

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)****Notice of Intent To Certify Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (Alabama); Request for Comments**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are asking for comments on the quality of services provided by this Delegated State: Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (Alabama).

**DATES:** Comments must be received by May 17, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments concerning this notice using any of the following methods:

- *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:* Jacob Thein, Compliance Officer, USDA, GIPSA, FGIS, QACD, 10383 North Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO 64153.

- *Fax:* Jacob Thein, 816-872-1257.
- *Email:* [Jacob.D.Thein@usda.gov](mailto:Jacob.D.Thein@usda.gov) or [FGIS.QACD@usda.gov](mailto:FGIS.QACD@usda.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jacob Thein, 816-866-2223, [Jacob.D.Thein@usda.gov](mailto:Jacob.D.Thein@usda.gov) or [FGIS.QACD@usda.gov](mailto:FGIS.QACD@usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 79(e)(2)(A) of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) designates that if the Secretary determines, pursuant to paragraph (3) of Section 79(e), that a State agency is qualified to perform official inspection, meets the criteria in subsection (f)(1)(A) of Section 79, and (i) was performing official inspection at an export port location under this chapter on July 1, 1976, or (ii)(I) performed official inspection at an export port location at any time prior to July 1, 1976, (II) was designated under subsection (f) of Section 79 on December 22, 1982, to perform official inspections at locations other than export port locations, and (III) operates in a State from which total annual exports do not exceed, as determined by the Secretary, five per centum of the total amount of grain exported from the United States annually, the Secretary may delegate authority to the State agency to perform all or specified functions involving official inspection (other than appeal inspection) at export port locations within the State,

including export port locations which may in the future be established, subject to such rules, regulations, instructions, and oversight as the Secretary may prescribe, and any such official inspection shall continue to be the direct responsibility of the Secretary. Any such delegation may be revoked by the Secretary, at the discretion of the Secretary, at any time upon notice to the State agency without opportunity for a hearing. Under Section 79(e) of the USGSA, every five years, the Secretary shall certify that each State agency with a delegation of authority is meeting the criteria described in subsection (f)(1)(A). Delegations shall be renewed according to the criteria and procedures set forth in Section 79 (e)(2)(B) of the USGSA.

**Area of Delegation***Alabama*

Pursuant to Section 79(e)(2) of the USGSA, the following export port locations in the State of Alabama are assigned to this State agency.

*In Alabama*

All export port locations in the State of Alabama, except those export port locations within the State, which are serviced by GIPSA.

**Request for Comments**

We are publishing this notice to provide interested persons the opportunity to comment on the quality of services provided by the State of Alabama. We are particularly interested in receiving comments citing reasons and pertinent data supporting or objecting to the delegation of the applicant. Submit all comments to Jacob Thein at the above address or at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

All comments are available for public inspection at the office above during regular business hours (7 CFR 1.27(c)). We consider comments and other available information when determining certification.

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

**Randall D. Jones,**

*Acting Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-KD-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)****Opportunity for Designation in the Georgia 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 June 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: Georgia Department of Agriculture (Georgia).

**DATES:** Applications and comments must be received by May 17, 2017.

**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](mailto:FGIS.QACD@usda.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Sharon Lathrop, 816-891-0415 or [FGIS.QACD@usda.gov](mailto: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