



United States Department of Agriculture

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Service

Specialty
Crops
Program

Specialty
Crops
Inspection
Division

United States Standards for Grades of Sweet Cherries for Canning or Freezing

Effective September 6, 2016

This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Sweet Cherries for Canning or Freezing (81 FR 51297) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since June 1, 1946.

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

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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Grades**§51.4360 U.S. No. 1.**

“**U.S. No. 1**” consists of sweet cherries of one variety which are well formed, mature, free from decay, worms, pulled pits, doubles, and free from damage caused by softness, shriveling, bruises, skin breaks, scars, hail marks, windwhips, limbrubs, russeting, sunscald, dirt or other foreign matter, birds, disease, insects, mechanical or other means. Unless otherwise specified, stems shall be removed. (See §51.4363.)

- (a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than a total of 7 percent, by count, of the cherries in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade, but not more than 5 percent may fail to meet the grade requirements other than for attached stems, including not more than 1 percent for cherries affected by decay. No part of any tolerance shall be allowed for cherries infested with worms. (See §51.4363.)

§51.4361 U.S. No. 2.

“**U.S. No. 2**” consists of sweet cherries which meet all of the requirements for U.S. No. 1 grade, except that a total tolerance of 12 percent, by count, of the cherries in any lot shall be permitted for grade defects, but not more than 10 percent may fail to meet the grade requirements other than for attached stems, including not more than 2 percent for cherries affected by decay. No part of any tolerance shall be allowed for cherries infested with worms. (See §51.4363.)

Reserved**§51.4362 Reserved.****Size****§51.4363 Size.**

- (a) In addition to the statement of grade, the size of the cherries in any lot may be specified in terms of minimum diameter.
- (b) In order to allow for variations incident to proper sizing, not more than 5 percent, by count, of the cherries in any lot may be below the size specified.

Definitions**§51.4364 Well formed.**

“**Well formed**” means that the cherry has the shape characteristic of the variety.

§51.4365 Mature.

“**Mature**” means that the cherry has reached the stage of maturity at which the pit will separate readily from the flesh.

§51.4366 Doubles.

“**Doubles**” means cherries which have the appearance of attached twin cherries.

§51.4367 Damage.

“**Damage**” means any specific defect described in this section; or an equally objectionable variation of any one of these defects, any other defect, or any combination of defects, which materially detracts from the quality of the fruit for canning or freezing. The following specific defects shall be considered as damage:

- (a) Rain cracks or other skin breaks which exceed 1/4 inch in length, except a very thin line encircling the stem end of the fruit.
- (b) Superficial scars, hail marks, wind whips, limbrubs, russeting, and similar discoloration or scars, when affecting an area of more than 3/16 inch in diameter, or any scars which materially discolor the flesh.

§51.4368 Diameter.

“**Diameter**” means the greatest dimension of the cherry measured at right angles to a line running from the stem end to the blossom end.