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USDA's United States Grain Standards Act: *Washington*



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Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 22.09.020(11)

Wash. Rev. Code Ann. §§ 22.09.710 through 22.09.790; 22.09.810;
22.09.820

§ 22.09.020. Department authority – Rules.

The department shall administer and carry out the provisions of this chapter and rules adopted hereunder, and it has the power and authority to:

...

(11) Adopt rules establishing inspection standards and procedures for grains and commodities;

...

§ 22.09.710. Designation of inspection points and terminal warehouses.

The department may designate a warehouse located at an inspection point as a terminal warehouse. The department shall, by rule, designate inspection points which shall be provided with state/federal inspection and weighing services commencing July 1, 1979. The revenue from inspection and weighing shall equal the cost of providing such services. Where the department after hearing determines that such cities are no longer necessary as inspection points it may by rule change such designated inspection points by removing one or more locations.

§ 22.09.720. Grades and standards of commodities – Regulations.

The grades and standards established by the United States department of agriculture as of September 30, 1988, for all commodities included within the provisions of this chapter are hereby adopted as the grades and standards for such commodities in this state: PROVIDED, That the department is hereby authorized to adopt by regulation any new or future amendments to such federal grades and standards. The department is also authorized to issue regulations whether or not in accordance with the federal government and to prescribe therein grades and standards which it may deem suitable for inspection of commodities in the state of Washington. In adopting any new or amendatory regulations the department shall give appropriate consideration, among other relevant factors, to the following:

(1) The usefulness of uniform federal and state grades;



- (2) The common classifications given such commodities within the industry;
- (3) The utility of various grades;
- (4) The kind and type of grades requested by those dealing with the particular type of commodity; and
- (5) The condition of the commodity with regard to its wholesomeness and purity.

§ 22.09.730. Inspection or grading of commodities – Methods.

Inspection or grading of a lot, partial lot, or sample of a commodity tendered for inspection or grading under this chapter shall consist of taking and examining a representative sample thereof and making such tests as are necessary to determine its grade, condition, or other qualitative measurement. Commodities tendered for inspection must be offered and made accessible for sampling at inspection points during customary business hours.

- (1) No inspector shall issue a certificate of grade, grading factors, condition, or other qualitative measurement for any commodity unless the inspection or grading thereof be based upon a correct and representative sample of the commodity and the inspection is made under conditions which permit the determination of its true grade or quality, except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section. No sample shall be deemed to be representative unless it is of the size and procured in accordance with the uniform methods prescribed by the department.
- (2) An inspection may be made of a submitted sample of a commodity, provided that the certificate issued in such case clearly shows that the inspection or grading covers only the submitted sample of such commodity and not the lot from which it is purportedly drawn.
- (3) When commodities are tendered for inspection in such a manner as to make the drawing of a representative sample impossible, a qualified inspection may be made. In such case, the certificate shall clearly show the condition preventing proper sampling such as heavily loaded car, truck, barge, or other container, or other condition.

§ 22.09.740. Inspection or grading of commodities – File samples, retention.

From all commodities inspected, samples may be drawn, which samples, unless returned by agreement to the applicant, shall become the property of the state and subject to disposition by the department. Upon request the department may transmit a portion of such samples to interested parties upon payment of a reasonable fee set by regulation. Official state file samples shall be retained for periods prescribed by state or federal regulation.

§ 22.09.750. Inspection or grading of commodities – Powers and duties of inspectors at terminal warehouses – Recordkeeping.

The department's inspectors shall, at terminal warehouses, have exclusive control of the weighing, inspecting, and grading of the commodities that are included within the



provisions of this chapter: PROVIDED, That official supervision of weighing under the United States grain standards act shall be deemed in compliance with this section. The action and the certificates of the inspectors in the discharge of their duties, as to all commodities inspected or weighed by them, shall be accepted as prima facie evidence of the correctness of the above activity. Suitable books and records shall be maintained in which shall be entered a record of each inspection activity and the fees assessed and collected. These books and records shall be available for inspection by any party of interest during customary business hours. The records shall be maintained for periods set by regulation.

§ 22.09.760. Inspection or grading of commodities – No inspection if commodity is to be loaded into defective container.

No inspection shall be made of any commodity which is to be loaded into a vessel, vehicle, or other container, if it appears that the hold, compartment, or other enclosure into which the commodity is to be loaded is in such condition as to contaminate the commodity or lower the grade.

§ 22.09.770. Inspection or grading of commodities – Unlawful practices – Penalty.

Any department employee who shall, directly or indirectly, accept any money or other consideration for any neglect of duty or any improper performance of duty as such department employee; or any person who shall knowingly cause or attempt to cause the issuance of a false or incorrect grade or weight certificate under this chapter by deceptive loading, handling, or sampling of commodities or by submitting commodities for inspection knowing that it has been so loaded, handled, or sampled, or by any other means; shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

§ 22.09.780. Inspection or grading of commodities.

(1) In case any owner, consignee, or shipper of any commodity included under the provisions of this chapter, or his or her agent or broker, or any warehouse operator shall be aggrieved at the grading of such commodity, the person may request a reinspection or appeal inspection within three business days from the date of certificate. The reinspection or appeal may be based in the official file sample or upon a new sample drawn from the lot of the grain or commodity if the lot remains intact and available for sampling. The reinspection or appeal inspection shall be of the same factors and scope as the original inspection.

(2) For commodities inspected under federal standards, the reinspection and appeal inspection procedure provided in the applicable federal regulations shall apply. For commodities inspected under state standards, the department shall provide a minimum of a reinspection and appeal inspection service. The reinspection shall consist of a full review of all relevant information and a reexamination of the commodity to determine the correctness of the grade assigned or other determination. The reinspection shall be performed by an authorized inspector of the department other than the inspector who performed the original inspection unless no other inspector is available. An appeal inspection shall be performed by a supervisory inspector.



(3) If the grading of any commodity for which federal standards have been fixed and the same adopted as official state standards has not been the subject of a hearing, in accordance with subsection (2) of this section, any interested party who is aggrieved with the grading of such commodity, may, with the approval of the secretary of the United States department of agriculture, appeal to the federal grain supervisor of the supervision district in which the state of Washington may be located. Such federal grain supervisor shall confer with the department inspectors and any other interested party and shall make such tests as he or she may deem necessary to determine the correct grade of the commodity in question. Such federal grade certificate shall be prima facie evidence of the correct grade of the commodity in any court in the state of Washington.

§ 22.09.790. Inspection or grading of commodities – Fees and charges.

(1) The department shall fix the fees for inspection, grading, and weighing of the commodities included under the provisions of this chapter, which fees shall be sufficient to cover the cost of such service. The fees for inspection, weighing, and grading of such commodities shall be a lien upon the commodity so weighed, graded, or inspected which the department may require to be paid by the carrier or agent transporting the same and treated by it as an advanced charge, except when the bill of lading contains the notation "not for terminal weight and grade," and the commodity is not unloaded at a terminal warehouse.

(2) The department is authorized to make any tests relating to grade or quality of commodities covered by this chapter. The department may inspect and approve facilities and vessels to be used in transporting such commodities and provide any other necessary services. It may fix and charge a reasonable fee to be collected from the person or his or her agent requesting such service.

(3) The department shall so adjust the fees to be collected under this chapter as to meet the expenses necessary to carry out the provisions hereof, and may prescribe a different scale of fees for different localities. The department may also prescribe a reasonable charge for service performed at places other than terminal warehouses in addition to the regular fees when necessary to avoid rendering the services at a loss to the state.

§ 22.09.810. Inspection or grading of commodities – Inspection of commodities shipped to or from places other than inspection points.

In case any commodity under the provisions of this chapter is sold for delivery on Washington grade to be shipped to or from places not provided with state inspection under this chapter, the buyer, seller, or persons making delivery may have it inspected by notifying the department or its inspectors, whose duty it shall be to have such commodity inspected, and after it is inspected, to issue to the buyer, seller, or person delivering it, without undue delay, a certificate showing the grade of such commodity. The person or persons, or his or her agent, calling for such inspection shall pay for such inspection a reasonable fee to be fixed by the department.



§ 22.09.820. Inspection or grading of commodities – Unloading commodity without inspection or weighing.

When commodities are shipped to points where inspection is provided and the bill of lading does not contain the notation "not for terminal weight and grade" and the commodity is unloaded by or on account of the consignee or his or her assignee without being inspected or weighed by a duly authorized inspector under the provisions of this chapter, the shipper's weight and grade shall be conclusive and final and shall be the weight and grade upon which settlement shall be made with the seller, and the consignee or his or her assignee, by whom such commodities are so unlawfully unloaded shall be liable to the seller thereof for liquidated damages in an amount equal to ten percent of the sale price of such commodities computed on the basis of the shipper's weight and grade.

