



## **APPLICATION OF TOLERANCES FOR IMPORT REQUIREMENTS AND MARKETING ORDER REGULATIONS**

This document clarifies Division policy on standards and regulations (e.g., Import Regulations and Marketing Order Requirements) which establish lot tolerances for special requirements, size and/or defects but do not specify exceptions or additional tolerances for individual packages.

### **Background**

We have learned recently of instances of inspectors applying a sample or container tolerance to an individual package when there is no such tolerance provided when inspecting for Import Regulations and/or Marketing Order Requirements. For those regulations which do not contain such provisions, there is no limitation on the percentages of defects or off-size or other factors for an individual package.

Page 66 of the General Market Manual states; **Some early U.S. Standards do not include provisions for applying tolerances to individual packages. For those standards, there is no limit on the percentage of defects or offsize allowed in individual packages. If the average for the lot or a particular tolerance is not exceeded, the lot will meet the grade or specification, regardless of the percentages of defects or offsize in any container.**

### **Policy**

It is not permissible to fail a commodity for exceeding a container or sample tolerance when no tolerance exists. There are no general rules of one and a half times the tolerance and double the tolerance when no application of tolerances is specified. **Always refer to the particular standard, regulation, or requirement for the correct application of the tolerance.**

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