



United States Department of Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

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Service

Specialty
Crops
Program

Specialty
Crops
Inspection
Division

United States Standards for Grades of Red Sour Cherries for Manufacture

Effective September 6, 2016

This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Red Sour Cherries for Manufacture (81 FR 51297) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since April 20, 1941.

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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General
§51.4340 General.

- (a) The following grades for red sour cherries are intended to facilitate transactions between growers and processors who may wish to use a purchasing system based upon the quality of cherries delivered to the processing plant. These grades are an outgrowth of the widely accepted principle that price should be directly proportional to quality. The grower delivering high quality cherries deserves a premium price, because such cherries enable the canner to pack a better quality finished product.
- (b) A system of payments with proper price differentials based upon quality as determined by standard grades makes it possible for growers to be compensated for additional expenditures necessitated by better growing and harvesting practices.
- (c) The most practical method of measuring the quality of cherries is by drawing a representative sample from the lot, sorting it to determine the percentage of defective fruit and giving it a grade designation. The application of these standards requires the services of private or official inspectors to determine the grade of each lot of cherries. Such inspectors must be capable, efficient, and above all, they must be absolutely impartial. The inspector's report should show the percentage of defective cherries and the grade assigned to the lot which the sample represents.
- (d) Contracts for the purchase of cherries are usually made long before the cherries are harvested. When contracts are based upon the U.S. grades two fundamental principles should be taken into consideration. First, provision should be made for an impartial inspection of each lot of cherries delivered to the plant. Second, the contract should specify the prices to be paid for the cherries of various qualities determined by the grade or percentage of U.S. No. 1 cherries in the lot.
- (e) A system of contracting commonly used is based upon the payment of a certain price for U.S. No. 1 grade allowing the full tolerance for defects without penalty. For lots failing to grade No. 1 because of an excess of defects, the price per hundred weight is adjusted so as to pay for the U.S. No. 1 cherries in the lot.

Grades
§51.4341 U.S. No. 1.

“**U.S. No. 1**” consists of sour cherries which are fairly well colored, free from decay, worms, pulled pits, attached stems, and free from damage caused by bird pecks, hail marks, limbrubs, windwhips and other scars, sunscald, shriveling, foreign material, disease, insects, mechanical or other means.

- (a) **Size.** Unless otherwise specified, each cherry shall have a diameter of not less than 5/8 inch.
- (b) **Tolerances.** In order to allow for variations incident to proper handling, not more than a total of 7 percent, by weight, of any lot of cherries may fail to meet the requirements of this grade, but not more than five-sevenths of this amount, or 5 percent, may fail to meet the grade requirements other than for attached stems, and no part of this tolerance shall be allowed for cherries which are affected by worms.

§51.4342 U.S. No. 2.

“**U.S. No. 2**” consists of sour cherries which meet all of the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade, except that a total tolerance of 12 percent, by weight, of any lot of cherries shall be permitted for grade defects, but not more than five-sixths of this amount, or 10 percent, may fail to meet the grade requirements other than for attached stems, and not part of this tolerance shall be allowed for cherries which are affected by worms.

Reserved

§51.4343 Reserved.

Definitions

§51.4344 Fairly well colored.

“**Fairly well colored**” means that the individual cherry has a decidedly pink or light red color predominating over the yellow on most of its surface.

§51.4345 Pulled pits.

“**Pulled pits**” means cherries from which the pits have been removed in the process of harvesting.

§51.4346 Attached stems.

“**Attached stems**” means cherries with stems remaining attached.

§51.4347 Damage.

“**Damage**” means any defect, or any combination of defects, which materially detracts from the appearance, or the processing quality of the cherry. Light colored scars or scars which do not materially discolor the flesh beneath the skin shall not be considered as damage.

§51.4348 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.