

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
1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 1661, South Building, Stop 0240
Washington, D.C. 20250-0240

Reference: February 26th, 2008; Federal Register Vol. 73, No. 38, pgs. 10185-10186
AMS Docket #FV-07-0140

Dear Mr. Fusaro:

On behalf of our industry I write to support the request of the California Grape and Tree Fruit League to revise the tolerances to include an additional 5% allowance for shatter. With the adoption of current packaging it is necessary we remain vigilant to ensure both industry and the public equally benefit from a more uniform standard.

While industry has moved to consistently utilize packaging that provides for shatter allowance our current standard has fallen short. To that end, we are constantly faced with economic loss because current standard encourages price adjustment despite industry wide recognition that shatter provides for a highly sellable product to the consumer.

I hope this proposal receives quick and full adoption. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Wayne Brandt