

Comment Info: =====

General Comment: March 26, 2008

Vincent J. Fusaro  
Standardization Section  
Fresh Products Branch-Fruit & Vegetable Programs  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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Reference: February 26th, 2008; Federal Register Vol. 73, No. 38, pgs. 10185-10186  
AMS Docket #FV-07-0140

Dear Mr. Fusaro:

I write to support the proposal to add a 5% allowance for table grapes in consumer containers. I do not believe loose berries should be counted as defective given grading is based on a snapshot judgment given at a specific time to signal level of quality. If we continue to believe in the accuracy of current grading standards then there must be room to include an additional shatter allowance to reflect the market level of acceptability.

As you well know, there has been a tremendous amount of evolution in fresh table grape packaging which allows for a more salable product. Given the advancements, loose berries, determined to be whole and sound, have identical value as attached berries and grading should be reflective.

I thank you for your time and consideration of my comment.

Sincerely,

Nat DiBuduo