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# Canadian Import Inspection Requirements

February 2026

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## Canadian Import Inspection Requirements

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## INTRODUCTION

This document is designed to give guidance to Specialty Crops Inspection Division and Federal-State Cooperative Market personnel of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on performing fresh product inspections to determine compliance with Canadian import requirements on apples, onions, and potatoes shipped from the United States.

Compliance with the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) guidelines does not excuse failure to comply with the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or any other applicable Federal or State laws or regulations. SCI Division of the Specialty Crops Programs (SC), AMS is responsible for grading/inspecting, audits, and standardization programs of fresh and/or processed fruits and vegetables and related products. The legal authority for grading, auditing and standardization activities are the Agricultural Marketing Acts of 1936 and 1946, as amended.

Applicants may obtain inspections of any fresh and/or processed fruit and vegetable and related products for which they have a financial interest. The inspection service is voluntary and self-supporting and is offered on a fee-for-service basis.

## GUIDE FOR ELECTRONIC USAGE

The AIM system of instructional manuals is available electronically in Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) at the following intranet address:

<https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/ams/AMS-SCI/SitePages/Home.aspx>

When accessed electronically, AIM materials have hyperlinks and hypertext (visible as underlined blue text) available to the PDF user. Clicking on a hyperlink takes the reader to a web site with information relating to the subject. Hypertext links the reader to a different page within the current manual, or a different manual, with information relating to the subject. For example, the hypertext in the Table of Contents allows a reader to go directly to the section of interest in the manual by clicking on the section title.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

The regulations discussed in this instruction are issued by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) under the authority of the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) fresh fruit and vegetable inspectors are authorized by CFIA to perform inspections to determine compliance with Canadian import requirements on commodities grown in the United States.

These instructions apply only to apple, onion, and potato inspections when entering Canada. These instructions do not apply to non-regulated commodities and do not attempt to cover plant quarantine requirements, Customs Service regulations, pesticide residue regulations and other Canadian governmental regulations with which fresh fruits and vegetables moving into Canada must also comply.

### Commodities Requiring USDA Certification for Import into Canada

Apples, onions, and potatoes shipped from the United States into Canada are generally required to have an inspection certificate that confirms compliance with existing U.S. export (apples) and Canadian import requirements related to grade, quality, size, packaging, labeling and phytosanitation (potatoes).

However, there is a distinction based on the origin and the specific route of these commodities:

- **Non-U.S. Grown Commodities (e.g., Chilean apples or Mexican onions) Re-Shipped through the United States to Canada:** In cases where these products are not of U.S. origin but are initially unloaded in the United States before being re-shipped to Canada, a full inspection for compliance with Canadian import requirements is necessary.
- **Commodities Grown Outside of the U.S. with Bonded Transit to Canada:** If these products were grown outside of the United States and are simply passing through the U.S. in bond to be shipped to Canada, they are not subject to inspection for compliance with Canadian import requirements during their transit through the U.S.

See [Inspecting Other Fresh Commodities Destined for Canada](#) section of this manual for guidance on voluntary inspection on commodities not requiring USDA certification for import into Canada.

### Authority to Inspect

Licensed Federal-State shipping point inspectors may issue certificates to certify compliance with Canadian import requirements for any commodity produced in the state where the work is performed and which their federal license authorizes them to inspect. Certification to Canadian import requirements on products from other states or foreign countries must be performed by Federal inspectors or collaborators.

## Timely Inspections

When an inspector issues an export certificate, they are attesting to the quality and condition of the lot at the time of inspection. Inspection certificates do not have an expiration date. It is the responsibility of the applicant/shipper to account for shipping time and distance to the Canadian receiver so that the certified exported lot maintains its quality and condition between the inspection completed date and the date at which the lot is received at the destination.

For Ministerial Exemption (easement), the start date is the day when the initial shipment is delivered from its point of origin to the destination, while the cut-off date is the day when the final shipment covered by the Ministerial Exemptions reaches its origin-to-destination point.

## Inspection Location

Inspection to determine compliance with Canadian import requirements may be obtained in the U.S. at the point of origin of the shipment or at any place between the point of origin and the Canadian port of entry.

It is the policy of the Specialty Crops Inspection (SCI) Division and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide inspection to determine compliance with Canadian import requirements upon request whenever possible, applying the applicable Federal charges for inspection fees and expenses, or to explain to the applicant/shipper that inspection is not available in their area. Applicants are free to determine whether charges for such inspection in their area are more equitable than making arrangements to have their shipments inspected in Canada based on Canadian inspections fees.

## Provincial Requirements

Some Provinces in Canada have their own standards or special requirements over which the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has no control. It is up to the receiver in Canada to notify the applicant/shipper of any of these special requirements to prevent detention of such lots in Canada by provincial officials.

## Unrestricted Inspections

Inspection certificates issued at origin or loading point must be unrestricted and cover the entire lot(s). Re-consigned shipments to Canada that were not inspected at shipping point or en route also must have an unrestricted inspection.

## EXEMPTIONS

### Net Weight, Number of Containers, and Bond Shipments

See Canada's Safe Food for Canadian Regulations [SFCR, Part 6, Division 6, Subdivision B-119, 120](#) for exceptions to the Canadian import requirements relating to net weight, number of containers, and bond shipments.

### **Ministerial Exemptions (Canadian Easements)**

In the absence of adequate Canadian domestic supplies of a regulated commodity, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has the authority under their regulations to waive or “ease” the normal Canadian import requirements for products for repacking or processing. These exceptions to the normal requirements, called “Ministerial Exemptions” by Canada, are commonly referred to in the United States as “Canadian Easements,” “MEs,” or “Waivers,” and are obtained by the Canadian importer from CFIA officials. Easements may waive part or all of the grade, size, and/or packaging or labeling requirements. The easement will spell out what variations from the normal requirements are acceptable or what other minimum grade or specification must be met.

- It is the responsibility of the U.S. grower or shipper or the Canadian importer, not the inspection service, to request easements to Canadian import requirements through the appropriate Canadian channels. Officials of CFIA will inform the Specialty Crops Inspection (SCI) Division’s Regional Operations Support (ROS) office by email of the issuance of all such easements. ROS will review and forward the easement to the proper field office, State office, or Federal Program Manager.

**Note:** The inspector is to accept ROS forwarded easement information only from the local inspection office, the area or State headquarters office, the Regional office, the Federal Program Manager or directly from ROS; never from growers, shippers or Canadian receivers.

- Each easement will have an assigned Control Number. This number shall be shown on the certificate along with any amendment numbers that have been received from the ROS office. The name and address of the receiver also must always be shown on certificates issued for easements. A separate certificate must be prepared for each receiver on products certified under easements.

For additional information see the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) webpage [“Ministerial Exemptions for Safe Food for Canadians Regulations”](#).

### **Test Market Exemptions**

Test Market exemptions are temporary amendments of sections of the Canadian import requirements for specific commodities and may or may not eventually be incorporated into their import regulations, depending on feedback received during the life of the exemption.

Prior to certifying apples, onions, or potatoes to Canadian Import Requirements, go to the CFIA’s [“Test markets issued under the now repealed Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations” webpage](#) to search for any Test Market exemptions for apples, onions, or potatoes which could amend the listed import requirement either in grade, packaging, or labeling requirements.

- This list is subject to change at any time so check it frequently.

- Also be aware that a Test Market exemption can be superseded, either in its entirety or in part, by a subsequent, more recent exemption, so always look for the most recent Test Market exemption shown for the commodity in question.

## COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS

This document provides guidance in conducting inspections of fresh apples, onions, and potatoes intended for export to Canada that are also under Canadian import requirements. As a guide, inspectors will utilize the grading and inspection procedures found in the relevant commodity's USDA [Shipping Point and Market Inspection Instruction handbook](#) and the [General Market Manual](#) when performing these inspections.

To qualify under Canadian import requirements, apples, onions, and potatoes must meet specific standards for minimum grade, size, packaging, labeling and phytosanitation (potatoes only). Apples are subject to additional color requirements. A shipment will not be considered compliant unless both product and packaging fulfill all these criteria. Furthermore, apples exported from the United States to Canada must also satisfy the U.S. Condition Standards for Export and the U.S. Export Apple Act.

### Apples

Canada's Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR) also require apples to meet the U. S. Condition Standards for Export. Meeting the U.S. Condition Standards for Export is in addition to meeting the Canadian import requirements noted above. Although not part of the Canadian import requirements, inspectors must remember that shipments of apples shipped to Canada must also comply with the U.S. Export Apple Act.

Whole apples imported into Canada from the United States are required to meet the pertinent sections of Canada's [Safe Food for Canadian Regulations \(SFCR\)](#). Canadian regulatory requirements for whole apples consist of SFCR Sections 112, 114(2),(3), 117 and 119 which can be found here: [Regulatory requirements: Fresh fruits or vegetables - inspection.canada.ca](#).

These include grade, size, color, packaging, and labeling requirements referenced below. Use the hyperlinks provided to review the specific requirements. Inspectors and supervisors may print a copy of these requirements for situations when internet access is unavailable but are responsible for ensuring printouts are current.

Inspectors will verify these requirements as part of an applicant request for inspection for apples destined for Canada.

#### Grade Requirements

As outlined under [SFCR, Part 6, Division 6, Subdivision B-112, 114 \(2, 3\), 117, 119](#), and the incorporated by reference [Grade Standard Requirements for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Imported from the United States - Paragraphs 1-4](#), the following grade requirements apply for fresh apples:

- Meet the requirements of U.S. Extra Fancy, U.S. Fancy, or U.S. No. 1 for apples, other than a processing grade, except for minimum diameter (i.e., size) and color;
- Meet the requirements of the [U.S. Condition Standards for Export](#).

When apples are being certified for export to Canada, all defects (permanent quality and condition) apply against the grade. Therefore, lots of apples being certified with “factors of condition” grade statements would not meet CFIA import requirements.

### Size Requirements

Minimum diameter of 60 mm (2-3/8 inches)

### Color Requirements

- In the case of U.S. Extra Fancy, meet the color requirements for Canada Extra Fancy, set out in the [Compendium under Grades and Requirements for Apples, Colour Requirements for Apples 16 and 17](#);
- In the case of U.S. Fancy or U.S. No. 1, other than the processing grade, meet the color requirements for Canada Fancy, set out in the [Compendium under Grades and Requirements for Apples, Colour Requirements for Apples 16 and 17](#). While these requirements state that color intensity is to be measured with a colorimeter, CFIA has confirmed that USDA inspectors may visually check that the color is representative of the variety, a colorimeter is not necessary.

### Packaging and Labeling Package Definitions

The SFCR defines two distinct food packaging terms: “prepackaged” and “consumer prepackaged,” which also creates a distinction for the term “prepackaged other than consumer prepackaged” foods.

The definition of “prepackaged” and “consumer prepackaged” can be found [here](#). The definition of “prepackaged other than consumer prepackaged” can be found [here](#).

### Packaging Requirements

SFCR Part 10 – Packaging that apply to apples;

- A. [Division 1 – General](#) – General packaging requirements, including requirements for a package to be clean, and suitable for its intended use, and free from odors that might affect the food.
- B. [Division 2 – Standard Container Sizes](#) and [Standard Container Sizes – Incorporated by Reference \(IBR\) Table 7, Item 1](#) – Requirements for size corresponding to net quantity and consumer prepackaging.

### Labeling Requirements

SFCR Part 11 – Packaging that apply to apples is provided in the labelling requirements for fresh fruits or vegetables of the Industry Labelling Tool, specifically Table 1 and 2. These include mandatory labelling requirements for common name, net quantity, name and principal place of business, grade, size, country of origin, variety.

#### A. Consumer Prepackaged

Consumer prepackaged fruits and vegetables are in their final packaging and ready for sale or sold to an individual, to be used for non-commercial purposes. This includes foods that are sold directly to consumers but does not include foods sold by one company to another that are not intended for retail sale.

[Table 1 – Summary of labelling requirements for consumer prepackaged fresh fruits or vegetables.](#)

#### B. Prepackaged Other Than Consumer Prepackaged

Prepackaged other than consumer prepackaged fruits and vegetables are packaged in shipping or other bulk containers that are sold only at levels of trade other than retail.

[Table 2 – Summary of labelling requirements for prepackaged other than consumer prepackaged fresh fruits or vegetables.](#)

#### C. Declaration of Variety

The label of prepackaged apples must show the name of the variety. As this applies to fresh apples for which a grade is prescribed under the SFCR, fresh-cut or minimally processed apples are excluded from this requirement.

The declaration of apple variety may be shown on any part of the label except that part of the label, if any, that is applied solely to the bottom of a container. The declaration of apple variety must be shown in characters that are at least 1.6 mm in height.

If properly labeled containers of fresh apples are placed inside a second container, resulting in prepackaged other than consumer prepackaged fresh apples, the second container is not required to be labelled with the name of the apple variety.

#### D. Diameter Size Range (Untiered Only)

The diameter size range of apples, as indicated below, must be shown on the label that is applied to a container of untiered apples only (apples that are not in a tray pack). This is not required when the container is transparent or is an open basket of not more than 12.5 L (11 quarts) capacity or contains apples of the Canada Commercial Cookers grade.

- 60 mm to 63 mm (2  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches to 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches)
- 60 mm to 70 mm (2  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches to 2  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches)
- 60 mm and up (2  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches and up)
- 63 mm to 70 mm (2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches to 2  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches)
- 63 mm to 76 mm (2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches to 3 inches)
- 63 mm and up (2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches and up)
- 70 mm to 76 mm (2  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches to 3 inches)
- 70 mm and up (2  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches and up), or
- 76 mm and up (3 inches and up)

The diameter size range must be shown in close proximity to the grade name and in the same size characters as the grade name.

#### U.S. Condition Standard For Export (7 CFR 51. 321)

Canada's *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR)* require apples to meet the U.S. Condition Standards for Export. Meeting the U.S. Condition Standards for Export is in addition to meeting the Canadian import requirements noted above.

Apples must be:

- Not more than 5 percent of the apples in any lot shall be further advanced in maturity than firm ripe.
- Not more than 5 percent of the apples in any lot shall be damaged by storage scab.
- Not more than a total of 5 percent of the apples in any lot shall be affected by scald, internal breakdown, freezing injury, or decay; or damaged by bitter pit, Jonathan spot, water core 5 except that invisible water core shall not be scored as damage when these condition standards are applied to the Fuji variety of apples, or other condition factors: *Provided, That:*
  - Not more than a total of 2 percent shall be allowed for apples affected by decay and soft scald.
  - Not more than 2 percent shall be allowed for apples affected by internal breakdown;

**Note:** "Damage by water core" means externally invisible water core existing around the core and extending to water core in the vascular bundles or surrounding the vascular bundles when the affected areas surrounding three or more vascular bundles meet or coalesce, or existing in more than slight degree outside the circular area formed by the vascular bundles, or any externally visible water core.

- Container packs shall comply with packing requirements specified in § 51. 310 of the United States Standards for Grades of Apples.

Any lot of apples shall be considered as meeting the U.S. Condition Standards for Export if the entire lot averages within the requirements specified: *Provided*, That no package in any lot shall have more than double the percentages specified, except that for packages which contain 10 pounds or less, individual packages in any lot may have not more than three times the tolerance or three apples (whichever is the greater amount).

#### U.S. Export Apple Act ([7 CFR Part 33](#))

Although not part of the Canadian import requirements, inspectors must remember that shipments of apples to Canada must also comply with the U.S. Export Apple Act.

While the U.S. Export Apple Act requires inspection and certification only on U.S. grown fruit, foreign grown apples that have been entered into U.S. commerce are also subject to the Act. If there is reason to believe that a load or lot has been commingled with domestic products, it must be inspected as if it were a domestically grown product. Foreign shipments moving through United States ports on through bills of lading to foreign destinations are exempt from the inspection requirements of the Act.

The above-described policy does not affect certification under the Canadian Import Requirements. Shipments of apples to Canada, whether they be foreign or domestic apples, must be certified as they have been in the past. However, a 2014 amendment exempts apples shipped to Canada in bulk containers weighing more than 100 pounds from USDA inspection and certification to the Export Apple Act, but such loads or lots still have to be inspected and certified to the requirements, if any, of the Ministerial Exemption (Canadian Easement) issued for that load or lot.

See the Export Apple Act Requirements section of the [Apples, Shipping Point and Market Inspection Instructions](#) for minimum requirements and inspection guidance.

## Onions

Whole onions imported into Canada from the United States are required to meet pertinent sections of Canada's [Safe Food for Canadian Regulations \(SFCR\) Part 6, Division 6, Subdivision B-112, 115, 117, 119](#) and the incorporated by reference [Grade Standard Requirements for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Imported from the United States](#) document.

These include grade, size, packaging, and labeling requirements referenced below. Use the hyperlinks provided to review the specific requirements. Inspectors and supervisors may print a copy of these requirements for situations when internet access is unavailable but are responsible for ensuring printouts are current.

Inspectors will verify these requirements as part of an applicant request for inspection for onions destined for Canada.

### Grade Requirements

See *Grade Standard Requirements for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Imported from the United States* - [Paragraphs 1-3](#), and [28 \(1\), \(2\)\(a\)](#). Where as “one of the grades for onions” will be U.S. No. 1, U.S. Export No. 1, U.S. Commercial, U.S. Combination, U.S. No. 1 Boilers, U.S. No. 1 Picklers, or U.S. No. 2.

### Size Requirements

See *Grade Standard Requirements for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Imported from the United States* - [Paragraph 28 \(2\)\(b\)](#) (for all U.S. grades except U.S. No. 1 Picklers) and [\(3\)\(a\)\(b\)](#) (for U.S. No. 1).

### Packaging and Labeling Packaging Definitions

The SFCR defines two distinct food packaging terms: “prepackaged” and “consumer prepackaged,” which also creates a distinction for the term “prepackaged other than consumer prepackaged” foods.

The definition of “prepackaged” and “consumer prepackaged” can be found [here](#). The definition of “prepackaged other than consumer prepackaged” can be found [here](#).

### Packaging Requirements

Generally, all packages of onions to which Canadian import requirements apply must be properly packaged as per specific requirements. A shipment does not meet the Canadian import requirements unless packages meet the requirements below.

See *SFCR, Part 10, Division 1 - General, 186 (a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)*.

There are no standard container sizes requirements for onions.

### Labeling Requirements

Generally, all packages of potatoes to which Canadian import requirements apply must be properly labelled or marked as per specific requirements. A shipment does not meet the Canadian import requirements unless labels and markings meet the requirements below.

While labeling requirements are in [SFCR Part 11](#), for a user friendly summary see the *Labeling Requirements for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables* [Table 1 \(for consumer prepackaged\)](#) and [Table 2 \(for prepackaged other than consumer prepackaged\)](#).

### **Potatoes**

Whole potatoes imported into Canada from the United States are required to meet pertinent sections of Canada’s [Safe Food for Canadian Regulations \(SFCR\) Part 6, Division 6](#),

[Subdivision B-112, 113, 117, 119](#) and the incorporated by reference [Grade Standard Requirements for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Imported from the United States](#) document.

These include grade, size, packaging, labeling and phytosanitary requirements referenced below. Use the hyperlinks provided to review the specific requirements. Inspectors and supervisors may print a copy of these requirements for situations when internet access is unavailable but are responsible for ensuring printouts are current.

Inspectors will verify these requirements as part of an applicant request for inspection for potatoes destined for Canada.

#### Grade Requirements

See *Grade Standard Requirements for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Imported from the United States* - [Paragraphs 1-3](#), and [30 \(1\)\(a\)\(b\)\(c\)](#).

#### Size Requirements

See *Grade Standard Requirements for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Imported from the United States* - [Paragraphs 30 \(1\)\(d\), \(2\), \(3\), 31](#).

#### Packaging and Labeling Package Definitions

The SFCR defines two distinct food packaging terms: “prepackaged” and “consumer prepackaged,” which also creates a distinction for the term “prepackaged other than consumer prepackaged” foods.

The definition of “prepackaged” and “consumer prepackaged” can be found [here](#). The definition of “prepackaged other than consumer prepackaged” can be found [here](#).

#### Packaging Requirements

Generally, all packages of potatoes to which Canadian import requirements apply must be properly packaged as per specific requirements. A shipment does not meet the Canadian import requirements unless packages meet the requirements below.

See *SFCR, Part 10, Division 1-General, 186 (a)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)*, and [Division 2-Standard Container Sizes, 187, 188 \(1\)\(2\)\(3\)](#) and *Standard Container Sizes – Incorporated by Reference (IBR) [Table 7, Item 3](#)*.

#### Labeling Requirements

Generally, all packages of potatoes to which Canadian import requirements apply must be properly labelled or marked as per specific requirements. A shipment does not meet the Canadian import requirements unless labels and markings meet the requirements below.

While labeling requirements are in [SFCR Part 11](#), for a user friendly summary see the *Labeling*

*Requirements for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables* [Table 1 \(for consumer prepackaged\)](#) and [Table 2 \(for prepackaged other than consumer prepacked\)](#).

### Phytosanitary Requirements for Potatoes

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) [D-96-05: Phytosanitary Requirements for the Importation and Domestic Movement of Non-Propagative Potatoes \(\*Solanum Tuberosum\*\) and Related Potato Articles, Including Associated Soil](#), includes the following sections dealing with certification of the state of origin, transport vehicle cleanliness and sprout inhibition.

#### A. 2.6 - Certification of the State of Origin

The certification of the state of origin is the responsibility of the USDA and the statement of origin must appear on official USDA documents. Documents which may be used for certification of the state of origin include:

- USDA-AMS SC-205 Specialty Crops Program Export Form Certificate (or equivalent form type, see [Certification](#) section).
- USDA-AMS FV-184 or SC-184 Federal-State Inspection Certificate
- USDA-APHIS-PPQ Form 540 Certificate
- A Phytosanitary Certificate issued under the authority of the USDA
- An official letter on USDA letterhead indicating the state of origin

For each shipment (excluding bulk loads and bulk bin loads) the applicant/exporter must provide a signed and dated affidavit from the grower/shipper of the potatoes that states, “the potatoes in this shipment were grown in (State).”

For bulk loads and bulk bin loads shipped to Canada under Ministerial Exemption (Easement), one affidavit per Easement, signed and dated by the grower/shipper must be on file in the inspection office stating that “the potatoes shipped under Canadian Easement No. \_\_\_\_\_ were grown in (state).”

The following statement would then appear on the USDA inspection certificate:

“Based on documentation, the potatoes in this shipment were grown in (State).”

#### B. 2.7 - Certification of Transport Vehicle Cleanliness

Vehicles can be a pathway for the introduction of quarantine pests due to the presence of soil and plant debris. Cleanliness requirements for vehicles transporting bulk potatoes from the U.S. to Canada under Canadian Ministerial Exemptions, commonly referred to

in the U.S. as Canadian Easements, require the USDA to issue one of the following certificates:

- USDA-APHIS-PPQ Form 540 - Certificate
- USDA-AMS SC-205 Specialty Crops Program Export Form Certificate (or equivalent form type, see [Certification](#) section)

The inspector will make visual observations of the bulk potato transport vehicle. The vehicle must be absent of soil, dirt and/or plant debris. If soil, dirt, and/or plant debris is observed to be present on the vehicle, high-pressure washing of the entire vehicle assembly, including wheels and undercarriage is required prior to entry into Canada.

Once these requirements are met the following statement must appear on the certificate:

“This carrier meets Canadian Plant Health cleanliness requirements.”

This statement must be entered onto the certificate prior to issuance in the U.S. It cannot be added or issued upon arrival in Canada.

C. 2.8 - Sprout Inhibition

Bulk or packaged potatoes may require treatment with a recognized sprout inhibitor for the purpose of mitigating the risk of introducing tuber-borne pests if the potatoes were to be planted in Canadian soil.

New potatoes packed within 30 days of harvest in containers of 22.7 kg (50 lb.) or less will be exempt from this treatment. This exemption is based on the premise that the potatoes are being imported for direct consumption as new potatoes. Also, potatoes graded and packed shortly after harvest are not suitable for immediate planting and are not destined for long term storage.

If the potatoes originate from a state known to be infested with any of the pests listed in CFIA D-96-05, [Section 1.3](#), with the exclusion of Potato Cyst Nematodes (PCN) and are:

1. Destined for direct consumption (not for repacking), one of the following three conditions must be met:

- For potato tubers treated with a sprout inhibitor, commercially packaged in containers of 22.7 kg (50 lb.) or less, and meeting U.S. No. 1 grade requirements, the following statement must appear on the document certifying the state of origin:

“The potatoes in this shipment were treated with a sprout inhibitor.”

- For potato tubers graded and commercially packaged in containers of 22.7 kg (50 lb.) or less within 30 days following harvest, and meeting U.S. No. 1 grade requirements, the following statement must appear on the document certifying the state of origin:

“The potatoes in this shipment were packed within 30 days of harvest.”

- For potato tubers commercially packaged in containers greater than 22.7 kg (50 lb.) and meeting U.S. No. 1 grade requirements, one of the following statements must appear on the document certifying the state of origin:

“The potatoes in this shipment were treated with a sprout inhibitor.”

*or*

“The potatoes in this shipment were packed within 30 days of harvest.”

2. Destined for packing, repacking, or processing:

- For potato tubers imported for packing/repacking and treated with a sprout inhibitor in the U.S., the following statement must appear on the document certifying the state of origin:

“The potatoes in this shipment were treated with a sprout inhibitor.”

3. Potato tubers produced in a pest-free area or pest-free place of production or destined for direct consumption (not for repacking) and commercially packaged in containers of 22.7 kg (50 lb.) or less:

- A valid phytosanitary certificate is required with additional declarations. See CFIA D-96-05, [Section 3.3.3](#) and [3.4.1](#)

If the potatoes originate from potato cyst nematode-regulated areas in the continental U.S. the importation of potato tubers in packages exceeding 22.7 kg (50 lb.) is prohibited.

## CERTIFICATION

To comply with Canadian import requirements apples, onions, and potatoes must meet the minimum grade, size, package, and labeling requirements. A shipment cannot be certified as to meeting Canadian import requirements unless product and packages meet these requirements.

If a lot fails....

As outlined under [SFCR, Part 6, Division 6, Subdivision B-117, Endorsement \(2\)](#) for lots that meet the Canadian import requirements a Specialty Crops Program Export Form certificate will

be issued with product name, number and type of containers, description of product, U.S. grade and stating, "Meets Canadian Import Requirements for Grade, Packaging, Labelling and Standard Container Size. "

Only certain certificate form types are acceptable, they are:

### **Paper Forms**

- [SC-205, Specialty Crops Program Export Form Certificate](#) (2023 to current)
- SC-205, Certificate of Inspection for Canadian Destinations (2017 to 2023)
- FV-205, Memorandum of Inspection for Canadian Destinations (prior to 2017)

### **Electronic Forms**

- SC-205-CG, Specialty Crops Program Export Form Certificate (Georgia State National Commodity Inspection Program)
- FV-E205, Inspection for Canadian Destination (Fresh Electronic Inspection Reporting Resource System - FEIRS)

These forms must be used whether or not the load is being certified for compliance with Canadian import requirements or with requirements of any easements issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). If a shipment is destined for more than one receiver or destination, it is only necessary to issue one certificate covering the shipment, except for shipments under Canadian easements. However, if requested by the applicant, separate certificates may be prepared for each destination or receiver on regular shipments.

Since these forms are intended to be used for loads destined for Canada, the inspector should be assured that the lot or load being certified is destined for Canada. If the inspector knows or has evidence that the lot or load is not going to Canada, the request for inspection shall be refused.

### **Detailed Inspection Notesheets**

Detailed inspection notesheets are required for every Canadian import requirement inspection. While the SC-205-CG utilizes a corresponding digital notesheet the other SC-205 equivalent form types have no corresponding notesheet, thus inspectors must utilize one of the two options below to keep detailed notesheets:

1. Perform the full inspection on a FV/SC-300N or Federal-State numbered paper notesheet to record the details of the inspection, then complete the SC-205 (or equivalent form type) utilizing the detailed sampling results from the paper notesheet. No other paper notesheets or paper documents are to be used. The FV/SC-300N or Federal-State numbered paper notesheet will be kept on file with the corresponding SC-237

Application for Inspection. Fee for the inspection will be listed on the SC-205 (or equivalent form type) issued.

2. Perform the full inspection utilizing the Fresh Electronic Inspection Reporting/Resource System (FEIRS) electronic program's FV-E300 and then complete the FEIRS FV-E205.
  - The same Carrier/Lot ID information (PO number, trailer license number, bill of lading number, etc.) listed on the SC-237 will be used.
  - The fee for the inspection will be listed on the FV-E300 with a remark cross-referencing it with the FV-E205 issued.
  - On the issued FV-E205 list the completed FV-E300 certificate number under the "Cert/Worksheet Num" block and "NO CHARGE" under Estimated Fee with a remark cross-referencing the estimated fee that was charged on the FV-E300.

**FEIRS FV-E205 Certificate**

 <p><b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE</b> http://FPBInspections.ams.usda.gov</p>	<b>INSP FOR CANADIAN DEST</b> C-154-0198-00137  <b>PAGE 1 of 1</b>			
<b>NOTICE TO APPLICANT / SHIPPER:</b> The ORIGINAL of this certificate must accompany regulated shipments to Canada and be presented to Canada Customs for entry. If the original does not accompany shipment, the shipment may be denied.				
<i>entry or placed under detention for failure to comply with Agriculture Canada's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations.</i>				
<b>CERT / WORKSHEET NUM:</b> T-154-0198-02044	<b>APPLICANT:</b> (00000000)TEST APPLICANT WASHINGTON, DC	<b>STARTED:</b> 2/22/2017 3:54 PM <b>COMPLETED:</b> 2/22/2017 4:10 PM		
<b>CARRIER ID / ORDER NUM:</b> 12345EF-CT 12345EF-CT	<b>RECBVER:</b> APPLES A PLENTY MONTREAL, CN	<b>PASSWORD FOR ONLINE ACCESS</b> 2ZGRH5N4ZK93V4HA		
<b>INSP SITE:</b> MONTPELIER, VT	<b>MARKET OFFICE:</b> MONTPELIER, VT	<b>ESTIMATED FEE:</b> <b>NO CHARGE</b>		
<b>REMARKS:</b> FEE CHARGED ON T-154-0198-02044				
All products described below meet Canadian import requirements of section 35 (1) of Agriculture Canada's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations or meet requirements of ministerial exemption (easement) issued by Agriculture Canada as follows:				
CONTRACT No.: with AM ENDMENT If any Apples or Pears are described below, such fruit meet requirements of the Export Apple and Pear Act, and this certificate constitutes and EXPORT FORM CERTIFICATE				
<b>PRODUCT</b>	<b>NUMBER AND TYPE OF CONTAINER</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT / SERVICE (BRAND, VARIETY, SIZE, ORIGIN, etc.)</b>	<b>GRADE</b>	<b>CWT</b>
APPLES, RED	500 CARTONS	OUIVA, FUJI, SIZE 64, PRODUCE OF CHILE	US NO 1	200

### Completing the SC-205 (or Equivalent Form Type)

#### Date

Enter the month, day, and year that the certificate is issued. This date will often be the same as the date of inspection, but it does not necessarily have to be the same date if notes or prior certification indicates that the lot meets all Canadian import requirements. This is different than all of our other certificate forms, on which we enter the date of inspection.

**Applicant/Shipper**

The financially interested party requesting the inspection is the applicant regardless of whether it is a shipper, broker, or carrier. For Canadian shipments, the applicant and shipper are usually the same party. If that is the case, simply enter the company name and address. The applicant is always responsible for the payment of any inspection fees and associated expenses regardless of any agreements with other parties.

**Receiver**

Enter the name of the company that is to receive the shipment in Canada. If the receiver is not known at the time of issuance of the certificate, enter “Unknown” in this block. If there are to be multiple receivers covered by one certificate, enter “Various Receivers. ”

Certificates issued for products shipped under Canadian easements must always show the name and address of the receiver. If the receiver is not known or is not furnished by the applicant, the certificate may not be issued for such shipments. The easement form forwarded by the Specialty Crops Inspection Division’s Regional Operation Support (ROS) office will always show the name and address of the receiver.

**Certificate/Worksheet Number**

If the certificate is being issued from a prior certificate or a Federal-State numbered notesheet (used in some states), that is still valid as per established time frames, enter the prior certificate number or the notesheet number in this block.

**Contract Number/Amendment**

Fill in these blanks as applicable only on certificates issued for product shipped under easements. If the form being used does not have this block record under Remarks.

**Product**

Enter the common name of each commodity described on the line containing the description of that commodity. When applicable, the type may also be shown under this heading. See examples below:

- BGG ONIONS, YELLOW
- NORTHERN ONIONS, RED
- APPLES, RED
- POTATOES, ROUND RED

**Number and Type of Containers**

Enter the number of containers for each lot of product described on that line and the type of package in which the product is packed. It is not necessary to certify the container count as inspector's count unless specifically requested by the applicant.

**Description of Product**

Enter the brand, variety marks, size marks, origin, and/or any other marking or description of the lot necessary to identify the lot. It is seldom necessary to enter all of these markings.

**Grade**

Enter the grade which the product meets to "Meet Canadian import requirements" or to meet the requirements of an easement. If additional space is needed, use additional lines and/or some of the space from the "Description of Product" block. Remember, when certifying to a processing grade under an easement, the grade statement must be qualified to show upon which standard and grade the inspection is based.

When apples are being certified for export to Canada, all defects (permanent quality and condition) apply against the grade. Therefore, lots of apples being certified with "factors of condition" grade statements would not meet CFIA import requirements.

**Weight**

Enter the hundred-weight (CWT) by dividing the total weight inspected by 100.

**Remarks**

Enter brief narrative statements regarding important or unusual conditions, facts, or observations. The statements may be entered if deemed by the inspector to be relevant to the inspection and necessary to provide financially interested parties with a complete inspection report, or may be entered as additional information at the request of the applicant.

Regardless of the form issued, the certificate must state, "Meets Canadian Import Requirements for Grade, Packaging, Labeling, and Standard Container Size." Newer versions of these forms may contain this statement already, if not, the inspector will enter it manually under Remarks.

**Fees****A. Previously Inspected**

When a Canadian import requirement certificate (i.e., SC-205) is requested for product on which an unrestricted inspection has been previously performed that proved the product met Canadian Import Requirements, and that certificate is still valid as per established time frames, a subsequent inspection is not required and the fee for issuing the SC-205 must be charged on an Hourly Based Inspection Services basis with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour

minimum. In these instances, the original certificate is referenced on the Canadian import requirement certificate (i.e., SC-205).

**B. Not Previously Inspected or Expired Timeframe**

For lots not previously inspected or where the timeframe for the certificate has expired, detailed notesheets are required and fees must be based on the lot equivalency rate for Quality and Condition.

Refer to the [General Market Manual](#), Appendix II - Schedule of User Fees, for current fee rates.

**Issuance**

Regardless of the SC-205 form type issued, provide the applicant with a legible and clean certificate as the driver of the transport must present the certificate to Canadian border agents. If the load arrives at the Canadian border without the issued certificate the applicant may contact the Specialty Crops Inspection (SCI) Division at [SCIInspectionoperations@usda.gov](mailto:SCIInspectionoperations@usda.gov) to request SCI email or fax CFIA (or the Canadian border location directly) a memo as evidence of inspection that states:

- Type of product;
- Number and type of packages;
- Marks or brands on packages;
- Shipper;
- Receiver;
- Conveyance number or license number;
- The serial number of the certificate which must have been issued prior to shipment.

**INSPECTING OTHER FRESH COMMODITIES DESTINED FOR CANADA**

The above guidance applies only to fresh apple, onion, and potato inspections when entering into Canada. This guidance does not apply to other Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regulated import fresh commodities or non-regulated fresh commodities as they are not required by CFIA to be inspected and certified by USDA. However, shippers may request voluntary inspections on these other commodities. USDA can inspect and certify that these commodities, exported from the U.S., meet the [Safe Food for Canadian Regulations \(SFCR\)](#) requirements.

To find the grade, labeling and other specific import requirements for commodities other than apples, onions or potatoes visit the [Importing Fresh Fruit or Vegetables](#) page on the CFIA website.

A USDA-AMS SC-205 Specialty Crops Program Export Form Certificate (or equivalent form type, see [Certification](#) section) may be used to certify the inspected load meets the SFCR requirements.

- In remarks state, “Inspection based on Canadian Import Requirements at applicant’s request.”

Contact the Specialty Crops Inspection Division’s Regional Operations Support team at [SCLinspectionoperations@usda.gov](mailto:SCLinspectionoperations@usda.gov) for questions.