



LOT DEFINITION

Purpose

This instruction defines the term “lot” for the purpose of production and examination of products certified by the USDA grader.

Procedure

I. Lot

A “lot” is defined as a designated amount of product from which the grader selects a representative sample to determine compliance with specification requirements. An entire carload may be a "lot" or a carload may be broken down into "sublots." The number of samples selected is based on the lot or sublots as requested by the applicant.

When products are examined on a representative basis for the purpose of determining condition, test weighing, or when making a final grading, the minimum number of containers in the sample is based on the number of cases as follows:

Containers in Lot			Containers in Sample ^{1/}
1	-	4	All
5	-	50	4
51	-	100	5
101	-	200	6
201	-	400	7
401	-	600	8
601	-	700	9
701	-	800	10
801	-	900	11
901	-	1000	12
1001	-	1100	13

^{1/} For each additional 100 cases, or fraction thereof, in excess of 1100 cases, one additional case shall be included in the sample. For large bulk containers (combo bins, etc.) the sample size shall be reduced by one-half. For parts or carcasses weighing less than 6 pounds, 100 parts or carcasses shall be selected from each representative sample.

II. Sample Selection

The grader shall personally select samples. Warehouse employees may aid in the physical drawing of the selected containers. Samples must be representative from all portions of the lot and shall be predetermined as to which pallet, layer, and container position they will be selected from. The predetermination process shall be reviewed with the Supervisor and approved by the Regional Director. The attached chart (Exhibit 1) has been provided to facilitate the selection process. Pallets from which samples will be taken shall be selected using random inspection numbers as outlined in the "Handbook for Inspection of the Condition of Food Containers - Appendix B" or, if available, using a calculator programmed to generate random numbers.



Approval to use this type of calculator must be obtained from the Regional Director. Initial programming and sample number generation instructions shall be provided by the regional office. If more samples are required than pallets, each pallet shall be sampled at least once. When selecting layers and container positions, product information such as freezing characteristics, handling practices and history of previous examinations should be considered in the selection process. Since freezing defects, discoloration, weepage, and freezer burn are factors which affect the grade, it is essential that part of the sample be selected from various positions in the stack. All official samples shall be numbered and initialed at the time of selection.

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Exhibit 1

SAMPLE PREDETERMINATION CHART

ITEM: _____ LOT/PRODUCTION: _____
DATE(S): _____ CONTRACT NO: _____
POUNDS: _____ SAMPLES NEEDED: _____

SAMPLE CONTAINERS SELECTED

Sample Number	Pallet Number	Layer Number	Container Position
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

Sample Number	Pallet Number	Layer Number	Container Position
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
29			
30			

GRADER'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____