



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Agricultural
Marketing
Service**

**Fruit and
Vegetable
Division**

**Fresh
Products
Branch**

United States Standards for Grades of Sweet Cherries for Canning or Freezing

Effective June 1, 1946
(Reprinted - January 1997)

United States Standards for Grades of Sweet Cherries for Canning or Freezing¹

Grades

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Grades

§51.4360 U.S. No. 1.

"U.S. No. 1" consists of sweet cherries of one variety which are well formed, mature, free from decay, worms, pulled pits, doubles, and free from damage caused by softness, shriveling, bruises, skin breaks, scars, hail marks, windwhips, limbrubs, russeting, sunscald, dirt or other foreign matter, birds, disease, insects, mechanical or other means. Unless other wise specified, stems shall be removed. (See §51.4363.)

(a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than a total of 7 percent, by count, of the cherries in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade, but not more than 5 percent may fail to meet the grade requirements other than for attached stems, including not more than 1 percent for cherries affected by decay. No part of any tolerance shall be allowed for cherries infested with worms. (See §51.4363.)

§51.4361 U.S. No. 2.

"U.S. No. 2" consists of sweet cherries which meet all of the requirements for U.S. No. 1 grade, except that a total tolerance of 12 percent, by count, of the cherries in any lot shall be permitted for grade defects, but not more than 10 percent may fail to meet the grade requirements other than for attached stems, including not more than 2 percent for cherries affected by decay. No part of any tolerance shall be allowed for cherries infested with worms. (See §51.4363.)

Unclassified

§51.4362 Unclassified.

"Unclassified" consists of sweet cherries which have not been classified in accordance with either

¹Compliance with the provisions of these standards shall not excuse failure to comply with the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, or with applicable State laws and regulations.

of the foregoing grades. The term "unclassified" is not a grade within the meaning of these standards but is provided as a designation to show that no grade has been applied to the lot.

Size

§51.4363 Size.

(a) In addition to the statement of grade, the size of the cherries in any lot may be specified in terms of minimum diameter.

(b) In order to allow for variations incident to proper sizing, not more than 5 percent, by count, of the cherries in any lot may be below the size specified.

Definitions

§51.4364 Well formed.

"Well formed" means that the cherry has the shape characteristic of the variety.

§51.4365 Mature.

"Mature" means that the cherry has reached the stage of maturity at which the pit will separate readily from the flesh.

§51.4366 Doubles.

"Doubles" means cherries which have the appearance of attached twin cherries.

§51.4367 Damage.

"Damage" means any specific defect described in this section; or an equally objectionable variation of any one of these defects, any other defect, or any combination of defects, which materially detracts from the quality of the fruit for canning or freezing. The following specific defects shall be considered as damage:

(a) Rain cracks or other skin breaks which exceed 1/4 inch in length, except a very thin line encircling the stem end of the fruit.

(b) Superficial scars, hail marks, wind whips, limbrubs, russeting, and similar discoloration or scars, when affecting an area of more than 3/16 inch in diameter, or any scars which materially discolor the flesh.

§51.4368 Diameter.

"Diameter" means the greatest dimension of the cherry measured at right angles to a line running from the stem end to the blossom end.