

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., Room1661, 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:

I write to express my support for the adoption of the revision to U.S. Table Grape Standards for Grades to add a 5 percent shatter allowance for table grapes in consumer packaging. As packaging has evolved I feel our guiding standards should more closely resemble today's modern practices.

Our table grape quality continues to meet consumer demand and we must recognize that today's packaging methods help provide for the realization of consumer expectation. Without the allowance for shatter, high quality product is disregarded because of standardization that has not caught up with current methods and practices.

While we do not and will not advocate for any change to negatively affect grading standards, we believe this proposed change will only serve to strengthen and enhance governance of table grape standards.

I respectfully ask for your consideration. If you would like to discuss any of these points please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Mr. Christopher Caratan
Vice-President / Columbine Vineyards