

# North American Tomato Trade Work Group

Canada – Mexico – United States

January 27, 2004

Mr. David Priester  
Fresh Products Branch  
Room 1661-S, USDA  
STOP 0240,  
1400 Independence Ave. SW,  
Washington DC 20250-0240

Subject: Proposed Amending of U.S. Grade Standards for Greenhouse  
Tomatoes

Dear Mr. Priester:

The North American Tomato Trade Work Group (NATTWG), an ad-hoc advisory committee to the Canadian, Mexican, and U.S. governments on trade issues involving fresh tomato trade in North America, is requesting that the Department extend the deadline for comments on the proposed amending of the U.S. grade standards for greenhouse tomatoes.

NATTWG, representing the vast majority of field and greenhouse tomato production in North America, will hold its annual meeting on February 11, 2004, at which time this issue will be discussed in detail. By extending the comment deadline until the end of March, we believe that greenhouse producers will be able to provide the Branch with a detailed analysis and recommendation that accurately reflects the market forces in North America.

On behalf of our membership, I appreciate your willingness to consider extending the comment deadline.

Sincerely,

Edward Beckman  
Chairman  
United States

Murray Driediger  
Vice Chairman  
Canada

Mario Robles  
Secretary  
Mexico

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