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Division

# **Official Standard Grades for Wisconsin Cigar-Binder Tobacco U.S. Types 54 and 55**

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Official Standard Grades for  
Wisconsin Cigar-Binder Tobacco  
(U.S. Types 54 and 55)

Effective November 20, 1969 (34 F.R. 17061)

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**Official Standard Grades For Wisconsin Cigar-Binder Tobacco**  
(U.S. Types 54 and 55)<sup>1/</sup>

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DEFINITIONS

Definitions. As used in these standards, the words and phrases hereinafter defined shall have the indicated meanings so assigned.

Air-cured. Tobacco cured under natural atmospheric conditions. Artificial heat sometimes is used to control excess humidity during the curing period to prevent pole-sweat, pole-burn, and shed-burn in damp weather. Air-cured tobacco should not carry the odor of smoke or fumes resulting from the application of artificial heat.

Body. The thickness and density of a leaf or the weight per unit of surface. (See element of quality chart.)

Burn. The duration of combustion or length of time that a tobacco leaf will hold fire after ignition. (See Rule 18.)

Case (order). The state of tobacco with respect to its moisture content.

Class. A major division of tobacco based on method of cure or principal usage.

Clean. Tobacco is described as clean when it contains only a normal amount of sand or soil particles. Leaves grown on the lower portion of the stalk normally contain more sand or dirt than those from higher stalk positions. (See Rule 4.)

Condition. The state of tobacco which results from the method of preparation or from the degree of fermentation. Words used to describe the condition of tobacco are undried, air-dried, steam-dried, sweating, sweated, and aged.

Crude. A subdegree of maturity. (See Rule 15.)

Cured. Tobacco dried of its sap by either natural or artificial processes.

Damage. The effect of mold, must, rot, black rot or other fungus or bacterial diseases which attack tobacco in its cured state. Tobacco having the odor of mold, must or rot is considered damaged. (See Rule 17.)

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<sup>1/</sup> These standards also apply to Type 53 Havana Seed Tobacco

Dirty. The state of tobacco containing an abnormal amount of dirt or sand, or tobacco to which additional quantities of dirt or sand have been added. (See Rule 17.)

Elasticity. The flexible, springy nature of the tobacco leaf to recover approximately its original size and shape after it has been stretched. (See element of quality chart.)

Elements of quality. Physical characteristics used to determine the quality of tobacco. Words selected to describe degrees within each element are shown in the element of quality chart.

Foreign matter. Any extraneous substance or material such as stalks, suckers, straw, strings, and rubber bands. (See Rule 17.)

Form. The stage of preparation of tobacco such as stemmed or unstemmed.

General quality. The quality of tobacco considered in relation to the type as a whole. General quality is distinguished from the restricted use of the term “quality” within a group.

Grade. A subdivision of a type according to group and quality and to other characteristics when they are of sufficient importance to be treated separately.

Grademark. In these types a grademark normally consists of a letter to indicate group and a number to indicate quality. For example, B2 means Binder, fair quality.

Group. A type division consisting of one or more grades based on the general quality of tobacco. Groups in these types are: Binder (B), Stripper (C), Straight Stripped (X), Farm Filler (Y), Nondescript (N), and Scrap (S).

Injury. Hurt or impairment from any cause except the fungus or bacterial diseases which attack tobacco in its cured state. (See definition of Damage.) Injury to tobacco may be caused by field diseases, insects, or weather conditions; insecticides, fungicides, or cell growth inhibitors; nutritional deficiencies or excesses; or improper fertilization, harvesting, curing, or handling. Injured tobacco includes dead, burnt, hail-cut, torn, broken, frostbitten, frozen (see rule 16), sunburned, sun- scalded, bulk-burnt, pole-burnt, shed-burnt, pole-sweated, stem-rotted, bleached, bruised, discolored, or deformed leaves; or tobacco affected by wildfire, rust, frog-eye, mosaic, root rot, wilt, black shank, or other diseases. (See Rule 13.)

Leaf scrap. A byproduct of unstemmed tobacco Leaf scrap results from handling unstemmed tobacco and consists of loose and tangled whole or broken leaves.

Leaf structure. The cell development of a leaf as indicated by its porosity. The degrees range from close (slick and tight) to open (porous.) (See element of quality chart.)

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Length. The linear measurement of cured tobacco leaves from the butt of the midrib to the extreme tip.

Lot. A pile, basket, bulk, package, or other definite unit.

Maturity. The degree of ripeness. (See elements of quality chart.)

Nested. Any tobacco which has been loaded, packed, or arranged to conceal foreign matter or tobacco of inferior grade, quality, or condition. Nested includes any lot of tobacco which contains foreign matter or damaged, injured, tangled, or other inferior tobacco, any of which cannot be readily detected upon inspection because of the way the lot is packed or arranged. (See Rule 17.)

No Grade. A designation applied to a lot of tobacco classified as damaged, dirty, nested, offtype, semicured, or wet; tobacco that is improperly packed, contains foreign matter, or has an odor foreign to the type. (See Rules 5 and 17.)

Offtype. Tobacco of distinctly different characteristics which cannot be classified as Type 53, 54, or 55. (See Rule 17.)

Package. A hogshead, tierce, case, bale, or other securely enclosed parcel or bundle.

Packing. A lot of tobacco consisting of a number of packages submitted as one definite unit for sampling or inspection. It is represented to contain the same kind of tobacco and has a common identification number or mark on each package.

Quality. A division of a group or the second factor of a grade based on the relative degree of one or more elements of quality.

Raw. Tobacco as it appears between the time of harvesting and the beginning of the curing process.

Semicured. Tobacco in the process of being cured or which is partially but not thoroughly cured. Semicured includes tobacco which contains fat stems, wet butts, swelled stems, and tobacco having frozen stems or stems that have not been thoroughly dried in the curing process. (See definition of No Grade and Rule 17.)

Side. A certain phase of quality as contrasted with some other phase of quality or any peculiar characteristic of tobacco.

Sound. Free of damage. (See Rule 4.)

Stem. The midrib or large central vein of a tobacco leaf.

Stemmed. A form of tobacco, including strips and strip scrap, from which the stems or midribs have been removed.

Stem rot. The deterioration of an uncured or frozen stem resulting from bacterial action. Although stem rot results from bacterial action, it is inactive in cured tobacco and is treated as a kind of injury in these types. (See Rule 14.)

Strength (tensile). The stress a tobacco leaf can bear without tearing. (See element of quality chart.)

Strips. The sides of a tobacco leaf from which the stem has been removed or a lot of tobacco composed of strips.

Sweated. The condition of tobacco which has passed through one or more fermentations natural to tobacco packed with a normal percentage of moisture. This condition sometimes is described as aged.

Tobacco. Tobacco in its unmanufactured forms as it appears between the time it is cured and stripped from the stalk, or primed and cured, and the time it enters a manufacturing process. Conditioning, sweating, and stemming are not regarded as manufacturing processes.

Tobacco products. Manufactured tobacco, including cigarettes, cigars, smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco, and snuff, which is subject to Internal Revenue tax.

Type. A division of a class of tobacco having certain common characteristics and closely related grades. Tobacco which has the same characteristics and corresponding qualities, colors, and lengths is classified as one type, regardless of any factors of historical or geographical nature which cannot be determined by an examination of the tobacco.

Type 53. That type of cigar-leaf tobacco commonly known as York State or Havana Seed of New York and Pennsylvania, produced principally in the Big Flats and Onondaga sections of New York and extending into Pennsylvania.

Type 54. That type of cigar-leaf tobacco commonly known as Southern Wisconsin Cigar-leaf or Southern Wisconsin Binder-type, produced principally south and east of the Wisconsin River.

Type 55. That type of cigar-leaf tobacco commonly known as Northern Wisconsin Cigar-leaf or Northern Wisconsin Binder-type, produced principally north and west of the Wisconsin River and extending into Minnesota.

Undried. The condition of unfermented tobacco which has not been air-dried or steam-dried.

Uniformity. A grade requirement designating the percentage of a lot which must meet the specified degree of each element of quality. (See Rule 12.)

Unstemmed. A form of tobacco, including whole leaf and leaf scrap, from which the stems or midribs have not been removed.

Unsweeted. The condition of cured tobacco which has not been sweated.

Wet (high-case). Any sound tobacco containing excessive moisture to the extent that it is in unsafe or doubtful-keeping order. Wet applies to any tobacco which is not damaged but which is likely to damage if treated in the customary manner. (See Rule 17.)

Width. The relative breadth of a tobacco leaf expressed in relation to its length. (See element of quality chart.)

## ELEMENTS OF QUALITY AND DEGREES OF EACH ELEMENT

Wisconsin Cigar-binder Tobacco, U.S. Types 54 and 55

These standardized words or terms are used to describe tobacco quality and to assist in interpreting grade specifications. Tobacco attributes or characteristics which constitute quality are designated as elements of quality. The range within each element is expressed by the use of words or terms designated as degrees. These degrees are arranged to show their relative value, but the actual value of each degree varies with type and group.

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ELEMENTS	DEGREES		
BODY	HEAVY	MEDIUM	THIN
MATURITY	IMMATURE	MATURE	RIPE
LEAF STRUCTURE	CLOSE	FIRM	OPEN
ELASTICITY	INELASTIC	SEMIELASTIC	ELASTIC
STRENGTH (Tensile)	WEAK	NORMAL	STRONG
WIDTH	NARROW	NORMAL	SPREADY
LENGTH	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>
UNIFORMITY	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
INJURY TOLERANCE	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>

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1/ Expressed in inches.

2/ Expressed in percentages.

Rules. The application of these official standard grades shall be in accordance with the following rules.

Rule 1. Each grade shall be treated as a subdivision of a particular type. When the grade is stated in an inspection certificate, the type also shall be stated.

Rule 2. The determination of grade shall be based upon a representative sample or a thorough examination of a packing of tobacco.

Rule 3. The grade of unsorted tobacco shall be based upon a representative sample of the packing. A minimum of 10 percent of the bundles or bales shall be selected at random for sampling; a higher percentage may be sampled at the discretion of the inspector. To obtain the sample, a sufficient amount of tobacco shall be drawn to be representative of each selected bale. In determining the grade, the inspector shall consider the quality of all samples. The grade assigned shall represent the quality of the lot as a whole.

Rule 4. Standard grades shall be assigned to clean and sound tobacco only.

Rule 5. Tobacco leaves shall be placed straight in bundles or bales of normal weight, size, and shape with the butts out and tips overlapping from 6 to 8 inches or sufficiently to make a level, solid, and uniform pack. The sides of the bundles shall be completely covered with paper, or other suitable protective material, and tightly bound with not less than three large twines spaced so that the tobacco will be held securely together. Improperly packed tobacco shall be designated as "No - G."

Rule 6. The grade assigned to any lot of tobacco shall be a true representation of the tobacco at the time of inspection and certification. If, at any time, it is found that a lot of tobacco does not comply with the specifications of the grade previously assigned, it shall not thereafter be represented as such grade.

Rule 7. Any lot of tobacco which meets the specifications of two grades shall be placed in the higher grade. Any lot of tobacco on the marginal line between two grades shall be placed in the lower grade.

Rule 8. A lot of tobacco meets the specifications of a grade when it is not lower in any degree of any element of quality than the minimum specifications of such grade.

Rule 9. In determining the grade of a lot of tobacco, the lot as a whole shall be considered. Minor irregularities which do not affect over one percent of the tobacco shall be overlooked.

Rule 10. Interpretations, the use of specifications, and the meaning of terms shall be in accordance with determinations or clarifications made by the Chief of the Standards Branch and approved by the Director of the Tobacco Division, Consumer and Marketing Service.

Rule 11. The use of any grade may be restricted by the Director during any marketing season when it is found that the grade is not needed or appears in insufficient volume to justify its use.

Rule 12. Uniformity shall be expressed in percentages. These percentages shall govern the portion of a lot which must meet each specification of the grade; the remaining portion must be related. Grade specifications state the minimum acceptable degree of each element of quality. Specified percentages of uniformity shall not affect limitations established by other rules.

Rule 13. Injury tolerance shall be expressed in percentages. The appraisal of injury shall be based upon the percentage of affected leaf surface or the degree of injury, and consideration shall be given to the kinds of injury normal to the group or grade.

Rule 14. Stem rot shall not exceed 40 percent of the specified injury tolerance for any grade.

Rule 15. In grade specifications the tolerance of crude shall apply to the entire leaf surface of the lot.

Rule 16. In grade specifications frozen shall be treated as a separate kind of injury and the tolerance shall apply to the entire leaf surface of the lot.

Rule 17. Tobacco shall be designated as No Grade, using the grademark "No - G," when it is damaged, dirty, nested, offtype, semicured, wet, improperly packed, contains foreign matter, or has an odor foreign to the type.

Rule 18. Burn shall be determined as the average burning time of leaves selected at random from the sample. A minimum of 10 leaves shall be selected as representative regardless of the number of bundles or bales in the lot. All burn tests shall be made in the bindercutting area on the same side of the leaf. The leaf shall be punctured to permit quick ignition when placed over a candle, alcohol lamp, or electrical-lighting device. Good burn shall average 6 seconds or longer; fair burn, 3 to 5 seconds; and poor burn, under 3 seconds. B1 and B2 shall require good burn and B3, fair burn.

## GRADES

Binder (B Group). Tobacco of this group is of cigar-binder quality from which trash and trashy Farm Fillers have been removed.

U.S.

Grades                      Grade Names, Minimum Specifications, and Tolerances

B1        Fine Quality Binder.

Thin, ripe, open, elastic, strong, spready, and 19 inches or over in length. Uniformity, 90 percent; injury tolerance, 10 percent.

B2        Fair Quality Binder.

Medium body, ripe, open, semielastic, strong, normal width, and 19 inches or over in length. Uniformity, 80 percent; injury tolerance, 20 percent.

B3        Low Quality Binder.

Medium, ripe, firm, semielastic, normal strength and width, and 17 inches or over in length. Uniformity, 70 percent; injury tolerance, 30 percent.

Stripper (C Group). This group consists of tobacco from which the trash and trashy Farm Fillers have been removed but does not meet the specifications of the binder group.

U.S.

Grades                      Grade Names, Minimum Specifications, and Tolerances

C1        Fine Quality Stripper.

Heavy, ripe, firm, semielastic, normal strength and width, and 16 inches or over in length. Uniformity, 90 percent; injury tolerance, 10 percent.

C2        Fair Quality Stripper.

Heavy, mature, close, inelastic, normal strength, narrow, and 16 inches or over in length. Uniformity, 80 percent. Tolerances; 5 percent crude, 5 percent frozen, and 20 percent injury.

C3 Low Quality Stripper.

Heavy, immature, close, inelastic, weak, and narrow. Uniformity, 70 percent. Tolerances: 10 percent crude, 10 percent frozen, and 30 percent injury.

Straight Stripped (X Group). This group consists of unsorted tobacco from which the trash has been removed.

U.S.

Grades                      Grade Names, Minimum Specifications, and Tolerances

X1 Fine Quality Straight Stripped.

Heavy, ripe, firm, semielastic, normal strength and width, and 16 inches or over in length. Uniformity, 85 percent; injury tolerance, 15 percent.

X2 Fair Quality Straight Stripped.

Heavy mature, close, inelastic, normal strength, narrow, and 16 inches or over in length. Uniformity, 75 percent. Tolerances: 5 percent crude, 5 percent frozen, and 25 percent injury.

X3 Low Quality Straight Stripped.

Heavy, immature, close, inelastic, weak, and narrow. Uniformity, 60 percent. Tolerances: 10 percent crude, 10 percent frozen, and 40 percent injury.

Farm Filler (Y Group). This group consists of tobacco from the lower portion of the stalk and may include throw out leaves from the Binder and Stripper groups.

U.S.

Grades                      Grade Names, Minimum Specifications, and Tolerances

Y1 Fine Quality Farm Filler.

Thin, ripe, open, semielastic, normal strength and width, and 12 inches or over in length. Uniformity, 85 percent; injury tolerance, 15 percent.

Y2 Fair Quality Farm Filler.

Thin, ripe, firm, inelastic, normal strength, and narrow. Uniformity, 75 percent. Tolerances: 5 percent crude, 5 percent frozen, and 25 percent injury.

Y3 Low Quality Farm Filler.

Thin, mature, close, inelastic, weak, and narrow. Uniformity, 60 percent.  
Tolerances: 10 percent crude, 10 percent frozen, and 40 percent injury.

Nondescript (N Group). Tobacco which does not meet the minimum specifications or exceeds tolerance of the lowest grade of any other group.

U.S.  
Grades Grade Names and Tolerances

N1 First Quality Nondescript.

Tolerances: 20 percent crude, 20 percent frozen, and 60 percent injury.

N2 Second Quality Nondescript.

Over 20 percent crude, over 20 percent frozen, or over 60 percent injury.

Scrap (S Group). A byproduct of unstemmed and stemmed tobacco. Scrap accumulates from handling tobacco in farm buildings, warehouses, packing and conditioning plants, and stemmeries.

U.S.  
Grades Grade Names and Specifications

S Scrap.

Loose, tangled, whole, or broken unstemmed leaves, or the web portion of tobacco leaves reduced to scrap by any process.

## SUMMARY OF STANDARD GRADES

### 3 Grades of Binder

B1  
B2  
B3

### 3 Grades of Stripper

C1  
C2  
C3

### 3 Grades of Straight Stripped

X1  
X2  
X3

### 3 Grades of Farm Filler

Y1  
Y2  
Y3

### 2 Grades of Nondescript

N1  
N2

### 1 Grade of Scrap

S

Tobacco not covered by standard grades is designated as “No-G.”

## KEY TO STANDARD GRADEMARKS

### GROUPS

B - Binder  
C - Stripper  
X - Straight Stripped

Y - Farm Filler  
N - Nondescript  
S - Scrap

### QUALITIES

1 - Fine  
2 - Fair  
3 - Low

