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# **Specialty Crops Inspection (SCI) Division**

## **QUALITY AND FOOD SAFETY LOGOS**



## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

### Specialty Crops Inspection (SCI) Division

- Established in October 2012 as a result of the merger of the Processed and Fresh Products Inspection Divisions.
  - ✓ USDA inspections have been serving the food industry since 1917
- Supporting the global specialty crops market by collaborating with the agricultural community to provide trusted, impartial, prompt, and accurate quality assurance and food safety verification services



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## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

# Grade and Quality Labels for Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops



### Inspection Grades

**Type:** Packer/Industry

**Status:** In use since 1973

**Used by:** Plants operating under USDA continuous inspection contracts for processed fruits and vegetables. The grade mark indicates the quality level of the product. The designated grade could be Grade A or Grade B.





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## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

# Grade and Quality Labels for Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops



### Continuous Inspection Marks

**Type:** Packer/Industry

**Status:** In use since 1956

**Used by:** Plants operating under USDA continuous inspection contracts. No grade is designated. The statement may be used inside a shield (shown left) or text-only (shown right).

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## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

# Grade and Quality Labels for Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops



### Inspection Grades

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## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

# Grade and Quality Labels for Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops



### Inspection Marks

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**Used by:** Plants operating under USDA inspection service contracts. No grade is designated. The mark can be used with the shield (shown left) and or text-only (shown right).

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## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

# Grade and Quality Labels for Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops



### Quality Assurance Program (QAP)

**Type:** Packer/Industry

**Status:** In use since 1976

**Use:** To designate participation in the QAP service, which means the facility under contract is operated with USDA oversight, and their quality control program is reliable and capable of producing sound and wholesome product of the desired quality under sanitary conditions.



## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

# Grade and Quality Labels for Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops



### Processed Product Inspection Marks

**Type:** Processor/Industry

**Status:** In use since 1983

**Use:** For processed products produced in an approved plant and inspected and certified by an inspector on a lot basis. The mark is used without a grade, and can be used with the shield (shown left) or text-only (shown right).

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## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

# Grade and Quality Labels for Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops



### Processed Product Grade Marks

**Type:** Processor/Industry

**Status:** In use since 1956

**Use:** To indicate the processed fruits and vegetable products have been produced in an approved plant and inspected and certified by an inspector on a lot basis. The grade mark indicates the quality level of the product. Grades are typically Grade A, B, or C.



## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

# Grade and Quality Labels for Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops



### Sampling Marks

**Type:** Processor/Industry

**Status:** In use since 1955

**Use:** To identify products that have been officially sampled and the field office that provided the sampling service. Two examples of these marks are shown here.





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## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

# Grade and Quality Labels for Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops



### **Graded Product Packed Under Continuous Inspection**

**Type:** Packer/Industry

**Status:** In use since 1956

**Use:** To show the appropriate U.S. grade designation container labels or other packaging for product packed under continuous inspection by USDA. This ensures the plant in which the product is packed is maintained under good commercial sanitary practices and the product has been certified by an inspector as meeting the requirements of the U.S. Grade A, Grade No. 1, or a higher designated grade.



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## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

# Grade and Quality Labels for Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops

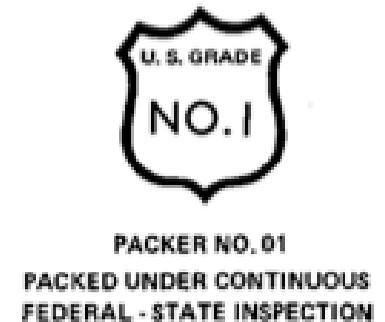


### Continuous Inspection by Federal-State Licensed Employees

**Type:** Packer/Industry

**Status:** In use since 1956

**Use:** For Federal-State licensed employees in facilities packing under continuous inspection to indicate product is U.S. Grade No. 1. Two examples of shields with packer identification numbers are provided here.



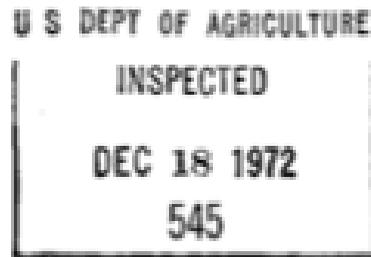


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## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

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### **Fresh Produce Inspected Lots**

**Type:** Packer/Industry

**Status:** In use since 1956

**Use:** For fresh produce that is inspected on a lot-by-lot basis is identified by the official inspection mark. The mark is stamped on a container.



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## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

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### **Partners in Quality (PIQ)**

**Type:** Packer/Processor/Industry

**Status:** In use since 1997

**Use:** Designates a client's participation in a program under which USDA-licensed personnel audit document-intensive systems used by packinghouses to ensure the quality of the commodities passing through them.



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## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

# Grade and Quality Labels for Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops



### **Quality Monitoring Program (QMP)**

**Type:** Consumer

**Status:** In use since 2007

**Use:** To designate participation in the QMP, which provides a supplier with an objective, third-party assessment of product quality. These evaluations may be based on official U.S. grade standards or customer quality specifications.



## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

# Food Safety Labels for Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops



### **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP)**

**Type:** Packer/Processor/Industry

**Status:** In use since 2007

**Use:** To designate participation in Fruit and Vegetable Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Good Handling Practices (GHP) audit program.



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## Specialty Crops Inspection Division

# Food Safety Labels for Fruits, Vegetables, and Specialty Crops



## Qualified Through Verification (QTV)

**Type:** Consumer/Industry

**Status:** In use since 1997

**Use:** To designate participation in the QTV program, which is a food safety-based program with a foundation of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs), and effective sanitation programs, product recall planning, and microbiological testing.