



United States Department of Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

Specialty
Crops
Program

Specialty
Crops
Inspection
Division

United States Standards for Grades of Lima Beans

Effective September 6, 2016

This issue of the United States Standards for Grades of Lima Beans (81 FR 51297) supersedes the previous issue which has been in effect since January 5, 1938.

Voluntary U.S. grade standards are issued under the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, which provides for the development of official U.S. grades to designate different levels of quality. These grade standards are available for use by producers, suppliers, buyers, and consumers. As in the case of other standards for grades of fresh and processed fruits, vegetables, and specialty crops these standards are designed to facilitate orderly marketing by providing a convenient basis for buying and selling, for establishing quality control programs, and for determining loan values.

The U.S. grade standards and inspection instructions for all fresh and processed fruits, vegetables, and specialty crops are available on the internet and upon request at the address below. These documents provide detailed interpretations of the grade standards and provide step-by-step procedures for grading the product.

Grade standards are issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) after careful consideration of all data and views submitted during rulemaking. The Department welcomes suggestions for improving the standards in future revisions. Comments may be submitted to, and copies of standards and inspection instructions obtained from:

Director, Specialty Crops Inspection Division
Specialty Crops Program,
USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, STOP 0240
Washington, D.C. 20250

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Note: Compliance with the provisions of these standards shall not excuse failure to comply with the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or with applicable State laws and regulations.

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Grades

§51.3805 U.S. No. 1.

“**U.S. No. 1**” consists of pods of lima beans of similar varietal characteristics which are fairly well filled and not excessively small, not badly misshapen, and which are fresh, and not overmature, free from soft decay, sprouted beans, worm holes, and from damage caused by dirt, russeting, scars, leaves or other foreign matter, freezing, hail, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means.

- (a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than a total of 10 percent, by weight, of the pods of lima beans in any lot may be below the requirements of this grade, but not more than one-half of this tolerance, or 5 percent, shall be allowed for defects causing serious damage, and not more than one-fifth of this amount, or 1 percent, shall be allowed for lima beans affected by soft decay.

§51.3806 U.S. Combination.

“**U.S. Combination**” consists of a combination of U.S. No. 1 and U.S. No. 2 lima beans: *Provided*, That at least 75 percent, by weight, meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade.

- (a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than a total of 10 percent, by weight, of the pods of lima beans in any lot may be below the requirements of U.S. No. 2 grade, but not more than one-tenth of this amount, or 1 percent, shall be allowed for lima beans affected by soft decay. No part of this tolerance shall be allowed to reduce for the lot as a whole the percentage of U.S. No. 1 lima beans required in the combination but individual containers may have not more than 10 percent less than the percentage of U.S. No. 1 lima beans required.

§51.3807 U.S. No. 2.

“**U.S. No. 2**” consists of pods of lima beans of similar varietal characteristics, which are reasonably well filled, fairly fresh and not overmature, free from soft decay and from serious damage caused by dirt, russeting, scars, leaves or other foreign matter, freezing, hail, disease, insects, or mechanical or other means.

- (a) In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than a total of 10 percent, by weight, of the pods of lima beans in any lot may be below the requirements of this grade, but not more than one-tenth of this amount, or 1 percent, shall be allowed for lima beans affected by soft decay.

Reserved

§51.3808 Reserved.

Application of Tolerances

§51.3809 Application of tolerances.

The contents of individual packages in the lot, based on sample inspection, are subject to the following limitations:

- (a) For a tolerance of 10 percent or more, individual packages in any lot may contain not more than one and one-half times the tolerance specified: *Provided*, That the average for the entire lot is within the tolerance specified for the grade.
- (b) For a tolerance of less than 10 percent, individual packages in any lot may contain not more than double the tolerance specified: *Provided*, That the average for the entire lot is within the tolerance specified for the grade.

Definitions

§51.3810 Similar varietal characteristics.

“**Similar varietal characteristics**” means that the pods of lima beans in any container are of the same general type.

§51.3811 Fairly well filled and not excessively small.

“**Fairly well filled and not excessively small**” means that more than one-half of each pod shall be filled with fairly well and/or well developed beans but that no pod may have less than two fairly well and/or well developed beans. Pods that are just half filled with at least fairly well developed beans but have enough additional beans a little smaller than those considered fairly well developed so as to make the equivalent in volume to the beans in a pod more than half filled with at least fairly well developed beans shall be considered as fairly well filled.

§51.3812 Reasonably well filled.

“**Reasonably well filled**” means that not less than a third of each pod is filled with fairly well and/or well developed beans. Pods that are not a third filled with at least fairly well developed beans but have enough beans a little smaller than those considered fairly well developed so as to make the equivalent in volume to the beans in a pod one-third filled with at least fairly well developed beans, shall be considered reasonably well filled.

§51.3813 Badly misshapen.

“**Badly misshapen**” means that the pods are badly constricted, crooked, curled, twisted, or otherwise badly malformed.

§51.3814 Fresh.

“**Fresh**” means that the pods are not more than slightly wilted and flabby.

§51.3815 Fairly fresh.

“**Fairly fresh**” means that the pods are not badly wilted and flabby.

§51.3816 Overmature.

“**Overmature**” means that the beans have developed beyond that stage of growth at which they are desirable for use as fresh beans. Pods that are becoming yellow and dry or beans that do not show a tinge of green color on the cotyledons after removing the outer skin, or have become hard, starchy and brittle shall be considered as overmature.

§51.3817 Damage.

“**Damage**” means any defect, or any combination of defects, which materially detracts from the appearance, or the edible or marketing quality. Dirt or russeting which materially detracts from the appearance of the lot shall be considered as damage.

§51.3818 Serious damage.

“**Serious damage**” means any defect, or any combination of defects, which seriously detracts from the appearance, or the edible or marketing quality.