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Division

United States Standards for Grades of American (Eastern Type) Bunch Grapes

Effective September 6, 2016

This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of American (Eastern Type) Bunch Grapes (81 FR 51297) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since September 8, 1983.

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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United States Standards for Grades of American (Eastern Type) Bunch Grapes

Section	Page No.
Grades	2
§51.3610 U.S. Fancy Table Grapes.	2
§51.3611 U.S. No.1 Table Grapes.	2
§51.3612 U.S. No.1 Juice Grapes.	3
Reserved	3
§51.3613 Reserved.....	3
Application of Tolerances	4
§51.3614 Application of tolerances.....	4
Definitions	4
§51.3615 Mature.	4
§51.3616 Firm.	4
§51.3617 Well colored.....	4
§51.3618 Fairly well colored.....	4
§51.3619 Shattered.	4
§51.3620 Compact.	4
§51.3621 Fairly compact.	5
§51.3622 Damage.	5
§51.3623 Serious damage.	5
§51.3624 Straggly.	5

Grades

§51.3610 U.S. Fancy Table Grapes.

“**U.S. Fancy Table Grapes**” consists of bunches of grapes of one variety (except when designated as assorted varieties) which are mature and well colored. The berries are firm, firmly attached to capstems, and are not split, shattered, crushed, dried or wet, and are free from decay, mold, mildew, berry moth, russeting and hail, and from damage caused by freezing, disease, insects, or other means.

- (a) **Bunches.** At least 50 percent of the bunches in each container are compact, the remainder fairly compact. They are not excessively small, except that compact portions of bunches consisting of not less than five berries may be used to fill open spaces between whole bunches.
- (b) **Size of berries.** Not less than 90 percent, by count, of the berries, exclusive of dried berries, on each bunch shall have a minimum diameter, unless otherwise specified, of 9/16 of an inch.
- (c) **Tolerances.** In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, the following tolerances, by weight, are permitted:
 - (1) 5 percent for bunches in any lot which are straggly;
 - (2) 10 percent for bunches in any lot which fail to meet the requirement for minimum diameter of berries; and
 - (3) 10 percent for bunches and berries in any lot which fail to meet the remaining requirements of this grade, including therein not more than one-half of this amount, or 5 percent, for berries which are seriously damaged: *Provided*, That included in this latter amount not more than 1 percent may be permitted for berries affected by mold or decay, and not more than 2 percent for dried berries or those affected by berry moth.

§51.3611 U.S. No.1 Table Grapes.

“**U.S. No. 1 Table Grapes**” consists of bunches of grapes of one variety (except when designated as assorted varieties) which are mature and fairly well colored. The berries are firm, firmly attached to capstems, and are not split, shattered, crushed, dried or wet, and are free from decay, mold, and berry moth, and from damage caused by freezing, russeting, hail, mildew, other disease, insects, or other means.

- (a) **Bunches.** At least 85 percent of the bunches in each container are fairly compact; except that for packages which contain 5 pounds or less, at least 50 percent of the bunches in any container are fairly compact, *provided*, that the average for the lot is not less than 85 percent. Bunches shall not be excessively

small, except that portions of bunches consisting of not less than three berries may be used to fill open spaces between whole bunches.

- (b) **Size of berries.** Not less than 90 percent, by count, of the berries, exclusive of dried berries, on each bunch shall have a minimum diameter, unless otherwise specified, of 9/16 of an inch.
- (c) **Tolerances.** In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, the following tolerances, by weight, are permitted:
 - (1) 10 percent for bunches in any lot which fail to meet the requirement for minimum diameter of berries; and
 - (2) 10 percent for bunches and berries in any lot which fail to meet the remaining requirements of this grade, including therein not more than one-half of this amount, or 5 percent, for berries which are seriously damaged: *Provided*, That included in this latter amount not more than 2 percent may be permitted for berries affected by mold or decay and not more than 2 percent for dried berries or those affected by berry moth.

§51.3612 U.S. No.1 Juice Grapes.

“**U.S. No. 1 Juice Grapes**” consists of bunches of grapes of one variety (except when designated as assorted varieties) which are mature and fairly well colored. The berries are firm, firmly attached to capstems, and are not split, shattered, crushed, dried or wet, and are free from mold, decay, and berry moth, and from serious damage caused by freezing, russetting, hail, mildew, other disease, insects, or other means.

- (a) **Bunches.** At least 60 percent of the bunches in each container are fairly compact.
- (b) **Tolerances.** In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 15 percent, by weight, of the bunches and berries in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade, including therein not more than 6 percent for berries which are seriously damaged: *Provided*, That included in this latter amount not more than 3 percent may be permitted for berries affected by mold or decay, and not more than 2 percent for dried berries or those affected by berry moth.

Reserved
§51.3613 Reserved

Application of Tolerances

§51.3614 Application of tolerances.

The contents of individual packages in the lot, based on sample inspection, are subject to the following limitations, provided that the averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances specified for the grade:

- (a) Individual packages which contain more than 5 pounds: Shall contain not more than one and one-half times a specified tolerance of 10 percent or more and not more than double a specified tolerance of less than 10 percent.
- (b) Individual packages which contain 5 pounds or less: Shall contain not more than three times the specified tolerance.

Definitions

§51.3615 Mature.

“**Mature**” means that the grapes are juicy, palatable, and have reached that stage of development at which the skin of the berry easily separates from the pulp. Frozen or slightly frosted stock is not to be confused with mature stock.

§51.3616 Firm.

“**Firm**” means that the berry is reasonably turgid and does not yield more than slightly to moderate pressure.

§51.3617 Well colored.

“**Well colored**” means that the berries show full color characteristic of the variety.

§51.3618 Fairly well colored.

“**Fairly well colored**” means that not less than 75 percent, by weight, of the berries show full color characteristic of the variety; 25 percent of the berries may be partially or poorly colored but not characteristic of immature berries.

§51.3619 Shattered.

“**Shattered**” means that the berry is separated from the bunch and may or may not have the capstem attached.

§51.3620 Compact.

“**Compact**” means that the bunches are well filled and have no open spaces.

§51.3621 Fairly compact.

“**Fairly compact**” means that the bunches are well filled but that the berries are not closely spaced as in “compact” bunches.

§51.3622 Damage.

“**Damage**” means any specific defect described in this section; or an equally objectionable variation of this defect, any other defect, or any combination of defects, which materially detracts from the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the individual berry or the bunch as a whole. The following specific defect shall be considered as damage:

- (a) Mildew when detracting from the appearance of the individual berry or the bunch as a whole. Berries on the inside of the bunch which show only slight traces of mildew are not considered as damaged.

§51.3623 Serious damage.

“**Serious damage**” means any defect, or any combination of defects, which seriously detracts from the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the individual berry or the bunch as a whole.

§51.3624 Straggly.

“**Straggly**” means that the bunches are decidedly open with large open spaces and very few berries. Small immature shot berries, characteristic of the Worden variety, should be disregarded unless they are excessive in number and detract materially from the appearance.