



United States
Department of
Agriculture

NOTICE TO THE INDUSTRY - WLED - 1

Farm and
Foreign
Agricultural
Services

DATE: June 2, 2000

Farm Service
Agency

TO: All Cotton Warehouse Operators Licensed under the United States Warehouse Act

Kansas City
Commodity
Office
P.O. Box
419205
Kansas City,
Missouri
64141-6205

FROM: Tim Mehl, Chief, WLED, KCCO

SUBJECT: Electronic Warehouse Receipt Profiles and Electronic Warehouse Open Bale Location Files

Purpose:

To inform United States Warehouse Act (USWA) licensed warehouse operators that effective August 1, 2000, the creation or modifications of an electronic warehouse receipt (EWR) profile will be performed exclusively by the Warehouse Licensing and Examination Division, Licensing Branch (LB). Also, effective August 1, 2000, an electronic open bale location file will be required from warehouse operators for examination purposes.

Background.

Each EWR issued for cotton stored in a warehouse licensed under the USWA must include the information required under 7 U. S. C. 259 and 260, (Sec. 17 and 18) and that information required under Sec. 735.16 and Sec. 735.101 of the Regulations for Cotton Warehouses.

Presently, each warehouse operator creates and transmits their own receipt profile information to the Provider. Some profiles reviewed by LB have been incomplete or incorrect. To ensure the integrity of the EWR system, it is necessary that each receipt profile contain the required information. Warehouse operators will no longer be permitted to create or modify their own profile without LB approval.

In a continuing effort to reduce government costs and improve cotton warehouse examinations, a program has been developed that allows examiners to communicate electronically with a Provider's system directly.

Warehouse Examiner's Communication Software.

The Warehouse Examiner's Communication Software (WECS) Program has been developed to improve the quality of cotton warehouse examinations. Both the reductions in business disruptions during examinations and better use of current technology were paramount in designing WECS.

WECS will enable examiners to receive current open receipt obligation data files directly from the warehouse operator's Provider electronically. This program will also import a data file from the warehouse operator's own software program that contains the warehouse location or disposition of each open bale. WECS will generate the random selected bale list used for the examination from these imported data files. This list will show each selected bale's location or disposition, saving each warehouse operator time by not having to research individual warehouse records. WECS will also compare a list of open bales in the Provider's system against those bales shown open in the warehouse operator's records.

Warehouse operators must add this capability to their warehouse software programs before August 1, 2000. File layout specifications are listed below.

Warehouse Open Bale Location File Layout.

File Type: Fixed length ASCII

Headers: No headers are required and no spaces are used as delimiters between fields.

Record Length: 43 characters.

The file must include: All unshipped bales, even if the bales are on shipping orders. Bale location, but if a warehouse operator's software program does not store shipping order numbers they are exempt from including those in the data file. The file is to be downloadable to a standard 3.5 floppy diskette that can be loaded onto an examiner's PC.

FIELD NAME	FIELD POSITION START	FIELD LENGTH
Warehouse Code	1	6
Warehouse Receipt Number	7	7
Bale Location and Shipping Order Number (if applicable) Note: a space should separate the bale location and shipping order number.	14	30

Action.

Effective August 1, 2000, whenever a warehouse operator needs to create or update their receipt profile they must contact and submit such profile information to LB by mail at Kansas City Commodity Office, Mail Stop 9148, P.O. Box 419205, Kansas City, MO 64141-6205; telephone (816) 823-1137; fax (816) 926-1774; or e-mail: vrsteenhard@kcc.fsa.usda.gov. After LB reviews and approves a warehouse operator's request the profile information will be forwarded to their Provider. Warehouse operators may request LB to create or update their receipt profile information at anytime. Additionally, LB will review and update each receipt profile annually with tariff changes before each ginning season.

Also by August 1, 2000, each warehouse operator must modify their warehouse software program to provide examiners a downloadable data file that contains the warehouse location or disposition of each open bale. Before August 1, each warehouse operator should submit a test copy of their open bale location data file to LB to assure that their file is acceptable.

Questions:

If you have any questions or to arrange for submitting test open bale location data files, please contact David Kirkland, (816) 823-1144.