

**§ 868.63 Certifying appeal inspection results.**

(a) *General.* An appeal inspection certificate shall be issued according to § 868.70 and instructions. Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, only the results of the appeal inspection or Board appeal inspection service shall be shown on the appeal inspection certificate.

(b) *Required statements.* Each appeal inspection certificate shall show the statements required by this section, § 868.71, and instructions.

(1) Each appeal inspection certificate shall clearly show: (i) The term "Appeal" or "Board Appeal" and (ii) a statement identifying the superseded certificate. The superseded certificate shall be considered null and void as of the date of the appeal inspection or Board appeal inspection certificate.

(2) When the results for more than one kind of service are reported on a certificate, the appeal or Board appeal inspection certificate shall show a statement of which kind of service(s) results are based on the appeal or Board appeal inspection service and that all other results are those of the original inspection, retest inspection, or appeal inspection service.

(3) If the superseded certificate is in the custody of the Service, the superseded certificate shall be marked "Void." If the superseded original inspection, retest inspection, or appeal inspection certificate is not in the custody of the Service at the time the appeal certificate is issued, a statement indicating that the superseded certificate has not been surrendered shall be shown on the appeal certificate.

(c) *Finality of Board appeal inspection.* A Board appeal inspection shall be the final appeal inspection service except that for nongraded commodities an appeal shall be the final appeal inspection.

[53 FR 3722, Feb. 9, 1988. Redesignated and amended at 60 FR 16364, Mar. 30, 1995]

## OFFICIAL CERTIFICATES

**§ 868.70 Official certificates; issuance and distribution.**

(a) *Required issuance.* An inspection certificate shall be issued to show the

results of each kind and each level of inspection service.

(b) *Distribution—(1) Original.* The original and one copy of each inspection certificate shall be distributed to the applicant or the applicant's order. In addition, one copy of each inspection certificate shall be filed with the office providing the inspection; and, if the inspection is performed by a cooperator, one copy shall be forwarded to the appropriate field office. If requested by the applicant prior to issuance of the inspection certificate, additional copies not to exceed a total of three copies will be furnished at no extra charge.

(2) *Retest and appeal inspection service.* In addition to the distribution requirements in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, one copy of each retest or appeal inspection certificate will be distributed to each interested person of record or the interested person's order and to the cooperator or field office that issued the superseded certificate.

(3) *Additional copies.* Additional copies of certificates will be furnished to the applicant or interested person upon request. Fees for extra copies in excess of three may be assessed according to the fee schedules established by the cooperator or the Service.

(c) *Prompt issuance.* An inspection certificate shall be issued before the close of business on the business day following the date the inspection is completed.

(d) *Who may issue a certificate.* (1) *Authority.* Certificates for inspection services may be issued only by official personnel who are specifically authorized or licensed to perform and certify the results reported on the certificate.

(2) *Exception.* The person in the best position to know whether the service was performed in an approved manner and that the determinations are accurate and true should issue the certificate. If the inspection is performed by one person, the certificate should be issued by that person. If an inspection is performed by two or more persons, the certificate should be issued by the person who makes the majority of the determinations or the person who makes the final determination. Supervisory personnel may issue a certificate when the individual is licensed or

**§ 868.71**

authorized to perform the inspection being certificated.

(e) *Name requirement.* The name or the signature, or both, of the person who issued the inspection certificate shall be shown on the original and all copies of the certificate.

(f) *Authorization to affix names.* (1) *Requirements.* The names or the signatures, or both, of official personnel may be affixed to official certificates which are prepared from work records signed or initialed by the person whose name will be shown. The agent affixing the name or signature, or both, shall: (i) Be employed by a cooperating agency or the Service, (ii) have been designated to affix names or signatures, or both, and (iii) hold a power of attorney from the person whose name or signature, or both, will be affixed. The power of attorney shall be on file with the employing cooperating agency or the Service as appropriate.

(2) *Initialing.* When a name or signature, or both, is affixed by an authorized agent, the initials of the agent shall appear directly below or following the name or signature of the person.

(g) *Advance information.* Upon request, the contents of an official certificate may be furnished in advance to the applicant and any other interested person, or to their order, and any additional expense shall be borne by the requesting party.

(h) *Certification; when prohibited.* An official certificate shall not be issued for service after the request for an inspection service has been withdrawn or dismissed.

**§ 868.71 Official certificate requirements.**

Official certificates shall—

- (a) Be on standard printed forms prescribed in the instructions;
- (b) Be in English;
- (c) Be typewritten or handwritten in ink and be clearly legible;
- (d) Show the results of inspection services in a uniform, accurate, and concise manner;
- (e) Show the information required by §§ 868.70–868.75; and
- (f) Show only such other information and statements of fact as are provided

**7 CFR Ch. VIII (1–1–02 Edition)**

in the instructions authorized by the Administrator.

[53 FR 3722, Feb. 9, 1988. Redesignated and amended at 60 FR 16364, Mar. 30, 1995]

**§ 868.72 Certification of results.**

(a) *General.* Each official certificate shall show the results of the inspection service.

(b) *Graded commodities.* Each official certificate for graded commodities shall show—

- (1) The class, grade, or any other quality designation according to the official grade standards;
- (2) All factor information requested by the applicant; and
- (3) All grade determining factors for commodities graded below the highest quality grade.

**§ 868.73 Corrected certificates.**

(a) *General.* The accuracy of the statements and information shown on official certificates must be verified by the individual whose name or signature, or both, is shown on the official certificate or by the authorized agent who affixed the name or signature, or both. Errors found during this process shall be corrected according to this section.

(b) *Who may correct.* Only official personnel or their authorized agents may make corrections, erasures, additions, or other changes to official certificates.

(c) *Corrections prior to issuance.* No corrections, erasures, additions, or other changes shall be made which involve identification, quality, or quantity. If such errors are found, a new official certificate shall be prepared and issued and the incorrect certificate marked “Void.” Otherwise, errors may be corrected provided that—

- (1) The corrections are neat and legible;
- (2) Each correction is initialed by the individual who corrects the certificate; and
- (3) The corrections and initials are shown on the original and all copies.

(d) *Corrections after issuance.* (1) *General.* If errors are found on an official certificate at any time up to a maximum of 1 year after issuance, the errors shall be corrected by obtaining the incorrect certificate and replacing it