



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Agricultural
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Service**

**Fruit and
Vegetable
Division**

**Processed
Products
Branch**

United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Red Tart Pitted Cherries

Effective date June 28, 1974

This is the fourth issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Red Tart Pitted Cherries published in the **FEDERAL REGISTER** of June 27, 1974, (39 FR 23234) to become effective upon publication. This issue supersedes the third issue which has been in effect since June 15, 1964.

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 processed fruits and vegetables, 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 standards also serve as a basis for the inspection and grading of commodities by the Federal inspection service, the only activity authorized to approve the designation of U.S. grades as referenced in the standards, as provided under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. This service, available as on-line (in-plant) or lot inspection and grading of all processed fruit and vegetable products, is offered to interested parties, upon application, on a fee-for-service basis. The verification of some specific recommendations, requirements, or tolerances contained in the standards can be accomplished only by the use of on-line inspection procedures. In all instances, a grade can be assigned based on final product factors or characteristics.

In addition to the U.S. grade standards, grading manuals or instructions for inspection of several processed fruits and vegetables are available upon request for a nominal fee. These manuals or instructions contain detailed interpretations of the grade standards and provide step-by-step procedures for grading the product.

Grade standards are issued by the Department after careful consideration of all data and views submitted, and the Department welcomes suggestions which might aid in improving the standards in future revisions. Comments may be submitted to, and copies of standards and grading manuals obtained from:

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United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Red Tart Pitted Cherries

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Authority: Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, Secs. 203, 205, 60 Stat. 1087, as amended, 1090, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1622, 1624).

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.

§52.801 Product description.

Frozen red tart pitted cherries is the food prepared from properly matured cherries of the domestic (*Prunus cerasus*) red sour varietal group which have been washed, pitted, sorted, and properly drained; may be packed with or without a nutritive sweetened packing medium or any other substance permitted under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and are frozen and stored at temperatures necessary for the preservation of the product.

§52.802 Grades of frozen red tart pitted cherries.

- (a) U.S. Grade A or U.S. Fancy** is the quality of frozen red tart pitted cherries of which not more than five (5) cherries per sample unit may be less than 9/16 inch (14 mm) in diameter, and that:

 - (1)** possess a good red color;
 - (2)** are practically free from pits;
 - (3)** are practically free from defects;
 - (4)** have a good character;
 - (5)** possess a normal flavor; and
 - (6)** scores not less than 90 points when scored in accordance with the scoring system outlined in this subpart.
- (b) U.S Grade B or U.S. Choice** is the quality of frozen red tart pitted cherries of which not more than ten (10) cherries per sample unit may be less than 9/16 inch (14 mm) in diameter, and that:

 - (1)** possess a reasonably good red color;
 - (2)** are reasonably free from pits;
 - (3)** are reasonably free from defects;
 - (4)** have a reasonably good character;
 - (5)** possess a normal flavor; and
 - (6)** scores not less than 80 points when scored in accordance with the scoring system outlined in this subpart.

- (c) **U.S. Grade C** or **U.S. Standard** is the quality of frozen red tart pitted cherries that:
- (1) possess a fairly good red color;
 - (2) are fairly free from pits;
 - (3) are fairly free from defects;
 - (4) have a fairly good character;
 - (5) possess a normal flavor; and
 - (6) scores not less than 70 points when scored in accordance with the scoring system outlined in this subpart.
- (d) **Substandard** is the quality of frozen red tart pitted cherries that fail to meet the requirements of U.S. Grade C.

§52.803 Sample unit size.

Compliance with requirements for size and the various quality factors is based on the following sample unit sizes for the applicable factor:

- (a) Pits, character, and harmless extraneous material - 20 ounces of drained cherries.
- (b) Size, color, and defects (other than harmless extraneous material) - 100 cherries.

§52.804 Ascertaining the grade of a sample unit.

- (a) The grade of frozen red tart pitted cherries is determined immediately after thawing to the extent that the cherries may be separated easily and the cherries are free from ice and solidified packing media. The grade is determined by considering in addition to the requirements of the respective grade (including the requirement of the size in U.S. Grade A and U.S. Grade B), the respective ratings of the factors of color, pits, absence of defects, character, the total score, and the limiting rules which may be applicable.

- (b) The relative importance of each factor is expressed numerically on a scale of 100. The maximum number of points that may be given each factor is:

Factors:	Points
Color	30
Freedom from pits	20
Freedom from defects	20
Character	<u>30</u>
Total score	100

- (c) **Normal flavor** means that the flavor is characteristic of frozen red tart pitted cherries and that the product is free from objectionable flavors of any kind.

§52.805 Ascertaining the rating for 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 for the rating of each factor is inclusive (for example, "27 to 30 points" means 27, 28, 29, or 30 points).

§52.806 Color.

- (a) **"A" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that possesses a good red color may be given a score of 27 to 30 points. **Good red color** means that the frozen cherries possess a color that is bright and typical of properly ripened cherries and that is practically uniform in that the number of cherries that vary markedly from this color due to oxidation, improper processing, or other causes, or that are undercolored, does not exceed the number specified in Table I.
- (b) **"B" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that possess a reasonably good red color may be given a score of 24 to 26 points. Frozen red tart pitted cherries that fall into this classification shall not be graded above U.S. Grade B, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule). **Reasonably good red color** means that the cherries possess a color that is reasonably bright and typical of properly ripened cherries and that is reasonably uniform in that the number of cherries that vary markedly from this color due to oxidation, improper processing, or other causes, or that are undercolored, does not exceed the number specified in Table I.

- (c) **"C" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries possess a fairly good red color, a score of 21 to 23 points may be given. Frozen red tart pitted cherries 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 good red color** means that the frozen cherries possess a color that is fairly bright and typical of properly ripened cherries and that is fairly uniform in that the number of cherries that vary markedly from this color due to oxidation, improper processing, or other causes, or that are undercolored, does not exceed the number specified in Table I.
- (d) **"SStd" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that fail to meet the requirements of U.S. Grade C may be given a score of 0 to 20 points and shall not be graded above Substandard, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule).

§52.807 Freedom from pits.

- (a) **General.** The factor of freedom from pits refers to the incidence of pits and pit fragments.
- (b) **Definitions.**
 - (1) A **pit** for the purpose of the allowances in this subpart is a whole pit or portions of pits computed as follows:
 - (i) A single piece of pit shell, whether or not within or attached to a whole cherry, that is larger than one-half pit shell is considered as one pit;
 - (ii) A single piece of pit shell, whether or not within or attached to a whole cherry, that is no larger than one-half pit shell is considered as one-half pit;
 - (iii) Pieces of pit shell, within or attached to a whole cherry, when their combined size is larger than one-half pit shell are considered as one pit; and
 - (iv) Pieces of pit shell, within or attached to a whole cherry, when their combined size is not larger than one-half pit shell are considered as one-half pit.
 - (2) **Drained cherries** means pitted cherries that are substantially free from any adhering sirup, sugar, or other packing medium.

- (c) **"A" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that are practically free from pits may be given a score of 18 to 20 points. **Practically free from pits** means that the number of pits that may be present does not exceed the allowances for this classification specified in Table I.
- (d) **"B" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that are reasonably free from pits may be given a score of 16 or 17 points. Frozen red tart pitted cherries that fall into this classification shall not be graded above U.S. Grade B, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule). **Reasonably free from pits** means that the number of pits that may be present does not exceed the number specified in Table I.
- (e) **"C" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that are fairly free from pits may be given a score of 14 or 15 points. Frozen red tart pitted cherries 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 pits** means that the number of pits that may be present does not exceed the number specified in Table I.
- (f) **"SStd" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that fail to meet the requirements for U.S. Grade C may be given a score of 0 to 13 points and shall not be graded above Substandard, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule).

§52.808 Freedom from defects.

- (a) **General.** The factor of freedom from defects refers to the degree of freedom from harmless extraneous material, mutilated cherries, and cherries blemished by scab, hail injury, discoloration, scar tissue, or by other means.
 - (1) **Cherry** means a whole cherry, whether or not pitted, or portions of such cherries which in the aggregate approximate the average size of the cherries.
 - (2) **Harmless extraneous material** means any vegetable substance (including, but not being limited to, a leaf or a stem and any portions thereof) that is harmless.
 - (3) **Mutilated cherry** means a cherry that is so pitter-torn or damaged by other means that the entire pit cavity is exposed and the appearance of the cherry is seriously affected.

- (4) **Minor blemished cherry** means any cherry blemished with discoloration (other than scald) having an aggregate area of a circle 9/32 inch (7 mm) or less in diameter which more than slightly affects the appearance of the cherry but does not extend into the fruit tissue.
- (5) **Blemished cherry** means any cherry blemished by skin discoloration (other than scald) which in the aggregate exceeds the area of a circle 9/32 inch (7 mm) in diameter. A cherry affected by skin discoloration extending into the fruit tissue or by scab, hail injury, scar tissue, or other abnormality, regardless of size, is considered a blemished cherry.
- (b) **"A" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that are practically free from defects may be given a score of 18 to 20 points. **Practically free from defects** means that the number of defects that may be present does not exceed the number specified for the applicable type of defect in Table I.
- (c) **"B" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that are reasonably free from defects may be given a score of 16 or 17 points. Frozen red tart pitted cherries that fall into this classification shall not be graded above U.S. Grade B, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule). **Reasonably free from defects** means that the number of defects that may be present does not exceed the number specified for the applicable type of defect in Table I.
- (d) **"C" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that are fairly free from defects may be given a score of 14 or 15 point. Frozen red tart pitted cherries 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 the number of defects that may be present does not exceed the number specified for the applicable type of defect in Table I.
- (e) **"SStd" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that fail to meet the requirements for Grade C may be given a score of 0 to 13 points and shall not be graded above Substandard, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule).

§52.809 Character.

- (a) **General.** The factor of character refers to the physical characteristics of the flesh of the cherries.

- (b) **"A" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that have a good character may be given a score of 27 to 30 points. **Good character** means that the cherries are thick-fleshed and have a firm, tender texture.
- (c) **"B" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that have a reasonably good character may be given a score of 24 to 26 points. Frozen red tart pitted cherries that fall into this classification shall not be graded above U.S. Grade B, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule). **Reasonably good character** means that the cherries may be reasonably thick-fleshed and slightly soft.
- (d) **"C" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that have a fairly good character may be given a score of 21 to 23 points. Frozen red tart pitted cherries 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 good character** means that the cherries may be thin-fleshed and may be soft but not mushy, or slightly tough but not leathery.
- (e) **"SStd" classification.** Frozen red tart pitted cherries that fail to meet the requirements for Grade C may be given a score of 0 to 20 points and shall not be graded above Substandard, regardless of the total score for the product (this is a limiting rule).

§52.810 Allowances for quality factors.

Table I
Allowances for Quality Factors

Factor	Sample Unit Size	Maximum number permissible for the respective grade					
		A		B		C	
Color Vary markedly or undercolored	100 cherries	12		18		25	
Pits	20 ozs.	Not more than 2 in any sample unit	Sample average 1 per 40 ozs.	Not more than 3 in any sample unit	Sample average 1 per 30 ozs.	4 or more in any sample unit	Sample average 1 per 20 ozs.
Defects Total - mutilated, minor blemished, blemished of which	100 cherries	10		15		20	
Blemished limited to		3		7		15	
Harmless Extraneous Material	20 ozs.	Average 1 piece per 60 ozs. net contents		Average 1 pieces per 40 ozs. net contents		Average 1 pieces per 20 ozs. net contents	

§52.811 Ascertaining the grade of a lot.

The grade of a lot of frozen red tart pitted cherries 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).

§52.812 Score sheet for frozen red tart pitted cherries.

Size and kind of container			
Container mark or identification			
Label (style of pack, ratio of fruit to sugar, etc., if shown)			
Net weight (ounces)			
Size <u>1</u> /			
Factors		Score points	
Color	30	"A"	27-30
		"B"	24-26 <u>2</u> /
		"C"	21-23 <u>2</u> /
		"SStd"	0-20 <u>2</u> /
Freedom from pits	20	"A"	18-20
		"B"	16-17 <u>2</u> /
		"C"	14-15 <u>2</u> /
		"SStd"	0-13 <u>2</u> /
Freedom from defects	20	"A"	18-20
		"B"	16-17
		"C"	14-15 <u>2</u> /
		"SStd"	0-13 <u>2</u> /
Character	30	"A"	27-30
		"B"	24-26 <u>2</u> /
		"C"	21-23 <u>2</u> /
		"SStd"	0-20 <u>2</u> /
Total score	100		
Normal flavor			
Grade			

1/ See size limitation for U.S. Grade A and U.S. Grade B.

2/ Indicates limiting rule.

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 Administrator
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