

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:

I write to support the current proposal to add an additional 5 percent allowance. Shatter is a term that is not synonymous with poor quality but rather connotes whether or not the berry is attached to the stem.

Without the update to the standard, the fresh table grape industry will continue to bear witness to subjective product dismissal loosely based on quality valuation. I do not believe that such standard fluidity is appropriate nor do I believe such standard manipulation should jeopardize the integrity of the fresh table grape industry. I believe the grading system should represent accuracy to the consumer.

I thank you for your time and attention to the matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Ikemiya