

L&M

Completely obsessed with produce

November 20, 2006

Standardization Section - Fresh Products Branch  
Fruit and Vegetable Programs  
AMS, U.S. Department of Agricultural  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240  
Washington DC 20250-0240

RE: Proposed Grade Standards on Potatoes and Onions.  
Federal Register: September 22,2006 (Volume 71, Number 184)]  
[Proposed Rules] [Page 55356-55367]  
Federal Register Number: 06-07819

To Whom It May Concern:

These comments are being submitted on behalf of L&M Companies, Inc., a Grower, Shipper and Marketer of Potatoes and other fresh fruits and vegetables.

Concerning the proposed Potato Grade Standards published in the September 22, 2006 Federal Register, we would like to submit the following:

1. Harmonizing the standards with the U.S. and Canada is very good for the potato industry. It will help to clear up confusion on inspection reports.
2. Raising the standards on soft rot from 1% to 2% would not be good for the industry. We feel that this would cause undo confusion and conflict between shippers and receivers. Many receivers would simply demand that we still meet the 1% tolerance.
3. Tighter standards on sprouts are good, but they should be the same at both the shipping and receiving points. they should not be any longer than 1/4".
4. We strongly agree with replacing the wording "detracting from appearance", and substituting it with an actual scoring guide that will help remove some confusion in the inspection process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Les Alderete  
Director of Potatoes & Onions

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