



Office of the
Deputy Administrator
Livestock, Poultry,
and Seed Program

1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 2096-S, STOP 0249
Washington, DC 20250-0249

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Notice to the Trade

The AMS, Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program's Quality Assessment Division (QAD) provides grading and certification services to the meat, poultry, and egg industries. QAD has revised its policy regarding staffing for lamb processing facilities in an effort to reduce Cumulative Trauma Disorders associated with repetitive motions – the leading cause of Office of Worker's Compensation Program claims for QAD.

Historically, QAD assigned one grader to plants offering less than 2,000 lamb carcasses for grading and/or certification per shift, and two graders for plants offering between 2,001 and 4,000 lamb carcasses per shift. **Effective March 2, 2015, QAD will require one grader for plants offering 1,400 lamb carcasses per shift; and two graders for plants offering 1,400 to 2,800 lamb carcasses per shift.**


If the number of lambs offered for grading service falls between 1,400 and 2,800 per shift, the plant can either:

- A. Request a second grader; or
- B. Provide a plant employee to physically handle all remaining lambs in excess of 1,400. That person would open the flanks for the grader to review, turn the lamb for the grader to see the conformation, probe the lamb for the grader, if necessary, and stamp/roller brand the lamb with the appropriate grade.

In order to assist customers with the transition, QAD grading supervisors will be on-site at all lamb plants during the first week of implementation. Additionally, if plants choose Option B as outlined above, QAD grading supervisors will assist plant employees in properly presenting lamb carcasses for evaluation by the grader.

A copy of the revised instruction 509 detailing this change is available online at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/LSMeatGradingGradingServices> under the "Meat Instructions and Procedures" link.

If you have questions, contact Jennifer Porter, QAD Director, at 202-690-3147 or Joel Gottlieb, QAD National Meat Supervisor, at 712-255-9335.


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Deputy Administrator