

Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250–3601 or telephone: (202) 720–0219.

CD ROM's/Videos—Technical Information (e.g., *Procedures for Inspection Grain*): GIPSA offers various educational materials created for the U.S. grain industry. They include multimedia CD's and several brochures/handouts. Single copies of CDs are available free by mail and the brochures/handouts are available in PDF format for online viewing and/or download. All materials are public domain and may be freely duplicated and distributed in their original form.

Online/e-mail service—Wide range of information about GIPSA and its programs: Information regarding GIPSA's programs and services can be found in the GIPSA Strategic Plan and on the Agency's Web site at: <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa>.

Onsite Evaluations/Assistance—Process Verification Program for Grain Handlers: GIPSA is considering proposing a new process verification program to meet the market's rapidly evolving needs. In this program, GIPSA would apply internationally recognized quality management standards to verify the quality process used rather than testing actual grain itself. The process verification designation verifies the process, not the final product. The process verification program would give industry participants independent verification of their quality processes and standards, and a way to capture values not easily identified by traditional inspection and testing.

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

Small Business Compliance Assistance for Retailers in the Food Stamp Program: FNS has significantly increased compliance assistance efforts to retailers in the Food Stamp Program. FNS staff have attended conferences and held face-to-face meetings with retailers to provide technical assistance and listen to their concerns. FNS has developed several new publications, including a retailer training guide, video and CD-Rom that explain the basic program rules and storeowners' responsibilities in an easy-to-read format. They can be found on the FNS Web site at www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/retailers/ or obtained through local field offices that administer the Food Stamp Program for retailers. FNS is considering translating materials into other languages to accommodate non-English speaking retailers. Retailers can also find general information on the Food Stamp Program at www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/. Food Stamp regulations relating to retailers can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations at 7 CFR Parts 278

and 279 (a link to an electronic version is also available on the general FSP Web site referenced above).

Small Business Compliance Assistance for Farmers' Markets/Retailers in the WIC/FMNP Programs

Child Nutrition Act provisions for the WIC and FMNP Programs make State agencies responsible for the authorization, training, monitoring, and corrective action of small businesses such as retailers, farmers, and farmers' markets. FNS has regulations that establish guidelines and parameters for State administration of these activities. Although some uniformity is imposed by these regulations, there is considerable State discretion, so many of the rules will not be the same from one State to the next. For example, State agencies must accept applications from retailers for WIC authorization at least once every three years, but may do so much more frequently, and each State has its own application form. For another example, States are required to allow only certain types and amounts of food to be transacted for WIC food instruments, but the precise brand, package size, and maximum allowed price varies from State to State. The FNS Web site (<http://fns.usda.gov/wic>) includes the WIC/FMNP regulations (7 CFR Parts 246 and 248) and lists WIC and FMNP State agency addresses, telephone numbers, and Web sites.

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has a number of compliance assistance programs to help small entities to comply with program regulations. They range from publications to seminars to e-mail assistance to CD-ROMs and videos. The issues they discuss include information on the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, marketing orders, the National Organic Program, grading programs, and science & technology programs, among others. All this assistance and contact information can be accessed by clicking the appropriate program's link on the AMS Web site <http://ams.usda.gov>.

Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is a financing agency, not a regulating authority. RUS does not have enforcement policies. Its policy on minimum compliance requirements as a condition for financing is to work with the individual applicant/borrower to ensure compliance. RUS does not impose penalties or engage in enforcement activities. Assistance with its programs can be obtained at our Web

site at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/>. This site contains information on all of our programs and complete contact information by subject matter and geographic location. If needed, a RUS field representative can come to your location to provide assistance.

Department of Agriculture Single Point of Contact: Jacquelyn Chandler, Office of Budget and Program Analysis, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Rm. 147–E, Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: 202–720–1516. E-mail: jyc@obpa.usda.gov.

Commerce

The Department of Commerce understands a vibrant small business sector is critical to creating new jobs in a dynamic and growing economy, so it is mindful of its responsibilities under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA). The Commerce Department provides substantial regulatory enforcement compliance assistance through a variety of media.

Within the Commerce Department, two agencies regulate the activities of small businesses. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regulate small businesses under several natural resource protection statutes that NOAA enforces, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), formerly the Bureau of Export Administration (BXA), regulates small businesses under the Export Administration Regulations, which set the criteria for authorizing exports of dual-use items—commercial items with potential military or weapons proliferation applications.

NOAA has a comprehensive program providing regulatory compliance guidance and assistance to small entities, which comprise much of NOAA's regulated community. It has long been NOAA's practice to answer inquiries by small entities, when appropriate, in the interest of administering statutes and regulations. NOAA answers tens of thousands of inquiries from small entities annually. Inquiries are received via telephone, mail and electronic mail; during public hearings, town hall meetings and workshops held by NOAA throughout the year; and in day-to-day interactions small entities have with NOAA. NOAA distributes compliance guides to all those to whom a rule will apply and to others who have expressed interest. It makes them available at sites where