



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service

P.O.Box 96456  
Washington, DC  
20090-6456

June 6, 2002

## ***NOTICE TO THE TRADE***

In accordance with an agreement between USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service and Food Nutrition Service, all current Announcements are amended as follows:

### **Packing, Labels, Packaging and Product Traceability**

#### **1. Primary Containers**

All product must be packed in new, commercially acceptable primary containers of the size and type specified in the applicable Invitation and must meet requirements of the Food and Drug Administration.

The product must be suitably code marked so that the product can be identified with related inspection certificates.

#### **2. Labeling**

The processor's own commercially acceptable "brand" label meeting the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration may be used on all Invitations, unless prohibited by the Invitation. Distributor's "brand" labels are not acceptable.

#### **3. Secondary Containers and Markings**

Commercially acceptable containers meeting the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration may be used on all products, to include shrink wrapped tray packs for 24/#300 and 24/#2 cans.

Trays must be marked in such a manner that they contain processing company's name and the last five digits of the contract number visible on opposite sides of the tray.

All other commercially acceptable containers will comply with the marking requirements of that Announcement.

**4. Intermingling of labeling methods will not be acceptable within a shipping unit (truck load).**

Two or more different commercial labels are not allowed within a shipping unit (truck load).

USDA labeled cans may be shipped in tray packs. Commercial and USDA labels may not be mingled within a shipping unit (truck load).



June 6, 2002

**NOTICE TO THE TRADE-PAGE 2**

5. A. The manufacturer must establish a product identification coding system and record system that clearly links product by place and date of manufacture to specific USDA contracts and destinations.

B. The required product identification and record system, including codes, must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate to that Announcement USDA Inspection Branch. The USDA Grader will include the product identification codes on the USDA Fruit and Vegetable Grading Certificate.

C. The product identification code for traceability must be placed in a visible location on all primary containers in such a manner that it may not be removed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan E. Proden", written in a cursive style.

**Susan E. Proden**

**Chief**

**Commodity Procurement Branch**

**Fruit and Vegetable Programs**