



United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Specialty Crops Inspection Division

PATCH # 110

DOCUMENT: Apples Shipping Point and Market Inspection Instructions March 2005

REMARKS: This patch provides examples that reiterate current USDA policy regarding the scoring of condition defects for fresh apples after storage or transit, and corresponding grade statements.

The restrictive percentages of defects listed in the Export Apple Act, and in Section 51.321 U.S. Condition Standards for Export, in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Apples are separate from the requirements of the grade. Therefore, all condition defects must be evaluated on the basis of injury, damage, and serious damage based on the grade being applied.

Determining and Reporting Grade When Applicable Grade Tolerances Are Exceeded

Shipping Point

At time of packing, prior to storage or transit: Score all defects (permanent quality and condition defects) against the grade. For example, report a lot with 12% injury by bruising, and no other defects, as "Fails to grade U.S. Extra Fancy account grade defects" or applicable grade according to the facts (see certificate example 1).

After storage (more than 7 days): Separate defects based on quality and condition factors. For example, report a lot with 12% injury by limb rubs as "Fails to grade U.S. Extra Fancy account grade defects" or applicable grade. If the lot had 12% injury by bruising, or other condition defect(s) that exceeded the tolerances for grade, and the quality defects did not exceed the lot/container tolerance, report the lot as "U.S. Extra Fancy, bruising being a factor of condition" or applicable grade (see certificate example 2).

Market Inspections (en route or at destination)

Separate defects based on quality and condition factors. Report a lot with 12 % injury by limb rubs as "Fails to grade U.S. Extra Fancy account quality" or applicable grade. If the lot had 12% injury by bruising, or other condition defect(s) that exceeded the tolerances for grade, report the lot as "U.S. Extra Fancy, bruising being a factor of condition" (see certificate example 3).

This PATCH represents official guidance. This PATCH is scheduled to be incorporated into the document listed above. After incorporation into the document listed above this PATCH will become obsolete. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION

S = EXAMPLE #1

FEDERAL-STATE INSPECTION CERTIFICATE

SUBLOT

INSPECTION STARTED:		M M D D Y Y 0907116	Hour Min. 11 : 30	A/P A M	This certificate is issued pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended and is admissible as prima facie evidence in all courts of the United States. WARNING: Any person who knowingly shall falsely make, issue, alter, forge, or counterfeit this certificate, or participate in any such actions, is subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.
INSPECTION COMPLETED:		M M D D Y Y 0907116	Hour Min. 12 : 35	A/P P M	
APPLICANT: DAVE'S FARMS			CITY/STATE: SOMEWHERE, CA		PLI:
INSPECTION POINT: SAME AS ABOVE					OTHER ID:
CONVEYANCE NO:			TYPE:		NOTES/SHEET NO.:
PRODUCT/VARIETY	NUMBER AND SIZE OF CONTAINER	DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT (Brand, Markings, Size, Quality/Condition, etc.)			GRADE
APPLES, RED DELICIOUS	500 CARTONS	DAVE'S FARMS, U.S. EXTRA FANCY NET WT. 40 LBS., 72 CT. 75 TO 100% GOOD RED COLOR			FAILS TO GRADE U.S. EXTRA FANCY ACCOUNT GRADE DEFECTS
Apples were inspected at time of packing and prior to storage, and had 12% injury by bruising.					
ABOVE PRODUCTS MEET REQUIREMENTS OF MARKETING ORDER					
*VARIETY OF PRODUCT AND NUMBER OF CONTAINERS ARE PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT AND ARE NOT BEING CERTIFIED BY THE INSPECTOR UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED					
FOR DATA ENTRY ONLY			REMARKS:		
CORRECTS F.V.154 CERTIFICATE NUMBER					
21					
CWT	ON-SITE HOURS	I, the undersigned, a duly authorized inspector of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby certify that samples of the herein described product were inspected and the grades as shown by said samples were as herein stated.			FEE \$
INSPECTED BY	O. T. (hrs)				O. T. \$
	TRAVEL MILES				EXP. \$
	O. T. (hrs)				ESTIMATED TOTAL
	OTHER	Inspector's Signature			\$\$\$\$
\$		INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE			DATE ISSUED

FV-154 (10-93) (Previous versions may be used)

PATCH # 110 Apple Grade Statements (September 10, 2026)
SCI Division Inspection Series
Page 2 of 4

Certificate Example 2

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION				S - EXAMPLE #2
FEDERAL-STATE INSPECTION CERTIFICATE				☐ SUBLOT
INSPECTION STARTED: M M D D Y Y		Hour Min.	A/P	This certificate is issued pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended and is admissible as prima facie evidence in all courts of the United States. WARNING: Any person who knowingly shall falsely make, issue, alter, forge, or counterfeit this certificate, or participate in any such actions, is subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.
07 06 16		08 : 30	A	
INSPECTION COMPLETED: M M D D Y Y		Hour Min.	A/P	
07 06 16		10 : 15	A	
APPLICANT:		CITY/STATE:	PLI:	
GIL AND GIL GROWERS		SOMEWHERE, OR		
INSPECTION POINT:		OTHER ID:		
SAME AS ABOVE				
CONVEYANCE NO.		TYPE	NOTESHEET NO.	
PRODUCT/VARIETY	NUMBER AND SIZE OF CONTAINER	DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT (Brand, Markings, Size, Quality/Condition, etc.)	GRADE	
APPLES, RED DELICIOUS	1000 CARTONS	G&G GROWERS, NET WT 40 LBS.	FAILS TO GRADE	
		U.S. EXTRA FCY, 2-1/2 INCH MIN. DIA.	U.S. EXTRA FANCY	
		80 TO 95% GOOD RED COLOR	2-1/2" MIN. DIA.	
			ACCOUNT GRADE DEFECTS:	
Apples have been in storage more than 7 days and have 12% injury by limb rubs.				
APPLES, RED DELICIOUS	475 CARTONS	G&G GROWERS, NET WT. 40 LBS.	U.S. EXTRA FANCY	
		U.S. EXTRA FCY, 80 CT.	BRUISING BEING A FACTOR OF CONDITION	
		85 TO 100% GOOD RED COLOR		
Apples have been in storage more than 7 days and have 12% injury by bruising.				
ABOVE PRODUCTS MEET REQUIREMENTS OF MARKETING ORDER				
*VARIETY OF PRODUCT AND NUMBER OF CONTAINERS ARE PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT AND ARE NOT BEING CERTIFIED BY THE INSPECTOR UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED				
FOR DATA ENTRY ONLY		REMARKS:		
CORRECTS FV-184 CERTIFICATE NUMBER		PRODUCT HAS BEEN IN STORAGE		
		SINCE OCTOBER 10, 2015.		
APPLICANT				
21				
CWT	ON-SITE HOURS	I, the undersigned, a duly authorized inspector of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby certify that samples of the herein described product were inspected and the grades as shown by said samples were as herein stated.		FEE \$
	O.T. (hrs)			O.T. \$
INSPECTED BY	TRAVEL MILES			EXP. \$
	O.T. (hrs)			ESTIMATED TOTAL
	OTHER	Inspector's Signature		7/6/2016
		INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE		DATE ISSUED
				\$\$\$\$

FV-184 (10-93) (Previous versions may be used)

This PATCH represents official guidance. This PATCH is scheduled to be incorporated into the document listed on the first page. After incorporation into the document listed above this PATCH will become obsolete.

Certificate Example 3

CARRIER OR LOT IDENTIFICATION PREFIX: P O 3 7 1 4 NUMBER: STATE: Carrier / Lot ID Stated by: Additional Lot ID: LOT 229 Carrier Type / Name: Refrigeration Unit: ☐ On ☐ Off ☐ Open ☐ Closed Doors:				Loading Loaded - LO ☐ U ☐ L Ppty Unld - PU Unloaded - UL Lot Insp - LI		Applicant: STUFFMART, INC Address: SOMEWHERE, OH Shipper: SUPER SHIPPERS, INC. Address: SOMEWHERE, WA Insp. Site: APPLICANT'S WAREHOUSE		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE INSPECTION CERTIFICATE EXAMPLE 3 m m d d y y hour min A/P 0 9 1 9 1 6 0 9 0 0 A M					
TEMPERATURES A. 39 to 44 °F B. 40 to 43 °F C. 40 to 45 °F D. ☐ to ☐ °F		Product: A. APPLES, RED B. APPLES, YELLOW C. APPLES, GREEN		Brand / Markings: A. "FINEST" U.S. X-FCY 72 COUNT B. "FINEST" U.S. X-FCY 72 COUNT C. "FINEST" U.S. X-FCY 80 COUNT		Origin A. W A B. W A C. W A		Lot ID: A. RED DELICIOUS B. GOLDEN DELICIOUS C. GRANNY SMITH		Number of Containers: A. 600 CARTONS B. 100 CARTONS C. 100 CARTONS		Insp count A. Y B. Y C. Y	
AVERAGE DEFECTS A. 12 % 00 % 00 % 00 % 00 % 00 % 12 % 00 % 00 % B. 00 % 00 % 00 % 12 % 04 % 02 % 00 % 00 % 00 % 12 % 04 % 02 % C. 03 % 01 % 00 % 06 % 02 % 00 % 05 % 05 % 02 % 02 % 00 % 00 % 01 % 01 % 01 % 17 % 09 % 03 % % % %		including DAMAGE A. 00 % B. 00 % C. 01 %		including SER. DAM. A. 00 % B. 02 % C. 02 %		OFFSIZE / DEFECTS A. QUALITY - LIMB RUBS (5 TO 18%) DECAY CHECKSUM B. QUALITY BRUISING (8 TO 16%) DECAY CHECKSUM C. QUALITY - SCAB BRUISING (2 TO 10%) BITTER PIT (0 TO 12%) BROWN SURFACE DISCOLORATION DECAY, EARLY STAGES CHECKSUM				OTHER LOT A: SOME HARD, MOSTLY FIRM. LOT B: MOSTLY FIRM, MANY FIRM RIPE MOSTLY YELLOWISH GREEN, MANY LIGHT YELLOW GROUND COLOR. LOT C: MOSTLY FIRM, SOME FIRM RIPE LIGHT GREEN GROUND COLOR.			
GRADE: LOT A: FAILS TO GRADE U.S. EXTRA FANCY ACCOUNT QUALITY. LOT B: U.S. EXTRA FANCY, BRUISING BEING A FACTOR OF CONDITION. LOT C: U.S. EXTRA FANCY, BRUISING, BITTER PIT, DISCOLORATION, AND DECAY BEING FACTORS OF CONDITION.													
REMARKS:													
WARNING: Any person who knowingly shall falsely make, issue, alter, forge, or counterfeit this certificate, or participate in any such actions, is subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.													
the undersigned, a duly authorized inspector of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby certify that at the request of the applicant and on the date indicated, samples of the herein described product were inspected and the quality and/or condition as shown by said samples were as herein stated				Inspector's Signature: <i>Inspector's Signature</i>				Market Office: ANYWHERE, OH		ESTIMATED TOTAL \$\$\$\$			

FORM FV-300 (10-90) Replaces FV-300 (4-88) and FV-306 (1-90) which are obsolete

This PATCH represents official guidance. This PATCH is scheduled to be incorporated into the document listed on the first page. After incorporation into the document listed above this PATCH will become obsolete.