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## Russian Federation

### Grain and Feed

### Grain Quality Certification

### 2005

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**Report Highlights:**

The Russian Minister of Agriculture issued Order #189 as a temporary solution to fill the void of the grain certification system. However, the Order has not eliminated problems or confusion, and grain quality certification is not expected to resume immediately.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Moscow [RS1]  
[RS]

The temporary regime of quality certification of grain and grain products for foreign trade by the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (VPSS) expired on November 1 (see Gain Report #RS5065 *Grain Certification News*), while a new system was not developed by November 1, as expected. Therefore, after November 1, 2005, Russia's foreign trade in grain and grain products wallowed in a legal vacuum as there were no agencies with the authority to issue grain quality certificates required for foreign trade. As a temporary resolution of this problem, Russian Minister of Agriculture issued ministerial Order #189 "On approval of the Temporary Provision concerning accreditation of certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) working to acknowledge conformance of quality and safety of grain, mixed feeds, and components for their manufacturing, as well as by-products of grain processing". Prepared on October 24, the Order was registered by the Russian Ministry of Justice almost two weeks later, on November 10, 2005.

Although the Order of the Minister of Agriculture appears to be a panacea, concerns within the sector abound. The Order postpones the creation of a nationwide system of grain quality certification by another year. This intermediate period of fine-tuning the procedure of accreditation of certification centers and laboratories may be used by VPSS to strengthen its direct and indirect authority in grain quality certification. However, grain traders are concerned that regional VPSS authorities do not have a clear understanding of the procedures and are not receiving instructions on timely basis. Despite the Order, many believe that grain quality certification will not resume for at least a month, even at the custom points. Furthermore, grain market players are concerned that each delay decreases the number of qualified personnel inherited from the State Grain Inspection, and it will take more than a year to train new people.

Another concern is that the present Order expressly states that quality certification of grain flour is beyond the responsibility of VPSS. The language of the Order repeats the language of the GOR Resolution #491 of August 4, 2005: translated as "by-product of grain processing", the Russian original means only products of "non-direct processing of grain", which does not include flour, as flour is considered to be a product of direct processing of grain. In the meantime, the certificate of conformity for flour with Russian official GOSTs (standards) is still required for imports and exports.

An unofficial translation of Order #189 and Attachment 3 "Temporary Provision" follows:

## **BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION**

### **Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation**

### **Science and Technical Policy and Education Department**

### **Order from October 24, 2005 #189**

**On approval of the Temporary Provision concerning accreditation of certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) working to acknowledge conformance of quality and safety of grain, mixed feeds, and components for their manufacturing, as well as by-products of grain processing.**

In an effort to implement the Resolution of the Russian Federation Government dated August 4, 2005, #491 "On measures for provision of state control over quality and safety of grain, compound feeds, and components for feeds production, as well as by-products of processing grain" (Code of Laws of the Russian Federation, 2005, #33, Art. 3421), and on

the basis of the Provision on Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service approved by the Resolution of the Russian Federation Government dated June 30, 2004, #327 (Rossiyskaya Newspaper, July, 15, 2004, #150, Code of Laws of the Russian Federation, 2005, #33, Art. 3421), I order:

1. To approve the attached Temporary Provision concerning accreditation of certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) working to acknowledge conformance of quality and safety of grain, mixed feeds, and components for their manufacturing, as well as by-products of grain processing.
2. VPSS should provide for the arrangement of VPSS regional offices activities with respect to accreditation of certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) working to acknowledge conformance of quality and safety of grain, mixed feeds, and components for their manufacturing, as well as by-products of grain processing.
3. To determine that the Temporary Provision concerning accreditation of certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) working to acknowledge conformance of quality and safety of grain, mixed feeds, and components for their manufacturing, as well as by-products of grain processing is in force until December 31, 2006.
4. Execution of the order shall be monitored by Deputy Minister S.G.Mitin.

Minister A.V.Gordeyev

### Attachment 3

Attachment  
to the MinAg of Russia Order  
dated October 24, 2005, # 189

#### TEMPORARY PROVISION

regarding accreditation of certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) working to acknowledge conformance of quality and safety of grain, mixed feeds, and components for their manufacturing, as well as by-products of grain processing.

#### I. General provisions

1. The present Temporary Provision (hereinafter – Provision) has been developed in accordance with the Federal Law of December 27, 2002, #184-FZ “On Technical Regulation” (Code of Laws of the Russian Federation, 2002, #52, part 1, Art. 5140; 2005, #19. Art. 175?), the Decree of the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Standardization and Metrology dated December 30, 1999, #72, “On approval of general rules concerning accreditation procedures in the Russian Federation” (Registered in the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation dated February, 7, 2000, #2094) (Rossiyskaya Newspaper dated February 22, 2000, #37), the Resolution of the Russian Federation Government dated July 6, 2001, #514, “On accreditation of organizations in charge of evaluating conformance of products, industrial processes, and services to the required quality and safety standards” (Code of Laws of the Russian Federation, 2001, #29, Art. 3021), the Resolution of the Russian Federation Government dated June 28, 2004, #315 “On approval of the Provision on the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation” (Code of Laws of the Russian Federation, 2004, #27, Art. 2778), and the Resolution of the Russian Federation Government dated June 30, 2004, # 327, “On approval of the Provision on the Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service” (Rossiyskaya Gazeta dated July 15, 2004, #150; Code of Laws of the Russian Federation, 2005, #33, Art. 3421).

2. The present Provision defines application review procedures for accreditation of certification agencies, test laboratories (centers) working to acknowledge conformance of quality and safety of grain, mixed feeds, and components for their manufacturing, as well as by-products of grain processing (hereinafter – certification agencies, and test laboratories (centers)).

3. VPSS carries out organization and coordination of accreditation activities, as well as maintains registers of the accredited certification agencies, and test laboratories (centers).

VPSS and its regional offices issue accreditation to certification agencies and test laboratories (centers), draw up paper work, issue accreditation certificates, as well as monitor activities performed by the accredited certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) with respect to verifying conformance of quality and safety of grain, mixed feeds, and components for their manufacturing, as well as by-products of grain processing.

4. Accreditation shall be carried out with respect to certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) that have expressed their interest to receive official acknowledgement of their competence in the area of verifying conformance of quality and safety of grain, mixed feeds and components for their manufacturing, as well as by-products of grain processing.

## II. Procedures for accreditation application review process

5. VPSS or its regional offices review the application to issue an accreditation certificate of certification agencies and test laboratories (centers), in accordance with the example (Attachment # 1).

6. The following documents are reviewed along with the application:

- copies of constituent documents of certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) attested in accordance with the established procedure;

- A copy of the legal person state registration certificate attested in accordance with the established procedure;

- A copy of the state registration certificate of the natural person registered as an individual entrepreneur attested in accordance with the established procedure;

- Documents to confirm the availability of premises to perform this type of activities;

- A list of submitted documents attested in accordance with the established procedure.

7. The following shall be verified in the course of the accreditation process:

- evidence of certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) having reference and technical-organizational resources at their disposal necessary to carry out activities to acknowledge conformance of quality and safety of grain, mixed feeds, and components for their manufacturing, as well as by-products of grain processing, including documents that define safekeeping procedures for information containing test results and certification activities records, as well as rules of acceptance, storage, return, disposal and discard of samples (samples leftovers) arriving for tests;

- logistical and software support, list of equipment, instrumentation and software available;

- equipment and instrumentation to be used (control and test procedures diagrams, operational paper work for the instrumentation to be used, and so forth may be considered);

- personnel profile and professional background of specialists employed by certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) (copies of work books and diplomas of specialists, and so forth shall be considered).

8. Should certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) submit an incomplete set of documents, the accreditation process for certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) is suspended until the missing documents are supplied.

9. In case the result of documentation review and examination is positive, a certificate is issued in accordance with the example (Attachment # 2). Certificate is issued for the period of 5 years. The form of certificate is a strict account document.
10. Accreditation certificate is not issued in cases:
  - certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) fail to conform with the effective legislation requirements;
  - evidence of invalid or distorted data in the documents submitted by certification agencies and test laboratories (centers).
11. VPSS or its regional office shall issue an order with its decision to issue certification or refuse to certify, and enter it into the register of accredited certification agencies and test laboratories (centers).
12. Information contained in the register of accredited certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) is public and is available in the Internet on the VPSS website.
13. In case a certificate is lost, certification agencies and test laboratories (centers) are provided with a duplicate certificate within a period of two weeks from the date a corresponding petition arrives.

**END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION**