

MDP COMMODITY **SAMPLE FACT SHEET**

(Effective 06/01/01)

(Updated 5/01/02)

PRODUCT: Fresh Tomatoes (TO)

SAMPLING PROCEDURES:

- Sampling begins June 1, 2001.
- Only fresh tomatoes (round/globe) will be sampled.
- Collect three (3) individual tomatoes.
- Collectors will measure the surface temperature using an infrared thermometer and will record the temperature on the MDP Sample Information Form (SIF).
- **Remove and discard any product wrappings or bags that identifies State of Origin, grower, packer, distributor, or lot number.**
- **Collectors will not report State of Origin, grower, packer, distributor, or lot number that identifies the domestic origin of the sample. Country of Origin information will still be collected.**
- Samples must be collected using aseptic techniques.
- Whenever possible, commodities should be collected in the collection site to avoid exposure to inclement weather or high or sub-freezing temperatures. However, if necessary, an entire case of product may be taken to a more convenient location before removing the sample portion.

VARIETIES of FRESH TOMATOES: If the variety is easily identified, enter that information in the "Variety" section of the SIF. If the variety is not available, leave the "Variety" field blank. Sample collectors should not enter the brand or trade name (i.e., Dole, Libby's) on the SIF.

AVAILABILITY: Year round.

SAMPLE SIZE:

- One sample equals three (3) individual sub-samples or tomatoes.
- Each tomato must weigh a minimum of 100 grams (approx. one-quarter (1/4) pound) or 3 ½ to 4 inches in diameter.

UNACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS: Cherry/grape, Plum/Roma, Clustered/On-the Vine

PACKAGING AND SHIPPING:

- Insulated shipping containers must be pre-cooled prior to packaging MDP samples.
- A sufficient number of ice paks must be placed inside the insulated shipping containers to ensure product is shipped and arrives in the laboratory at refrigerated temperature..
- Affix temperature indicator to the inside of the larger plastic sample bag and insure it does not rest against the ice paks.
- Wrap larger plastic bag with newspaper, butcher paper, etc., to avoid ice paks from coming in direct contact with the samples.
- Do not freeze samples.

