

SUN VALLEY FARMS, LLC

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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**

As a grape shipper we have noticed over the past decade table grape packaging and the great improvements which have been made in decreasing the number of injured berries at destination. One of these defects happens to be shattered berries which are not attached to the stem. With today's grapes no longer are left in the bottom of the lug but rather are still useable and merchantable either in the clamshell or the bag, these berries still remain extremely sound and useable. I am also well aware of the fact that the table grape industry has sat down and discussed this issue on numerous occasions and initially the request went to the USDA for a 10% allowance. However now the proposed rule calls for only 5% allowable shatter.

I therefore respectfully request that this minimal allowance of 5% be approved and this proposed rule becomes a final rule. It should be noted that detached grapes which are considered shattered can still be scored for decay and other defects, however a perfectly good pristine grape detached from the bunch should not be scored until at least 5% was present.

Therefore at this time I respectfully submit these comments in total support of the proposed rule by amending the U.S. Grade Standard for Table Grapes as it relates to shatter.

Sincerely,



Jerad R. Sanders, Member