

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 revise current U.S. Table Grape Standards to allow for an additional 5% shatter allowance for table grapes en route or at destination. I believe an allowance is needed to reflect fresh table grape packaging practices.

Recognizing packaging limitations, an additional allowance serves to recognize the reality of the entire farm to market process while holding equal both fresh loose berries and attached berries in terms of quality. I believe grading standards are weakened if profiling should occur where fresh berries are separated based on acceptable levels of attachment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dean Thonesen