formats only, up to 4 MB per file.)				
		No facilities records	found.				File	Date and Time	Drug-Free Workplace for
			and the last second		Delete	View	AD-1049 Certification Regarding Drug-Frpdf	5/31/2024 12:58:31 PM	
(Mir		You may upload files to submi Microsoft Excel or Adobe PDF	formats only, up to 4 MB per file.)		Delete	VICT	OA_ArticlesofIncorporation.docx	5/31/2024 12:58:49 PM	
Luni	in o bone storid,	File	Date and Time	Figure 37 – Application For	Delete	VIEW	OA_BusinessPlan.docx	5/31/2024 12:58:49 PM	1
Delete	View	OA_Customer_List.xlsx	5/31/2024 12:51:02 PM	Designation, Step Seven:	1	File	Choose Files No file chosen	Upload File	
Derete	- Name	noose Files No file chosen	Upload File Save and Continue >>	Facilities			< Previous Save and Exit Save and	I Continue >>	

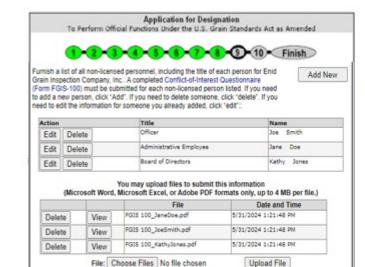
- Step Eight (Fig. 38).
 - Attach your business plan and any associated documents required as part of the business plan. See more information on business plan requirements in preceding slides.
 - o Attach a signed AD-1049 Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (Grants) Alternative I For Grantees Other Than Individuals (usda.gov). See more information on promoting a drug-free workplace in preceding slides.



Apply Online Using DDR - continued

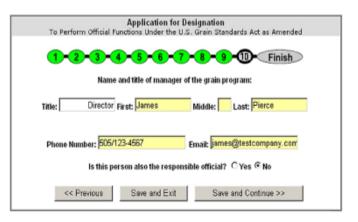
• **Step Nine** (Fig. 39).

- Provide the name and business title of all non-licensed personnel who work for your organization. This includes the individuals you listed in step 6 such as officers, stockholders, partners, owners, trustees, board of directors. Also include non-licensed managers, administrative staff, other employees etc.
- Attach a completed Conflict-of-Interest Questionnaire (Form FGIS-100) for each non-licensed person listed on this page. See more information on conflict of interest in preceding slides.
- Attach a signed AD-1049 <u>Certification Regarding Drug-Free</u> <u>Workplace Requirements (Grants) Alternative I – For Grantees</u> <u>Other Than Individuals (usda.gov)</u>. See more information on promoting a drug-free workplace in preceding slides.
- Step Ten (Fig. 40). Enter the name and title of the manager of your organization's grain program. Indicate if this person is also the official who oversees your grain program; if not, enter the responsible official's name on the next screen.



<< Previous Save and Exit

Figure 39 – Application For Designation, Step Nine: Nonlicensed Personnel



Save and Continue >>

Figure 40 – Application For Designation, Step Ten: Grain Program Manager



Submit a Business Plan

Submit a Detailed Business Plan (continued)

- Please include the following in your business plan:
 - State where you will set up office and inspection laboratories and your arrangements for obtaining such spaces.
 - State how you will obtain the necessary grain inspection equipment to perform official services.
 - State how you will obtain the required computer hardware, software, and internet access. 0
 - Explain your plans to get the persons licensed to perform inspection functions, as necessary, to provide service to the customer base.
 - Describe your proposed management and supervision structure. Include how you plan to conduct supervision of employee 0 official duties.
 - Submit a copy of your organizations Articles of Incorporation and any by-laws.
 - Submit proof of financial solvency and necessary capital required to effectively conduct business as an official service provider. Ο
 - Submit a list of official services you intend to provide and a proposed fee structure for those official services in accordance with FGIS Directive 9100.7 Fees for Official Service Provider Services. <u>DIRECTIVE 9100.7 (usda.gov)</u>
 - If considered a 'conflict' organization, or owned by an unofficial inspection organization, describe how you plan maintain separation from the 'conflict' or 'unofficial' organization. Identify any persons serving as Trustees or Board of Directors members between the 'conflict' or 'unofficial' organization and the proposed 'official' entity. See next slide for more information.
 - Provide any additional details or information to assist FGIS in determining your organizations fitness for designation. Ο



"Conflict" Organization

Special Requirements for Entities Owned by Grain Trade Organizations or Unofficial Inspection Agencies

Conflict of Interest Agencies

- Conflict agencies are owned by the trade and are required to have a board of directors or trustees that act as a buffer between the owners and the 0 agency. The owners of a conflict agency have a financial interest in the grain and the final outcome of inspections.
- Owners of conflict agencies cannot participate in the management decisions and provide only public relation type support (information on grain grading awareness, etc.) They should be careful as to not give the perception of being involved with the inspection/weighing of the grain.
- The trustees over see management of the business and are paid for their work and reimbursed for expenses. They approve major expenses; assist with certain management decisions; decide on office additions/deletions, etc.

Official Agencies owned by an Unofficial Agency

- The main difference between a conflict-of-interest agency and an unofficially owned agency is that the unofficial agency does not own the grain or have any interest in the final outcome of the inspection as does the owner of a conflict agency. Unofficially owned agencies are also required to have a buffer (Directors or Trustees) between the agency and owners.
- In both cases above, a separate entity owned by the conflict or unofficial organization that applies for designation under the USGSA, must have its own management, employees, facilities, and equipment.
- If such entity is designated under the USGSA, the entity cannot represent itself to customers and the general public as being part of the conflict or unofficial agency. This includes, but is not limited to, items such as job announcements, advertisements, apparel, websites, billing invoices, and any other correspondence or dealings with customers and the general public.
- The unofficial agency may only promote use of the "official system" and may not advertise or promote use of the unofficial agency. It also may offer its assistance with certain human resource, procurement, and administrative functions that will not jeopardize the integrity of or public confidence in the designation.



Conflicts of Interest

§87. Conflicts of Interest

- Section 87. of <u>7 USC Ch. 3: GRAIN STANDARDS (house.gov)</u> of the USGSA prohibits:
 - Any person licensed or authorized by the Secretary to perform official functions from being financially interested (directly or otherwise) in any business entity owning or operating any grain elevator or warehouse or engaged in the merchandising of grain, or be in the employment of, or accept gratuities from, any such entity, or be engaged in any other kind of activity specified by regulation of the Secretary as involving a conflict of interest.
 - An official agency or State agency from engaging in any activity specified within this section or by regulation.
- FGIS implemented the USGSA conflict of interest statutory requirements in regulations at <u>eCFR :: 7 CFR</u> 800.187 -- Conflicts of interest and in Directive 9070.3.
- All licensed, nonlicensed and authorized personnel are responsible for reporting and eliminating conflict-ofinterest situations or the appearance thereof.
- All licensed personnel must submit a conflict-of-interest questionnaire (FGIS-944) and declaration through the FGIS Official Service Provider Licensing (FOL) program when initially applying for a license, during a license renewal, and anytime there is a new change in conflict of interest or circumstances status.



Drug Free Workplace

Promoting and Maintaining a Drug Free Workplace

- Official personnel and warehouse samplers must maintain high standards of honesty, integrity, and impartiality to assure proper performance of their duties and responsibilities and to maintain public confidence in the services provided by them.
- FGIS requires all applicants for designation to complete and submit a new or updated form AD-1049 with every new application.

<u>Certification Regarding Drug-Free</u> <u>Workplace Requirements (Grants)</u> <u>Alternative I – For Grantees Other Than</u> Individuals (usda.gov)

This form is available electronically. OMB Control No. 0505-0027 Expiration Date: 04/30/2022						
USDA Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Ree Alternative I – For Grantees Other That						
The following statement is made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552a, a regulations implementing §§ 5151-5160 of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 100-68 20 C-R P arts 102 and 421. The regulations were amended and published on June 15, 2009, in 76 Fed. Reg. 76510-76611. Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the Depar According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and information unless if displays a valid OME control number. The valid OME control number for th complete this information collection is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing in collection to collect the collection of the collection of the collection and the collection of the collection of the collection and the collection of the collection of the collection and the collection and the collection of the collection and the collection and and the collection and and and and and and and an	 7. Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs A.1 through A.6. B. The grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant: PLACE OF PERFORMANCE (Street Address, City, County, State, Zip Code) 					
civil, fraud, privacy, and other statutes may be applicable to the information provided. (Read instructions on page three before completed)	ting certification.)					
A. The grantee certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug-free we	orkplace by:	Check 🗌 if there a	re workplaces on file that are not identified here.			
 Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufa use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace against employees for violation of such prohibition; 		ORGANIZATION	NAME	PR/AWARD NUMBER OR PROJ	ECT NAME	
2. Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform emp	loyees about -	NAME(S) AND TI	TLE(S) OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE(S	5)		
a. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;		SIGNATURE(S)			DATE	
b. The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;						
c. Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assist	stance programs; and	institutions participating	eral civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USD. In or administering USDA programs are prohibited from disc	riminating based on race, color, national origin, re	eligion, sex, gender identity (including gender	
d. The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug-abu	se violations occurring in the workplace.	expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, familyparental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or repr civir rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines van incident.				
 Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the per- the statement required by paragraph A.1. 	formance of the grant be given a copy of	the responsible agency information may be mad	who require alternative means of communication for progra or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and T de available in languages other than English.	TY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay S	Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, progr	
 Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph A.1 th grant, the employee will – 	aat, as a condition of employment under the	(https://www.ascr.usda. information requested in	mination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimina and <u>anylling-opportunit</u> the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (96) A Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Av	and at any USDA office or write a letter addresse 6) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or lette	d to USDA and provide in the letter all of the r to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of	

a. Abide by the terms of the statement; and

- b. Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;
- 5. Notifying the agency in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under subparagraph A.4.b from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;
- 6. Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under subparagraph A.4.b, with respect to any employee who is so convicted -
- a. Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
- b. Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or, local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;



Apply Online Using DDR -continued

• Finish (Fig. 41). Review the information you submitted for each part of the application. If you need to edit any section, click the corresponding page number at the top of the form, or use the Previous and Continue buttons to scroll through the application.

• To submit the application, check the certification button at the button of the page. Click Submit Application to submit your electronic application to FGIS. When you return to the My Information page, your application will be listed under In Process.

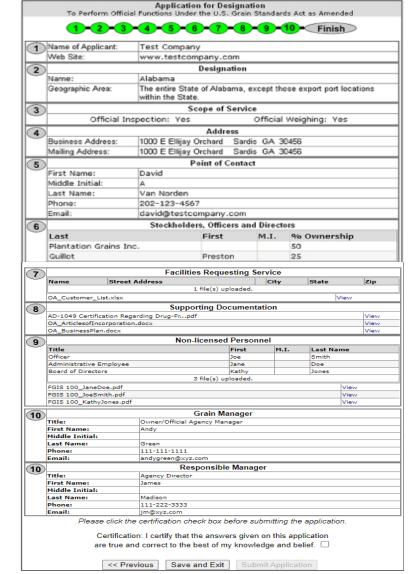


Figure 41 - Review and Submit Application For Designation



Review, Recommendation, and Designation Award Process

- After your online application and all requested documentation have been submitted and the application period has ended, your application and any *Federal Register* public comments will be reviewed by the FGIS Quality Assurance and Compliance Division (QACD).
- If only one application is received, QACD will review all aspects of the application to determine if the applicant meets the designation criteria and qualifies for designation as defined in the USGSA.
- If more than one application is received, QACD must review all aspects of all applications and perform a comprehensive comparison to help determine which applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide official inspection service, for the geographic area. In scenarios involving new applicants and/or multiple applicants QACD publishes a second *Federal Register* notice requesting public comments about the applicants for designation.
- Once AMS has made a final decision, QACD will contact each applicant to notify them of the outcome of the decision. If an • applicant is to be awarded the designation, QACD will notify the applicant to confirm the terms for which the designation will be awarded and to verify the selected applicant's agreement to accept the terms.
- When all applicants have been notified of the outcome. QACD will begin the process to publish a final *Federal Register* notice • announcing the designation award. This announcement may be consolidated with other designation award notices.



Designation Criteria Under the USGSA and Regulations

- Review the USGSA Designation Criteria in the <u>United States Grain Standards Act (As Amended)</u>.
 - \circ See § 79(f)(1)(A) for the conditions and criteria for designation
 - See § 79(f)(1)(B) that says that an applicant must be better able to provide service than any other applicant for designation.
 - $\,\circ\,$ See §87b. Prohibited acts.
- Review the USGSA Designation Criteria in Part 800 Regulations under the United States Grain Standards Act.
 - See § 800.196 Designations.
 - See § 800.185 Duties of official personnel and warehouse samplers.
 - See § 800.186 Standards of conduct.