



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Agricultural
Marketing
Service**

**Fruit and
Vegetable
Division**

**Processed
Products
Branch**

United States Standards for Grades of Dried Pears

Effective date May 24, 1967

This is the second issue, as amended, of the United States Standards for Grades of Dried Pears published in the **FEDERAL REGISTER** of May 24, 1967 (32 FR 7575) to become effective May 24, 1967. This issue supersedes the second issue, which has been in effect since June 30, 1945.

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 processed fruits and vegetables, 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 standards also serve as a basis for the inspection and grading of commodities by the Federal inspection service, the only activity authorized to approve the designation of U.S. grades as referenced in the standards, as provided under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. This service, available as on-line (in-plant) or lot inspection and grading of all processed fruit and vegetable products, is offered to interested parties, upon application, on a fee-for-service basis. The verification of some specific recommendations, requirements, or tolerances contained in the standards can be accomplished only by the use of on-line inspection procedures. In all instances, a grade can be assigned based on final product factors or characteristics.

In addition to the U.S. grade standards, grading manuals or instructions for inspection of several processed fruits and vegetables are available upon request for a nominal fee. These manuals or instructions contain detailed interpretations of the grade standards and provide step-by-step procedures for grading the product.

Grade standards are issued by the Department after careful consideration of all data and views submitted, and the Department welcomes suggestions which might aid in improving the standards in future revisions. Comments may be submitted to, and copies of standards and grading manuals obtained from:

Chief, Processed Products Branch
Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS
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Authority: Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, Secs. 203, 205, 60 stat. 1087, as amended, 1090, as amended (U.S.C. 1622, 1624).

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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.

§52.5841 Product description.

Dried pears are the halved fruit of the pear tree (*Pyrus communis*) which may or may not be cored, from which the external stems and calyx cups have been removed, and from which the greater portion of the moisture has been removed. Before packing, the dried fruit is processed to cleanse the fruit and may be sulfured sufficiently to retain a characteristic color.

§52.5842 Moisture.

Federal inspection certificates shall indicate the moisture content of the finished product which shall be not more than 26 percent by weight.

§52.5843 Sizes of dried pears.

(a) Federal inspection certificates shall indicate the size or combination of sizes of halved pears found upon examination.

(b) The various sizes of dried pears are as follows:

No. 1 Size (Jumbo Size) 1-7/8 inches or more in width.

No. 2 Size (Extra Large Size) 1-3/4 inches to 1-7/8 inches in width.

No. 3 Size (Large Size) 1-1/2 inches to 1-3/4 inches in width.

No. 4 Size (Medium Size) 1-3/8 inches to 1-1/2 inches in width.

No. 5 Size (Small Size) 1-1/8 inches to 1-3/8 inches in width.

No. 6 Size (Extra Small) Less than 1-1/8 inches in width.

(1) **Width** means the longest measurement obtainable, measured at right angles to a line running from the stem end to the calyx end.

(2) In determining compliance with size requirements listed above, dried pears will be considered as of one size if not more than 10 percent by weight of halves vary from the size range.

§52.5844 U.S. Grade A or U.S. Fancy.

- (a) U.S. Grade A or U.S. Fancy** dried pears possess similar varietal characteristics; possess a practically uniform, bright typical color characteristic of well-matured pears; and are well shaped. No more than 5 percent by weight of the fruit may be of a color described in U.S. Grade B or U.S. Choice: and none of the fruit may be of a color described in U.S. Grade C or U.S. Standard.
- (b)** Not more than a total tolerance of 10 percent by weight may be slabs, immature, or scraps; may be affected by russet or similar discoloration; may be damaged by discoloration, sunburn, hailmarks, limb-rubs hard end, black end, external stems and calyx cups, scab, disease, insect injury, or other similar defects; or may be affected by mold, decay, insect infestation (no live insects are permitted), imbedded dirt, or other foreign material: **Provided**, that not more than two-fifths of the total tolerance, or 4 percent by weight may be affected by mold, decay, insect infestation (no live insects are permitted), imbedded dirt, or other foreign material: And **further provided**, that not more than one-tenth of the total tolerance, or 1 percent by weight, may be affected by decay.

§52.5845 U.S. Grade B or U.S. Choice.

- (a) U.S. Grade B or U.S. Choice** dried pears possess similar varietal characteristics; possess a reasonably uniform, bright typical color, characteristic of reasonably well-matured pears; and are reasonably well shaped. Not more than 10 percent by weight of the fruit may be of a color described in U.S. Grade C or U.S. Standard.
- (b)** Not more than a total tolerance of 15 percent by weight may be slabs, immature, or scraps; may be affected by russet or similar discoloration; may be damaged by discoloration, sunburn, hailmarks, limb-rub, hard end, black end, external stems and calyx cups, scabs, disease, insect injury, or other similar defects; or may be affected by mold, decay, insect infestation (no live insects are permitted), imbedded dirt, or other foreign material: **Provided**, that not more than one-third of the total tolerance, or 5 percent by weight, may be affected by mold, decay, insect infestation (no live insects are permitted), imbedded dirt, or other foreign material: And **further provided**, that not more than one-fifteenth of the total tolerance or 1 percent by weight, may be affected by decay.

§52.5846 U.S. Grade C or U.S. Standard.

- (a) U.S. Grade C or U.S. Standard** dried pears possess similar varietal characteristics; possess a fairly uniform color; characteristic of fairly well-matured pears; and are fairly well shaped.
- (b)** Not more than a total tolerance of 20 percent by weight may be slabs, immature, or scraps; may be affected by russet or similar discoloration, may be damaged by discoloration, sunburn, hailmarks, limb-rubs, hard end, black end, external stems and calyx cups, scab, disease, insect infestation (no live insects are permitted), imbedded dirt, or other foreign material: **Provided**, that not more than one-fourth of the total tolerance, or 5 percent by weight may be affected by mold, decay, insect infestation (no live insects are permitted), imbedded dirt, or other foreign material: And **further provided**, that not more than one-tenth of the total tolerance, or 2 percent by weight, may be affected by decay.

§52.5847 U.S. Grade D or Substandard.

U.S. Grade D or Substandard dried pears are wholesome and edible fruit that fails to meet the requirements of U.S. Grade C or U.S. Standard: **Provided**, that not more than 5 percent by weight of the total fruit may be affected by mold, decay, insect infestation (no live insects are permitted), imbedded dirt, or other foreign material: And **further provided**, that not more than 2 percent by weight of the total fruit may be affected by decay.

§52.5848 Explanation of terms.

(a) Color.

- (1) Practically uniform, bright typical color** means that the halves are bright and translucent, and not darker than pear yellow in color.
- (2) Reasonably uniform, bright typical color** means that the halves are reasonably bright and reasonably translucent, and not darker than pear yellow in color.
- (3) Fairly uniform typical color** means that the halves are fairly bright and fairly translucent and are of any normal color not darker than dark amber.

(b) Damage or other defects.

- (1) **Affected by russet or similar discoloration** means reddish brown discoloration caused by sunlight when the area so affected is conspicuous. Russet or other similar skin discoloration is not considered **damaged by discoloration**.
- (2) **Damage by discoloration means.**
 - (i) Skin discoloration caused by sunburn limb-rubs, hailmarks, or other means which when light brown in color, exceed in the aggregate one-eighth of the surface and which, when dark brown or darker, or hard, tough and leathery, exceed in the aggregate an area equivalent to one-sixteenth of the outer surface side of the unit.
 - (ii) Flesh discoloration caused by bruising, drought spot, or other means which are materially darker or lighter than the normal color of the half and which exceed in the aggregate an area equivalent to one-sixteenth of the outer surface side of the unit.
 - (iii) Darkening of otherwise sound fruit characteristic of fruit held in storage, in keeping with good commercial practice, shall not be considered as damaged by discoloration unless excessively darkened.
- (3) **Damaged by hard end or black end** means the light colored areas at the calyx end of the fruit or similar damage which exceed in the aggregate an area equivalent to one-eighth of the outer surface.
- (4) **Damaged by other similar defects** means any injury or defect or group of defects not mentioned herein which materially affect the appearance, edibility, or keeping quality of the fruit.
- (5) **Damaged by insect injury** means healed or unhealed surface blemishes, and healed or unhealed blemishes in the flesh which materially affect the appearance, edibility, or keeping quality of the fruit but which do not possess evidence of insect infestation.
- (6) **Affected by insect infestation** means that the dried pears show the presence of insects, insect fragments, or excreta. No live insects are permitted.
- (7) **Affected by imbedded dirt** means the units have sufficient quantities of adhering dirt to give the fruit a dirty, smudgy appearance and dirt which may not be removed readily in washing the fruit.

(c) Maturity.

- (1) Well-matured** means that the pears are fully ripe.
- (2) Reasonably well-matured** means that the pears are firm and may not have not reach the fully ripe stage.
- (3) Fairly well-matured** means that the pears may be hard but not immature.
- (4) Immature** means that the pears possess a grayish white or dead white color indicative of immature fruit.

(d) Shape.

- (1) Well shaped** means that the pears have been cut longitudinally into approximately equal halves, and that the halves are practically whole and symmetrical.
 - (2) Reasonably well shaped** means that the pears have been cut longitudinally into approximate equal halves, and that the halves may tend to be oval in shape but are not so irregular as to be misshapen.
 - (3) Fairly well shaped** means that the pears have been cut longitudinally into approximately equal halves and that any portion of a half is not less than two-thirds of the apparent original half.
- (e) Slabs** are pears that have been mashed or mutilated to the extent that they have lost their normal contour and have become definitely flattened at the edge or rim. A half that has a slightly torn edge is not considered a slab.
- (f) Scraps** means any portion of a half that is less than two-thirds of the apparent original half.

§52.5849 Worksheet and summary of requirements for dried pears.

Size of case or package				
Markings				
Label or brand				
Net weight				
Size or sizes				
Moisture content				
	A	B	C	D
Color	Minimum Requirements			
Grade A color	95%			
Grade B color	5%	90%		
Grade C color		10%	100%	
Defects	Maximum tolerance			
Total defects	10%	15%	20%	
Slabs, immature, or scraps; affected by russet or similar discoloration; damaged by discoloration; sunburn, hailmarks, limb-rub, hard end, black end, external stems, calyx cups, scab, disease, insect injury, or other similar defects; and	10%	15%	20%	
	But not more than			
Affected by mold, decay, insect infestation, imbedded dirt, or other foreign material	4%	5%	5%	5%
	But not more than			
Decay	1%	1%	2%	2%
Grade				

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