

Program Notice

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OPTIONAL CORN DOCKAGE CHECKTEST PROCEDURE

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this notice is to provide an optional method for checktesting corn-only dockage testers. Official Service Providers (OSP) will have the option of using this method or the method specified in the Equipment Handbook.

2. BACKGROUND

The Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has an approved checktesting procedure for dockage testers used exclusively for corn. This procedure is described in the FGIS Equipment Handbook, Chapter 4.

Dockage testers used for the analysis of only corn utilize a single sieve and no air to separate broken corn and foreign material (BCFM) from the sample. This reduces the probability of variation compared to other grains, which require additional sieves and air to remove material. The corn-only dockage checktesting procedure was developed and implemented to simplify the checktesting procedure without compromising results.

The number of onsite laboratories not in constant use by official personnel, has increased significantly to accommodate customers' needs for inspection. FGIS' checktesting schedule dictates specific equipment be checktested on specific months in a limited timeframe. Certain types of equipment, such as dockage testers and moisture meters, require samples developed by FGIS for use in the checktesting process. Repeated trips to onsite laboratories for different checktests along with shipment of samples between OSPs and FGIS is time consuming and labor intensive for both parties.

Under this alternate procedure, OSPs may designate one dockage tester per agency as their standard dockage tester and use it to checktest their own corn-only dockage testers. In turn, FGIS will checktest the OSP standard using established procedures.

The following procedure is designed to provide greater flexibility for corn dockage checktests while maintaining the necessary credibility and accuracy expected by customers of the official system.

3. PROCEDURE

a. OSP Responsibilities.

- (1) Notify the FGIS office providing checktesting samples that the OSP wants to utilize the optional corn dockage checktesting procedure. Identify and inform FGIS of the serial number and specified service point (SSP) of each corn only dockage tester.

- (2) Designate a Standard Precision No. 3 sieve and an OSP Standard Corn Dockage Tester. The OSP Standard Corn Dockage Tester may be used for other purposes, but the OSP Standard No. 3 sieve must only be used for checktesting and only with the OSP Standard Corn Dockage Tester. This combination of sieve and dockage tester is the OSP Working Standard.
- (3) Checktest the OSP Standard Corn Dockage Tester according to the schedule and corn checktest procedures detailed in the Equipment Handbook. Apply the tolerances from Section d. of this program notice.
- (4) Generate three corn checktest reference samples in accordance with the requirements specified in the Equipment Handbook.
- (5) Test the reference samples using the OSP Working Standard.
- (6) Create a spreadsheet with the official agency name and columns for SSP codes for locations and serial numbers of all corn-only dockage testers, dockage content of the corn checktest reference samples, checktest results, and the date of the checktest. (If necessary, contact the supervising field office for assistance with creating a spreadsheet.)
- (7) Test all corn-only dockage testers using the three reference samples tested with the OSP Working Standard and the corn-only procedure from the Equipment Handbook. Apply the reduced tolerance from this program notice.
- (8) Enter the results of each checktest sample in the column next to the reference sample result and calculate the average difference. After testing all corn-only dockage testers, send a copy of the spreadsheet to the field office in charge of oversight. FGIS will enter the checktest data into FGISonline ECT program.

FGIS is working to update ECT to allow OSPs to enter their own corn-only checktest data.

- (9) After initial checktesting, monitor all forms of supervision data at least monthly to determine if subsequent checktesting or removal from service is necessary.
- (10) Retest any dockage tester that has been removed from service for repairs before placing back in service.

b. FGIS Responsibilities.

- (1) Provide OSP with corn checktest samples for the OSP Standard Corn Dockage Tester and OSP Standard No. 3 sieve according to instructions in the Equipment Handbook.
- (2) Enter checktest results into ECT until the program is updated to allow OSP input.

- (3) Review all forms of supervision data at least monthly.
- (4) Report results of each monthly review to the OSP, including any dockage tester which must be retested or taken out of service.
- (5) Analyze the effectiveness of the corn only dockage checktest program after one year to determine whether to continue.

c. Checktesting Frequency.

- (1) Checktest the OSP Standard Corn Dockage Tester and OSP Standard No. 3 sieve with FGIS-generated corn samples according to the corn checktesting schedule found in the Equipment Handbook.
- (2) Checktest all other OSP dockage testers against the OSP Working Standard with reference samples when any of the following apply:
 - (a) A new dockage tester is placed into service.
 - (b) A dockage tester has not had a checktest in the past 12 months.
 - (c) Analysis of any supervision data by the OSP or FGIS indicates the need for checktesting.
 - (d) A dockage tester is placed back in service after repair.

d. Tolerances.

± 0.20 percent mean deviation from Standard dockage tester to OSP Standard Corn Dockage Tester.

± 0.20 percent mean deviation from OSP Standard Dockage Tester to field-based corn-only dockage tester.

Note: The optional corn dockage checktesting procedure does not affect FGIS supervision activities of monitoring BCFM results.

Note: FGIS reserves the right to rescind this program if in the opinion of the Agency, the outcome does not meet the objectives of the Act.

4. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File a copy of this program notice with the Equipment Handbook. The handbook will be revised later to include these changes.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions regarding this program notice to [AMS-FGIS Policies Procedures and Market Analysis Branch](#).