



REMOVAL OF INCORRECT GRADEMARKS

Purpose

This instruction defines Meat Grading and Certification (MGC) Branch procedures for removal of incorrect grademarks on carcasses or sides of beef, lamb, veal, calf, and pork.

Policy

It is the policy of the MGC Branch to ensure meat grading is uniform and accurate nationwide.

Procedures for Incorrect Grademarks at Plant of Initial Grading

1. Supervisors:
 - a. If errors are observed when the grader is present, have the grader apply the correct grade.
 - b. If errors are observed when the grader is not present, determine if the carcasses were correctly graded at the time of initial grading (consider external influences - time, handling, temperature, humidity, etc.). If determined to be incorrectly graded, apply the correct grade.
2. Graders:
 - a. Periodically review graded carcasses, and correct own errors at the plant of initial grading.
 - b. Do not remove official grademarks and/or roller brands of another grader's work without the original grader or supervisor being present. This would not preclude upgrading carcasses, upon further review, when grade factors have changed due to additional chill, etc.

Procedures for Incorrect Grademarks at Location Other Than Plant of Initial Grading

1. Supervisors:
 - a. Do not remove incorrect grademarks. If the location of initial grading is within your area of supervision, review the grader's work at origin.
 - b. If the location of initial grading is not within your area of supervision, notify the responsible area office and provide the following:

1. An accurate piece count of carcasses reviewed and carcasses found to be in error.
2. The establishment number of the plant of origin.
3. The grader's roller brand code or preliminary pop stamp code.

Note: The roller brand code from "common" rollers cannot be used to identify who graded the carcass.

4. A detailed summary of findings.
- c. If errors are extensive, encourage current owner to return the carcasses to the plant of origin for correction.

2. Graders:

- a. Do not remove incorrect grade marks. Notify your supervisor of your findings.

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