



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Agricultural
Marketing
Service**

**Fruit and
Vegetable
Division**

**Fresh
Products
Branch**

United States Standards for Grades of Berries for Processing

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United States Standards for Grades of Berries for Processing ^{1/2}

Grades

51.860 U.S. No. 1.

51.861 U.S. No. 2.

Unclassified

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Grades

§51.860 U.S. No. 1.

U.S. No. 1 shall consist of berries of similar varietal characteristics which are free from caps (calyxes), mold or decay, and from dried, undeveloped and distinctly immature berries and from damage caused by overmaturity, crushing, shriveling, dirt, or other foreign matter, hail, sunscald, moisture, birds, disease, insects, mechanical or other means. At least 85 percent, by weight, of the berries in the lot shall be well colored. (See §51.863.)

(a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper handling, not more than 10 percent, by weight, of the berries in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade, including not more than 3 percent for distinctly immature berries. No part of any tolerance shall be allowed to reduce the percentage of well colored berries required in the grade, and no part of any tolerance shall be allowed for berries infested with worms.

§51.861 U.S. No. 2.

U.S. No. 2 shall consist of berries which meet the requirements for U.S. No. 1 grade except for color and except for the increased tolerance for defects specified below. At least 75 percent, by weight, of the berries in the lot shall be well colored. (See §51.863.)

(a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper handling, not more than 20 percent, by weight, of the berries in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade, including not

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 States laws and regulations.

²These standards apply to berries of the genus *Rubus*, such as blackberries, dewberries, Boysenberries, Loganberries, Youngberries and similar types of berries, but not raspberries.

more than 5 percent for distinctly immature berries. No part of any tolerance shall be allowed to reduce the percentage of well colored berries required in the grade, and no part of any tolerance shall be allowed for berries infested with worms.

Unclassified

§51.862 Unclassified.

Unclassified shall consist of berries which fail to meet the requirements of either 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 definite grade has been applied to the lot.

Size

§51.863 Size.

In view of the size variations in different producing sections and size variations of different types and varieties of berries, no size requirements are specified in these standards. However, the size may be specified in terms of minimum diameter or length.

(a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper sizing, not more than 5 percent, by weight, of the berries in any lot may fail to meet the size specified.

Definitions

§51.864 Dried.

"Dried" means appreciably lacking in juice. Dried berries are excessively seedy and often shriveled.

§51.865 Undeveloped.

"Undeveloped" means lack of development, due to frost or insect injury, lack of pollination or other means, which causes the berry to be dwarfed or badly misshapen.

§51.866 Distinctly immature.

"Distinctly immature" means that the berries are light red, whitish, or green in the case of types or varieties which are characteristically blue or black when well ripened; and that the berries are whitish or green in the case of types or varieties which are characteristically red when well ripened.

§51.867 Damage.

"Damage" means any injury or defect which materially affects the berries for processing purposes. The following shall be considered as damage:

- (a) Overmaturity, when the drupelets of the berry have lost their luster and are excessively soft. Such berries usually disintegrate when washed under pressure.
- (b) Crushing, when more than one-fourth of the drupelets of the berry have been crushed.
- (c) Shriveling, when the berry is materially shriveled as evidenced by drying or undevelopment of more than one-fourth of the drupelets of the berry.
- (d) Dirt, when it cannot be removed from the berry in the ordinary washing process.

§51.868 Well colored.

"Well colored" means that the berry has the color characteristic for a well ripened berry of the type or variety.

§51.869 Diameter.

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