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# **United States Standards for Grades of Fresh Peas**

**Effective September 6, 2016**

This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Fresh Peas (81 FR 51297) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since June 1, 1942.

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

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**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 Fresh Peas

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## **Introduction**

### **§51.1375 Introduction.**

- (a) The tolerances for the standards are on a container basis. However, individual containers in any lot may vary from the specified tolerances as stated below, provided the averages for the entire lot, based on sample inspection, are within the tolerances specified.
- (b) For a tolerance of 10 percent, individual containers in any lot may have not more than one and one-half times the tolerance.
- (c) For a tolerance of less than 10 percent, individual containers in any lot may have not more than double the tolerance.

## **Grades**

### **§51.1376 U.S. No. 1.**

“**U.S. No. 1**” shall consist of pods of peas of similar varietal characteristics which are not overmature or excessively small, not badly misshapen or watersoaked, and which are fairly well filled, fresh, firm, free from decay, and from damage caused by black calyxes, freezing, splitting, hail, dirt, leaves, or other foreign matter, mildew, or other diseases, insects, or mechanical or other means. The peas shall be at least fairly tender, free from decay, and from damage caused by split skins, disease, insects or mechanical or other means.

- (a) Peas may be specified as “U.S. No. 1 Green Calyxes” when they meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade and an average of three-fourths or more, by weight, of the pods in any lot, but not less than one-half of the pods in each container, have calyxes which are of a fairly good green color.

### **§51.1377 U.S. Fancy.**

“**U.S. Fancy**” shall consist of pods of peas which are well filled and have an average of three-fourths or more by weight, of the pods in any lot, but not less than one-half of the pods in each container with calyxes which are of a fairly good green color, and which meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade in all other respects.

## **Tolerances**

### **§51.1378 Tolerances.**

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 10 percent, by weight, of the pods of peas in any container may be below the requirements of the grade, but not more than one-half of this tolerance, or 5 percent, shall be allowed for defects causing serious damage, and not more than one-tenth of this tolerance, or 1 percent, shall be allowed for soft decay. When peas are specified as “U.S. No. 1 Green Calyxes” or “U.S. Fancy” no part of any tolerance shall be allowed to reduce for the lot

as a whole, or for the individual container the percentage of pods which are required to have calyxes of a fairly good green color.

**Reserved**

**§51.1379**     **Reserved.**

**Definitions**

**§51.1380**     **Similar varietal characteristics.**

“**Similar varietal characteristics**” means that the pods of peas in any container are of the same general type.

**§51.1381**     **Overmature.**

“**Overmature**” means that the pod has developed beyond the stage at which it is desirable as a fresh product. The pod is usually wrinkled and the green is faded, having a noticeably whitish or yellowish cast.

**§51.1382**     **Excessively small.**

“**Excessively small**” means that the pod is so short that there is space for only two peas which are at least fairly well developed.

**§51.1383**     **Badly misshapen.**

“**Badly misshapen**” means that the pod is badly constructed, crooked, or badly twisted.

**§51.1384**     **Fairly well filled.**

“**Fairly well filled**” means that more than one-half of the pod contains peas which are at least fairly well developed.

**§51.1385**     **Well filled.**

“**Well filled**” means that more than two-thirds of the pod contains peas which are at least fairly well developed.

**§51.1386**     **Damage.**

“**Damage**” means any injury or defect which materially affects the appearance, edible or shipping quality.

**§51.1387**     **Serious damage.**

**“Serious damage”** means any injury or defect which seriously affects the appearance, edible or shipping quality. Badly misshapen pods or pods seriously affected with downy mildew injury shall be considered as being seriously damaged.