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Division

United States Standards for Grades of Canned Field Peas and Canned Black-eye Peas

Effective January 20, 2017

This issue of the United States for Grades of Canned Field Peas and Canned Black-eye Peas (81 FR 93572) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since July 1, 1957.

Voluntary U.S. grade standards are issued under the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, which provides for the development of official U.S. grades to designate different levels of quality. These grade standards are available for use by producers, suppliers, buyers, and consumers. As in the case of other standards for grades of fresh and processed fruits, vegetables, and specialty crops these standards are designed to facilitate orderly marketing by providing a convenient basis for buying and selling, for establishing quality control programs, and for determining loan values.

The U.S. grade standards and inspection instructions for all fresh and processed fruits, vegetables, and specialty crops are available on the internet and upon request at the address below. These documents provide detailed interpretations of the grade standards and provide step-by-step procedures for grading the product.

Grade standards are issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) after careful consideration of all data and views submitted during rulemaking. The Department welcomes suggestions for improving the standards in future revisions. Comments may be submitted to, and copies of standards and inspection instructions obtained from:

Director, Specialty Crops Inspection Division
Specialty Crops Program,
USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 0240
Washington, D.C. 20250

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Note: Compliance with the provisions of these standards shall not excuse failure to comply with the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or with applicable State laws and regulations.

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**United States Standards for Grades of Canned Field Peas and
Canned Black-Eye Peas**

Section	Page No.
Identity and Grades	2
§52.1641 Identity.....	2
§52.1642 Grades of canned peas.	2
Fill of Container and Drained Weights	3
§52.1643 Recommended fill of container.	3
§52.1644 Recommended drained weight.	3
Factors of Quality	3
§52.1645 Ascertaining the grade.....	3
§52.1646 Ascertaining the rating of each factor.	4
§52.1647 Color.....	4
§52.1648 Absence of defects.	4
§52.1649 Character.....	5
Lot Inspection and Certification	6
§52.1650 Ascertaining the grade of a lot.	6
Score Sheet	7
§52.1651 Score sheet for canned field peas and canned black-eye peas.....	7

Identity and Grades
§52.1641 Identity.

- (a) **Canned field peas** means canned field peas as defined in the definitions and standards of identity for canned vegetables (21 CFR 155.200), issued pursuant to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.
- (b) **Canned black-eye peas** means canned black-eye peas as defined in the definitions and standards of identity for canned vegetables (21 CFR 155.200), issued pursuant to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.
- (c) **Canned peas** means canned field peas or canned black-eye peas.
- (d) **Snap or snaps** means a piece or pieces of immature unshelled pods.
- (e) **Canned peas without snaps** means canned peas which do not contain immature unshelled pods or pieces thereof.
- (f) **Canned peas with snaps** means canned peas which contain pieces of immature unshelled pods.
- (g) **Unit** means an individual field pea or black-eye pea or a piece of immature unshelled pod of either.

§52.1642 Grades of canned peas.

- (a) **U.S. Grade A** is the quality of canned peas that possess similar varietal characteristics; that possess a normal flavor and odor; that are fairly young; that are practically free from defects; that possess at least a fairly good color; and that scores not less than 85 points when scored in accordance with the scoring system outlined in this subpart.
- (b) **U.S. Grade C** is the quality of canned peas that possess similar varietal characteristics; that possess a normal flavor and odor; that possess a fairly good color; that are nearly mature; that are fairly free from defects; and that scores not less than 70 points when scored in accordance with the scoring system outlined in this subpart.
- (c) **Substandard** is the quality of canned peas that fail to meet the requirements of U.S. Grade C.

Fill of Container and Drained Weights
§52.1643 Recommended fill of container.

The recommended fill of container is not incorporated in the grades of the finished product since fill of container, as such, is not a factor of quality for the purpose of these grades. It is recommended that each container of canned peas be filled with field peas or black-eye peas as full as practicable without impairment of quality and that the product and packing medium occupy not less than 90 percent of the total capacity of the container.

§52.1644 Recommended drained weight.

The drained weight recommendations in Table I of this section are not incorporated in the grades of the finished product since drained weight as such is not a factor of quality for the purpose of these grades. The drained weight of canned peas is determined by emptying the contents of the container upon a No. 8 sieve of proper diameter and allow draining for 2 minutes. A sieve 8 inches in diameter is used for the No. 2 1/2 size can (401 x 411) and smaller sizes; and a sieve 12 inches in diameter is used for containers larger than the No. 2 1/2 size can.

Table I – Recommended minimum drained weight, in ounces, of field peas or black-eye peas, including snaps when canned with snaps

Container size or designation:	Ounces
No. 1 (Picnic)	7
No. 1 Tall	10-1/2
No. 300	9-1/4
No. 303	11
No. 2	13-1/4
No. 10	72

Factors of Quality

§52.1645 Ascertaining the grade.

- (a) The grade of canned peas may be ascertained by considering, in conjunction with the requirements of the respective grade, the respective ratings of the factors of color, absence of defects, and character.
- (b) The relative importance of each factor is expressed numerically on the scale of 100. The maximum number of points that may be given each factor is:

Factors:	Points
Color	20
Absence of Defects	30
Character	30
Total Score	100

- (c) **Normal flavor and odor** means that the canned peas are free from objectionable flavors and objectionable odors of any kind.

§52.1646 Ascertaining the rating of each factor.

The essential variations within each factor are so described that the value may be ascertained for each factor and expressed numerically. The numerical range within each factor is inclusive (for example, 15 to 20 points means 15, 16, 17, 18, 19. or 20 points).

§52.1647 Color.

- (a) **“A” classification.** Canned peas that possess a good color may be given a score of 15 to 20 points.

Good color means that the canned peas possess a fairly uniform color and are typical of fairly young field peas or black-eye peas of similar varietal characteristics.

- (b) **“C” classification.** Canned peas that possess a fairly good color may be given a score of 10 to 14 points.

Fairly good color means that the canned peas possess a color that may be variable and typical of nearly mature field peas or black-eye peas of similar varietal characteristics.

- (c) **“SStd” classification.** Canned peas that are definitely off color for any reason or fail to meet the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section may be given a score of 0 to 9 points and shall not be graded above Substandard, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule).

§52.1648 Absence of defects.

- (a) **General.** The factor of absence of defects refers to the degree of freedom from extraneous vegetable matter, from loose skins and pieces of skins, loose cotyledons and pieces of cotyledons, mashed or broken units, and units

blemished by pathological injury, insect injury, or other means.

- (1) **Extraneous vegetable matter** means hulls or pieces of hulls, unshelled pods or pieces of unshelled pods (except in peas canned with snaps), leaves, stems, and other similar vegetable matter.
- (2) **Mashed or broken** means seriously crushed so that the unit has lost its original conformation or is broken to the extent that a cotyledon or portion thereof has become separated from the unit.
- (3) **Blemished** means discolored or spotted by pathological injury, insect injury, or other means to such an extent that the appearance or eating quality of the unit is materially affected.

- (b) **“A” classification.** Canned peas that are practically free from defects may be given a score of 35 to 40 points.

Practically free from defects means that for each 12 ounces drained weight of units there may be present not more than 2 pieces of extraneous vegetable matter, and the combined weight of all loose skins and pieces of cotyledons, and mashed or broken units does not exceed 5 percent, and the weight of blemished units does not exceed 2 percent of the drained weight of the canned peas.

- (c) **“C” classification.** If the canned peas are fairly free from defects, a score of 30 to 34 points may be given. Canned peas that fall into this classification shall not be graded above U.S. Grade C, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule).

Fairly free from defects means that for each 12 ounce drained weight of units there may be present not more than 4 pieces of extraneous vegetable matter, and the combined weight of all loose skins and pieces of cotyledons, and mashed or broken units does not exceed 10 percent, and the weight of blemished units does not exceed 6 percent of the drained weight of the canned peas.

- (d) **“SStd” classification.** Canned peas that fail to meet the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section may be given a score of 0 to 29 points and shall not be graded above Substandard, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule).

§52.1649 Character.

- (a) **General.** This factor refers to the tenderness and maturity of the canned peas.

- (b) **“A” classification.** Canned peas that are fairly young may be given a score of 35 to 40 points.

Fairly young means the units are tender and in a fairly early stage of maturity.

- (c) **“C” classification.** If the field peas or black-eye peas are nearly mature, a score of 30 to 34 points may be given. Canned peas that fall into this classification shall not be graded above U.S. Grade C, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule).

Nearly mature means that the units are fairly tender and may be mealy but not hard.

- (d) **“SStd” classification.** Canned peas that fail to meet the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section may be given a score of 0 to 29 points, and shall not be graded above Substandard, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule).

Lot Inspection and Certification

§52.1650 Ascertaining the grade of a lot.

The grade of a lot of canned field peas and canned black-eye peas covered by these standards is determined by the procedures set forth in the Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification of Processed Fruits and Vegetables, Processed Products Thereof, and Certain Other Processed Food Products (7 CFR 52.1 through 52.83, 22 F.R. 3535).

Score Sheet

§52.1651 Score sheet for canned field peas and canned black-eye peas.

Number, size, and kind of container			
Container marks or identification			
Label			
Net weight (ounces)			
Vacuum (inches)			
Drained weight (ounces)			
Style			
Factors		Grade	Score Points
Color	20	"A"	15-20
		"C"	10-14
		"SStd"	0-9 ¹
Absence of defects	40	"A"	35-40
		"C"	30-34 ¹
		"SStd"	0-29 ¹
Character	40	"A"	35-40
		"C"	30-34 ¹
		"SStd"	0-29 ¹
Total Score		100	
Normal flavor and odor			
U.S. Grade			

¹Indicates limiting rule.