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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Designation for the State of Mississippi

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

(GIPSA), USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: GIPSA announces the designation of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (Mississippi) to provide official services under the United States **Grain** Standards Act, as amended (Act).

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: USDA, GIPSA, Janet M. Hart, Chief, Review Branch, Compliance Division, STOP 3604, Room 1647-S, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-3604.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet M. Hart, telephone 202-720-8525.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action has been reviewed and determined not to be a rule or regulation as defined in Executive Order 12866 and Departmental Regulation 1512-1; therefore, the Executive Order and Departmental Regulation do not apply to this action.

In the June 30, 1997, Federal Register (62 FR 35147), GIPSA asked persons interested in providing official services in the geographic area assigned to Mississippi to submit an application for designation. Applications were due by July 30, 1997. Mississippi, the only applicant for the Mississippi area, applied for designation to provide official services in the entire area currently assigned to them.

Since Mississippi was the only applicant for the Mississippi area, GIPSA did not ask for comments on the applicants.

GIPSA evaluated all available information regarding the designation criteria in Section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Act and, according to Section 7(f)(1)(B), determined that Mississippi is able to provide official services in the geographic area for which they applied. Effective January 1, 1998, and ending December 31, 2000, Mississippi is designated to provide official services in the geographic area specified in the June 30, 1997, Federal Register.

Interested persons may obtain official services by contacting Mississippi at 601-947-4095.

Authority: Pub. L. 94-582, 90 Stat. 2867, as amended (7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.).

Dated: November 21, 1997.

Neil E. Porter,
Director, Compliance Division.

[FR Doc. 97-31336 Filed 11-28-97; 8:45 am]

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