NFPA
The Food Safety People

NATIONAL FOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

December 6, 1999

Harold Machias
Processed Products Branch, FVP, AMS
United States Department of Agriculture
STOP 0247
P.O. Box 96456
Washington, D.C. 20090

Re: Notice published on Tuesday, September 28, 1999, *Federal Register,* Vol. 64, No. 187, page 52266

Dear Harold,

The National Food Processors Association (NFPA) is the principal scientific trade association representing the food processing industry. With three laboratory centers, NFPA is the leading authority on food science and safety for the food industry. For more than 90 years, the industry has relied on NFPA for government and regulatory representation, scientific research, technical services, education, communications, and crisis management.

Over the years, NFPA has appreciated the opportunity to work with the staff of the Standardization Section of USDA's Processed Products Branch in reviewing and revising as appropriate the United States Standards for Grades of a variety of canned and frozen fruits and vegetables. Relative to the above-referenced notice, NFPA herewith supports the declared intent to convert the current standards for frozen okra that are based on cumulative score points to statistically-based individual attributes grade standards and replace dual grade nomenclature with single letter designations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to call me at 925/551-4251 if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Michael Jantschke
Scientist
Center for Technical Assistance

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Dublin, CA 94568
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Cc: Randle Macon / Processed Products Branch, FVP, AMS, United States Department of Agriculture, STOP 0247, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090