



United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Specialty Crops Inspection Division

REPORTING SPIDERS IN CONTAINERS OF FRUITS OR VEGETABLES

Certify the presence or absence of Black Widow Spiders or any other spider in containers of fruits or vegetables as follows:

- Reference to presence or absence of spiders will only be made upon specific request of the applicant.
- At the specific request of the applicant, inspections may be made solely to determine presence or absence of spiders.
- The term “Black Widow” will not be used. Refer to them only as “spiders.
- When spiders are noted during the course of an inspection, report under “REMARKS” in general terms the approximate number of samples with spiders present, and report the range only for the number of spiders noted in the individual samples; no averages or total numbers will be reported. “Not affecting grade and reported at applicant’s request” will be included in the statement.

Example: In many samples examined, from 1 to 5 spiders noted, not affecting grade and reported at applicant’s request.”

- When requested to show the presence or absence of spiders and no spiders are found, the following statement will be made in “REMARKS.”

“In sample packages examined, no spiders noted during inspection, reported at applicant’s request.”

Note: Any unusual “REMARKS” statements such as the presence or absence of additives or any other statements unrelated to regular certification procedures must be cleared through Inspection Operations on a case-by-case basis. This applies to all products.

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Reporting Spiders In Containers of Fruits or Vegetables (March 2017)
SCI Division Inspection Series