

GIPSA Quality Assurance and Control (QAC) Glossary

Action Limits

Outer control limits found on quality control charts. If data is observed outside these limits, action should be taken.

Agency Field Office Code

Official agency or field office that performs the inspection or weighing service

Agreement Quotient

The formula is $AQ = (\# \text{ Factors within SIMS warning limits} / \text{Total \# of factors}) * 100$

AMA

Federal act regulating commodity inspections known as Agricultural Marketing Act

Agricultural Products Standards (APS)

The FGISonline application that stores all Products, Factors, and Criteria.

BAR

Board of Appeals and Review

Carrier ID

Identification of the carrier

Carrier Type

Type of carrier used to transport the commodity (Truck, Rail, Barge, Lash Barge, Container, Ship, Other)

Cert Date

Date certificate is generated (cert number is assigned)

Cert Number

Serial number of certificate

Cert Signature Inspector Number

GIPSA-assigned number for the individual whose name appears on the certificate

Certification Location

GIPSA-assigned number for the location of the office that issues the certificate

City

City where the commodity is located at the time of sampling or other service or where the stowage examination is performed

Class

This is a further classification of an Agricultural Commodity based upon specified characteristics as identified or determined by the market place, regulation or law. (e.g.: soft red winter wheat, yellow corn)

Commodity

In QAC, Commodity pertains to the Commodity Class or Subclass. The lowest level found on the certificate.

Commodity Class

Lowest level of agricultural commodity class or subclass as defined in the Agricultural Product Standards (e.g.: HADU for Hard Amber Durum Wheat)

Commodity/Carrier Location

Location where the commodity is located at the time of sampling or other service or where the stowage examination is performed (e.g. name of elevator, fleet, rail yard, or warehouse)

Corrective Action samples

While the QAS or GSL is entering their supervision results in SIMS Edit, they have the option to flag one or more factors for a Corrective Action. A portion of the sample is sent back to inspector for a re-pick and then back to the QAS or GSL for review.

Date of Service

Date inspection or weighing is completed

Date Sampled

Date sampling of the subplot or lot is completed

Destination

Country of destination for export shipments based on Commerce Department codes

Destination Quantity

Weight or size of the lot inspected or weighed for export under the USGSA

Destination Quantity Unit of Measure

Description of how the lot is measured

Domestic Complaint

Domestic Complaints are caused when someone claims that results/grades obtained from one circuit are different than results/grades obtained from another circuit. QACS and FOSS will look into these complaints and check for validity.

Factor

This is a possible characteristic of an Agricultural Commodity, Class, or Sub-class that can be measured

Factor Code

The abbreviation of the analytical factor being measured

Factor Remarks

Supplemental information related to an inspection result (e.g. 12% moisture basis for a protein result)

Factor Test Equipment

Serial number or unique identifier of the equipment used in the factor analysis

Factor Test Location

GIPSA-assigned number for the location where the analysis is performed

FGIS

Federal Grain Inspection Service. A branch of GIPSA.

Field Office

FGIS organizational group responsible for field operations in a given area. It is equivalent to the branch level in the organizational hierarchy under FGIS.

File Sample ID

Identification assigned by the service provider to a file sample

Flagged SIMS

A profile is created with specific search criteria that flags future data coming into the IDW.

Flagged STEP

A profile is created with specific search criteria that flags future SIMS data.

Foreign Complaint

A grain or weight quality discrepancy that arises between origin and destination processed through the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) agricultural representative at the U.S. Embassy located in their country.

FOSS

Field Office Support Staff

GIPSA

Grain Inspection, Packing, and Stockyards Administration. An agency within USDA.

Grade

Level of quality or value as specified in the standards

GSL

Grading Services Lab

Grain

A family of products monitored by FGIS

IDW

Inspection Data Warehouse. The Data warehouse in which certificates are stored.

Identification

Identification of the carrier, lot, or submitted sample

Inspection Date

Date of inspection - formatted as mm/dd/yyyy

Inspection Result

Result from the analysis of a factor

Inspection Result Unit of Measure

Format for reporting inspection results as specified in the Agricultural Product Standards

Inspection Type

Level of inspection (Original, Reinspection, Appeal, Board Appeal, New Original)

Inspection, Testing, and Weighing (ITW)

The FGISonline application that captures all testing and weighing results for grain, rice, pulses, graded commodities, and processed commodities, single and aggregate lot inspection (combined, warehouse, local, composite, round, and cu-sum) for all carrier types including: railcars, containers, trucks, ships, and barges.

Inspector

Person who inspected sample. (Licensed Inspector, Agricultural Commodity Grader)

Jurisdiction

QAC sample is either National (supervised by BAR/GSL) or Local (supervised by OSP QAS)

Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)

The application used at TSD for the management of samples, laboratory users, instruments, and results. In the planning stages for FGISonline.

License Number

GIPSA-assigned number for the individual who performs the inspection or weighing service

Load Order Number

Unique lot identifier for the inspection and/or weighing log

Lot Number

Unique alpha-numeric identifier assigned to a lot when Cusum, combined-lot, or round-lot inspections are performed. Detail inspection records are assigned same lot number as assigned to summary inspection/weighing records.

Movement

In, Out, Local, Export

Number of Carriers

Number of carriers comprising the lot

Odor

Odor of the sample: Okay (OK), Musty, Sour, Commercially Objectionable Foreign Odor (COFO)

Official Agency (OA)

Private or State entity authorized by FGIS to perform official inspection and weighing services.

Official Service Provider (OSP)

The location at which a TSD, FO, or OA conducts inspections and/or testing and identified by a unique number.

OPA

Organization, Personnel, and Activity. FGISonline application that stores information on all GIPSA personnel and lists GIPSA organizations, Official Agencies and Service Points.

Opinion Samples

An inspector submits challenging separations/samples to the QAS for review, while the OSP QAS or GSL inspector can submit challenging separations/samples to the BAR for review.

Over the Shoulder samples (OTS)

OTS allows the shift supervisor, SP QAS, OSP QAS, GSL or BAR to observe inspectors grading skills and offer immediate feedback and training.

Performance Appraisal Samples

PAS are samples that the inspector submits to the QAS or BAR for a rating

QAC ID

Number assigned to a sample in the QAC system (SIMS, STEP, Corrective Action)

QACS

Quality Assurance and Control Staff

QAS

Quality Assurance Specialist

Quantity/Official Weight

Volume, weight, or size of the lot or sample inspected or weighed

Quantity/Official Weight Unit of Measure

Description of how the lot or sample is measured

Performance Appraisal Samples (PAS)

PAS are samples that the inspector submits to the QAS or BAR for a rating.

Random SIMS

Sample obtained by random chance from data entered into IDW the previous 24 hours.

Referee Samples

Work portions sent to a group of inspectors who analyze the sample for a particular factor.

Separations are returned to the BAR or QAS and analyzed for correctness. Test of ability.

Sampling Method

Method used to obtain the official sample (Probe, Mechanical Diverter, Ellis Cup, Pelican, Woodside, Mechanical Probe, Multiple, Other)

Sample Identification

Identification of the sample analyzed during the inspection of the lot (e.g. subplot #, material portion #, railcar ID)

Score

The percent correct/incorrect. The formula is $SCORE=100*(ORIG+MINUS)/(ORIG+PLUS)$.

Service Point

A specified location where official inspection and weighing services are performed. Each service point is identified by a unique service point number.

Service Request Number

Unique number assigned to each request for service that is used to link inspection & weighing records to the request for service

Service Type

Type of service performed (e.g., Official Lot, Official Submit, Export)

SIMS

Sample Inspection Monitoring System. A file sample monitoring program. Sample may be obtained by random sampling (RSIMS), or flagged sampling (FSIMS) or targeted sampling (TSIMS).

SIMS Status

Sample is either New, Supervised (has supervision results), or Revised (has supervision results and has been edited at least once)

Special Grade

Special factor or condition present in a commodity that is supplemental to the grade (e.g., Blighted, Ergoty)

State

State where the commodity is located at the time of sampling or other service or where the stowage examination is performed

STEP

Subjective Testing and Evaluation Process. Proactive quality control process that requires routine separation exchanges between the QAS and the BAR.

STEP Status

Sample is either New, Supervised (has supervision results), or Revised (has supervision results and has been edited at least once)

Stratified Sampling Rate

Using different sampling rates ensures that particular groups within a population are adequately represented in the sample. Example: US No. 1 – 0.25%, US No. 2 – 0.75%, US No. 3 – 3%, and US No. 4 or worse – 5%.

Subclass

This is a more specific identification as set by market needs of an agricultural class that does not apply to all in an agricultural class. (e.g., northern spring, amber)

Supervision Inspector

Generally, the OSP QAS, QAS team member, GSL member, or BAR member that is reviewing the sample.

Survey Samples

Work portions sent to a group of inspectors who analyze the sample for a particular factor. Results are returned to the BAR or QAS and are statistically compared with the BAR and all other participants. Test of ability.

Targeted SIMS

A profile is created with specific search criteria that targets data that is in IDW.

Targeted STEP

A profile is created with specific search criteria that targets SIMS data.

Threshold Limit

If a STEP sample scores less than 90%, the BAR will return the sample to the inspector for review.

USGSA

Federal act regulating grain inspection known as United States Grain Standards Act

Voluntary STEP

Voluntary STEP are samples that inspectors submit for review. An inspector submits samples to the QAS for review. The OSP QAS submits samples to the BAR for review.

Warning Limits

Inner control limits found on quality control charts. If data are observed outside these limits, temporarily increased supervision may be needed to determine if there is a problem.