

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Consumer and Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Division
Processed Products Standardization
and Inspection Branch

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FOR USE OF USDA
PROCESSED PRODUCTS OFFICES

A - 390
October 28, 1965

TO: All Processed Foods Inspectors
FROM: Fred Dunn, Chief of the Branch
SUBJECT: Inspection and Certification of Frozen Carrots and Peas
as to: 1) Proportion of Ingredients.
2) Carrots of Sliced Style.
3) Labeling.

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FILE WITH: United States Standards for Grades of
Frozen Peas and Carrots

The United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Peas and Carrots specify proportions of ingredients as not less than 50%, by weight, of peas and not less than 25%, by weight, of diced carrots. The grade standards further specify compliance criterion based on sample and individual sample units.

1) Proportions of Ingredients

Lots offered as Frozen Peas and Carrots may contain a higher proportion of carrots than peas. This is apt to occur when the packer attempts to pack the product with both ingredients at the 50% level. At times, packers may deliberately add a higher proportion of carrots than peas.

Whatever the reason, when the carrot ingredient exceeds the 50% level the product is considered Frozen Carrots and Peas (rather than Peas and Carrots).

When carrots are the predominating ingredient the following procedure should be followed:

- a) Ascertain the grade of the product on the basis of the United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Peas and Carrots;
- b) Ascertain the average percent, by weight, of the ingredients (Use a sufficient number of sample units in the sample to accurately establish a sample average); and
- c) Certify as follows, but do not show score points:

Product Inspected -- FROZEN CARROTS AND PEAS
Proportion of Ingredients -- Carrots _____ %
Peas _____ %

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GRADE: U. S. GRADE _____ OR U. S. _____,
based on United States Standards for
Grades of Frozen Peas and Carrots
(See statements above)

2) Carrots of Sliced Style

When carrots are of Sliced style, follow the procedure in 1) of this instruction for ascertaining proportions and certifying grade, but certify as to product name and include the word "Sliced" in the proportion statement when Carrots are in predominance, as follows:

Product Inspected -- FROZEN PEAS and SLICED CARROTS
(or)
FROZEN SLICED CARROTS and PEAS

Proportion of ingredients -- Sliced Carrots _____%
Peas _____%

3) Product of Frozen Peas and Carrots

When the product meets the standards for proportion of ingredients and consists of Diced Carrots, the product is certified in the usual manner, but the proportion of ingredients need not be stated on the certificate, unless specifically requested.

4) Labeling

Although no Food and Drug Standards of Identity exist for this product, there is a basic Food and Drug law that when a product consists of two or more ingredients the ingredients are listed on the label in the descending order of their predominance.

When Diced Carrots are used, an appropriate label for the main product name would be, as applicable:

FROZEN PEAS and CARROTS
FROZEN CARROTS and PEAS

If Sliced Carrots are used, the main product name should include the style of carrot either in connection with the main product name or in a subordinate (but prominent) statement in close proximity to the product name, for example:

FROZEN PEAS and SLICED CARROTS
FROZEN PEAS and CARROTS (Sliced)
FROZEN PEAS and CARROTS -- Sliced Carrots

When the product of Frozen Peas and Carrots (in any mixture and including Sliced Carrots) conforms to this instruction, the product may carry an official USDA continuous inspection or grade mark.

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