



[Billing Code 3410-KD-U]

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

### **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)**

#### **Opportunity for Designation in the South Carolina Area; Request for Comments on the Official Agency Servicing This Area.**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The designation of the official agency listed below will end on September 30, 2017. We are asking persons or governmental agencies interested in providing official services in the areas presently served by this agency to submit an application for designation. In addition, we are asking for comments on the quality of services provided by the following designated agency: South Carolina Department of Agriculture (South Carolina).

**DATES:** Applications and comments must be received by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS FROM PUBLICATION DATE].

**ADDRESSES:** Submit applications and comments concerning this Notice using any of the following methods:

- **Applying for Designation on the Internet:** Use FGISonline ([https://fgis.gipsa.usda.gov/default\\_home\\_FGIS.aspx](https://fgis.gipsa.usda.gov/default_home_FGIS.aspx)) and then click on the Delegations/Designations and Export Registrations (DDR) link. You will need to obtain an FGISonline customer number and USDA eAuthentication username and password prior to applying.

- **Submit Comments Using the Internet:** Go to Regulations.gov (<http://www.regulations.gov>). Instructions for submitting and reading comments are detailed on the site.
- **Mail, Courier or Hand Delivery:** Sharon Lathrop, Compliance Officer, USDA, GIPSA, FGIS, QACD, 10383 North Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153
- **Fax:** Sharon Lathrop, 816-872-1257
- **Email:** *FGIS.QACD@usda.gov*

**READ APPLICATIONS AND COMMENTS:** All applications and comments will be available for public inspection at the office above during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(c)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharon Lathrop, 816-891-0415 or *FGIS.QACD@usda.gov*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 79(f) of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) authorizes the Secretary to designate a qualified applicant to provide official services in a specified area after determining that the applicant is better able than any other applicant to provide such official services (7 U.S.C. 79(f)). Under section 79(g) of the USGSA, designations of official agencies are effective for no longer than five years, unless terminated by the Secretary, and may be renewed according to the criteria and procedures prescribed in section 79(f) of the USGSA.

**Areas Open for Designation:**

*State of South Carolina*

Pursuant to Section 79(f)(2) of the United States Grain Standards Act, the following geographic area in the State of South Carolina is assigned to this official agency.

In South Carolina

The entire State, except those export port locations within the State, which are serviced by South Carolina.

### **Opportunity for Designation**

Interested persons or governmental agencies may apply for designation to provide official services in the geographic area specified above under the provisions of section 79(f) of the USGSA and 7 CFR §800.196. Designation in the specified geographic area in South Carolina is for the period beginning October 1, 2017, to September 30, 2022. To apply for designation or to request more information, contact Sharon Lathrop at the address listed above.

### **Request for Comments**

We are publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to comment on the quality of services provided by the South Carolina official agency. In the designation process, we are particularly interested in receiving comments citing reasons and pertinent data supporting or objecting to the designation of the applicant. Submit all comments to Sharon Lathrop at the above address or at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

We consider applications, comments, and other available information when determining which applicants will be designated.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 71-87k.

Randall D. Jones,  
Acting Administrator,  
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.  
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