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Agricultural Outlook Forum
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Arlington, Virginia

Presented: February 19-20, 2015

Grades and Marketing Order Standards for Fruit and Vegetables

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Federal Marketing Orders

2015 Agricultural Outlook Forum

February 20, 2015

Purpose

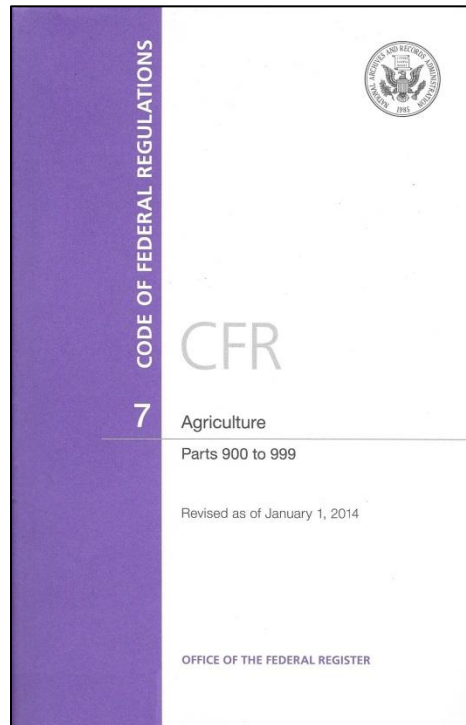
- Summarize Tools in Federal Marketing Orders
- Focus on Minimum Grade Standards
- Highlight Allowable Food-Waste Outlets

Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (7 U.S.C. 601-674)

28 Federal Marketing Orders

- **Minimum Standards/Mandatory Inspection**
- Volume Control
- Container and Pack Requirements
- Market and Production Research
- Market Promotion, including Paid Advertising
- Market Data for Producers and Handlers
- Imported Commodity Regulations (Section 8e)

Code of Federal Regulations (Parts 900-999)



- Office of the Federal Register
- Annual publication
- Industry and public awareness
- Government transparency
- Rulebook for marketing order administration

Minimum Standards/ Mandatory Inspection

Assure handling of product per marketing
order regulations



- Federal-State Inspection Program
- USDA-trained and licensed graders
- National Inspection Training Center
- Quality, condition

Minimum Standards/ Mandatory Inspection

Quality Factors

- Size
- Shape
- Maturity
- Damage caused by pests
- Scars
- Color
- Foodborne pathogens

Condition Factors

- Sugar content
- Bruising
- Decay
- Presence of pests
- Mold
- Dis-coloration (after packing)

Minimum Standards/ Mandatory Inspection

22 Federal marketing orders with minimum grade requirements

Vegetables

- ID-OR Onions
- S. TX Onions
- CO Potatoes
- ID-OR Potatoes
- OR-CA Potatoes
- WA Potatoes (suspended)
- FL Tomatoes

Nuts

- Almonds
- Hazelnuts
- Walnuts

Minimum Standards/ Mandatory Inspection

Fruits

- WA Apricots
- FL Avocados
- WA Cherries (Sweet)
- FL Citrus
- TX Citrus
- CA Dates
- S.E. CA Grapes (Table)
- CA Kiwifruit
- CA Olives
- OR-WA Pears (Fresh and Processed)
- CA Plums (Dried)
- CA Raisins

Comparable Regulations for Imports

14 Commodities Subject to Section 8e

- Avocados
- Dates (other than for processing)
- Hazelnuts/Filberts
- Grapefruit
- **Grapes (Table)**
- Kiwifruit
- Olives (other than Spanish-style)
- Onions
- Oranges
- Irish-type Potatoes
- Pistachios
- Raisins
- Tomatoes
- Walnuts

Table Grape Requirements

Required inspections

- Grade
- Size (diameter)
- Quality
- Maturity
- Packaging

Production area

- Coachella Valley, California

Minimum grade

- U.S. No. 1 Table (8-percent tolerance)
“...well developed...fairly well colored, uniform in appearance”

Companion Import Requirement

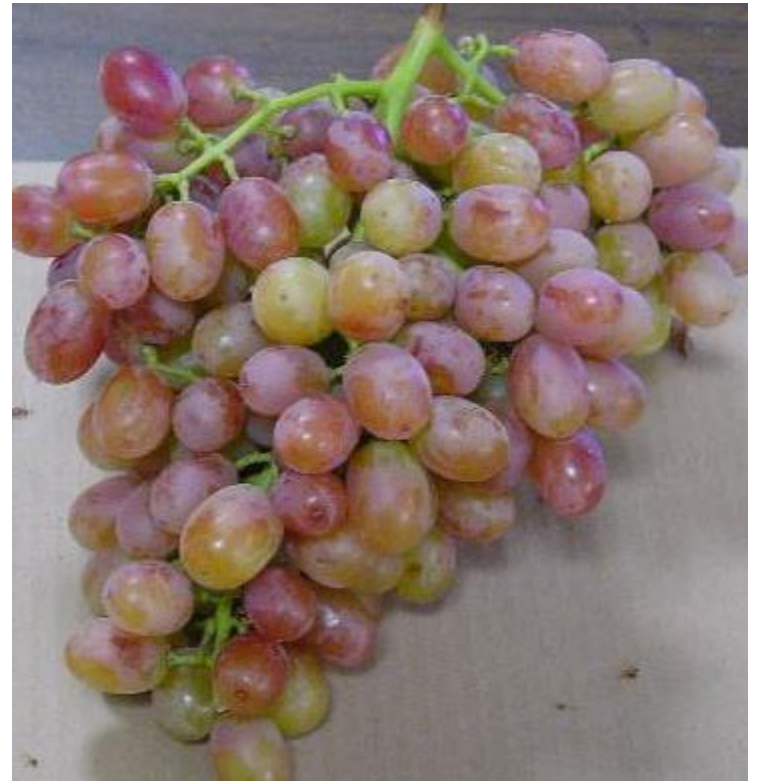


Table Grape “Color”



Borderline
U.S. No. 1

NOT
U.S. No. 1



U.S. No. 1

Table Grape "Scars"

Quality Defect



Table I -- Tolerances at Shipping Point¹
[Percent]

Factor	U.S. Extra Fancy Table	U.S. Fancy Table	U.S. No. 1 Table
(A) For bunches failing to meet color requirements -----	10	10	10
(B) For bunches failing to meet requirements for minimum diameter of berries -----	10	10	10
(C) For bunches failing to meet stem color requirements -----	10		
(D) For offsize bunches and for bunches and berries failing to meet the remaining requirements for the grade -----	8	8	8
Including in (D):			
(a) For serious damage -----	2	2	2
And, including in (a):			
(i) For decay -----	½ of 1	½ of 1	½ of 1

Tolerances also apply to imported table grapes (section 8e)

Alternative Outlets

- Gift Containers
- Commercial Processing or Manufacturing
- Roadside Stands
- Seed Product
- Charity
- Government Food Assistance
- Foreign Exports
- Poultry, Livestock or Animal Feed

U.S. Food Waste Challenge

- USDA and EPA Partnership
- Goal: Fundamental Shift in Managing Food and Food Waste
- Goal: 400 partner organizations by 2015 and 1,000 by 2020



- Table Grape Marketing Order Amendments
- Online Outlet Directory
- Website:
www.usda.gov/oce/foodwaste

More Information

www.ams.usda.gov/moab

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