

Sall-n-Ann

Flamingo



March 21, 2008

Mr. Vincent J. Fusaro
Standardization Section
Fresh Products Branch
Fruit & Vegetable Programs
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Room 1661
South Building, Stop 0240
Washington, D.C. 20250-0240

Dear Mr. Fusaro:

Re: United States Standards for Grades of Table Grapes
(European or Vinifera Type)
Docket #AMS-FV-07-0140

My company is a grower/shipper of fresh table grapes and I am forwarding this letter to your attention in support of the proposed rule which was published in the Federal Register on February 26, 2008 as referenced by the docket number above.

Initially, our company was in support of the 10% allowance for shattered berries at destination and still perceives the 10% as the appropriate percentage, however in light of the proposed rule of only 5%, we as grape growers and shippers will support this proposed rule to show our willingness to work with industry. With the evolving marketing of table grapes and packaging practices, being utilized in the table grape industry, the delivered product at destination reflecting some shattered berries is still a very merchantable commodity and does not detract from the consumer usability of the grapes.

I therefore strongly support the proposed compromise for table grapes only when market and consumers containers at destination have a 5% allowance for grape shatter. This proposed rule does not amend the scoring for plain packed grapes. I therefore submit these comments in total support of the proposed rule and amend the U.S. Grade Standard for Table Grapes as it relates to shattered.

Sincerely,

