

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-23-06

July 1, 2023

**SPECIAL GRADE, “HIGH MOISTURE” AND CONTRASTING CHICKPEAS IN THE
CLASS CHICKPEA/GARBANZO BEANS**

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1. PURPOSE

This memorandum provides updated instruction on procedures for official grading of chickpea/garbanzo beans.

2. BACKGROUND

AMS-FGIS published a final notice in the Federal Register on June 14, 2023, revising the [United States Standards for Beans](#), specifically the class Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans. The grade determining factors for Special Grade, “High Moisture” and Contrasting Chickpeas are revised.

[United States Standards for Beans: Chickpea/Garbanzo Beans – AMS-AMS-22-0066](#)

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This program notice is effective July 1, 2023.

4. POLICY

The following sections of the [Bean Inspection Handbook](#) are revised to reflect the revision of the standard. Section 3.4, Special Grades, Section 3.15, Moisture, in the Certification paragraph, and Section 3.3, Grades and Grade Requirements in Table 3.10, Chickpeas (Garbanzo Beans).

3.4 SPECIAL GRADES

Special grades draw attention to unusual conditions in the beans and are made part of the grade designation. The special grades and special grade requirements of all classes of beans are shown in the [United States Standards for Beans](#). Details for determining special grades are included in referenced sections. Definition and examples of the designations for special grades in beans are:

- a. Choice Handpicked. Pea beans that are better in quality than U.S. No. 1 and Prime Handpicked. ([Table 3.1](#))

Example: U.S. Choice Handpicked Pea Beans

- b. Prime Handpicked. Pea beans that are generally better in quality than U.S. No. 1. ([Table 3.1](#))

Example: U.S. Prime Handpicked Pea Beans

- c. High Moisture. Beans that contain over 18.0 (14.0 for Chickpeas/Garbanzo Beans) percent moisture. ([Section 3.15](#))

Example: U.S. No. 2 Pinto Beans, High Moisture

3.15 MOISTURE

Certification. Record the percent of moisture on the work record and “Results” section of the certificate to the nearest tenth percent. If the moisture content exceeds 18.0 (14.0 for Chickpeas/Garbanzo Beans) percent, apply the special grade “High Moisture” on the grade line of the certificate in accordance with Section 3.4, “Special Grades.”

3.3 GRADES AND GRADE REQUIREMENTS

TABLE 3.10 – CHICKPEAS (GARBANZO BEANS)

Grade	Maximum Limits of -						
	Moisture ¹ (percent)	Total Defects (DB, FM, CCL, & SPL) (percent)	Total Damaged (percent)	Foreign Material		Contrasting Classes ² (percent)	Contrasting Chickpeas ³ (percent)
				Total (percent)	Stones (percent)		
U.S. No. 1	14.0	2.0	2.0	0.5	0.2	0.5	1.0
U.S. No. 2	14.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	0.4	1.0	2.0
U.S. No. 3	14.0	6.0	6.0	1.5	0.6	2.0	>2.0

U.S. Substandard: U.S. Substandard shall be beans which do not meet the requirements for the grades U.S. No. 1 through U.S. No. 3 or U.S. Sample Grade. Beans which are not well screened shall also be U.S. Substandard, except for beans which meet the requirements for U.S. Sample Grade.

U.S. Sample Grade: U.S. Sample Grade shall be beans which are musty, sour, heating, materially weathered, or weevily; which have any commercially objectionable odor; which contain insect webbing or filth, animal filth, any unknown foreign substance, broken glass, or metal fragments; or which are otherwise of distinctly low quality.

¹ Beans with more than 14.0 percent moisture are graded High Moisture.

² Beans with more than 2.0 percent contrasting classes are graded Mixed Beans.

³ Beans with more than 2.0 percent contrasting chickpeas must grade no higher than a U.S. No. 3.

5. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File a copy of this memo with the [Bean Inspection Handbook](#) until the handbook is revised to include this change. Field office managers must ensure that a copy of this memorandum is available to official agencies operating within their circuit.

6. QUESTIONS

Direct any question regarding this procedure to the local field office or to Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch (PPMAB) at fgispoliciesproceduresmarketanalysisbranch@usda.gov.