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**Title 7:**

Subtitle B—Regulations of the Department of Agriculture (Continued):

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To cite the regulations in this volume use title, part and section number. Thus, 7 CFR 900.1 refers to title 7, part 900, section 1.
The Code of Federal Regulations is a codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the Executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government. The Code is divided into 50 titles which represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. Each title is divided into chapters which usually bear the name of the issuing agency. Each chapter is further subdivided into parts covering specific regulatory areas.

Each volume of the Code is revised at least once each calendar year and issued on a quarterly basis approximately as follows:

- Title 1 through Title 16 ..............................................................as of January 1
- Title 17 through Title 27 .................................................................as of April 1
- Title 28 through Title 41 .............................................................as of July 1
- Title 42 through Title 50.............................................................as of October 1

The appropriate revision date is printed on the cover of each volume.

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RAYMOND A. MOSLEY,
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The Food and Consumer Service current regulations in the volume containing parts 210-299, include the Child Nutrition Programs and the Food Stamp Program. The regulations of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation are found in the volume containing parts 400-699.

All marketing agreements and orders for fruits, vegetables and nuts appear in the one volume containing parts 900-999. All marketing agreements and orders for milk appear in the volume containing parts 1000-1199. Part 900—General Regulations is carried as a note in the volume containing parts 1000-1199, as a convenience to the user.

Redesignation tables appear in the Finding Aids section of the volumes containing parts 210-299 and parts 1600-1899.

For this volume, Kenneth R. Payne was Chief Editor. The Code of Federal Regulations publication program is under the direction of Frances D. McDonald, assisted by Alomha S. Morris.
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Title 7—Agriculture

(This book contains parts 900 to 999)

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\textbf{SOURCE:} 25 FR 5907, June 28, 1960, unless otherwise noted.

\section*{\textbf{Subpart—Rules of Practice and Procedure Governing Proceedings To Formulate Marketing Agreements and Marketing Orders}}

\textbf{AUTHORITY:} Sec. 10, 48 Stat. 37, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 610.

\section*{\textbf{§ 900.1 Words in the singular form.}}

Words in this subpart in the singular form shall be deemed to import the plural, and vice versa, as the case may demand.

\section*{\textbf{§ 900.2 Definitions.}}

As used in this subpart, the terms as defined in the act shall apply with equal force and effect. In addition, unless the context otherwise requires:

\begin{itemize}
  \item (a) The term \textit{Act} means Public Act No. 10, 73 Congress (48 Stat. 31), as amended and as reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (50 Stat. 246), as amended.
  \item (b) The term \textit{Department} means the United States Department of Agriculture.
  \item (c) The term \textit{Secretary} means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.
  \item (d) The terms Administrative Law Judge or Judge means any administrative law judge appointed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3105, and assigned to conduct the proceeding.
  \item (e) The term \textit{Administrator} means the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, with power to redelegate, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has been delegated or may hereafter be delegated to act in his stead.
  \item (f) [Reserved]
  \item (g) The term \textit{hearing} means that part of the proceeding which involves the submission of evidence.
  \item (h) The term \textit{marketing agreement} means any marketing agreement or any amendment thereto which may be entered into pursuant to section 8b of the act.
  \item (i) The term \textit{marketing order} means any or any amendment thereto which may be issued pursuant to section 8c of the act, and after notice and hearing as required by said section.
  \item (k) The term \textit{proceeding} means a proceeding upon the basis of which a marketing agreement may be entered into or a marketing order may be issued.
\end{itemize}
(l) The term hearing clerk means the hearing clerk, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC.


§ 900.3 Proposals.

(a) A marketing agreement or a marketing order may be proposed by the Secretary or by any other person. If any person other than the Secretary proposes a marketing agreement or marketing order, he shall file with the Administrator a written application, together with at least four copies of the proposal, requesting the Secretary to hold a hearing upon the proposal. Upon receipt of such proposal, the Administrator shall cause such investigation to be made and such consideration thereof to be given as, in his opinion, are warranted. If the investigation and consideration lead the Administrator to conclude that the proposed marketing agreement or marketing order will not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, or for other proper reasons a hearing should not be held on the proposal, he shall deny the application, and promptly notify the applicant of such denial, which notice shall be accompanied by a brief statement of the grounds for the denial.

(b) If the investigation and consideration lead the Administrator to conclude that the proposed marketing agreement or marketing order will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, or that for other proper reasons a hearing should be held on the proposal, he shall deny the application, and promptly notify the applicant of such denial, which notice shall be accompanied by a brief statement of the grounds for the denial.

§ 900.4 Institution of proceeding.

(a) Filing and contents of the notice of hearing. The proceeding shall be instituted by filing the notice of hearing with the hearing clerk. The notice of hearing shall contain a reference to the authority under which the marketing agreement or marketing order is proposed; shall define the scope of the hearing as specifically as may be practicable; shall contain either the terms or substance of the proposed marketing agreement or marketing order or a description of the subjects and issues involved and shall state the industry, area, and class of persons to be regulated, the time and place of such hearing, and the place where copies of such proposed marketing agreement or marketing order may be obtained or examined. The time of the hearing shall not be less than 15 days after the date of publication of the notice in the Federal Register, as provided in this subpart, unless the Administrator shall determine that an emergency exists which requires a shorter period of notice, in which case the period of notice shall be that which the Administrator may determine to be reasonable in the circumstances: Provided, That, in the case of hearings on amendments to marketing agreements or marketing orders, the time of the hearing may be less than 15 days but shall not be less than 3 days after the date of publication of the notice in the Federal Register.

(b) Giving notice of hearing and supplemental publicity. (1) The Administrator shall give or cause to be given notice of hearing in the following manner:

(i) By publication of the notice of hearing in the Federal Register;

(ii) By mailing a true copy of the notice of hearing to each of the persons known to the Administrator, to be interested therein;

(iii) By issuing a press release containing the complete text or a summary of the contents of the notice of hearing and making the same available to such newspapers in the area proposed to be subjected to regulation as reasonably will tend to bring the notice to the attention of the persons interested therein;

(iv) By forwarding copies of the notice of hearing addressed to the governors of such of the several States of the United States and to executive heads of such of the Territories and possessions of the United States as the Administrator, having due regard for the subject matter of the proposal and the public interest, shall determine, should be notified.

(2) Legal notice of the hearing shall be deemed to be given if notice is given in the manner provided by paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section; and failure to give notice in the manner provided in
paragraph (b)(1)(ii), (iii), and (iv) of this section shall not affect the legality of the notice.

(c) Record of notice and supplemental publicity. There shall be filed with the hearing clerk or submitted to the judge at the hearing an affidavit or certificate of the person giving the notice provided in paragraph (b)(1)(iii) and (iv) of this section. In regard to the provisions relating to mailing in paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section, a determination by the Administrator that such provisions have been complied with shall be filed with the hearing clerk or submitted to the judge at the hearing. In the alternative, if notice is not given in the manner provided in paragraph (b)(1)(ii), (iii), and (iv) of this section there shall be filed with the hearing clerk or submitted to the judge at the hearing a determination by the Administrator that such notice is impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest with a brief statement of the reasons for such determination. Determinations by the Administrator as herein provided shall be final.

§ 900.5 Docket number.

Each proceeding, immediately following its institution, shall be assigned a docket number by the hearing clerk and thereafter the proceeding may be referred to by such number.

§ 900.6 Judges.

(a) Assignment. No judge who has any pecuniary interest in the outcome of a proceeding shall serve as judge in such proceeding.

(b) Powers of judges. Subject to review by the Secretary, as provided elsewhere in this subpart, the judge, in any proceeding, shall have power to:

(1) Rule upon motions and requests;

(2) Change the time and place of hearing, and adjourn the hearing from time to time or from place to place;

(3) Administer oaths and affirmations and take affidavits;

(4) Examine and cross-examine witnesses and receive evidence;

(5) Admit or exclude evidence;

(6) Hear oral argument on facts or law;

(7) Do all acts and take all measures necessary for the maintenance of order at the hearing and the efficient conduct of the proceeding.

(c) Who may act in absence of judge. In case of the absence of the judge or his inability to act, the powers and duties to be performed by him under this part in connection with a proceeding may, without abatement of the proceeding unless otherwise ordered by the Secretary, be assigned to any other judge.

(d) Disqualification of judge. The judge may at any time withdraw as judge in a proceeding if he deems himself to be disqualified. Upon the filing by an interested person in good faith of a timely and sufficient affidavit of personal bias or disqualification of a judge, the Secretary shall determine the matter as a part of the record and decision in the proceeding, after making such investigation or holding such hearings, or both, as he may deem appropriate in the circumstances.

§ 900.7 Motions and requests.

(a) General. All motions and requests shall be filed with the hearing clerk, except that those made during the course of the hearing may be filed with the judge or may be stated orally and made a part of the transcript. Except as provided in §900.15(b) such motions and requests shall be addressed to, and ruled on by, the presiding officer if made prior to his certification of the transcript pursuant to §900.10 or by the Secretary if made thereafter.

(b) Certification to Secretary. The judge may in his discretion submit or certify to the Secretary for decision any motion, request, objection, or other question addressed to the judge.

§ 900.8 Conduct of the hearing.

(a) Time and place. The hearing shall be held at the time and place fixed in the notice of hearing, unless the judge shall have changed the time or place, in which event the judge shall file with the hearing clerk a notice of such change, which notice shall be given in the same manner as provided in §900.4 (relating to the giving of notice of the hearing): Provided, That, if the change in time or place of hearing is made less than 5 days prior to the date previously fixed for the hearing, the judge, either in addition to or in lieu of causing the notice of the change to be given, shall
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Announce, or cause to be announced, the change at the time and place previously fixed for the hearing.

(b) Appearances—(1) Right to appear. At the hearing, any interested person shall be given an opportunity to appear, either in person or through his authorized counsel or representative, and to be heard with respect to matters relevant and material to the proceeding. Any interested person who desires to be heard in person at any hearing under these rules shall, before proceeding to testify, state his name, address, and occupation. If any such person is appearing through a counsel or representative, such person or such counsel or representative shall, before proceeding to testify or otherwise to participate in the hearing, state for the record the authority to act as such counsel or representative, and the names and addresses and occupations of such person and such counsel or representative. Any such person or such counsel or representative shall give such other information respecting his appearance as the judge may request.

(2) Debarment of counsel or representative. Wherever, while a proceeding is pending before him, the judge finds that a person, acting as counsel or representative for any person participating in the proceeding, is guilty of unethical or unprofessional conduct, the judge may order that such person be precluded from further acting as counsel or representative in such proceeding. An appeal to the Secretary may be taken from any such order, but the proceeding shall not be delayed or suspended pending disposition of the appeal: Provided, That the judge may suspend the proceeding for a reasonable time for the purpose of enabling the client to obtain other counsel or other representative. In case the judge has ordered that a person be precluded from further acting as counsel or representative in the proceeding, the presiding officer, within a reasonable time thereafter shall submit to the Secretary a report of the facts and circumstances surrounding such order and shall recommend what action the Secretary should take respecting the appearance of such person as counsel or representative in other proceedings before the Secretary. Thereafter the Secretary may, after notice and an opportunity for hearing, issue such order, respecting the appearance of such person as counsel or representative in proceedings before the Secretary, as the Secretary finds to be appropriate.

(3) Failure to appear. If any interested person fails to appear at the hearing, he shall be deemed to have waived the right to be heard in the proceeding.

(c) Order of procedure. (1) The judge shall, at the opening of the hearing prior to the taking of testimony, have noted as part of the record the notice of hearing as filed with the Office of the Federal Register and the affidavit or certificate of the giving of notice or the determination provided for in §900.4(c).

(2) Evidence shall then be received with respect to the matters specified in the notice of the hearing in such order as the judge shall announce.

(d) Evidence—(1) In general. The hearing shall be publicly conducted, and the testimony given at the hearing shall be reported verbatim.

(i) Every witness shall, before proceeding to testify, be sworn or make affirmation. Cross-examination shall be permitted to the extent required for a full and true disclosure of the facts.

(ii) When necessary, in order to prevent undue prolongation of the hearing, the judge may limit the number of times any witness may testify to the same matter or the amount of corroborative or cumulative evidence.

(iii) The judge shall, insofar as practicable, exclude evidence which is immaterial, irrelevant, or unduly repetitious, or which is not of the sort upon which responsible persons are accustomed to rely.

(2) Objections. If a party objects to the admission or rejection of any evidence or to any other ruling of the judge during the hearing, he shall state briefly the grounds of such objection, whereupon an automatic exception will follow if the objection is overruled by the judge. The transcript shall not include argument or debate thereon except as ordered by the judge. The ruling of the judge on any objection shall be a part of the transcript. Only objections made before the judge may subsequently be relied upon in the proceeding.
(3) Proof and authentication of official records or documents. An official record or document, when admissible for any purpose, shall be admissible as evidence without the production of the person who made or prepared the same. Such record or document shall, in the discretion of the judge, be evidenced by an official publication thereof or by a copy attested by the person having legal custody thereof and accompanied by a certificate that such person has the custody.

(4) Exhibits. All written statements, charts, tabulations, or similar data offered in evidence at the hearing shall, after identification by the proponent and upon satisfactory showing of the authenticity, relevancy, and materiality of the contents thereof, be numbered as exhibits and received in evidence and made a part of the record. Such exhibits shall be submitted in quadruplicate and in documentary form. In case the required number of copies is not made available, the judge shall exercise his discretion as to whether said exhibits shall, when practicable, be read in evidence or whether additional copies shall be required to be submitted within a time to be specified by the judge. If the testimony of a witness refers to a statute, or to a report or document (including the record of any previous hearing) the judge, after inquiry relating to the identification of such statute, report, or document, shall determine whether the same shall be produced at the hearing and physically be made a part of the evidence as an exhibit, or whether it shall be incorporated into the evidence by reference. If relevant and material matter offered in evidence is embraced in a report or document (including the record of any previous hearing) containing immaterial or irrelevant matter, such immaterial or irrelevant matter shall be excluded and shall be segregated insofar as practicable, subject to the direction of the presiding officer.

(5) Official notice. Official notice may be taken of such matters as are judicially noticed by the courts of the United States and of any other matter of technical, scientific or commercial fact of established character: Provided, That interested persons shall be given adequate notice, at the hearing or subsequent thereto, of matters so noticed and shall be given adequate opportunity to show that such facts are inaccurate or are erroneously noticed.

(6) Offer of proof. Whenever evidence is excluded from the record, the party offering such evidence may make an offer of proof, which shall be included in the transcript. The offer of proof shall consist of a brief statement describing the evidence to be offered. If the evidence consists of a brief oral statement or of an exhibit, it shall be inserted into the transcript in toto. In such event, it shall be considered a part of the transcript if the Secretary decides that the judge's ruling in excluding the evidence was erroneous. The judge shall not allow the insertion of such evidence in toto if the taking of such evidence will consume a considerable length of time at the hearing. In the latter event, if the Secretary decides that the judge erred in excluding the evidence, and that such error was substantial, the hearing shall be reopened to permit the taking of such evidence.

§ 900.9 Oral and written arguments.

(a) Oral argument before judge. Oral argument before the judge shall be in the discretion of the judge. Such argument, when permitted, may be limited by the judge to any extent that he finds necessary for the expeditious disposition of the proceeding and shall be reduced to writing and made part of the transcript.

(b) Briefs, proposed findings and conclusions. The judge shall announce at the hearing a reasonable period of time within which interested persons may file with the hearing clerk proposed findings and conclusions, and written arguments or briefs, based upon the evidence received at the hearing, citing, where practicable, the page or pages of the transcript of the testimony where such evidence appears. Factual material other than that adduced at the hearing or subject to official notice shall not be alluded to therein, and, in any case, shall not be considered in the formulation of the marketing agreement or marketing
order. If the person filing a brief desires the Secretary to consider any objection made by such person to a ruling of the judge, as provided in §900.8(d), he shall include in the brief a concise statement concerning each such objection, referring where practicable, to the pertinent pages of the transcript.

§ 900.10 Certification of the transcript.

The judge shall notify the hearing clerk of the close of a hearing as soon as possible thereafter and of the time for filing written arguments, briefs, proposed findings and proposed conclusions, and shall furnish the hearing clerk with such other information as may be necessary. As soon as possible after the hearing, the judge shall transmit to the hearing clerk an original and three copies of the transcript of the testimony and the original and all copies of the exhibits not already on file in the office of the hearing clerk. He shall attach to the original transcript of testimony his certificate stating that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, the transcript is a true transcript of the testimony given at the hearing except in such particulars as he shall specify; and that the exhibits transmitted are all the exhibits as introduced at the hearing with such exceptions as he shall specify. A copy of such certificate shall be attached to each of the copies of the transcript of testimony. In accordance with such certificate the hearing clerk shall note upon the official record copy, and cause to be noted on other copies, of the transcript each correction detailed therein by adding or crossing out (but without obscuring the text as originally transcribed) at the appropriate place any words necessary to make the same conform to the correct meaning, as certified by the judge. The hearing clerk shall obtain and file certifications to the effect that such corrections have been effected in copies other than the official record copy.

§ 900.11 Copies of the transcript.

(a) During the period in which the proceeding has an active status in the Department, a copy of the transcript and exhibits shall be kept on file in the office of the hearing clerk, where it shall be available for examination during official hours of business. Thereafter said transcript and exhibits shall be made available by the hearing clerk for examination during official hours of business after prior request and reasonable notice to the hearing clerk.

(b) If a personal copy of the transcript is desired, such copy may be obtained upon written application filed with the reporter and upon payment of fees at the rate (if any) provided in the contract between the reporter and the Secretary.

§ 900.12 Administrator's recommended decision.

(a) Preparation. As soon as practicable following the termination of the period allowed for the filing of written arguments or briefs and proposed findings and conclusions the Administrator shall file with the hearing clerk a recommended decision.

(b) Contents. The Administrator's recommended decision shall include: (1) A preliminary statement containing a description of the history of the proceedings, a brief explanation of the material issues of fact, law, or discretion presented on the record, and proposed findings and conclusions; (2) a ruling upon each proposed finding or conclusion submitted by interested persons; and (3) an appropriate proposed marketing agreement or marketing order effectuating his recommendations.

(c) Exceptions to recommended decision. Immediately following the filing of his recommended decision, the Administrator shall give notice thereof, and opportunity to file exceptions thereto by publication in the Federal Register. Within a period of time specified in such notice any interested person may file with the hearing clerk exceptions to the Administrator's proposed marketing agreement or marketing order, or both, as the case may be, and a brief in support of such exceptions. Such exceptions shall be in writing, shall refer, where practicable, to the related pages of the transcript and may suggest appropriate changes in the proposed marketing agreement or marketing order.

(d) Omission of recommended decision. The procedure provided in this section may be omitted only if the Secretary
finds on the basis of the record that
due and timely execution of his func-
tions imperatively and unavoidably re-
quires such omission.

§ 900.13 Submission to Secretary.
Upon the expiration of the period al-
lowed for filing exceptions or upon re-
quest of the Secretary, the hearing
clerk shall transmit to the Secretary
the record of the proceeding. Such
record shall include: All motions and
requests filed with the hearing clerk
and rulings thereon; the certified tran-
script; any proposed findings or conclu-
sions or written arguments or briefs
that may have been filed; the Adminis-
trator’s recommended decision, if any,
and such exceptions as may have been
filed.

§ 900.13a Decision by Secretary.
After due consideration of the record,
the Secretary shall render a decision.
Such decision shall become a part of
the record and shall include: (a) A
statement of his findings and conclu-
sions, as well as the reasons or basis
therefor, upon all the material issues
of fact, law or discretion presented on
the record, (b) a ruling upon each pro-
posed finding and proposed conclusion
not previously ruled upon in the
record, (c) a ruling upon each exception
filed by interested persons and (d) ei-
ther (1) a denial of the proposal to issue
a marketing agreement or marketing
order or (2) a marketing agreement
and, if the findings upon the record so
warrant, a marketing order, the provi-
sions of which shall be set forth di-
rectly or by reference, regulating the
handling of the commodity or product
in the same manner and to the same
extent as such marketing agreement,
which order shall be complete except
for its effective date and any deter-
minations to be made under § 900.14(b)
or § 900.14(c): Provided, That such mar-
keting order shall not be executed, issued, or made effective until and un-
less the Secretary determines that the
requirements of § 900.14(b) or § 900.14(c)
have been met.

§ 900.14 Execution and issuance of
marketing agreements and market-
ing orders.
(a) Execution and issuance of marketing
agreement. If the Secretary has ap-
proved a marketing agreement, as pro-
vided in § 900.13a, the Administrator
shall cause copies thereof to be distrib-
uted for execution by the handlers eli-
gible to become parties thereto. If and
when such number of the handlers as
the Secretary shall deem sufficient
shall have executed the agreement, the
Secretary shall execute the agreement.

(b) Issuance of marketing order with
marketing agreement. Whenever, as pro-
vided in paragraph (a) of this section,
the Secretary executes a marketing
agreement, and handlers also have exe-
cuted the same as provided in section
8c(8) of the Act, he shall, if he finds
that it will tend to effectuate the pur-
poses of the Act, issue and make effec-
tive the marketing order, if any, which
was filed as a part of his decision pur-
suant to § 900.13a: Provided, That the
issuance of such order shall have been
approved or favored by producers as re-
quired by section 8c(8) of the act.

(c) Issuance of marketing order without
marketing agreement. If, despite the fail-
ure or refusal of handlers to sign the
marketing agreement, as provided in
section 8c(8) of the Act, the Secretary
makes the determinations required
under section 8c(9) of the Act, the Secretary shall issue and make effective the marketing order, if any, which was filed as a part of his decision pursuant to §900.13a.

(d) Effective date of marketing order. No marketing order shall become effective less than 30 days after its publication in the Federal Register, unless the Secretary, upon good cause found and published with the order, fixes an earlier effective date therefor. Provided, That no marketing order shall become effective as to any person sought to be charged thereunder before either (1) it has been filed with the Office of the Federal Register, or (2) such person has received actual notice of the issuance and terms of the marketing order.

(e) Notice of issuance. After issuance of a marketing order, the order shall be filed with the hearing clerk, and notice thereof, together with notice of the effective date, shall be given by publication in the Federal Register. (7 U.S.C. 610(c).)

§900.15 Filing; extensions of time; effective date of filing; and computation of time.

(a) Filing, number of copies. Except as is provided otherwise in this subpart, all documents or papers required or authorized by the foregoing provisions of this subpart to be filed with the hearing clerk shall be filed in quadruplicate. Any document or paper, so required or authorized to be filed with the hearing clerk, shall, during the course of an oral hearing, be filed with the presiding officer. The provisions of this subpart concerning filing with the hearing clerk of hearing notices, recommended and final decisions, marketing agreements and orders, and all documents described in §900.17 shall be met by filing a true copy thereof with the hearing clerk.

(b) Extensions of time. The time for the filing of any document or paper required or authorized by the foregoing provisions of this subpart to be filed may be extended by the judge before the record is certified by the judge or by the Administrator (after the record is so certified by the judge) but before it is transmitted to the Secretary), or by the Secretary (after the record is transmitted to the Secretary) upon request filed, and if, in the judgment of the judge, Administrator, or the Secretary, as the case may be, there is good reason for the extension. All rulings made pursuant to this paragraph shall be filed with the hearing clerk.

(c) Effective date of filing. Any document or paper required or authorized by the foregoing provisions of this subpart to be filed shall be deemed to be filed when it is postmarked or when it is received by the hearing clerk.

(d) Computation of time. Sundays and Federal holidays shall be included in computing the time allowed for the filing of any document or paper. Provided, That, when such time expires on a Sunday or legal holiday, such period shall be extended to include the next following business day.

§900.16 Ex parte communications.

(a) At no stage of the proceeding following the issuance of a notice of hearing and prior to the issuance of the Secretary’s decision therein shall an employee of the Department who is or may reasonably be expected to be involved in the decisional process of the proceeding discuss ex parte the merits of the proceeding with any person having an interest in the proceeding or with any representative of such person: Provided, That procedural matters and status reports shall not be included within this limitation; and Provided further, That an employee of the Department who is or may reasonably be expected to be involved in the decisional process of the proceeding may discuss the merits of the proceeding with such a person if all parties known to be interested in the proceeding have been given notice and an opportunity to participate. A memorandum of any such discussion shall be included in the record of the proceeding.

(b) No person interested in the proceeding shall make or knowingly cause to be made to an employee of the Department who is or may reasonably be expected to be involved in the decisional process of the proceeding an ex parte communication relevant to
§ 900.17 Additional documents to be filed with hearing clerk.

In addition to the documents or papers required or authorized by the foregoing provisions of this subpart to be filed with the hearing clerk, the hearing clerk shall receive for filing and shall have custody of all papers, reports, records, orders, and other documents which relate to the administration of any marketing agreement or marketing order and which the Secretary is required to issue or to approve.

§ 900.18 Hearing before Secretary.

The Secretary may act in the place and stead of a judge in any proceeding under this subpart. When he so acts the hearing clerk shall transmit the record to the Secretary at the expiration of the period provided for the filing of proposed findings of fact, conclusions and orders, and the Secretary shall thereupon, after due consideration of the record, issue his final decision in the proceeding: Provided, That he may issue a tentative decision in which event the parties shall be afforded an opportunity to file exceptions before the issuance of the final decision.

Subpart—Rules of Practice Governing Proceedings on Petitions To Modify or To Be Exempted From Marketing Orders


§ 900.50 Words in the singular form.

Words in this subpart in the singular form shall be deemed to import the plural, and vice versa, as the case may demand.

§ 900.51 Definitions.

As used in this subpart, the terms as defined in the act shall apply with equal force and effect. In addition, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) The term act means Public Act No. 10, 73d Congress, as amended and as reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. and Sup. 601);
(b) The term Department means the United States Department of Agriculture;
(c) The term Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead;
(d) The terms administrative law judge or judge means any Administrative Law Judge, appointed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3105, and assigned to the proceeding involved;
(e) The term Administrator means the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, with power to redelegate, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has been delegated or may hereafter be delegated to act in his stead.
(f) [Reserved]
§ 900.52 Institution of proceeding.

(a) Filing and service of petition. Any handler desiring to complain that any marketing order or any provision of any such order or any obligation imposed in connection therewith is not in accordance with law, shall file with the hearing clerk, in quadruplicate, a petition in writing addressed to the Secretary. Promptly upon receipt of the petition, the hearing clerk shall transmit a true copy thereof to the Administrator and the General Counsel, respectively.

(b) Contents of petition. A petition shall contain:

(1) The correct name, address, and principal place of business of the petitioner. If petitioner is a corporation, such fact shall be stated, together with the name of the State of incorporation, the date of incorporation, and the names, addresses, and respective positions held by its officers; if an unincorporated association, the names and addresses of its officers, and the respective positions held by them; if a partnership, the name and address of each partner;

(2) Reference to the specific terms or provisions of the order, or the interpretation or application thereof, which are complained of;

(3) A full statement of the facts (avoiding a mere repetition of detailed evidence) upon which the petition is based, and which it is desired that the Secretary consider, setting forth clearly and concisely the nature of the petitioner's business and the manner in which petitioner claims to be affected by the terms or provisions of the order, or the interpretation or application thereof, which are complained of;

(4) A statement of the grounds on which the terms or provisions of the order, or the interpretation or application thereof, which are complained of, are challenged as not in accordance with law;

(5) Prayers for the specific relief which the petitioner desires the Secretary to grant;

(6) An affidavit by the petitioner, or, if the petitioner is not an individual, by an officer of the petitioner having knowledge of the facts stated in the petition, verifying the petition and stating that it is filed in good faith and not for purposes of delay.

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(g) The term \textit{Federal Register} means the publication provided for by the act of July 26, 1935 (49 Stat. 500), and acts supplementary thereto and amendatory thereof;

(h) The term marketing order means any order or any amendment thereto which may be issued pursuant to section 8c of the act;

(i) The term handler means any person who, by the terms of a marketing order, is subject thereto, or to whom a marketing order is sought to be made applicable;

(j) The term proceeding means a proceeding before the Secretary arising under subsection (15)(A) of section 8c of the act;

(k) The term hearing means that part of the proceeding which involves the submission of evidence;

(l) The term party includes the Department;

(m) The term hearing clerk means the hearing clerk, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.;

(n) [Reserved]

(o) The term decision means the judge's initial decision in proceedings subject to 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557, and includes the judge's (1) findings of fact and conclusions with respect to all material issues of fact, law or discretion as well as the reasons or basis thereof, (2) order, and (3) rules on findings, conclusions and orders submitted by the parties;

(p) The term petition includes an amended petition.

§ 900.52a Answer to petition.

(a) Time of filing. Within 30 days after the filing of the petition, the Administrator shall file an answer thereto: Provided, That if a motion to dismiss the petition, in whole or in part, is made pursuant to § 900.52(c), the answer shall be filed within 15 days after the filing of an order of the administrative law judge denying the motion or granting the motion with respect to only a portion of the petition. The answer shall be filed with the hearing clerk who shall cause a copy thereof to be served promptly upon the petitioner.

(b) Contents. The answer shall specify which of the material allegations of fact or of law in the petition are controverted and which are not controverted. The answer also may contain affirmative allegations of fact constituting separate defenses and statements of objections to the sufficiency of the whole or any part of the petition.


§ 900.52b Amended pleadings.

At any time before the close of the hearing the petition or answer may be amended, but the hearing shall, at the request of the adverse party, be adjourned or recessed for such reasonable time as the judge may determine to be necessary to protect the interests of the parties. Amendments subsequent to the first amendment or subsequent to the filing of an answer may be made only with leave of the judge or with the written consent of the adverse party.

§ 900.53 Withdrawal of petition.

If, at any time after the petition is filed, the petitioner desires to withdraw the same, he shall file with the hearing clerk (or, if filed during the course of a hearing, with the judge) a written request for permission to withdraw. The judge may, in his discretion, thereupon dismiss the petition without further procedure: Provided, That, if the request to withdraw is filed after a hearing has been opened, permission to withdraw shall be granted only in exceptional circumstances.
§ 900.54 Docket number.
Each proceeding, immediately following its institution, shall be assigned a docket number by the hearing clerk and thereafter the proceeding may be referred to by such number.

§ 900.55 Judges.
(a) Assignment. No judge who has any pecuniary interest in the outcome of the proceeding, or who has participated in any investigation preceding the institution of the proceeding, shall serve as judge in such proceeding.
(b) Conduct. The judge shall conduct the proceeding in a fair and impartial manner and shall not discuss ex parte the merits of the proceeding with any person who is or who has been connected in any manner with the proceeding in an advocative or investigative capacity.
(c) Powers of judges. Subject to review by the Secretary, as provided elsewhere in this subpart, the judge shall have power to:
(1) Rule upon motions and requests;
(2) Adjourn the hearing from time to time, and change the time and place of hearing;
(3) Administer oaths and affirmations and take affidavits;
(4) Issue subpoenas, under the facsimile signature of the Secretary, requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of books, records, contracts, papers, and other documentary evidence;
(5) Examine witnesses and receive evidence;
(6) Take or order, under the facsimile signature of the Secretary, the taking of depositions;
(7) Admit or exclude evidence;
(8) Hear oral argument on facts or law;
(9) Consolidate hearings upon two or more petitions pertaining to the same order;
(10) Do all acts and take all measures necessary for the maintenance of order at the hearing and the efficient conduct of the proceeding.
(d) Who may act in absence of judge. In case of the absence of the judge or his inability to act, the powers and duties to be performed by him under these rules of practice in connection with a proceeding may, without abatement of the proceeding unless otherwise ordered by the Secretary, be assigned to any other judge.
(e) Disqualification of judge. The judge may at any time withdraw as judge in a proceeding if he deems himself to be disqualified. Upon the filing by an interested person in good faith of a timely and sufficient affidavit of personal bias or disqualification of a judge, the Secretary shall determine the matter as a part of the record and decision in the proceeding, after making such investigation or holding such hearings, or both, as he may deem appropriate in the circumstances.

§ 900.56 Consolidated hearings.
At the discretion of the judge, hearings upon two or more petitions pertaining to the same order may be consolidated, and the evidence taken at such consolidated hearing may be embodied in a single record.

§ 900.57 Intervention.
Intervention in proceedings subject to this subpart shall not be allowed, except that, in the discretion of the Secretary or the judge, any person (other than the petitioner) showing a substantial interest in the outcome of a proceeding shall be permitted to participate in the oral argument and to file a brief.

§ 900.58 Prehearing conferences.
In any proceeding in which it appears that such procedure will expedite the proceeding, the judge, at any time prior to the commencement of or during the course of the hearing, may request the parties or their counsel to appear at a conference before him to consider (a) the simplification of issues; (b) the possibility of obtaining stipulations of fact and of documents which will avoid unnecessary proof; (c) the limitation of the number of expert or other witnesses; and (d) such other matters as may expedite and aid in the disposition of the proceeding. No transcript of such conference shall be made, but the judge shall prepare and file for the record a written summary of the action taken at the conference, which shall incorporate any written stipulations or agreements made by
the parties at the conference or as a result of the conference. If the circumstances are such that a conference is impracticable, the judge may request the parties to correspond with him for the purpose of accomplishing any of the objects set forth in this section. The judge shall forward copies of letters and documents to the parties as the circumstances require. Correspondence in such negotiations shall not be a part of the record, but the judge shall submit a written summary for the record if any action is taken.

§ 900.59 Motions and requests.

(a) General. (1) All motions and requests shall be filed with the hearing clerk, except that those made during the course of an oral hearing may be filed with the judge or may be stated orally and made a part of the transcript.

(2) The judge is authorized to rule upon all motions and requests filed or made prior to the transmittal by the hearing clerk to the Secretary of the record as provided in this subpart. The Secretary shall rule upon all motions and requests filed after that time.

(b) Certification of motions. The submission or certification of any motion, request, objection, or other question to the Secretary, as provided in this subpart, shall be in the discretion of the judge.


§ 900.60 Oral hearings before judge.

(a) Time and place. The judge shall set a time and place for hearing and shall file with the hearing clerk a notice stating the time and place of hearing. If any change in the time or place of hearing becomes necessary, it shall be made by the judge, who, in such event, shall file with the hearing clerk a notice of the change. Such notice shall be served upon the parties, unless it is made during the course of an oral hearing and made a part of the transcript.

(b) Appearance. (1) Representation. In any proceeding under the act, the parties may appear in person or by counsel or other representative. The Department, if represented by counsel, shall be represented by an attorney assigned by the General Counsel of the Depart-

ment, and such attorney shall present or supervise the presentation of the position of the Department.

(2) Debarment of counsel or representative. Whenever, while a proceeding is pending before him, the judge finds that a person acting as counsel or representative for any party to the proceeding is guilty of unethical or unprofessional conduct, the judge may order that such person be precluded from further acting as counsel or representative in such proceeding. An appeal to the Secretary may be taken from any such order, but the proceeding shall not be delayed or suspended pending disposition of the appeal: Provided, That the judge may suspend the proceeding for a reasonable time for the purpose of enabling the client to obtain other counsel or representative. In case the judge has issued an order precluding a person from further acting as counsel or representative in the proceeding, the judge, within a reasonable time thereafter, shall submit to the Secretary a report of the facts and circumstances surrounding the issuance of the order and shall recommend what action the Secretary should take respecting the appearance of such person as counsel or representative in other proceedings before the Secretary. Thereafter, the Secretary may, after notice and an opportunity for hearing, issue such order respecting the appearance of such person as counsel or representative in proceedings before the Secretary as the Secretary finds to be appropriate.

(3) Failure to appear. If the petitioner, after being duly notified, fails to appear at the hearing, he shall be deemed to have authorized the dismissal of the proceeding, without further procedure, and with or without prejudice as the judge may determine. In the event that the petitioner appears at the hearing and no representative of the Department appears, the judge shall proceed ex parte to hear the evidence of the petitioner. Provided, That failure on the part of such representative of the Department to appear at a hearing shall not be deemed to be waiver of the Department’s right to file suggested findings of fact, conclusions and order; to
be served with a copy of the judge's initial decision and to appeal to the Secretary with respect thereto.

(c) Order of proceeding. Except as may be determined otherwise by the judge, the petitioner shall proceed first at the hearing.

(d) Evidence—(1) In general. The hearing shall be publicly conducted, and the testimony given at the hearing shall be reported verbatim.

(i) The testimony of witnesses at a hearing shall be upon oath or affirmation and subject to cross-examination.

(ii) Any witness may, in the discretion of the judge, be examined separately and apart from all other witnesses except those who may be parties to the proceeding.

(iii) The judge shall exclude, insofar as practicable, evidence which is immaterial, irrelevant, or unduly repetitious, or which is not of the sort upon which responsible persons are accustomed to rely.

(2) Objections. If a party objects to the admission or rejection of any evidence or to the limitation of the scope of any examination or cross-examination, or any other ruling of the judge, he shall state briefly the grounds of such objection, whereupon an automatic exception will follow which may be pursued in an appeal pursuant to §900.65 by the party adversely affected by the judge's ruling.

(3) Depositions. The deposition of any witness shall be admitted, in the manner hereinafter provided in and subject to the provisions of §900.61.

(4) Affidavits. Except as is otherwise provided in this subpart, affidavits may be admitted only if the evidence is otherwise admissible and the parties agree (which may be determined by their failure to make timely objections) that affidavits may be used.

(5) Proof and authentication of official records or documents. An official record or document, when admissible for any purpose, shall be admissible in evidence without the production of the person who made or prepared the same. Such record or document shall, in the discretion of the judge, be evidenced by an official publication thereof or by a copy attested by the person having legal custody thereof and accompanied by a certificate that such person has the custody.

(6) Exhibits. All written statements, charts, tabulations, or similar data offered in evidence at the hearing shall, after identification by the proponent and upon a satisfactory showing of the admissibility of the contents thereof, be numbered as exhibits and received in evidence and made a part of the record. Except where the judge finds that the furnishing of copies is impracticable, a copy of each exhibit, in addition to the original, shall be filed with the judge for the use of each other party to the proceeding. The judge shall advise the parties as to the exact number of copies which will be required to be filed and shall make and have noted on the record the proper distribution of the copies. If the testimony of a witness refers to a statute, or to a report, document, or transcript, the judge, after inquiry relating to the identification of such statute, report, document, or transcript, shall determine whether the same shall be produced at the hearing and physically be made a part of the evidence as an exhibit, or whether it shall be incorporated into the evidence by reference. If relevant and material matter offered in evidence is embraced in a report, document, or transcript containing immaterial or irrelevant matter, such immaterial or irrelevant matter shall be excluded and shall be segregated insofar as practicable, subject to the direction of the judge.

(7) Official notice. Official notice will be taken of such matters as are judicially noticed by the courts of the United States and of any other matter of technical, scientific, or commercial fact of established character: Provided, That the parties shall be given adequate notice, at the hearing or by reference in the judge's report or the tentative order or otherwise, of matters so noticed, and (except where official notice is taken, for the first time in the proceeding, in the final order) shall be given adequate opportunity to show that such facts are erroneously noticed.

(8) Offer of proof. Whenever evidence is excluded from the record, the party offering such evidence may make an offer of proof, which shall be included
in the transcript. The offer of proof shall consist of a brief statement describing the evidence to be offered. If the evidence consists of a brief oral statement or of an exhibit, it shall be inserted into the transcript in toto. In such event, it shall be considered a part of the transcript if the Secretary decides that the judge's ruling in excluding the evidence was erroneous. The judge shall not allow the insertion of such evidence in toto if the taking of such evidence will consume a considerable length of time at the hearing. In the latter event, if on appeal the Secretary decides that the judge erred in excluding the evidence, and that such error was substantial, the hearing shall be reopened to permit the taking of such evidence.

(e) [Reserved]

(f) Transcript. (1) During the period in which the proceeding has an active status the transcript and exhibits shall be kept on file in the office of the hearing clerk, where it shall be available for examination during official hours of business. Thereafter said transcript and exhibits shall be made available by the hearing clerk for examination during official hours after prior request and reasonable notice to the hearing clerk.

(2) If a personal copy of the transcript is desired, such copy may be obtained upon written application filed with the reporter, and upon payment of fees at the rate (if any) provided in the contract between the reporter and the Secretary.


§ 900.61 Depositions.

(a) Procedure in lieu of deposition. Before any party may have testimony taken by deposition, said party shall, if practicable, submit to the other party an affidavit which shall set forth the facts to which the witness would testify, if the deposition should be taken. If, after examination of such affidavit, the other party agrees, or (within 10 days after submission of the affidavit) fails to object, that the affidavit may be used in lieu of the deposition, the judge shall admit the affidavit in evidence and shall not order the deposition to be taken.

(b) Application for taking deposition. Upon the application of a party to the proceeding, the judge may, at any time after the filing of the moving paper, order, under the facsimile signature of the Secretary, the taking of testimony by deposition. The application shall be in writing and shall be filed with the hearing clerk and shall set forth: (1) The name and address of the proposed deponent; (2) the name and address of the person (referred to hereinafter in this section as the judge), qualified under the rules in this part to take depositions, before whom the proposed examination is to be made; (3) the proposed time and place of the examination, which shall be at least 15 days after the date of the mailing of the application; and (4) the reasons why such deposition should be taken.

(c) Judge's order for taking deposition. If, after the examination of the application, the judge is of the opinion that the deposition should be taken, he shall order its taking. The order shall be filed with the hearing clerk and shall be served upon the parties and shall state: (1) The time and place of the examination (which shall not be less than 10 days after the filing of the order); (2) the name of the judge before whom the examination is to be made; (3) the name of the deponent. The judge and the time and place need not be the same as those suggested in the application.

(d) Qualifications of judge. The deposition shall be taken before the judge, or before a judge authorized by the law of the United States or by the law of the place of the examination to administer oaths, or before a judge authorized by the Secretary to administer oaths.

(e) Procedure on examination. (1) The deponent shall be examined under oath or affirmation and shall be subject to cross-examination. The testimony of the deponent shall be recorded by the judge or by some person under his direction and in his presence. In lieu of oral examination, parties may transmit written interrogatories to the judge prior to the examination and the judge shall propound such interrogatories to the deponent.

(2) The applicant must arrange for the examination of the witness either
by oral examination or by written interrogatories. If it is found by the judge, upon the protest of a party to the proceeding, that such party has his residence and his place of business more than 100 miles from the place of the examination and that it would constitute an undue hardship upon such party to be represented at the examination, the applicant will be required to conduct the examination by means of interrogatories. When the examination is conducted by means of interrogatories, copies of the interrogatories shall be served upon the other parties to the proceeding at least five days prior to the date set for the examination, and the other parties shall be afforded an opportunity to file with the judge cross-interrogatories at any time prior to the time of the examination.

(f) Certification by judge. The judge shall certify on the deposition that the deponent was duly sworn by him and that the deposition is a true record of the deponent's testimony. He shall then securely seal the deposition, together with two copies thereof, in an envelope and mail the same by registered mail to the hearing clerk.

(g) Use of depositions. A deposition ordered and taken in accord with the provisions of this section may be used in a proceeding under the Act if the judge finds that the evidence is otherwise admissible and (1) that the witness is dead; or (2) that the witness is at a distance greater than 100 miles from the place of hearing, unless it appears that the absence of the witness was procured by the party offering the deposition; or (3) that the witness is unable to attend or testify because of age, sickness, infirmity, or imprisonment; or (4) that the party offering the deposition has endeavored to procure the attendance of the witness by subpoena but has been unable to do so; or (5) that such exceptional circumstances exist as to make it desirable, in the interests of justice, to allow the deposition to be used. If a deposition has been taken, and the party upon whose application it was taken refuses to offer it in evidence, the other party may offer the deposition, or any part thereof, in evidence.

§ 900.62 Subpenas.

(a) Issuance of subpenas. The attendance of witnesses and the production of documentary evidence from any place in the United States on behalf of any party to the proceeding may, by subpoena, be required at any designated place of hearing. Subpenas may be issued by the Secretary or by the judge, under the facsimile signature of the Secretary, upon a reasonable showing by the applicant of the grounds, necessity, and reasonable scope thereof.

(b) Application for subpens duces tecum. Subpenas for the production of documentary evidence, unless issued by the judge upon his own motion, shall be issued only upon a certified written application. Such application shall specify, as exactly as possible, the documents desired and shall show their competency, relevancy, and materiality and the necessity for their production.

(c) Service of subpenas. Subpenas may be served (1) by a United States Marshal or his deputy, or (2) by any other person who is not less than 18 years of age, or (3) by registering and mailing a copy of the subpoena addressed to the person to be served at his or its last known residence or principal place of business or residence. Proof of service may be made by the return of service on the subpoena by the United States Marshal or his deputy; or, if served by an individual other than a United States Marshal or his deputy, by an affidavit of such person stating that he personally served a copy of the subpoena upon the person named therein; or, if service was by registered mail, by an affidavit made by the person mailing the subpoena that it was mailed as provided in this paragraph and by the signed return postoffice receipt: Provided, That, if the subpoena is issued on behalf of the Department, the return receipt without an affidavit of mailing shall be sufficient proof of service. In making personal service, the person making service shall leave a copy of the subpoena with the person subpoenaed; the original, bearing or accompanied by the required proof of service, shall be returned to the official who issued the same.
§ 900.63 Fees and mileage.

Witnesses who are subpenaed and who appear in such proceeding, including witnesses whose depositions are taken, shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid witnesses in the courts of the United States, and persons taking depositions shall be entitled to the same fees as are paid for like services in the courts of the United States, to be paid by the party at whose request the deposition is taken. Witness fees and mileage shall be paid by the party at whose instance the witnesses appear, and claims therefor, as to witnesses subpenaed on behalf of the Department, shall be proved before the person issuing the subpena, and as to witnesses subpenaed on behalf of any other party, shall be presented to such party.

§ 900.64 The Administrative Law Judge's decision.

(a) Corrections to and certification of transcript. (1) At such time as the judge may specify, but not later than the time fixed for filing proposed findings of fact, conclusions and order, or briefs, as the case may be, the parties may file with the judge proposed corrections to the transcript. (2) As soon as practicable after the filing of proposed findings of fact, conclusions and order, or briefs, as the case may be, the judge shall file with the hearing clerk his certificate indicating any corrections to be made in the transcript, and stating that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, the transcript, as corrected, is a true, correct, and complete transcript of the testimony given at the hearing, and that the exhibits are all the exhibits properly a part of the hearing record. The original of such certificate shall be attached to the original transcript and a copy of such certificate shall be served upon each of the parties by the hearing clerk who shall also enter upon the transcript (without obscuring the text) any correction noted in the certification.

(b) Proposed findings of fact, conclusions, and orders. Within 10 days (unless the judge shall have announced at the hearing a shorter or longer period of time) after the transcript has been filed with the hearing clerk, as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, each party may file with the hearing clerk proposed findings of fact, conclusions, and order, based solely upon the evidence of record, and briefs in support thereof.

(c) Administrative Law Judge's Decision. The judge, within a reasonable time after the termination of the period allowed for the filing of proposed findings of fact, conclusions, and orders, and briefs in support thereof, shall prepare upon the basis of the record, and shall file with the hearing clerk, his initial decision, a copy of which shall be served by the hearing clerk, upon each of the parties. Such decision shall become final without further proceedings 35 days after the date of service thereof, unless there is appeal to the Secretary by a party to the proceeding: Provided, however, That no decision shall be final for the purpose of judicial review except a final decision issued by the Secretary pursuant to an appeal by a party to the proceeding.


§ 900.65 Appeals to Secretary: Transmittal of record.

(a) Filing of appeal. Any party who disagrees with a judge's decision or any part thereof, may appeal the decision to the Secretary by transmitting an appeal petition to the hearing clerk within 30 days after service of said decision upon said party. Each issue set forth in the appeal, and the arguments thereon, shall be separately numbered; shall be plainly and concisely stated; and shall contain detailed citations of the record, statutes, regulations and authorities being relied upon in support thereof. The appeal petition shall be served upon the other party to the proceeding by the hearing clerk.

(b) Argument before Secretary—(1) Oral argument. A party bringing an appeal may request within the prescribed time period for filing such appeal, an opportunity for oral argument before the Secretary. Failure to make such request in writing, within the prescribed time period, shall be deemed a waiver of oral argument. The Secretary, in his discretion, may grant, refuse or limit any request for oral argument on appeal.
(2) Scope of argument. Argument to be heard on appeal, whether oral or in a written brief, shall be limited to the issues raised by the appeal, except that if the Secretary determines that additional issues should be argued, the parties shall be given reasonable notice of such determination, so as to permit preparation of adequate arguments on all the issues to be argued.

(c) Response. Within 20 days after service of an appeal brought by a party to the proceeding, any other party may file a response in support of or in opposition to such appeal.

(d) Transmittal of record. Whenever an appeal is filed by a party to the proceeding, the hearing clerk shall transmit to the Secretary the record of the proceeding. Such record shall include: The pleadings; any motions and requests filed, and the rulings thereon; the transcript of the testimony taken at the hearing, as well as the exhibits filed in connection therewith; any statements filed under the shortened procedure; any documents or papers filed in connection with prehearing conferences; such proposed findings of fact, conclusions, and orders, and briefs in support thereof, as may have been filed in connection with the hearing; the judge's initial decision; and the appeal petition; briefs in support thereof, and responses thereto as may have been filed in the proceeding.

§ 900.66 Consideration of appeal by the Secretary and issuance of final order.

(a) Consideration of appeal. As soon as practicable after the receipt of the record from the hearing clerk, or, in case oral argument was had, as soon as practicable thereafter, the Secretary, upon the basis of and after due consideration of the record, shall rule on the appeal. If the Secretary decides that no change or modification of the judge's decision is warranted, he may adopt the Judge's decision as the final order of the Secretary, preserving any right of the party bringing the appeal to seek judicial review of such decision in the proper forum. At no stage of the proceeding between its institution and the issuance of the order shall the Secretary discuss ex parte the merits of the proceeding with any person who is connected with the proceeding in an advocative or an investigative capacity, or with any representative of such person: Provided, however, That the Secretary may discuss the merits of the proceeding with such a person if all parties to the proceeding, or their representatives, have been given an opportunity to be present. If, notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, a memorandum or other communication from any party, or from any person acting on behalf of any party, which relates to the merits of the proceeding, receives the personal attention of the Secretary (or, if an official other than the Secretary is to issue the order, then of such other official) during the pendency of the proceeding, such memorandum or communication shall be regarded as argument made in the proceeding and shall be filed with the hearing clerk, who shall serve a copy thereof upon the opposite party to file a reply thereto.

(b) Issuance of final order. A final order issued by the Secretary shall be filed with the hearing clerk, who shall serve it upon the parties: Provided, That, if the terms of the order differ substantially from those proposed in the decision of the judge, the Secretary shall, if he deems it advisable to do so, direct that a copy of the order be served upon the parties as a tentative order; and, in such event, opportunity shall be given the parties to file exceptions thereto and written arguments or briefs in support of such exceptions. In such case, if exceptions are filed within a period of time (to be fixed by the Secretary but not to exceed 20 days) following the service of the tentative order, the Secretary shall give consideration, to and shall make such changes in the tentative order as he deems to be appropriate; otherwise, the tentative order shall become final, as of the day following the date of expiration of the period fixed for the filing of exceptions.

[38 FR 29799, Oct. 29, 1973]
§ 900.68 Applications for reopening hearings; for rehearings or reargu-
ments of proceedings; or for reconsideration of orders.

(a) Petition requisite—(1) Filing; serv-
ice. An application for reopening the
hearing to take further evidence, or for
rehearing or reargument of the pro-
ceeding, or for reconsideration of the
order shall be made by petition ad-
dressed to the Secretary and filed with
the hearing clerk, who immediately
shall notify and serve a copy thereof
upon the other party to the proceeding.
Every such petition shall state specifi-
cally the grounds relied upon.

(2) Petitions to reopen hearings. A peti-
tion to reopen the hearing for the pur-
pose of taking additional evidence may
be filed at any time prior to the
issuance of the final order. Every such
petition shall state briefly the nature
and purpose of the evidence to be ad-
duced, shall show that such evidence is
not merely cumulative, and shall set
forth a good reason why such evidence
was not adduced at the hearing.

(3) Petitions to rehear or reargue pro-
ceedings, or to reconsider orders. A peti-
tion to rehear or reargue the proceed-
ing or to reconsider the final order
shall be filed within 15 days after the
date of the service of such order. Every
such petition shall state specifically
the matters claimed to have been erro-
neously decided, and alleged errors
must be briefly stated.

(b) Procedure for disposition of peti-
tions. Within 10 days following the serv-
ice of any petition provided for in this
section, the other party to the proceed-
ing shall file with the hearing clerk an
answer thereto. As soon as practicable
thereafter, the Secretary shall an-
nounce the decision granting or deny-
ing the petition. Unless the Secretary
shall determine otherwise, the issuance
or operation of the order shall not be
stayed pending the decision of the Sec-
retary upon the petition. In the event
that any such petition is granted by
the Secretary, the applicable rules of
practice, as set out elsewhere in this
subpart, shall be followed.

§ 900.69 Filing; service; extensions of
time; effective date of filing; and
computation of time.

(a) Filing; number of copies. Except as
provided otherwise herein, all docu-
ments or papers required or authorized
in this subpart to be filed with the
hearing clerk shall be filed in quadru-
plicate. Provided, That, if there are
more than two parties to the proceed-
ing, a sufficient number of additional
copies shall be filed so as to provide for
service upon all the parties to the pro-
ceeding. Any document or paper, re-
quired or authorized in this subpart to
be filed with the hearing clerk, shall,
during the course of an oral hearing, be
filed with the judge.

(b) Service; proof of service. Copies of
all such papers shall be served upon the
parties by the hearing clerk, by the
judge, or by some other employee of
the Department or by a United States
Marshal or his deputy. Service shall be
made either (1) by delivering a copy of
the document or paper to the individ-
ual to be served or to a member of the
partnership to be served or to the
president, secretary, or other executive
officer or any director of the corpora-
tion, organization, or association to be
served, or to the attorney or agent of
record of such individual, partnership,
corporation, organization, or associa-
tion; or (2) by leaving a copy of the
document or paper at the principal of-
office or place of business of such indi-
vidual, partnership, corporation, orga-
nization, or association, or of his or its
attorney or agent of record; or (3) by
registering and mailing a copy of the
document or paper, addressed to such
individual, partnership, corporation,
organization, or association, or to his
or its attorney or agent of record, at
his or its last known principal office,
place of business, or residence. Proof of
service hereunder shall be made by the
affidavit of the person who actually
made the service. The affidavit con-
templated herein shall be filed with the
hearing clerk, and the fact of filing
thereof shall be noted on the docket of
the proceeding.

(c) Extensions of time. The time for
the filing of any documents or papers
required or authorized in this subpart
to be filed may be extended upon (1) a written stipulation between the parties, or (2) upon the request of a party, by the judge before the transmittal of the record to the Secretary, or by the Secretary at any other time if, in the judgment of the Secretary or the judge, as the case may be, there is good reason for the extension.

(d) Effective date of filing. Any document or paper, except a petition filed pursuant to §900.52, required or authorized under these rules to be filed shall be deemed to have been filed when it is postmarked, or when it is received by the hearing clerk. Any petition filed under §900.52 shall be deemed to be filed when it is received by the hearing clerk.

(e) Computation of time. Sundays and Federal holidays shall be included in computing the time allowed for the filing of any document or paper: Provided, That, when such time expires on a Sunday or legal holiday, such time shall be extended to include the next following business day.

§ 900.70 Applications for interim relief.

(a) Filing the application. A person who has filed a petition pursuant to §900.52 may by separate application filed with the hearing clerk apply to the Secretary or an order postponing the effective date of, or suspending the application of, the marketing order or any provision thereof, or any obligation imposed in connection therewith, pending final determination of the proceeding.

(b) Contents of the application. The application shall contain a statement of the facts upon which the relief is requested, including any facts showing irreparable injury. The application must be signed and sworn to by the petitioner and any facts alleged therein which are not within his personal knowledge shall be supported by affidavits of a person or persons having personal knowledge of such facts or by proper documentary evidence thereof.

(c) Answer to application. Immediately upon receipt of the application, the hearing clerk shall transmit a copy thereof, together with all supporting papers, to the Administrator, who shall, within 20 days, or such other time fixed by the Secretary, after the filing of the application file an answer thereto with the hearing clerk.

(d) Contents of answer. The answer shall contain a statement of the objections, if any, of the Administrator to the application for interim relief, and may be supported by affidavits and documentary evidence.

(e) Transmittal to Secretary. Upon receiving the answer of the Administrator or upon the expiration of the time for filing the answer, the hearing clerk shall transmit to the Secretary for his decision all papers filed in connection with the application.

(f) Hearing and oral argument. The Secretary may, in his discretion, permit oral argument or the taking of testimony in connection with such application. However, unless written request therefor is filed with the hearing clerk prior to the transmittal of the papers to the Secretary, the parties shall be deemed to have waived oral argument and the taking of testimony.

(g) Decision by Secretary. The Secretary may grant or deny the application. Any action taken by the Secretary shall be in the form of an order filed with the hearing clerk and shall contain a brief statement of the reasons for the action taken. The hearing clerk shall cause copies of the order to be served upon the parties.

§ 900.71 Hearing before Secretary.

The Secretary may act in the place and stead of a judge in any proceeding hereunder. When he so acts the hearing clerk shall transmit the record to the Secretary at the expiration of the period provided for the filing of proposed findings of fact, conclusions and orders, and the Secretary shall thereupon, after due consideration of the record, issue his final order in the proceeding: Provided, That he may issue a tentative order in which event the parties shall be afforded an opportunity to file exceptions before the issuance of the final order.
Subpart—Supplemental Rules of Practice for Marketing Orders, Marketing Agreements, and Requirements Issued Pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 608b(b) and 7 U.S.C. 608e Covering Fruits, Vegetables, and Nuts


Source: 61 FR 20717, May 8, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 900.80 Words in the singular form.

Words in this subpart in the singular form shall be deemed to import the plural, and vice versa, as the case may demand.

§ 900.81 Definitions.

As used in this subpart, the terms as defined in the act shall apply with equal force and effect. In addition, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) The term Act means Public Act No. 10, 73 Congress (48 Stat. 31) as amended and as reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (50 Stat. 246), as amended.

(b) The term Department means the United States Department of Agriculture.

(c) The term Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

(d) The term Administrator means the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, with power to redelegate, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has been delegated or may hereafter be delegated to act in his stead.

(e) The term proceeding means a proceeding before the Secretary arising under sections 8a, 8b(b), 8c(14), 8e, 10(c) and 10(h).

(f) The term hearing means that part of the proceeding which involves the submission of evidence.

(g) The term marketing agreement means any marketing agreement or any amendment thereto which may be entered into pursuant to section 8b of the act.

(h) The term marketing order means any order or any amendment thereto which may be issued pursuant to section 8c of the act, and after notice and hearing as required by said section.

(i) The term handler means any person who, by the terms of a marketing order or marketing agreement, is subject thereto, or to whom a marketing order or marketing agreement is sought to be made applicable.

(j) The term importer means any person who, by the terms of section 8e of the act, is subject thereto.

(k) The term person means any individual, corporation, partnership, association, or any other business unit.

§ 900.82 Stipulation procedures.

The Administrator, or the Administrator's representative, may, at any time before the issuance of a complaint seeking a civil penalty under the Act, enter into a stipulation with any handler or importer in accordance with the following procedures:

(a) The Administrator, or the Administrator's representative, shall give the handler or importer notice of the alleged violation of the applicable marketing order or marketing agreement, or the requirements issued pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 608b(b) and 7 U.S.C. 608e, and an opportunity for a hearing thereon as provided by the Act;

(b) In agreeing to the proposed stipulation, the handler or importer expressly waives the opportunity for a hearing and agrees to pay a specified civil penalty within a designated time;

(c) The Administrator, or the Administrator's representative, agrees to accept the specified civil penalty in settlement of the particular matter involved if it is paid within the designated time;

(d) In cases where the handler or importer does not pay the specified civil penalty within the designated time, or the handler or importer does not agree to the stipulation, the Administrator may issue an administrative complaint; and

(e) The civil penalty that the Administrator may have proposed in a stipulation agreement shall have no bearing on the civil penalty amount that the Department may seek in a formal administrative proceeding against the...
same handler or importer for the same alleged violation.

Subpart—Procedure Governing Meetings To Arbitrate and Mediate Disputes Relating to Sales of Milk or Its Products


§ 900.103words in the singular form.

Words in this subpart in the singular form shall be deemed to import the plural, and vice versa, as the case may demand.

§ 900.101 definitions.

As used in this subpart, the terms as defined in the act shall apply with equal force and effect. In addition, unless the context otherwise requires:
(a) The term act means section 3 of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (50 Stat. 248, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 671);
(b) The term Department means the United States Department of Agriculture;
(c) The term Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead;
(d) The term General Counsel means the General Counsel of the Department;
(e) The term Administrator means the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, with power to redelega-tate, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has been delegated or may hereafter be delegated to act in his stead;
(f) The term Service means the Agricultural Marketing Service;
(g) The term Division means the Dairy Division of the Service;
(h) The term cooperative means any association, incorporated or otherwise, which is in good faith owned or con-trolled by producers, or organizations thereof, of milk or its products, and which is bona fide engaged in the collective processing or preparing for market or handling or marketing, in the current of interstate or foreign commerce, of milk or its products;
(i) The term arbitrator means any officer or employee of the Service designated by the Administrator, pursuant to the act, to arbitrate a bona fide dispute with reference to the terms and conditions of the sale of milk or its products between a producer cooperative and purchasers, handlers, processors, or distributors of milk or its products;
(j) The term mediator means any officer or employee of the Service designated by the Administrator, pursuant to the act, to mediate a bona fide dispute with reference to terms and conditions of the sale of milk or its products between a producer cooperative and purchasers, handlers, processors, or distributors of milk or its products;
(k) The term hearing clerk means the hearing clerk, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC.

§ 900.102 filing of applications for mediation or arbitration.

All applications for mediation or arbitration, all submissions, and all correspondence regarding mediation or arbitration shall be addressed to the Secretary, attention of the Division.

§ 900.103 application for mediation.

An application for mediation by a cooperative, shall be in writing and shall include the following information:
(a) Names in full of the parties to the dispute and their addresses;
(b) Description of the cooperative organization and business, including copies of the articles of incorporation or association, by-laws, and membership contract; information regarding the number of shares of outstanding stock and the approximate portion owned by active producers; a statement of the function performed in connection with the collective processing, preparing, handling, or marketing of milk or its products; and data relative to the distribution of membership by States, the distribution by States of plant facilities for collecting, processing, or disposing of milk or its products, and the
§ 900.104 Inquiry by the Administrator.

Upon receipt of an application for mediation, the Administrator, through such officers or employees of the Service as he may designate, may make any inquiry which is deemed to be necessary or proper in order to determine whether a bona fide dispute exists.

§ 900.105 Notification.

The Administrator, acting on behalf of the Secretary will notify the applicant as to whether he considers that mediation will effectuate the purpose of the act and as to whether he will mediate.

§ 900.106 Assignment of mediator.

The Director of the Division shall assign a mediator, from the group designated by the Administrator, to act in such capacity.

§ 900.107 Meetings.

All meetings held pursuant to §§900.103 to 900.109 shall be held with and under the direction of the mediator.

§ 900.108 Mediator’s report.

The mediator, upon the completion of mediation proceedings, shall submit to the Administrator a complete report on such proceedings.

§ 900.109 Mediation agreement.

An agreement arrived at by mediation shall not become effective until approved by the Secretary, and the Secretary will not approve an agreement if there is evidence of fraud, if there is a lack of evidence to support the agreement, or if the agreement provides for any unfair trade practice.

§ 900.110 Application for arbitration.

An application for arbitration by a cooperative shall be in writing and shall contain the following information:

(a) Names in full of the parties to the dispute and their addresses;
(b) The same information required under §900.103(b);
(c) Concise statement of dispute to be submitted;
(d) Originals or certified copies of all contracts, if any, involved in the dispute, and of correspondence which has passed between the parties and of any other documents or information relied upon;
(e) Dates before which it is desired that the hearing shall be had and the award shall become effective;
(f) Suggested time and place for arbitration hearing.

The applicant shall send a copy of the application to each other party to the dispute.

§ 900.111 Inquiry by the Administrator.

Upon receipt of an application for arbitration, the Administrator, through such officers or employees of the Service as he may designate, may make any inquiry deemed to be necessary or proper in order to determine whether a bona fide dispute exists, to assist the parties in reducing the dispute to well-defined issues, and to select an arbitrator who would be satisfactory to all parties.

§ 900.112 Notification.

The Administrator, acting on behalf of the Secretary, within a reasonable time after the receipt of an application, will notify the applicant as to whether he will grant the application.

§ 900.113 Submission.

(a)(1) Within a reasonable time after the receipt of the Administrator’s consent to arbitrate, the parties to the dispute shall file with the Administrator a formal submission, which shall contain the following information:
(i) Names in full of the parties;
(ii) Addresses of the parties to whom all notifications and communications concerning the arbitration shall be sent;
(iii) Description of the organization and businesses of all parties to the dispute, including sufficient information to show that the cooperative is a bona
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A concise statement of the specific questions submitted and a brief outline of the contentions of each party to the dispute, and a statement as to the period of time during which the award shall be in effect, said period to be not less than thirty days from the effective date of the award;

(v) Name of arbitrator;

(vi) Time and place of arbitration, including street address;

(vii) Stipulation by the parties that they will produce any books, records, and correspondence required by the arbitrator as being necessary to a fair determination of the dispute;

(viii) Agreement by the parties that they will consider the award as final and will comply therewith;

(ix) Stipulation by the parties that arbitration is to take place under rules and regulations issued by the Secretary, and that any such rules and regulations pertaining to mediation and arbitration shall be considered a part of the submission;

(x) Stipulation that a stenographic report of the proceedings must be made.

(2) The submission shall be signed by each party before a notary public, and when the signature is that of an agent of a corporation or cooperative association, the same shall be accompanied by evidence of the authority to sign.

(3) A submission may be withdrawn at any time before the award, and any question held by the arbitrator to be a separable question may be withdrawn before award by agreement of all parties. When any question is so withdrawn, the parties shall file with the arbitrator the agreement on that question reached by the parties, showing all the details thereof, and the arbitrator shall include it in the record of the arbitration.

§ 900.114 Designation of arbitrator.

The Administrator, after receiving the submission, will designate one or more persons to act as arbitrator.

§ 900.115 Hearing.

(a) The arbitrator shall have full discretion to conduct the hearing in such manner as will, in his opinion, enable him to ascertain all the facts in the case.

(b) Parties to the dispute may appear in person or by duly accredited agents and may be represented by counsel.

(c) All relevant and material evidence may be presented. The arbitrator shall not be bound by the legal rules of evidence.

(d) The arbitrator, in the presence of the parties, may require the production of books and records for examination by himself, but not for examination of confidential information by other parties to the dispute unless the party producing the same consents to its examination by the other parties to the dispute.

(e) No evidence offered by one party shall be received except in the presence of all parties unless the parties so agree in a submission specifying the nature of the evidence to be received.

(f) Final determination as to what will be considered confidential information shall be made by the arbitrator.

(g) The arbitrator may request the opinions of economists, marketing specialists, statisticians, lawyers, accountants, and other experts.

(h) When more than two arbitrators are designated to hear a dispute, and they disagree, the award of the majority shall be the final award. If the arbitrators are evenly divided, there shall be no award.

(i) A stenographic record of all the proceedings during an arbitration must be made.

§ 900.116 Award.

(a) An award shall be made within ten days after the close of the hearing.

(1) The award shall be in writing and shall cover only points of dispute raised in the submission.

(2) The arbitrator, in making the award, may use his own technical knowledge in addition to the evidence submitted by the parties.

(3) The award shall state the period during which it shall be in effect, said period to be not less than thirty days from the effective date thereof; and
said period may be extended by agreement among the parties upon notification thereof to the Administrator, unless or until the Administrator withdraws his approval.

(4) The arbitrator shall sign the award in the presence of a notary public, or, when more than one arbitrator is designated the arbitrator shall sign in the presence of each other.

(5) Copies of the award shall be delivered to the parties by the Division.

§ 900.117 Approval of award.

The award shall not become effective until approved by the Secretary, and the Secretary will not approve an award if there is evidence of fraud, or evidence of misconduct upon the part of the arbitrator, or lack of evidence to support the award, or if the award provides for any unfair trade practice.

§ 900.118 Costs.

The parties jointly shall pay for the stenographic record. A copy of the record shall be furnished by the parties to the arbitrator and shall be forwarded by him to the Administrator, ultimately to be filed in the office of the hearing clerk. The arbitrator shall not receive compensation for parties to the dispute.

Subpart—Miscellaneous Regulations

Authority: Sec. 10, 48 Stat. 37, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 610.

§ 900.200 Definitions.

As used in this subpart, the terms as defined in the Act shall apply with equal force and effect. In addition, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) The term Act means Public Act No. 10, 73d Congress (48 Stat. 31), as amended and as reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (50 Stat. 246, 7 U.S.C. 603), as amended;

(b) The term Department means the United States Department of Agriculture;

(c) The term Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead;

(d) The term General Counsel means the General Counsel of the Department;

(e) The term Administrator means the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, with power to redelegate, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has been delegated or may hereafter be delegated to act in his stead.

(f) [Reserved]

(g) The term Federal Register means the publication provided for by the Act of July 26, 1935 (49 Stat. 500), and Acts supplementary thereto and amendatory thereof;

(h) The term marketing agreement means any marketing agreement or any amendment thereto which may be entered into pursuant to section 8b of the Act;

(i) The term marketing order means any order or any amendment thereto which may be issued pursuant to section 8c of the Act;

(j) The term person means any individual, corporation, partnership, association, or any other business unit;

(k) The term official means the Secretary, any officer, employee, or other person employed or appointed by the Department, and any agency or agent appointed by the Secretary to administer a marketing agreement or a marketing order, and any agent or employee of any such agency or agent;

(l) The term information means and includes reports, books, accounts, records, and the facts and information contained therein and required to be furnished to or acquired by any official pursuant to the provisions of any marketing agreement or marketing order.


§ 900.201 Investigation and disposition of alleged violations.

Whenever the Administrator has reason to believe that any handler has violated, or is violating, the provisions of any marketing order, he may institute such investigation and, after due notice to such handler, conduct such hearing in order to determine the facts as, in his opinion, are warranted. If, in
the opinion of the Administrator and the General Counsel, the facts developed as a result of such investigation or hearing warrant such action, the General Counsel shall refer the matter to the Attorney General for appropriate action.

§ 900.210 Disclosures of information.

All information in the possession of any official which relates to the business or property of any person, and which was furnished by, or obtained from, such person pursuant to the provisions of any marketing agreement or marketing order, shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed, divulged, or made public, unless otherwise expressly provided in said marketing agreement or marketing order, or unless said person authorizes said official, in writing, to disclose such information, except that:

(a) Such information may be disclosed, divulged, or made public if it has been obtained from or furnished by a person who is not the person to whose business or property such information relates or an employee of such latter person, or if such information is otherwise required by law to be furnished to an official;

(b) Such information may be furnished to other officials for use in the regular course of their official duties;

(c) Such information may be combined and published in the form of general statistical studies or data in which the identity of the person furnishing such information or from whom it was obtained shall not be disclosed;

(d) Such information may be disclosed upon lawful demand made by the President or by either House of Congress or any committee thereof, or, if the Secretary determines that such disclosure is not contrary to the public interest, such information may be disclosed in response to a subpoena by any court of competent jurisdiction.

(e) Such information may be offered in evidence (whether or not it has been obtained from or furnished by the person against whom it is offered) by or on behalf of the Secretary, the United States, or the official who obtained it or to whom it was furnished, in any administrative hearing held pursuant to section 8c(15)(A) of the Act or in any action, suit, or proceeding, civil or criminal, in which the Secretary or the United States or any such official is a party, and:

(1) Which is instituted (i) for the purpose of enforcing or restraining the violation of any marketing agreement or marketing order, or (ii) for the purpose of collecting any penalty or forfeiture provided for in the Act, or (iii) for the purpose of collecting any monies due under a marketing agreement or marketing order, or

(2) In which the validity of any marketing agreement or marketing order, or any provision of either, is challenged or involved.

(f) Such information may be furnished to the duly constituted authorities of any State, pursuant to a written agreement made under authority of section 10(i) of the Act, to the extent that such information is relevant to transactions within the regulatory jurisdiction of such authorities.

§ 900.211 Penalties.

Any official who shall have violated the provisions of §900.210 by wilfully divulging, disclosing, or making public any information acquired by or furnished to or in the possession or custody of such official pursuant to the provisions of a marketing agreement or marketing order shall be subject to a penalty of $100 for each offense. (The civil penalty provided in this section is prescribed under the authority contained in sec. 10(c) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 610(c)); this provision is not intended to supersede the provision in section 8d(2) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 608d(2)) for criminal liability and removal from office.)
§ 900.300 General.

Unless otherwise prescribed, the procedure contained in this subpart shall be applicable to each producer referendum conducted for the purpose of ascertaining whether the issuance by the Secretary of a milk marketing order is approved or favored, as required under the applicable provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (48 Stat. 31, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 601-674). The procedure in this subpart replaces the procedure for conducting similar referenda (15 FR 5177) issued August 7, 1950.

§ 900.301 Definitions.

As used in this subpart and in all supplementary instructions, forms, and documents, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) Act. Act means Public Act No. 10, 73d Congress (48 Stat. 31), as amended, and as re-enacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (50 Stat. 246), as amended.

(b) Department. Department means the United States Department of Agriculture.

(c) Secretary. Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

(d) Administrator. Administrator means the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, with power to redelegate, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has been delegated or may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

(e) Person. Person includes any individual, partnership, corporation, association, and any other business unit.

(f) Order. Order means the marketing order (including any amendatory order) with respect to which the Secretary has directed that a referendum be conducted.

(g) Producer. Producer means any person who is a dairy farmer and who, during the representative period, met the requirements of the term producer as defined in the order had such order been in effect during the representative period.

(h) Handler. Handler means any person who, during the representative period, met the requirements of the term handler as defined in the order had such order been in effect during the representative period.

(i) Referendum agent. Referendum agent means the person designated by the Secretary to conduct the referendum.

(j) Representative period. Representative period means the period designated by the Secretary pursuant to section 8c of the Act (7 U.S.C. 608c).

(k) Cooperative association. Cooperative association means any association of producers that the Administrator has found to be qualified pursuant to section 608c(12) of the Act.


§ 900.302 Associations eligible to vote.

(a) Any association of producers, not previously determined to be a cooperative association may file an application for a determination as to whether it is a cooperative association and thus eligible to vote in a referendum. Such application shall be filed with the Administrator at least 60 days prior to the holding of the referendum: Provided, however, That the Administrator may permit the filing of an application in less than 60 days when, in the opinion of the Administrator, such filing would not delay the conduct of the referendum.

(b) Within a time fixed by the referendum agent, but not later than 5 days prior to the final date for balloting, each cooperative association eligible to vote in a referendum. Such application shall be filed with the Administrator at least 60 days prior to the holding of the referendum: Provided, however, That the Administrator may permit the filing of an application in less than 60 days when, in the opinion of the Administrator, such filing would not delay the conduct of the referendum.

§ 900.303 Conduct of referendum.

The referendum shall be conducted by mail in the manner prescribed in this subpart. The referendum agent may utilize such personnel or agencies
§ 900.304 Who may vote.

(a) Each producer shall be entitled to only one vote and to cast one ballot in each referendum; and no person who may claim to be a producer shall be refused a ballot. Each producer casting more than one ballot with conflicting votes shall thereby invalidate all ballots cast by such producer in such referendum. Each ballot cast shall contain a certification by the person casting the ballot that he is a producer.

(b) Except as provided in section 8c(5)(B) of the act, as amended, any cooperative association eligible under §900.302 may, if it elects to do so, vote and cast one ballot for producers who are members of, stockholders in, or under contract with, such cooperative association. A cooperative association shall submit, with its ballot, a certified copy of the resolution authorizing the casting of the ballot. Each such cooperative association entitled to vote in a referendum casting more than one ballot with conflicting votes shall thereby invalidate all ballots cast by such voter in such referendum.

(c) Voting by proxy or agent, or in any manner, except by the producer or cooperative association will not be permitted; however, a producer which is other than an individual may cast its ballot by a person who is duly authorized and such ballot shall contain a certification by such person that the person on whose behalf the ballot is cast is a producer.

§ 900.305 Duties of referendum agent.

The referendum agent shall also:

(a) For purposes of mailing, prepare a record of producers which will disclose the name of each such person, his address, the name of the handler who received the producer's milk during the representative period, and the name of the cooperative association, if any, which claims the right to vote for the producer. Such record may be compiled from readily available sources, including the following:

(1) Records of the Department;
(2) Producer records supplied by handlers;
(3) Health authority records;
(4) Certifications signed by dairy farmers who claim to be producers;
(5) Any other reliable sources of information which may be available to the referendum agent.

(b) As a guide, the following criteria in preparing a record of producers:

(1) When the order requires approval by an appropriate health authority before a person meets the definition of producer, only those persons having such approval and who otherwise meet the definition may be regarded as producers. When the definition of producer requires the shipment of milk to a handler or a plant as well as health authority approval, only those persons having such approval and whose milk was received by a handler or at a plant may be regarded as producers.

(2) When the order requires shipment to a handler or to a plant, without regard to health authority approval, a person may not be regarded as a producer, except as provided in paragraph (b)(6) of this section, unless his name appears on the handler's producer records.

(3) In the case of a producer that is other than an individual, the business unit shall be regarded as the producer.

(4) No person may be included in the record more than once although he may operate more than one farm, hold more than one health authority approval, or appear on more than one handler's producer records.

(5) In the event the health authority records are not available, are inaccurate, or are incomplete, the appearance of the producer's name on a handler's records as an approved producer shall be prima facie evidence of health authority approval.

(6) In the event any handler refuses or fails to make his records available to the referendum agent, a certification signed by the producer shall be regarded by the referendum agent as prima facie evidence that such person is eligible to vote.

(c) Verify the information supplied by each cooperative association which wishes to vote on behalf of producers, as follows:

(1) Examine the records of the cooperative association for the purpose of ascertaining whether each producer
claimed by the cooperative association is a member of, stockholder in, or under contract with the cooperative association.

(2) Identify the persons ascertained to be members of, stockholders in, or under contract with a cooperative association which wishes to vote on behalf of its producers with the names of producers which appear on the record compiled pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section.

(3) In determining whether a cooperative association may vote on behalf of a producer the following criteria shall be used:

(i) The cooperative association may vote for each producer who is a member of, stockholder in, or under contract with such cooperative association on the date of the order directing that the referendum be conducted.

(ii) The cooperative association may cast only one ballot for all such producers.

(iii) Whenever more than one cooperative association claims the right to vote for a producer only the cooperative association which furnished evidence satisfactory to the referendum agent that such association was in fact marketing the milk of the producer on the date of the referendum order may vote for such producer.

§ 900.306 Notice of the referendum.

(a) The referendum agent shall at least 5 days prior to the final date for balloting:

(1) Mail to each cooperative association which has elected to cast a ballot on behalf of its producers and to each of all other known producers, a notice of the referendum which will include instructions for completing the ballot, a statement as to the time within which the ballot must be mailed to and received by the referendum agent, a copy of the final decision, and a ballot containing a description of the terms and conditions of the order.

(2) Give public notice of the referendum:

(i) By furnishing press releases and other information to available media of public information (including but not limited to press, radio, and television facilities) serving the area, announcing the time within which ballots must be completed and mailed to and received by the referendum agent, eligibility requirements, where additional information may be procured, and other pertinent information; and

(ii) By such other means as said agent may deem advisable.

§ 900.307 Time for voting.

There shall be no voting except within the time specified by the referendum agent as stated in the notice of the referendum.

§ 900.308 Tabulation of ballots.

(a) General. The referendum agent shall verify the information supplied with each ballot. If he ascertains that the person who cast the ballot was eligible to do so, that the ballot is complete and was mailed and received within the prescribed time, the ballot shall be eligible to be counted. If the referendum agent ascertains that the person who cast the ballot was not eligible to do so, or if the producer who cast the ballot was a member of, stockholder in, or under contract with a cooperative association which cast a valid ballot, or if the ballot is not completed or cast in accordance with instructions, or if the ballot was not mailed to or received by the referendum agent within the prescribed time, the ballot shall be marked “disqualified” with a notation on the ballot as to the reason for the disqualification. The total number of ballots cast, including the disqualified ballots, shall be ascertained. The number of eligible ballots cast approving and the number of eligible ballots cast disapproving the issuance of the order shall also be ascertained. The ballots marked “disqualified” shall not be considered as approving or disapproving the issuance of the order, and the persons who cast such ballots shall not be regarded as participating in the referendum.

(b) Individual-handler pool provisions. Whenever separate approval of the pooling provisions of the order is required by section 608c(5)(B)(ii) of the act, any ballot which approves the issuance of the order and disapproves the pooling provisions, or approves the pooling provisions and disapproves the
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issuance of the order, shall be disqualified; and the referendum agent shall mark the ballot accordingly.

(c) Record of results of the referendum. The referendum agent shall notify the Administrator of the number of eligible ballots cast, the count of the votes, the number of disqualified ballots and the number of producers who were eligible to cast ballots. The referendum agent shall seal the ballots, including those marked “disqualified”, the list of eligible voters and tabulation of ballots, and shall transmit to the Administrator a complete detailed report of all action taken in connection with the referendum together with all the ballots cast and all other information furnished to or compiled by the referendum agent.

(d) Announcement of the results of the referendum. Announcement of the results of the referendum will be made only at the direction of the Secretary. The referendum agent, or others who assist in the referendum, shall not disclose the results of the referendum or the total number of ballots cast.

§ 900.350 General statement.

Cooperative marketing associations apply for qualification by the Secretary under the Federal milk order program for certain privileges and exemptions. These privileges and exemptions are expressed in the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (50 Stat. 246) as amended, and the milk marketing orders issued pursuant to its provisions.

§ 900.351 Applications for qualification.

Any association of producers may apply for determinations as to whether it is a qualified cooperative association with authority to represent producers in order referendums; has authorization to collect payment from handlers for members’ milk; and is rendering specified marketing services to producers. Applicant associations should supply information for these determinations, using as a guide Application Form DA–25. The application form may be obtained from the Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250. Determinations required of the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, by delegation are made by the Director of the Dairy Division. Once issued they are valid until amended, suspended or terminated.

§ 900.352 Confidential information.

The Administrator is authorized to issue instructions and to prescribe forms and ballots, not inconsistent with the provisions of this subpart, to govern the conduct of referenda by referendum agents.

§ 900.353 Qualification standards.

Statutory requirements for qualification of cooperative associations are provided in subsections (5) and (12) of section 608c of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.). The association

§ 900.309 Confidential information.

The ballots cast, the identity of any person who voted, or the manner in which any person voted and all information furnished to, compiled by, or in the possession of the referendum agent, shall be regarded as confidential.

§ 900.310 Supplementary instructions.

Interested persons may secure information or make submittals or requests to the Administrator with respect to the provisions contained in this subpart.

Subpart—Procedure for Determining the Qualification of Cooperative Milk Marketing Associations


Source: 32 FR 9821, July 6, 1967, unless otherwise noted.
§ 900.354 Inspection and investigation.

The Secretary of Agriculture, or his duly authorized representative, shall have the right, at any time after an application is received, to examine all books, documents, papers, records, files and facilities of the association, to verify any of the information submitted and to procure such other information as may be required to determine whether the association is qualified in accordance with its application.

§ 900.355 Annual reporting.

Determinations of qualification for privileges and exemptions are subject to amendment, termination or suspension if the association does not currently meet the qualification standards. An association found to be qualified pursuant to the Act is required to file an annual report after its annual meeting has been held following the close of its fiscal year. Form DA-24 is used for this purpose. The report form is available at the Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250. The association is required to file a copy of its report with the Dairy Division at Washington and with the market administrator of each order under which it operates.

§ 900.356 Listing of qualified associations.

A copy of each determination of qualification is furnished to the respective association. Copies are also filed in the Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, and with the Hearing Clerk, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, where they are available for public inspection. A list of qualified associations engaged in marketing milk under a particular milk marketing order is maintained at the office of the market administrator of the order.

§ 900.357 Denial of application; suspension or revocation of determination of qualification.

Any cooperative association whose application has been wholly or partially denied, or whose determination of qualification has been wholly or partly revoked or suspended, may petition the Secretary for a review of such action. Such petition shall state facts relevant to the matter for which review is sought. After due notice to such cooperative association, the Director of the Dairy Division, or in his absence the Acting Director, shall hold, in the manner hereinafter specified, an informal hearing.

(a) Notice. Notice shall be given in writing and shall be mailed to the last known address of the association, or of an officer thereof, at least 3 days before the date set for a hearing. Such notice shall contain: A statement of the time and place of the hearing, said place to be as convenient to the association as can reasonably be arranged, and may contain a statement of the reason for calling the hearing and the nature of the questions upon which evidence is desired or upon which argument may be presented.

(b) Parties. Hearings are not to be public and are to be attended only by representatives of the association and of the Government, and such other persons as either the association or the Government desires to have appear for purposes of submitting information or as counsel.

(c) Conduct of hearing. The Director or Acting Director of the Dairy Division, or a person designated by him, shall preside at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in such manner as will be most conducive to the proper disposition of the matter. Written statements or briefs may be filed by
the association within the time specified by the presiding officer.

(d) Preliminary report. The presiding officer shall prepare a preliminary report setting forth a recommendation as to what action shall be taken and the basis for such action. A copy of said report shall be served upon the association by mail or in person. The association may file exceptions to said report within 10 days after service thereof.

(e) Final report. After due consideration of all the facts and the exceptions, if any, the Director of the Dairy Division shall issue a final report setting forth the action to be taken and the basis for such action.

Subpart—Procedure for the Conduct of Referenda in Connection With Marketing Orders for Fruits, Vegetables, and Nuts Pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as Amended


Source: 30 FR 15414, Dec. 15, 1965, unless otherwise noted.

§ 900.400 General.

Referenda for the purpose of ascertaining whether the issuance by the Secretary of Agriculture of a marketing order to regulate the handling of any fruit, vegetable, or nut, or product thereof, or the continuance or termination of such an order, is approved or favored by producers or processors shall, unless supplemented or modified by the Secretary, be conducted in accordance with this subpart.

§ 900.401 Definitions.


(b) Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has herefofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead; and Department means the United States Department of Agriculture.

(c) Administrator means the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, with power to redelegate, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has been delegated or may hereafter be delegated to act in his stead.

(d) Order means the marketing order (including an amendatory order) with respect to which the Secretary has directed that a referendum be conducted.

(e) Referendum agent means the individual or individuals designated by the Secretary to conduct the referendum.

(f) Representative period means the period designated by the Secretary pursuant to section 8c of the act (7 U.S.C. 608c).

(g) Person means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other business unit. For the purpose of this definition, the term partnership includes (1) a husband and wife who have title to, or leasehold interest in, land as tenants in common, joint tenants, tenants by the entirety, or, under community property laws, as community property, and (2) so-called joint ventures, wherein one or more parties to the agreement, informal or otherwise, contributed capital and others contribute labor, management, equipment, or other services, or any variation of such contributions by two or more parties, so that it results in the growing of the commodity for market and the authority to transfer title to the commodity so produced.

(h) Producer means any person defined as a producer in the order who: (1) Owns and farms land, resulting in his ownership of the commodity produced thereon; (2) Rents and farms land, resulting in his ownership of all or a portion of the commodity produced thereon; or (3) Owns land which he does not farm and, as rental for such land, obtains the ownership of a portion of the commodity produced thereon. Ownership of, or leasehold interest in, land and the acquisition, in any manner other than as hereinbefore set forth, of legal title to the commodity grown thereon shall not be deemed to result
§ 900.402 Voting.

(a) Each person who is a producer, as defined in this subpart, at the time of the referendum and who also was a producer during the representative period, shall be entitled to only one vote in the referendum, except that: (1) In a landlord-tenant relationship, where in each of the parties is a producer, each such producer shall be entitled to one vote in the referendum; and (2) a cooperative association of producers, bona fide engaged in marketing the commodity or product thereof proposed to be regulated, or in rendering services for or advancing the interest of the producers of such commodity or product, may, if it elects to do so, vote, both by number and total volume, for the producers who are members of, stockholders in, or under contract with such association.

(b) Whenever, as required by the act, processors vote on the issuance of an order, each processor who is engaged in canning or freezing within the production area of the commodity covered by the order shall be entitled to vote in the referendum the quantity of such commodity canned or frozen for market during the representative period determined by the Secretary.

(c) Proxy voting is not authorized but an officer or employee of a corporate producer, processor or cooperative association, or an administrator, executor or trustee of a producing estate may cast a ballot on behalf of a producer, processor, estate, or cooperative association. Any individual so voting in a referendum shall certify that he is an officer or employee of the producer, processor, or cooperative association, or an administrator, executor, or trustee of a producing estate, and that he has the authority to take such action. Upon request of the referendum agent, the individual shall submit adequate evidence of such authority.

(d) Each producer, cooperative association of producers, and processor entitled to vote in a referendum shall be entitled to cast one ballot in the referendum. Each producer, cooperative association of producers, and processor casting more than one ballot with conflicting votes shall thereby invalidate all ballots cast by such producer, cooperative association of producers, or processor in such referendum.

§ 900.403 Instructions.

The referendum agent shall conduct the referendum, in the manner herein provided, under supervision of the Administrator. The Administrator may prescribe additional instructions, not inconsistent with the provisions hereof, to govern the procedure to be followed by the referendum agent. Such agent shall:

(a) Determine the time of commencement and termination of the period of the referendum, and the time prior to which all ballots must be cast.

(b) Determine whether ballots may be cast by mail, at polling places, at meetings of producers or processors, or by any combination of the foregoing.

(c) Provide ballots and related material to be used in the referendum. Ballot material shall provide for recording essential information for ascertaining:

(1) Whether the person voting, or on whose behalf the vote is cast, is an eligible voter, and

(2) The total volume (i) produced for market during the representative period, or (ii) canned or frozen for market during the representative period.

(d) Give reasonable advance notice of the referendum (1) by utilizing without advertising expense available media of public information (including, but not being limited to, press and radio facilities) serving the production area, announcing the dates, places, or methods of voting, eligibility requirements, and other pertinent information, and (2) by such other means as said agent may deem advisable.

(e) Make available to producers and the aforesaid cooperative associations which indicate to the agent their intentions to vote, and to processors when required, instructions on voting, appropriate ballot and certification forms, and, except in the case of a referendum on the termination or continuance of an order, the text of the proposed order and a summary of its terms and conditions: Provided, That
§ 900.500

General.

no person who claims to be qualified to vote shall be refused a ballot.

(f) If ballots are to be cast by mail, cause all the material specified in paragraph (e) of this section to be mailed to each producer (and processor when required) whose name and address is known to the referendum agent.

(g) If ballots are to be cast at polling places or meetings, determine the necessary number of polling or meeting places, designate them, announce the time of each meeting or the hours during which each polling place will be open, provide the material specified in paragraph (e) of this section, and provide for appropriate custody of ballot forms and delivery to the referendum agent of ballots cast.

(h) At the conclusion of the referendum, canvass the ballots, tabulate the results, and, except as otherwise directed, report the outcome to the Administrator and promptly thereafter submit the following:

(1) All ballots received by the agent and appointees, together with a certificate to the effect that the ballots forwarded are all of the ballots cast and received by such persons during the referendum period;

(2) A list of all challenged ballots deemed to be invalid; and

(3) A tabulation of the results of the referendum and a report thereon, including a detailed statement explaining the method used in giving publicity to the referendum and showing other information pertinent to the manner in which the referendum was conducted.

§ 900.404 Subagents.

The referendum agent may appoint any person or persons deemed necessary or desirable to assist said agent in performing his functions hereunder. Each person so appointed may be authorized by said agent to perform, in accordance with the requirements hereafter set forth, any or all of the following functions (which, in the absence of such appointment, shall be performed by said agent):

(a) Give public notice of the referendum in the manner specified herein;

(b) Preside at a meeting where ballots are to be cast or as poll officer at a polling place;

(c) Distribute ballots and the aforesaid texts to producers (and to processors when required) and receive any ballots which are cast; and

(d) Record the name and address of each person receiving a ballot from, or casting a ballot with, said subagent and inquire into the eligibility of such person to vote in the referendum.

§ 900.405 Ballots.

The referendum agent and his appointees shall accept all ballots cast; but, should they, or any of them, deem that a ballot should be challenged for any reason, said agent or appointee shall endorse above his signature, on said ballot, a statement to the effect that such ballot was challenged, by whom challenged, the reasons therefor, the results of any investigations made with respect thereto, and the disposition thereof. Invalid ballots shall not be counted.

§ 900.406 Referendum report.

Except as otherwise directed, the Administrator shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a report on results of the referendum, the manner in which it was conducted, the extent and kind of public notice given, and other information pertinent to analysis of the referendum and its results.

§ 900.407 Confidential information.

All ballots cast and the contents thereof (whether or not relating to the identity of any person who voted or the manner in which any person voted) and all information furnished to, compiled by, or in possession of, the referendum agent shall be treated as confidential.

Subpart—Public Information

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301, 552.

Availability of Program Information, Staff Manuals and Instructions, and Related Material

§ 900.500 General.

This subpart is issued in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture in part 1, subpart A, of title 7, subtitle A (7 CFR 1.1 through 1.16), and appendix A thereto,
§ 900.501 Implementing the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). The Secretary's regulations, as implemented by the regulations of this subpart, govern the availability of records of AMS to the public.

[40 FR 20267, May 9, 1975]

§ 900.501 Public inspection and copying.

(a) Facilities for public inspection and copying of the indexes and materials required to be made available under §1.2(a) of this title will be provided by AMS during normal information should be made to the Freedom of Information Act Officer at the following address:

Freedom of Information Act Officer, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

(b) Copies of such material may be obtained in person or by mail. Applicable fees for copies will be charged in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the Director, Office of Operations and Finance, USDA.

[44 FR 39151, July 5, 1979]

§ 900.502 Indexes.

Pursuant to the regulations in §1.4(b) of this title, AMS will maintain and make available for public inspection and copying current indexes of all material required to be made available in §1.2(a) of this title. Notice is hereby given that publication of these indexes is unnecessary and impractical, since the material is voluminous and does not change often enough to justify the expense of publication.

[44 FR 39151, July 5, 1979]

§ 900.503 Request for records.

(a) Requests for records under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(3) shall be made in accordance with §1.3(a) of this title. Authority to make determinations regarding initial requests in accordance with §1.4(c) of this title is delegated to the Freedom of Information Act Officer of AMS. Requests should be submitted to the FOIA Officer at the following address:

Freedom of Information Act Officer (FOIA Request), Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

(b) The request shall identify each record with reasonable specificity as prescribed in §1.3 of this title.

(c) The FOIA Officer is authorized to receive requests and to exercise the authority to (1) make determinations to grant requests or deny initial requests, (2) extend the administrative deadline, (3) make discretionary release of exempt records, and (4) make determinations regarding charges pursuant to the fee schedule.

[44 FR 39151, July 5, 1979]

§ 900.504 Appeals.

Any person whose request under §900.503 above is denied shall have the right to appeal such denial in accordance with §1.3(e) of this title. Appeals shall be addressed to the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

[40 FR 20267, May 9, 1975]

Subpart—Information Collection

Authority: 44 U.S.C. Ch. 35.

§ 900.600 General.

This subpart shall contain such requirements as pertain to the information collection provisions under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.

[49 FR 23826, June 8, 1984]

§ 900.601 OMB control numbers assigned pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

(a) Purpose. This section collects and displays the control numbers assigned to information collection requirements by the Office of Management and Budget contained in 7 CFR parts 904 through 998 under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980.

(b) Display.

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PART 905—ORANGES, GRAPEFRUIT, TANGERINES, AND TANGELOS GROWN IN FLORIDA

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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§ 905.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the United States Department of Agriculture to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

[42 FR 59368, Nov. 17, 1977]

§ 905.2 Act.

§ 905.6 Producer.

Producer is synonymous with grower and means any person who is engaged in the production for market of fruit in the production area and who has a proprietary interest in the fruit so produced.

[42 FR 59368, Nov. 17, 1977]

§ 905.7 Handler.

Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier transporting fruit for another person) who, as owner, agent, or otherwise, handles fruit in fresh form, or causes fruit to be handled.

§ 905.8 Prepare for market.

Prepare for market means to wash, grade, size, or place fruit (whether or not wrapped) into any container whatsoever; but such term shall not include the harvesting of fruit.

§ 905.9 Handle or ship.

Handle or ship means:

(a) To sell, consign, deliver, or transport fruit, or in any other way to place fruit in the current of commerce between the production area and any point outside thereof in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia of the United States; and

(b) To export fruit from any point in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia of the United States to any destination.

[54 FR 37292, Sept. 8, 1989]

§ 905.10 Carton or standard packed carton.

Carton or standard packed carton means a unit of measure equivalent to four-fifths (4/5) of a United States bushel of fruit, whether in bulk or in any container.

[42 FR 59368, Nov. 17, 1977]

§ 905.11 Fiscal period.

Fiscal period means the period of time from August 1 of any year until July 31 of the following year, both dates inclusive.

[42 FR 59368, Nov. 17, 1977]

§ 905.12 Committee.

Committee means the Citrus Administrative Committee established pursuant to § 905.19.

[42 FR 59368, Nov. 17, 1977]

§ 905.13 District.

(a) Citrus District One shall include the Counties of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Sumter, and Lake.

(b) Citrus District Two shall include the Counties of Osceola, Orange, Seminole, Alachua, Putnam, St. Johns, Flagler, Marion, Levy, Duval, Nassau, Baker, Union, Bradford, Columbia, Clay, Gilchrist, and Suwannee, and County Commissioner, Districts One, Two, and Three of Volusia County, and that part of the Counties of Indian River and Brevard not included in Regulation Area II.

(c) Citrus District Three shall include the County of St. Lucie and that part of the Counties of Brevard, Indian River, Martin, and Palm Beach described as lying within Regulation Area II, and County Commissioner's Districts Four and Five of Volusia County.

(d) Citrus District Four shall include the Counties of Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Glades, De Sota, Charlotte, Lee, Hendry, Collier, Monroe, Dade, Broward, and that part of the Counties of Palm Beach and Martin not included in Regulation Area II.

(e) Citrus District Five shall include the County of Polk.

[42 FR 59368, Nov. 17, 1977]

§ 905.14 Redistricting.

The committee may with the approval of the Secretary, redefine the districts into which the production area is divided or reapportion or otherwise change the grower membership of districts, or both: Provided, That the membership shall consist of at least eight but not more than nine grower members, and any such change shall be based, so far as practicable, upon the respective averages for the immediately preceding five fiscal periods of (1) the volume of fruit shipped from each district; (2) the volume of fruit produced in each district; and (3) the
§ 905.15

The total number of acres of citrus in each district. The committee shall consider such redistricting and reapportionment during the 1980-81 fiscal period, and only in each fifth fiscal period thereafter, and each such redistricting or reapportionment shall be announced on or before March 1 of the then current fiscal period.

[42 FR 59368, Nov. 17, 1977]

§ 905.15 Regulation Area I.

Regulation Area I is defined as the “Interior District”, and shall include all that part of the production area not included in Regulation Area II.

[54 FR 37292, Sept. 8, 1989]

§ 905.16 Regulation Area II.

Regulation Area II is defined as the “Indian River District”, and shall include that part of the State of Florida particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean where the line between Flagler and Volusia Counties intersects said shore, thence follow the line between said two counties to the Southwest corner of Section 23, Township 14 South, Range 31 East; thence continue South to the Southwest corner of Section 35, Township 14 South, Range 31 East; thence East to the Northwest corner of Township 15 South, Range 32 East; thence South to the Southwest corner of Township 17 South, Range 32 East; thence East to the Northwest corner of Township 18 South, Range 33 East; thence South to the St. Johns River; thence along the main channel of the St. Johns River and through Lake Harney, Lake Poinsett, Lake Winder, Lake Washington, Sawgrass Lake, and Lake Helen Blazes to the range line between Ranges 35 East and 36 East; thence South to the South line of Brevard County; thence East to the line between Ranges 36 East and 37 East; thence South to the Southwest corner of St. Lucie County; thence East to the line between Ranges 39 East and 40 East; thence South to the South line of Martin County; thence East to the line between Ranges 40 East and 41 East; thence South to the West Palm Beach Canal (also known as the Okeechobee Canal); thence follow said canal eastward to the mouth thereof; thence East to the shore of the Atlantic Ocean; thence Northernly along the shore of the Atlantic Ocean to the point of beginning.


§ 905.17 Production area.

Production area means that portion of the State of Florida which is bounded by the Suwannee River, the Georgia border, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico.


§ 905.18 Improved No. 2 grade and Improved No. 2 Bright grade.

Improved No. 2 grade and Improved No. 2 Bright grade means grapefruit meeting all of the respective requirements of the U.S. No. 2 grade and the U.S. No. 2 Bright grade and those requirements of the U.S. No. 1 grade relating to shape (form) and color, as such requirements are set forth in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Florida Grapefruit (§§51.750-51.783 of this title) or as such standards may hereafter be amended.


Administrative Bodies

§ 905.19 Establishment and membership.

(a) There is hereby established a Citrus Administrative Committee consisting of at least eight but not more than nine grower members, and eight shipper members. Grower members shall be persons who are not shippers or employees of shippers: Provided, that the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish alternative qualifications for such grower members. Shippers shall be shippers or employees of shippers: Provided, that the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish alternative qualifications for such grower members. The committee may be increased by one non-industry member nominated by the committee and selected by the Secretary. The committee, with approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe qualifications, term of office, and the procedure for nominating the non-industry member.

(b) Each member shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member for whom this person is an alternate.

[54 FR 37293, Sept. 8, 1989]
§ 905.20 Term of office.

The term of office of members and alternate members shall begin on the first day of August and continue for one year and until their successors are selected and have qualified. The consecutive terms of office of a member shall be limited to three terms. The term of office of alternate members shall not be so limited. Members, their alternates, and their respective successors shall be nominated and selected by the Secretary as provided in §§ 905.22 and 905.23.

[42 FR 59369, Nov. 17, 1977]

§ 905.21 Selection of initial members of the committee.

The initial members of the Citrus Administrative Committee and their respective alternates shall be the members and alternates of the Growers Administrative Committee and the Shippers Advisory Committee serving on the effective date of his amendment. Each member and alternate shall serve until completion of the term for which he was selected and until his successor has been selected and qualified.

[42 FR 59369, Nov. 17, 1977]

§ 905.22 Nominations.

(a) Grower member. (1) The committee shall give public notice of a meeting of producers in each district to be held not later than July 10 of each year, for the purpose of making nominations for grower members and alternate grower members. The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe uniform rules to govern such meetings and the balloting thereat. The chairman of each meeting shall publicly announce at the meeting the names of the persons nominated and the chairman and secretary of each such meeting shall transmit to the Secretary their certification as to the number of votes cast, the names of the persons nominated, and such other information as the Secretary may request. All nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary on or before the 20th day of July.

(2) Nomination of at least three members and their alternates shall be made by bona fide cooperative marketing organizations which are handlers. Nominations for not more than five members and their alternates shall be made by handlers who are not so affiliated. In voting for nominees, each handler or his authorized representative shall be entitled to cast one vote, which shall be weighted by the volume of fruit by such handler during the then current fiscal period.

[42 FR 59369, Nov. 17, 1977]

§ 905.23 Selection.

(a) From the nominations made pursuant to §905.22(a) or from other qualified persons, the Secretary shall select one member and one alternate member to represent District 2 and two members and two alternate members each to represent District, 1, 3, 4, and 5 or such other number of members and alternate members from each district as may be prescribed pursuant to §905.14. At least three such members and their alternates shall be affiliated with bona
§ 905.27 Failure to nominate.

In the event nominations for a member or alternate member of the committee are not made pursuant to the provisions of §§ 905.22 and 905.25, the Secretary may select such member or alternate member without regard to nominations.


§ 905.28 Acceptance of membership.

Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or alternate member of the committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary within 10 days after being notified of such selection.


§ 905.29 Inability of members to serve.

(a) An alternate for a member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of such member (1) in his absence, or (2) in the event of his removal, resignation, disqualification, or death, and until a successor for his unexpired term has been selected.

(b) In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any person selected by the Secretary as a member or an alternate member of the committee, a successor for the unexpired term of such person shall be selected by the Secretary. Such selection may be made without regard to the provisions of this subpart as to nominations.

the Secretary, in connection with the administration of this subpart;

(i) To perform such duties in connection with the administration of section 32 of the act to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act and for other purposes, Public Act No. 320, 74th Congress, as amended, as may from time to time be assigned to it by the Secretary;


§ 905.33 Compensation and expenses of committee members.

The members and alternate members of the Committee shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in attending committee meetings and in the performance of their duties under this part.

[42 FR 59369, Nov. 17, 1977]

§ 905.34 Procedure of committees.

(a) Ten members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

(b) For any decision or recommendation of the committee to be valid, ten concurring votes, five of which must be grower votes, shall be necessary: Provided, That the committee may recommend a regulation restricting the shipment of grapefruit grown in Regulation Area I or Regulation Area II which meets the requirements of the Improved No. 2 grade or the Improved No. 2 Bright grade only upon the affirmative vote of a majority of its members present from the regulation area in which such restriction would apply; and whenever a meeting to consider a recommendation for release of such grade is requested by a majority of the members from the affected area, the committee shall hold a meeting within a reasonable length of time for the purpose of considering such a recommendation. If after such consideration the requesting area majority present continues to favor such release for their area, the request shall be considered a valid recommendation and transmitted to the Secretary. The votes of each member cast for or against any recommendation made pursuant to this subpart shall be duly recorded. Whenever an assembled meeting is held each member must vote in person.

(c) The committee may, in cases of emergency, vote by telephone and all such votes must be confirmed in writing. Any proposition so voted upon shall first be fully explained to all members or alternates acting as members. When any proposition is submitted to be voted on by telephone, two (2) dissenting votes shall prevent its adoption.

(d) The committee shall give the Secretary the same notice of meetings as is given to the members thereof.

[42 FR 59369, Nov. 17, 1977]

§ 905.35 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the committee, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every order, regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time and upon his disapproval shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith.


§ 905.36 Funds.

(a) All funds received by the committee pursuant to any provision of this subpart shall be used solely for the purposes herein specified and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this subpart.

(b) The Secretary may, at any time, require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

(c) Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds, together with all books and records, in his possession, to his successor in office, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor.
§ 905.40 Expenses.
The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred to carry out the functions of the committee under this subpart during each fiscal period. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments upon handlers as provided in § 905.41.

§ 905.41 Assessments.
(a) Each handler who first handles fruit shall pay to committee, upon demand, such handler’s pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds will be incurred by the committee for the maintenance and functioning, during each fiscal period, of the committee established under this subpart. Each such handler’s share of such expenses shall be that proportion thereof which the total quantity of fruit shipped by such handler as the first handler thereof during the applicable fiscal period is of the total quantity of fruit so shipped by all handlers during the same fiscal period. The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment per standard packed carton of fruit to be paid by each such handler. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) At any time during or after the fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment so that the sum of money collected pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be adequate to cover the said expenses. Such increase shall be applicable to all fruit shipped during the given fiscal period. In order to provide funds to carry out the functions of the committee established under §905.19, handlers may make advance payment of assessments.

(c) In the case of an extreme emergency, the committee may borrow money on a short term basis to provide funds for the administration of this part. Any such borrowed money shall only be used to meet the committee’s current financial obligations, and the committee shall repay all such borrowed money by the end of the next fiscal period from assessment income.

§ 905.42 Handler’s accounts.
(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carry over such excess into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve: Provided, That funds already in the reserve do not exceed approximately one-half of one fiscal period’s expenses. Such reserve funds may be used (1) to cover any expenses authorized by this part and (2) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. If any such excess is not retained in a reserve, each handler entitled to a proportionate refund shall be credited with such refund against the operations of the following fiscal period unless he demands payment of the sum due him, in which case such sum shall be paid to him. Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: Provided, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, maintain in its own name or in the name of its members a suit against any handler for the collection of such handler’s pro rata share of the said expense.
§ 905.50 Marketing policy.
(a) Before making any recommendations pursuant to § 905.51 for any variety of fruit, the committee shall, with respect to the regulations permitted by § 905.52, submit to the Secretary a detailed report setting forth an advisable marketing policy for such variety for the then current shipping season. Such report shall set forth the proportion of the remainder of the total crop of such variety of fruit (determined by the committee to be available for shipment during the remainder of the shipping season of such variety) deemed advisable by the committee to be shipped during such season.

(b) In determining each such marketing policy and advisable proportion, the committee shall give due consideration to the following factors relating to citrus fruit produced in Florida and in other States: (1) The available crop of each variety of citrus fruit in Florida, and in other States, including the grades and sizes thereof, which grades and sizes in Florida shall be determined by the committee pursuant to § 905.31; (2) the probable shipments of citrus fruit from other States; (3) the level and trend in consumer income; (4) the prospective supplies of competitive commodities; and (5) other pertinent factors bearing on the marketing of fruit.

(c) In addition to the foregoing, the committees shall set forth a schedule of proposed regulations for the remainder of the shipping season for each variety of fruit for which recommendations to the Secretary pursuant to § 905.51 are contemplated. Such schedules shall recognize the practical operations of harvesting and preparation for market of each variety and the change in grades and sizes thereof as the respective seasons advance. In the event it is deemed advisable to alter such marketing policy or advisable proportion as the shipping season progresses, in view of changed demand and supply conditions with respect to fruit, the said committee shall submit to the Secretary a report thereon.

(d) The committee shall transmit a copy of each marketing policy report or revision thereof to the Secretary and to each producer and handler who files a request therefor. Copies of all such reports shall be maintained in the office of the committee where they shall be available for examination by producers and handlers.


§ 905.51 Recommendations for regulation.
(a) Whenever the committee deems it advisable to regulate any variety in the manner provided in § 905.52, it shall give due consideration to the following factors relating to the citrus fruit produced in Florida and in other States: (1) Market prices, including prices by grades and sizes of the fruit for which regulation is recommended; (2) maturity, condition, and available supply, including the grade and size thereof in the producing areas; (3) other pertinent market information; and (4) the level and trend in consumer income. The committee shall submit to the Secretary its recommendations and supporting information respecting the factors enumerated in this section.

(b) The committee shall give notice of any meeting to consider the recommendation of regulations pursuant to § 905.52 by mailing a notice of meeting to each handler who has filed his address with committee for this purpose. The committee shall give the same notice of any such recommendation before the time it is recommended that such regulation become effective.

[42 FR 59370, Nov. 17, 1977]

§ 905.52 Issuance of regulations.
(a) Whenever the Secretary shall find from the recommendations and reports of the committee, or from other available information, that to limit the shipment of any variety would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall so limit the shipment of such variety during a specified period or periods. Such regulations may:

(1) Limit the shipments of any variety grown in Regulation Area II shall be limited to grades
and sizes different from the grade and size limitations applicable to shipments of the same varieties grown in Regulation Area I: Provided, That whenever any such grade or size limitation restricts the shipment of a portion of a specified grade or size of a variety the quantity of such grade or size that may be shipped by a handler during a particular week shall be established as a percentage of the total shipments of such variety by such handler in such prior period established by the committee with the approval of the Secretary, in which he shipped such variety.

(2) Limit the shipment of any variety by establishing and maintaining, only in terms of grades or sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity.

(3) Limit the shipment of the total quantity of any variety by prohibiting the shipment thereof: Provided, that no such prohibition shall apply to exports or be effective during any fiscal period with respect to any variety other than for one period not exceeding five days during the week in which Thanksgiving Day occurs, and for not more than two periods not exceeding a total of 14 days during the period December 20 to January 20, both dates inclusive.

(4) Provide that exports of any variety shall be limited to grades and sizes different from the grade and size limitations applicable to shipments of such variety in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia of the United States, and specify condition requirements for such variety; and

(5) Fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, marking, or pack of the container or containers which may be used in the shipment of fruit for export: Provided, that such regulation shall not authorize the use of any container which is prohibited for use for fruit under the provisions of Chapter 601 of the Florida Statutes and regulations effective thereunder.

(a) Whenever the handling of a variety of a type of fruit is regulated pursuant to §905.52, each handler who handles any variety of such type of fruit shall, prior to the handling of any lot of such variety, cause such lot to be inspected by the Federal-State Inspection Service and certified by it as meeting all applicable requirements of such regulation: Provided, That such inspection and certification shall not be required if the particular lot of fruit previously had been so inspected and certified unless such prior inspection was not performed within such time limitations as may be prescribed pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section. Each handler shall promptly submit, or cause to be submitted, to the committee a copy of each certificate of inspection issued to him covering varieties so handled.

(c) Whenever the Secretary finds from the recommendations and reports of the committee, or from other available information, that a regulation should be modified, suspended, or terminated with respect to any or all shipments of fruit in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall so modify, suspend, or terminate such regulation. If the Secretary finds that a regulation obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall suspend or terminate such regulation. On the same basis, and in like manner, the Secretary may terminate any such modification or suspension.

(b) Prior to the beginning of any such regulations, the Secretary shall notify the committee of the regulation issued by him, and the committee shall notify all handlers by mailing a copy thereof to each handler who has filed his address with said committee for this purpose.

§ 905.53 Inspection and certification.

(a) Whenever the handling of a variety of a type of fruit is regulated pursuant to §905.52, each handler who handles any variety of such type of fruit shall, prior to the handling of any lot of such variety, cause such lot to be inspected by the Federal-State Inspection Service and certified by it as meeting all applicable requirements of such regulation: Provided, That such inspection and certification shall not be required if the particular lot of fruit previously had been so inspected and certified unless such prior inspection was not performed within such time limitations as may be prescribed pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section. Each handler shall promptly submit, or cause to be submitted, to the committee a copy of each certificate of inspection issued to him covering varieties so handled.
(b) With respect to any variety regulated pursuant to §905.52(a)(4), the committee may prescribe, with the approval of the Secretary, such requirements with respect to time of inspection as it may deem necessary to ensure satisfactory condition of the fruit at time of export.


HANDLERS’ REPORTS

§ 905.70 Manifest report.
The committee may request information from each handler regarding the variety, grade, and size of each standard packed carton of fruit shipped by him and may require such information to be mailed or delivered to the committee or its duly authorized representative, within 24 hours after such shipment is made, in a manner or by such method as the said committee may prescribe, and upon such forms as may be prepared by it.

[42 FR 59371, Nov. 17, 1977]

§ 905.71 Other information.
Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, every handler shall furnish the committee, in such manner and at such times as it prescribes, such other information as will enable it to perform its duties under this subpart.


MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 905.80 Fruit not subject to regulation.
Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person may, without regard to the provisions of §§905.52 and 905.53 and the regulations issued thereunder, ship any variety for the following purposes: (a) To a charitable institution for consumption by such institution; (b) to a relief agency for distribution by such agency; (c) to a commercial processor for conversion by such processor into canned or frozen products or into a beverage base; (d) by parcel post; or (e) in such minimum quantities, types of shipments, or for such purposes as the committee with the approval of the Secretary may specify. No assessment shall be levied on fruit so shipped. The committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe such rules, regulations, or safeguards as it may deem necessary to prevent varieties handled under the provisions of this section from entering channels of trade for other than the purposes authorized by this section. Such rules, regulations, and safeguards may include the requirements that handlers shall file applications with the committee for authorization to handle a variety pursuant to this section, and that such applications be accompanied by a certification by the intended purchaser or receiver that the variety will not be used for any purpose not authorized by this section.


§ 905.81 Compliance.
Except as provided in this part, no person shall ship fruit the shipment of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this part.

§ 905.82 Effective time.
The provisions of this subpart shall become effective on and after 12:01 a.m., e.s.t., September 1, 1946, and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in §905.83.

§ 905.83 Termination.
(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this part by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this part at the end of any fiscal period whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of producers who, during the preceding fiscal period, have been engaged in the production for market of fruit: Provided, That such majority have, during such period, produced for market more than 50 percent of the volume of such fruit produced for market, but such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before
§ 905.84  Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this part, the then functioning members of the committee shall continue as joint trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, of all the funds and property then in the possession of or under control of committee, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination.

(b) The said trustees (1) shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary, (2) shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements or deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the joint trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and (3) shall, upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee, or the joint trustees pursuant to this part.

(c) Any funds collected pursuant to §905.41, over and above the amounts necessary to meet outstanding obligations and expenses necessarily incurred during the operation of this part and during the liquidation period, shall be returned to handlers as soon as practicable after the termination of this part. The refund to each handler shall be represented by the excess of the amount paid by him over and above his pro rata share of the expenses.

(d) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered by the committee or its members, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the committee and upon the said joint trustees.


§ 905.85  Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this part shall cease upon its termination, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this part.

§ 905.86  Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the Government, or name any bureau or division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

§ 905.87  Derogation.

Nothing contained in this part is, or shall be construed to be in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States (a) to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or (b) in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 905.88  Personal liability.

No member or alternate of the committee nor any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or to any other person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission.
as such member, alternate, or employee, except for acts of dishonesty.

\[22 \text{ FR} \text{ 10734, Dec. 27, 1957. Redesignated at 26 FR} 
\text{12751, Dec. 30, 1961, and amended at 42 FR} 
\text{59371, Nov. 17, 1977}\]

\section*{§ 905.89 Separability.}

If any provision of this part is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

\section*{Subpart—Rules and Regulations}

\textit{Source:} 42 FR 59371, Nov. 17, 1977, unless otherwise noted.

\section*{§ 905.105 Tangerine and grapefruit classifications.}

(a) Pursuant to § 905.5(m), the following classifications of grapefruit are renamed as follows:

(1) Marsh and other seedless grapefruit, excluding pink grapefruit, are renamed as Marsh and other seedless grapefruit, excluding red grapefruit;

(2) Duncan and other seeded grapefruit, excluding pink grapefruit, are renamed as Duncan and other seeded grapefruit, excluding red grapefruit;

(3) Pink seeded grapefruit is renamed as Red seeded grapefruit;

(4) Pink seedless grapefruit is renamed as Red seedless grapefruit.

(b) Pursuant to § 905.5(m), the term “variety” or “varieties” includes Sunburst tangerines.

\[56 \text{ FR} \text{ 8685, Mar. 1, 1991, as amended at 56 FR} 
\text{24678, May 31, 1991}\]

\section*{§ 905.114 Redistricting of citrus districts and reapportionment of grower members.}

Pursuant to § 905.14, the citrus districts and membership allotted each district shall be as follows:

(a) Citrus District One shall include the Counties of Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Sumter, Lake, Orange, Seminole, Alachua, Putnam, St. Johns, Flagler, Marion, Levy, Duval, Nassau, Baker, Union, Bradford, Columbia, Clay, Gilchrist, and Suwannee and County Commissioner’s Districts One, Two, and Three of Volusia County, and that part of the Counties of Indian River and Brevard not included in Regulation Area II. This district shall have one grower member and alternate.

(b) Citrus District Two shall include the Counties of Polk and Osceola. This district shall have two grower members and alternates.

(c) Citrus District Three shall include the Counties of Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Glades, De Soto, Charlotte, Lee, Hendry, Collier, Monroe, Dade, Broward, and that part of the Counties of Palm Beach and Martin not included in Regulation Area II. This district shall have three grower members and alternates.

(d) Citrus District Four shall include the County of St. Lucie and that part of the Counties of Brevard, Indian River, Martin, and Palm Beach described as lying within Regulation Area II, and County Commissioner’s Districts Four and Five of Volusia County. This district shall have three grower members and alternates.

\[56 \text{ FR} \text{ 49132, Sept. 27, 1991}\]

\section*{§ 905.120 Nomination procedure.}

Meetings shall be called by the committee in accordance with the provisions of § 905.22, for the purpose of making nominations for members and alternate members of the Citrus Administrative Committee. The manner of nominating members and alternate members of said committee shall be as follows:

(a) At each such meeting the committee’s representative shall announce the requirements as to eligibility for voting for nominees and the procedure for voting, and shall explain the duties of the committee.

(b) A chairman and a secretary of each meeting shall be selected.

(c) At each meeting there shall be presented for nomination and there shall be nominated not less than the number of nominees required under the provisions of § 905.19, all of whom shall have the qualifications as specified in § 905.22.

(d) At the meetings of handlers, any person authorized to represent a handler may cast a ballot for such handler.
At each meeting each eligible person may cast one vote for each of the persons to be nominated to represent the district or group, as the case may be.

Voting may be by written ballot. If written ballots are used, all ballots shall be delivered by the chairman or the secretary of the meeting to the agent of the Secretary. If ballots are not used, the committee's representative shall deliver to the Secretary's agent a listing of each person nominated and a count of the number of votes cast for each nominee for grower member and alternate. Said representative shall also provide the agent the register of eligible voters present at each meeting, a listing of each person nominated, the number of votes cast, and the weight by volume of shipments voted for each nominee for shipper member and alternate.

§ 905.140 Gift packages.

Any handler may, without regard to the provisions of §§ 905.52 and 905.53 and the regulations issued thereunder, ship any varieties for the following purpose and types of shipment:

(a) To any person gift packages containing such varieties; Provided, That such packages are individually addressed to such person, and shipped directly to the addressee for use by such person other than for resale; or

(b) To any individual gift package distributor of such varieties to be handled by such distributor; Provided, That such person is the original purchaser and the gift packages are individually addressed or marked “not for resale”. This exemption does not apply to “commercially handled” shipments for resale.

§ 905.141 Minimum exemption.

Any shipment of fruit which meets each of the following requirements may be transported from the production area during any one day by any person or by the occupants of one vehicle exempt from the requirements of §§ 905.52 and 905.53 and regulations issued thereunder:

(a) The shipment does not exceed a total of 15 standard packed cartons (12 bushels) of fruit, either a single fruit or a combination of two or more fruits;

(b) The shipment consists of fruit not for resale; and

(c) Such exempted quantity is not included as a part of a shipment exceeding 15 standard packed cartons (12 bushels) of fruit.

§ 905.142 Animal feed.

(a) The handling of citrus for animal feed shall be exempt from the provisions of §§ 905.52 and 905.53 and the regulations issued thereunder under the following conditions:

(1) The handler notifies the committee each fiscal period, prior to such handling of his/her intention to handle such fruit, the quantity he/she anticipates handling and the destination point of each lot of fruit and receives from the committee a special shipping permit for the shipment;

(2) The fruit is used for animal feed and is not offered for resale, disposed of, or in any way handled so as to enter fresh fruit channels;

(3) The quantity does not exceed 1,000 45 bushel cartons per fiscal period or such other quantity as may be specified by the committee;

(4) The fruit is placed in containers of uniform capacity; and

(5) Each shipment is certified by the Federal-State Inspection Service as to the quantity shipped.

§ 905.145 Certification of certain shipments.

Whenever a regulation pursuant to §§ 905.52 restricts the shipment of a portion of a specified grade or size of a variety during the regulation period shall, with respect to each such shipment, certify to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the committee the quantity of the partially restricted grade or size, or both, contained in such shipment. Such certification shall accompany the manifest of such shipment which the handler furnishes to the Federal-State Inspection Service.
§ 905.146 Special purpose shipments.

(a) A Special Purpose Shipper is one who handles Florida citrus fruit that is certified by a Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services licensed certifying agent as organically grown under Florida law. In addition, the shipper shall certify that shipments will be limited to outlets handling organically grown fruits. Any such shipments shall be subject to a Certificate of Privilege issued by the committee.

(b) To qualify for a Certificate of Privilege, each such shipper must notify the committee prior to the first shipment of certified organically grown Florida citrus fruit in the fiscal period of the shipper's intent to ship such citrus, submit an application on forms supplied by the committee, and agree to other requirements as set forth in §§ 905.147 and 905.148 inclusive, with respect to such shipments. The shipper shall certify that no claims will be made, written or verbal, concerning any alleged advantages of using, or any alleged superiority of, fruit shipped under a Certificate of Privilege, compared to other Florida produced citrus.

(c) Citrus meeting all other applicable requirements may be handled without regard to grade regulations issued under § 905.52 under the following conditions:

(1) Such fruit meets requirements of the U.S. No. 2 Russet grade and those requirements of the U.S. No. 1 grade relating to shape (form) as such requirements are set forth in the revised U.S. Standards for grades of Florida Oranges and Tangels (7 CFR 2851.1140 through 2851.1180), the revised U.S. Standards for Florida Tangerines (7 CFR 2851.1180 through 2851.1835), or the revised U.S. Standards for Grades of Florida Grapefruit (7 CFR 2851.1750 through 2851.784). Such fruit meets applicable minimum size requirements in effect for domestic shipments of citrus fruits.

(2) All such citrus shall be inspected as required by § 905.53 by the Federal or Federal-state Inspection Service prior to the time such citrus is shipped from the packing facility, and certified as meeting the applicable requirements.

(3) Be reported as required in § 905.148.

[59 FR 26928, May 25, 1994]

§ 905.147 Certificate of privilege.

(a) Application. Application for Certificate of Privilege by a Special Purpose Shipper shall be made on forms furnished by the committee. Each application may contain, but need not be limited to, the name and address of each handler; a list of certified organic citrus fruit growers, including addresses; a list of receivers; the quantity and variety of citrus to be shipped; a certification to the Secretary of Agriculture and to the committee as to the truthfulness of the information shown thereon; and any other appropriate information or documents deemed necessary by the committee or its duly authorized agents for the purposes stated in § 905.146.

(b) Approval. The committee or its duly authorized agents shall give prompt consideration to each application for a Certificate of Privilege. Approval of an application based upon a determination as to whether the information contained therein and other information available to the committee supports approval, shall be evidenced by the issuance of a Certificate of Privilege to the applicant. Each certificate shall expire at the end of the fiscal period.

(c) Suspension or Denial of Certificate of Privilege. The committee may investigate the handling of special purpose shipments under Certificates of Privilege to determine whether Special Purpose Shippers are complying with the requirements and regulations applicable to such certificates. Whenever the committee finds that a Special Purpose Shipper or consignee is failing to comply with the requirements and regulations applicable to such certificates, the Certificate of Privilege issued to such Special Purpose Shipper may be suspended or, in the case of an application for the issuance of an initial Certificate of Privilege, may be denied. Such suspension of a certificate shall be for a reasonable period of time as determined by the committee, but in no event shall it extend beyond the end of the current fiscal period. In the case of the denial of an application for the issuance of an initial certificate, such...
§ 905.148 Reports of special purpose shipments under certificates of privilege.

(a) Each handler of citrus shipping under Certificates of Privilege shall supply the committee with reports on each shipment as requested by the committee, on forms supplied by the committee, showing the name and address of the shipper or shippers; name and address of the certified organic Florida citrus fruit grower or growers supplying fruit for such shipment; truck or other conveyance identification; the loading point; destination, consignee; the inspection certificate number; and any other information deemed necessary by the committee.

(b) One copy of the report on each shipment shall be forwarded by the shipper to the committee within 10 days after such shipment, and two copies of the report shall accompany each shipment to the receiver. Upon the receipt of each shipment, the receiver shall complete the applicable portion of the form and return one copy to the committee within 10 days and one copy shall be retained by the shipper. Such completion shall contain a certification to the Secretary and the committee that the citrus described shall be distributed in the outlets described. Failure to complete and return such forms will be cause to remove that receiver’s name from the committee’s list of eligible receivers.

§ 905.150 Eligibility requirements for public member and alternate member.

(a) The public member shall be neither a producer nor a handler of Florida citrus fruit and shall have no direct financial interest in the production or marketing of citrus fruit (except as a consumer of agricultural products).

(b) The public member should be able to devote sufficient time and express a willingness to attend Committee activities regularly and become familiar with the background and economics of the industry.

(c) The public member must be a resident of the production area.

(d) The public member should be nominated by the Citrus Administrative Committee and should serve a 1-year term which coincides with the term of office of producer and handler members of the Committee.

§ 905.152 Procedure for determining handlers’ permitted quantities of Robinson, Dancy and similar tangerine varieties when a portion of the 210 size of such varieties is restricted.

(a) For the purposes of this section the prior period specified in §905.52 is hereby established as a average week within the immediately preceding three seasons, together with the current season. When used in the regulation of Dancy tangerines the term season means the twenty weeks beginning with the first full week in October, and the term current season means the elapsed weeks beginning with the first full week in October of the current fiscal period through the most recent week that certified shipping records are available for all shippers. When used in the regulation of Robinson variety tangerines, the term season means the fifteen weeks beginning with the first full week in September, and the term current season means the elapsed weeks beginning with the first full week in September of the current fiscal period through the most recent week that certified shipping records are available for all shippers.

(b) When a size limitation restricts the shipment of a portion of the 210

size Dancy or Robinson tangerines during a particular week as provided in §905.52, the committee shall compute the quantity of the 210 size of such variety that may be shipped by each handler by multiplying the handler’s volume of shipments of such variety in the applicable prior period by the percentage established by regulation for such variety for that week.

(c) The committee shall notify each handler of the quantity of 210 size Dancy or Robinson tangerines such handler may handle during the particular week.

(d) Any handler may transfer any or all of his or her shipping allowance of 210 size Dancy or Robinson tangerines to another handler. Each handler party to such transfer shall promptly notify the committee so the proper adjustment of records may be made. The committee shall confirm all such transfers immediately after completion thereof by memorandum to the handlers involved.

[46 FR 47057, Sept. 24, 1981]

§ 905.153 Procedure for determining handlers’ permitted quantities of red seedless grapefruit when a portion of sizes 48 and 56 of such variety is restricted.

(a) For the purposes of this section, the prior period specified in §905.52 is hereby established as an average week within the immediately preceding five seasons. Each handler’s average week shall be computed by adding the total volume of red seedless grapefruit handled in the immediately preceding five seasons and dividing the total by 165. The average week for handlers with less than five previous seasons of shipments shall be calculated by adding the total volume of shipments for the seasons they did ship red seedless grapefruit, divide by the number of seasons, divide further by 33. New handlers with no record of shipments could ship size 48 and 56 red seedless grapefruit as a percentage of total shipments equal to the percentage applied to other handlers’ average week; once such handlers have recorded shipments, their average week shall be calculated as an average of total shipments for the weeks they have shipped red seedless grapefruit during the current season. When used in the regulation of red seedless grapefruit, the term season means the weeks beginning the third Monday in September and ending the first Sunday in the following May. The term regulation period means the 11 week period beginning the third Monday in September of the current season.

(b) When a size limitation restricts the shipment of a portion of sizes 48 and 56 red seedless grapefruit during a particular week as provided in §905.52, the committee shall compute the quantity of sizes 48 and 56 red seedless grapefruit that may be shipped by each handler by multiplying the handler’s calculated average week shipments of such grapefruit by the percentage established by regulation for red seedless grapefruit for that week. Such set percentage may vary from week to week but shall not be less than 25 percent in any week.

(c) The committee shall notify each handler of the quantity of size 48 and 56 red seedless grapefruit such handler may handle during a particular week.

(d) During any regulation week for which the Secretary has fixed the percentage of sizes 48 and 56 red seedless grapefruit, any person who has received an allotment may handle, in addition to their total allotment available, an amount of size 48 and 56 red seedless grapefruit up to 10 percent greater than their allotment. The quantity of the overshipment shall be deducted from the handler’s allotment for the following week. Overshipments will not be allowed during week 11. If the handler fails to use his or her entire allotment, the under shipment is not carried forward to the following week.

(e) Any handler may transfer or loan any or all of their shipping allotment (excluding the overshipment allowance) of size 48 and 56 red seedless grapefruit to any other handler. Each handler party to such transfer or loan shall promptly notify the committee so the proper adjustment of records may be made. In each case, the committee shall confirm in writing all such transactions, prior to the following week, to the handlers involved. The committee may act on behalf of handlers wanting
§ 905.161 Repacking shipper.

(a) A repacking shipper is a person who repacks and ships citrus fruit grown in the production area in Florida which has been previously inspected and certified as meeting the requirements specified under § 905.52 of the order, and who has obtained a currently valid repacking certificate of privilege issued to him or her by the committee as specified in § 905.162.

(b) Each repacking shipper, to qualify for a repacking certificate of privilege, must notify the committee 10 days prior to his or her first shipment of repacked citrus fruit during a particular fiscal period of his or her intent to ship such citrus fruit, submit an Application for a Repacking Certificate of Privilege form supplied by the committee, and agree to other requirements as set forth in §§ 905.162 and 905.163 inclusive, with respect to such shipments. The repacking shipper shall certify that he or she will only handle previously inspected and certified citrus fruit.

(c) Any repacking shipper who handles citrus fruit shipped under a repacking certificate of privilege must, other order provisions not withstanding, meet the following requirements:

(1) All such citrus fruit must be positive lot identified by the Federal or Federal/State Inspection Service and certified as meeting the applicable requirements for citrus fruit shipped to the domestic market (fruit shipped from the production area to any point outside thereof in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia of the United States), prior to being re-packed and shipped by the repacking shipper. Each such citrus fruit shipment shall be accompanied by a Federal-State manifest that certifies the grade and amount of each load of citrus fruit received, which shall be retained by the repacking shipper.

(2) Be reported as required in § 905.163.

(3) The repacking facility used to re-packed previously inspected and certified citrus fruit by the repacking shipper shall not have operable equipment to wash, brush, wax, or dry citrus fruit.

(4) All citrus fruit handled by a repacking shipper shall be packed in approved Florida Department of Citrus fruit containers.

(5) Each container shipped with such citrus fruit shall be marked with the repacking shipper’s repacking certificate of privilege number.

[59 FR 48782, Sept. 23, 1994]

§ 905.162 Repacking certificate of privilege.

(a) Application. Application for a repacking certificate of privilege by a repacking shipper shall be made on an Application for a Repacking Certificate of Privilege form supplied by the committee. Each such application shall contain, but need not be limited to, the name, address and Florida citrus fruit dealer license number of the applicant; approximate number of boxes to be handled during the season; the various types of containers to be used to ship the repacked citrus fruit; a certification to the Secretary of Agriculture and to the committee as to the truthfulness of the information shown thereon; and any other appropriate information or documents deemed necessary by the committee or duly authorized agents for the purposes stated in § 905.161.

(b) Approval. The committee or its duly authorized agents shall give prompt consideration to each application for a repacking certificate of privilege. Approval of an application based upon a determination as to whether the information contained therein and other information available to the committee supports approval, shall be evidenced by the issuance of a repacking certificate of privilege to the applicant. Each such certificate shall expire at the end of the fiscal period.

(c) Suspension or denial of certificate of privilege. The committee may investigate the handling of repacked fresh citrus fruit shipments under certificates of privilege to determine whether repacking shippers are complying with the requirements and regulations applicable to such certificates. Whenever the committee finds that a repacking shipper is failing to comply with the
requirements and regulations applicable to such certificates, the certificate of privilege issued to such repacking shipper may be suspended or, in the case of an application for the issuance of an initial certificate of privilege, may be denied. Such suspension of a certificate shall be for a reasonable period of time as determined by the committee, but in no event shall it extend beyond the end of the then current fiscal period. In the case of the denial of an application for the issuance of an initial certificate, such certificate shall be denied until the applicant comes into compliance with the requirements and regulations applicable to such certificates. Prior to suspending or denying an application for a certificate of privilege, the committee shall give the shipper or applicant an opportunity, either orally or in writing, to present opposing facts and reasons. The shipper or applicant shall be informed of the committee’s determination in writing and in a timely manner.

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 905.235 Assessment rate.

On and after August 1, 1996, an assessment rate of $0.0035 per 4\(\times\)5 bushel carton is established for assessable for Florida citrus covered under the order.

Subpart—Grade and Size Requirements

§ 905.306 Orange, Grapefruit, Tangerine and Tangelo Regulation.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in §905.601, during the period specified in column (2) of table I, no handler shall ship between the production area and any point outside thereof, in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia of the United States, any variety of fruit listed in column (1) of such table unless such variety meets the applicable minimum grade and size (with tolerances for size as specified in paragraph (c) of this section) specified for such variety in columns (3) and (4) of such table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Regulation period</th>
<th>Minimum grade</th>
<th>Minimum diameter (inches)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early and midseason</td>
<td>01/29/90–08/19/90</td>
<td>U.S. No. 1 Golden</td>
<td>2(\times)4(\times)5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navel</td>
<td>On and after 08/20/90</td>
<td>U.S. No. 1</td>
<td>2(\times)4(\times)5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temple</td>
<td>On and after 12/7/81</td>
<td>U.S. No. 1 Golden</td>
<td>2(\times)4(\times)5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valencia and other late type</td>
<td>05/06/91–09/22/91</td>
<td>U.S. No. 1 Golden</td>
<td>2(\times)4(\times)5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Florida Department of Citrus.

for Grades of Florida Oranges and Tangelos in §2851.1152 of the U.S. Standards are permitted

In the determination of minimum size as prescribed in table I and II, the following tolerances are permitted (1) for oranges, as set forth in §285.1152 of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Florida Oranges and Tangelos, except that such tolerances for other than navel and Temple oranges shall be based only on the oranges in the lot measuring 2½ inches or smaller in diameter, and the tolerance for Honey tangerines shall be as specified in such table unless such variety meets the applicable minimum grade and size (with tolerances for size as specified in paragraph (c) of this section) specified for such variety in columns (3) and (4) of such table.

1 Florida No. 1 Golden grade for Honey tangerines means the same as provided in Rule No. 20-35.03 of the Regulation of the Florida Department of Citrus.
in §2851.1818 of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Florida Tangerines; (2) for grapefruit, as specified in §2851.751 of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Florida Grapefruit; (3) for tangerines, as specified in §2851.1818 of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Florida Tangerines; and (4) for tangelos, as set forth in §2851.1152 of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Florida Oranges and Tangelos.

(d) Terms used in the marketing order, including Improved No. 2 grade for grapefruit, when used herein, mean the same as is given to the terms in the order; Florida No. 1 grade for Honey tangerines means the same as provided in Rule No. 20-35.03 of the Regulations of the Florida Department of Citrus, and terms relating to grade, except Improved No. 2 grade for grapefruit, and diameter shall mean the same as is given to the terms in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Florida Oranges and Tangelos (7 CFR 2851.1140-2851.1180), the U.S. Standards for Grades of Florida Tangerines (7 CFR 2851.1810-2851.1835), or the U.S. Standards for Grades of Florida Grapefruit (7 CFR 2851.750-2851.784).

[46 FR 60171, Dec. 8, 1981]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For Federal Register citations affecting §905.306, see the List of CFR Sections Affected in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g. sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in this volume.

Subpart—Interpretive Rule

§905.400 Interpretation of certain provisions.

(a) In interpreting the provisions of paragraph (d) of §905.52, the limitation on shipment of any variety of fruit regulated pursuant to paragraph (a)(3) of that section, which was prepared for market during the effective period of such regulation, shall not be deemed to apply to shipment of such variety which was prepared for market incidentally as part of a lot packed for export and shipped following the period of regulation.

(b) Prior to shipment of any variety of fruit so prepared, the handler shall provide the Citrus Administrative Committee or its designated agent a copy of the shipping manifest applicable to such shipment with a notation thereon that the fruit was packed incidentally as part of a lot packed for export.

[54 FR 46597, Nov. 6, 1989]
§ 906.1 REGULATION
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§ 906.39 Recommendations for regulations.

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§ 906.1 Secretary.
Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 906.2 Act.

§ 906.3 Person.
Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 906.4 Production area.
Production area means all territory in the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy in the State of Texas.

§ 906.5 Fruit.
Fruit means either or both of the following citrus fruits grown in the production area: (a) Citrus grandis, Osbeck, commonly called grapefruit, and (b) Citrus sinensis, Osbeck, commonly called oranges.

§ 906.6 Handler.
Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier of fruit owned by another person) who handles fruit or causes fruit to be handled.
(a) Independent handler. Independent handler means any handler other than a handler that is a cooperative marketing organization.

§ 906.7 Handle.
Handle or ship means to transport or sell fruit, or in any other way to place fruit, in the current of commerce between the production area and any point outside thereof in the United States, Canada, or Mexico.

§ 906.8 Producer.
Producer means any person engaged in a proprietary capacity in the production of fruit for market.
(a) Independent producer. Independent producer means any producer who does not market his fruit through a handler that is a cooperative marketing organization.
§ 906.9 Grade and size.

Grade means any one of the established grades of fruit and size means any one of the established sizes of fruit as defined and set forth in the applicable U.S. Standards for fruit (§§ 51.680 through 51.714 and §§ 51.620 through 51.653) issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 906.10 Pack.

Pack means the specific grade, quality, size, or arrangement of fruit in a particular container or containers.

§ 906.11 Maturity.

Maturity means various degrees of ripeness for fruit as established by the committee with approval of the Secretary.

§ 906.12 Container.

Container means any box, bag, crate, hamper, basket, package, bulk carton, or any other type of receptacle used in the packaging, transportation, sale, or other handling of fruit.

§ 906.13 Variety or varieties.

Variety or varieties means any one or more of the following groupings or classifications of fruit: (a) Navel oranges; (b) Early and Midseason oranges, except Navel oranges; (c) Valencia and similar late type oranges; (d) white seeded grapefruit; (e) white seedless grapefruit; (f) pink and red seeded grapefruit; and (g) pink and red seedless grapefruit.

§ 906.14 Committee.

Committee means the Texas Valley Citrus Committee, established pursuant to §906.18.

§ 906.15 Fiscal period.

Fiscal period means the period beginning August 1 and ending July 31 following; or such annual beginning and ending dates as may be approved by the Secretary pursuant to recommendations of the committee.

§ 906.16 District.

District means any of the geographic divisions of the production area initially established pursuant to §906.20 or as re-established pursuant to §906.21.

§ 906.17 Establishment and membership.

(a) The Texas Valley Citrus Committee, consisting of fifteen (15) members is hereby established. For each member of the committee there shall be an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member.

(b) Nine members shall be producers who produce fruit in the district which they represent and are residents of the production area. Two of the producer members shall be producers who market their fruit through cooperative marketing organizations, and seven of the producer members shall be independent producers. Producer members shall not have a proprietary interest in or be employees of a handler organization: Provided, That members of a cooperative marketing organization shall not be considered as having a proprietary interest in a handler organization because of such membership.

(c) Six members shall be handlers who are residents of the production area. One handler member shall represent cooperative marketing organizations; five handler members shall represent independent handlers.

§ 906.19 Term of office.

(a) The term of office of committee members and their respective alternates shall be for three years beginning August 1 and ending July 31: Provided, That the term of office of one-third of the initial producer members and alternates and one-third of the initial handler members and alternates shall end July 31, 1961, and the term of office of an identical number of such committee members and alternates shall end July 31, 1962. No member or alternate member shall succeed himself.

(b) Members and alternates shall serve in that capacity during the portion of the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified, and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified. Should
§ 906.20 Districts.

For the purpose of determining the basis for selecting producer committee members the following districts of the production area are hereby initially established:

District No. 1—The county of Cameron in the State of Texas;
District No. 2—The county of Hidalgo in the State of Texas; and
District No. 3—The county of Willacy in the State of Texas.

§ 906.21 Redistricting.

The committee may recommend, and pursuant thereto the Secretary may approve, the reapportionment of members among districts, the reapportionment of members between grower and handler members representing cooperative marketing organizations and independent grower and independent handler members, and the re-establishment of districts within the production area. In recommending such changes, the committee shall give consideration to: (a) Shifts in production; (b) the importance of new production in its relation to existing districts; (c) the equitable relationship of committee membership and districts; (d) changes in amount of fruit handled by cooperative marketing organizations in relation to fruit handled by independent handlers; and (e) other relevant factors. No changes in districting or in apportionment of members may become effective in less than 30 days prior to the date on which terms of office begin each year and no recommendations for such redistricting or reapportionment may be made less than six months prior to such date.

§ 906.22 Selection.

(a) From District No. 1 the Secretary shall select initially two producer members and their respective alternates representing independent producers. From District No. 2 the Secretary shall select initially two producer members and their respective alternates representing producers who market their fruit through cooperative marketing organizations, and four producer members and their respective alternates representing independent producers. From District No. 3 the Secretary shall select initially one producer member and his alternate representing independent producers.

(b) From the production area the Secretary shall select initially six handler members and their respective alternates. One handler member shall represent cooperative marketing organizations and five handler members shall represent independent handlers.

§ 906.23 Nominations.

The Secretary may select the members of the committee and alternates from nominations which may be made in the following manner:

(a) A meeting of producers who are members of cooperative marketing organizations and a meeting of independent producers shall be held for each district having both cooperative and independent producer members and alternates to elect nominees for such positions. For all other districts, meetings of all producers shall be held for such purpose. A meeting of handlers representing cooperative marketing organizations and a meeting of independent handlers shall be held in the production area to elect nominees for handler members and alternates. For nominations to the initial committee, the meetings may be sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture or by any agency or group requested to do so by such Department.

For nominations for succeeding members and alternates on the committee, the committee shall hold such meetings or cause them to be held prior to June 15 of each year, after the effective date of this subpart.

(b) At each such meeting at least one nomination shall be designated for each position as member and alternate.

(c) Nominations for committee members and alternates following the initial committee shall be supplied to the Secretary not later than July 1 each year.
§ 906.29 Expenses and compensation.

The members of the committee, and alternates, shall serve without compensation; but they may be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties and in the exercise of their powers under this subpart.
§ 906.30 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;
(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part;
(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 906.31 Duties.

It shall be, among other things, the duty of the committee:
(a) At the beginning of each term of office, to meet and organize, to select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, to select sub-committees, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;
(b) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;
(c) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as he may request;
(d) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person;
(e) To require adequate fidelity bonds for all persons handling funds;
(f) To investigate from time to time and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping, and marketing conditions with respect to fruit;
(g) To prepare a marketing policy;
(h) To recommend marketing regulations to the Secretary;
(i) To recommend rules and procedures for, and to make determinations in connection with, issuance of certificates of privilege;
(j) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee; and such minutes, books, and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or his authorized agent or representative; and minutes of each committee meeting shall be promptly submitted to the Secretary;
(k) At the beginning of each fiscal period, to prepare a budget of its expenses for such fiscal period, together with a report thereon;
(l) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal period, and at such other time as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request (the report of each such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this part; a copy of each such report shall be furnished to the Secretary and a copy of each report shall be made available at the principal office of the committee for inspection by producers and handlers); and
(m) To consult, cooperate, and exchange information with other marketing agreement committees and other individuals or agencies in connection with all proper committee activities and objectives under this part.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 906.32 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary may find are reasonable and likely to be incurred during each fiscal period for its maintenance and functioning, and for such purposes as the Secretary, pursuant to this subpart, determines to be appropriate. Each handler's share of such expense shall be proportionate to the ratio between the total quantity of fruit handled by him as the first handler thereof during a fiscal period and the total quantity of fruit handled by all handlers as first handlers thereof during such fiscal period.

§ 906.33 Budget.

At the beginning of each fiscal period and as may be necessary thereafter, the committee shall prepare an estimated budget of income and expenditures necessary for the administration of this part. The committee shall recommend the rate of assessment calculated to provide adequate funds to defray its proposed expenditures. The committee shall present such budget to the Secretary with an accompanying report showing the basis for its estimates and recommendations.
§ 906.34 Assessments.

(a) The funds to cover the committee's expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments upon handlers as provided in this subpart. Each handler who first handles fruit shall, with respect to the fruit so handled by him, pay assessments to the committee upon demand, which assessments shall be in payment of such handler’s pro rata share of the committee’s expenses.

(b) Assessments shall be levied upon handlers at rates established by the Secretary. Such rates may be established upon the basis of the committee's recommendations and other available information. Such rates may be applied to specified containers used in the production area.

(c) The rate of assessment may be increased at any time by the Secretary if he finds such increase is necessary in order that the money collected shall be adequate to cover the committee's expenses during a given fiscal period. Such increase shall be applicable to all fruit handled during such fiscal period.

(d) The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions of this part are suspended or become inoperative.

§ 906.35 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for in accordance with one of the following:

(1) If such excess is not retained in a reserve, as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, it shall be refunded proportionately to the persons from whom collected.

(2) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary may carry over such excess into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve: Provided, That funds already in the reserve do not equal approximately 1 fiscal period's expenses. Such reserve funds may be used for any expenses authorized pursuant to § 906.32 and for necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. Upon such termination, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate. To the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purpose specified in this part and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may at any time require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

(c) Upon the removal or expiration of the terms of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds in his possession to the committee, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in the committee full title to all of the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this part.

(d) The committee may make recommendations to the Secretary for one or more of the members thereof, or any other person, to act as a trustee for holding records, funds, or any other committee property during periods of suspension of this subpart, or during any period or periods when regulations are not in effect, and if the Secretary determines such action appropriate, he may direct that such person or persons shall act as trustee or trustees for the committee.


RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

§ 906.37 Research and development.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of marketing research and development projects, including paid advertising, designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption of fruit. Any such project for the promotion and advertising of fruit may utilize an identifying mark which shall be made available for use by all handlers in accordance with such terms
§ 906.38 Marketing policy.

Prior to or at the same time as initial recommendations are made pursuant to §906.39, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth the marketing policy it deems desirable for the industry to follow in shipping fruit from the production area during the ensuing season. Additional reports shall be submitted from time to time if it is deemed advisable by the committee to adopt a new or modified marketing policy because of changes in the demand and supply situation with respect to fruit. The committee shall publicly announce the submission of each marketing policy report and copies thereof shall be available at the committee's office for inspection by any producer or handler. In determining each such marketing policy the committee shall give due consideration to the following:

(a) Market prices of fruit, including prices by grade, size, and quality in different packs, and such prices by foreign competing areas;

(b) Supply of fruit, by grade, size, and quality in the production area, and in other production areas, including foreign production areas;

(c) Trend and level of consumer income;

(d) Marketing conditions affecting fruit prices; and

(e) Other relevant factors.

§ 906.39 Recommendations for regulations.

The committee, upon complying with the requirements of §906.38, may recommend regulations to the Secretary whenever it finds that such regulations, as are provided for in this subpart, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. The committee shall give notice to handlers of any such recommendation at the same time such recommendation is submitted to the Secretary.

§ 906.40 Issuance of regulations.

The Secretary shall limit the handling of fruit whenever he finds from the recommendation and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulation would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such regulations may:

(a) Limit the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities, maturities, or packs of any or all varieties of fruit during a specified period or periods: Provided, That specific maturity requirements applicable to the handling of any variety may be prescribed under this section only in the event that appropriate maturity requirements for such variety are not in effect under State authority.

(b) Limit the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities, or packs of fruit differently for different varieties, for different containers, for different purposes specified in §906.42, or any combination of the foregoing, during any period.

(c) Limit the handling of fruit by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity.

(d) Fix the size, weight, capacity, dimensions, or pack of the container or containers which may be used in the packaging, transportation, sale, shipment, or other handling of fruit.

(e) Prohibit the handling (1) of any fruit which does not have marked on each container the grade or the registered grade label of the fruit contained therein; (2) of any grapefruit which does not have marked on each fruit the word Texas or other words implying Texas origin, except that the committee may recommend and the Secretary establish a tolerance for grapefruit in any container or lot not so marked; and (3) of any container fruit which is misbranded as to variety.

(f) No regulations may be issued under the provisions of this subpart which allots to individual handlers the quantity of fruit which each handler may ship during any regulation period.

§ 906.41 Gift fruit shipments.

The handling to any person of gift packages of fruit individually addressed to such person, in quantities
aggregating not more than 500 pounds and not for resale, are exempt from the provisions of §§906.34, 906.40, and 906.45, and the regulations issued thereunder, but shall conform to such safeguards as may be established pursuant to §906.43.

§ 906.42 Shipments for special purposes.

Upon the basis of recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or other available information, the Secretary, whenever he finds that it will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, shall modify, suspend, or terminate regulations issued pursuant to §§906.34, 906.40, 906.45, or any combination thereof, in order to facilitate the handling of fruit:
(a) For relief or for charity;
(b) For processing or for manufacture or conversion into specified products; and
(c) In such minimum quantities and for such other purposes as may be specified by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

§ 906.43 Notification of regulations.

The Secretary shall notify the committee of any regulations issued or of any modification, suspension, or termination thereof. The committee shall give reasonable notice thereof to handlers.

§ 906.44 Safeguards.

(a) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe adequate safeguards to prevent the handling of fruit pursuant to §906.41 or §906.42 from entering channels of trade for other than the specific purpose authorized therefor, and rules governing the issuance and the contents of certificates of privilege if such certificates are prescribed as safeguards by the committee. Such safeguards may include requirements that:
(1) Handlers shall file applications with the committee to ship fruit pursuant to §§906.41 and 906.42.
(2) Handlers shall obtain inspection provided by §906.45, or pay the assessment levied pursuant to §906.34, or both, in connection with shipments made under §906.42. Provided, That such inspection and assessment requirements shall not apply to fruit handled for canning or freezing.
(3) Handlers shall obtain certificates of privilege from the committee to handle fruit affected or to be affected under the provisions of §§906.41 and 906.42.
(b) The committee may rescind or deny certificates of privilege to any handler if proof is obtained that fruit handled by him for the purposes stated in §§906.41 and 906.42 was handled contrary to the provisions of this part.
(c) The Secretary shall have the right to modify, change, alter, or rescind any safeguards prescribed and any certificates issued by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this section.
(d) The committee shall make reports to the Secretary, as requested, showing the number of applications for such certificates, the quantity of fruit covered by such applications, the number of such applications denied and certificates granted, the quantity of fruit handled under duly issued certificates, and such other information as may be requested.

INSPECTION

§ 906.45 Inspection and certification.

(a) During any period in which handling of a variety of a type of fruit is regulated pursuant to §§906.34, 906.40, 906.42, or any combination thereof, no handler shall handle any variety of such type of fruit which has not been inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, unless such handling is relieved from such requirements pursuant to §906.41 or §906.42, or both;
(b) Regrading, resorting, or repacking any lot of fruit shall invalidate any prior inspection insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned. No handler shall handle fruit after it has been regraded, resorted, repacked, or in any other way prepared for market, unless each lot of fruit is inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service: Provided, That the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may provide for waiving inspection requirements on any fruit in circumstances where it appears reasonably certain...
§ 906.51

that, after regrading, resorting, or re-packing, such fruit meets the applicable quality and other standards then in effect;

(c) Insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned, the length of time for which an inspection certificate is valid may be established by the committee with the approval of the Secretary;

(d) When fruit is inspected in accordance with the requirements of this section a copy of each inspection certificate issued shall be made available to the committee by the inspection service;

(e) The committee may recommend and the Secretary may require that any fruit handled or transported by motor vehicle shall be accompanied by a copy of the inspection certificate issued thereon, which certificate shall be surrendered to such authority as may be designated.

REPORTS

§ 906.51 Reports.

Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such time as it may prescribe, such reports and other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part.

(a) Such reports may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

(1) The quantities of fruit received by a handler;

(2) The quantities disposed of by him, segregated as to the respective quantities subject to regulation and not subject to regulation;

(3) The date of each such disposition and the identification of the carrier transporting such fruit;

(4) Identification of the inspection certificates, and the certificates of privilege, if any, pursuant to which the fruit was handled, together with the destination of each lot of fruit handled pursuant to §906.41.

(b) All such reports shall be held under appropriate protective classification and custody of the committee, or duly appointed employees thereof, so that the information contained therein which may adversely affect the competitive position of any handler in relation to other handlers will not be disclosed. Compilations of general reports from data submitted by handlers is authorized, subject to prohibition of disclosure of individual handlers identities or operations.

(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least two succeeding years such records of the fruit received and disposed of by such handler as may be necessary to verify the reports he submits to the committee pursuant to this section.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 906.52 Compliance.

Except as provided in this subpart, no handler shall handle fruit, the handling of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with provisions of this subpart, or the rules and regulations issued thereunder, and no handler shall handle fruit except in conformity to the provisions of this part.

§ 906.53 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the committee, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every order, regulation, decision, determination or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the said committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 906.54 Effective time.

The provisions of this subpart, or any amendment thereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in this subpart.
§ 906.55 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may, at any time, terminate the provisions of this subpart by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner he may determine.

(b) The Secretary may terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this subpart whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any fiscal period whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of producers who, during a representative period, have been engaged in the production of fruit for market: Provided, That such majority has, during such representative period, produced for market more than fifty percent of the volume of such fruit produced for market.

(d) The provisions of this subpart shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 906.56 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart the then functioning members of the committee shall, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee continue as joint trustees of all the funds and property then in the possession of or under control of the committee, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trusteeship shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.

(b) The said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall, upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant to this subpart.

§ 906.57 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendments to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulations issued under this subpart, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violations.

§ 906.58 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 906.59 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the United States, or name any agency in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this subpart.

§ 906.60 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.
§ 906.61 Personal liability.

No member or alternate of the committee or any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, agent, or employee, except for act of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 906.62 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart, or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or things, shall not be affected thereby.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

§ 906.120 Fruit exempt from regulations.

(a) Minimum quantity. Any person or the occupants of any one vehicle may ship fruit from the production area during any one day exempt from the requirements of §§ 906.34, 906.40, and 906.45, and regulations issued thereunder: Provided, That the shipment does not exceed 400 pounds of fruit (either oranges or grapefruit or a combination of both), it consists solely of fruit not for resale, and it is not part of a shipment of fruit exceeding 400 pounds.

(b) Processing. The term processing as used in §906.42(b) means the manufacture of any orange or grapefruit product which has been converted into sectioned fruit or into fresh juice, or preserved by any commercial process, including canning, freezing, dehydrating, drying, and the addition of chemical substances, or by fermentation. Fruit so processed, if handled in accordance with §906.123, shall be exempt from the provisions of §§ 906.34 and 906.40.

(c) Special purpose shipments and safeguards. (1) Fruit may be handled for relief or charity exempt from the requirements of §§ 906.34, 906.40, and 906.45 and the regulations issued thereunder: Provided, That the fruit shall not be offered for resale, and the handler submits, prior to any such handling, an application to the committee on forms provided by the committee. The application shall contain the name and address of the handler and such other information that the committee may require including, but not limited to, the quantity of fruit involved, license number of the conveyance, and supporting documentation. Approval of the application by the committee shall be evidenced by the issuance of a certificate of privilege to the applicant in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.

(2) Gift packages of fruit handled pursuant to §906.41 shall be in containers stamped or marked with the handler's name and address.

(3) Fruit may be handled exempt from regulations issued pursuant to §906.40(d), if the following conditions are met:

(i) Each fiscal period the handler submits prior to such handling a written application to the committee on forms provided by the committee. The application shall contain the name and address of the handler, and a description of the container or containers in which such fruit would be handled.

(ii) The fruit grades at least U.S. No. 1.

(iii) The fruit is handled in closed fully telescopic fiberboard cartons with inside dimensions of 16½ x 10½ x 10½ inches which are packed level full, and the cover and bottom section have a Mullen or Cady test of at least 250 pounds; in six-packs; in 12-packs; in baskets of a capacity of 1 bushel or less; or in any of the containers authorized under §906.340, provided they are stamped or marked special purpose shipment.

(iv) Each handler shall file a report with the committee within 1 business day after each shipment handled pursuant to paragraph (c)(3). Such report shall contain the name and address of the handler; date fruit is handled; the number and type of containers and packs in such shipment; the inspection certificate numbers applicable to such shipment; name and address of the purchaser; and the license number of the truck, trailer, or automobile, as the
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 906.123

§ 906.123 Fruit for processing.

(a) No person shall be granted exemption from regulation to handle oranges and grapefruit for processing unless such fruit is shipped to an approved processor. All such shipments to an approved processor shall be reported to the committee on a form approved by it.

(b) Approved processor. Any person who desires to acquire, as an approved processor, fruit for processing, as set forth in §906.120(b), shall, prior thereto, file an application with the committee on a form approved by it, which shall contain, but not be limited to, the following information:

(1) Name and address of applicant;
(2) Location of plant or plants where manufacturing is to take place;
(3) Approximate quantity of fruit used each month;
(4) A statement that the fruit obtained exempt from fresh fruit regulations will not be resold or transferred for resale, directly or indirectly, but will be used only for processing;
(5) A statement agreeing to hold a license issued under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930 (7 U.S.C. 499r) and regulations issued thereunder (7 CFR part 46) when buying...
Texas oranges and grapefruit for processing;
   (6) A statement agreeing to undergo random inspection by the committee;
   (7) A statement that the requesting processor has no facilities, equipment, or outlet to repack or sell fruit in fresh form;
   (8) A statement agreeing to submit such reports as are required by the committee.

Such application shall be investigated by the committee staff. After such investigation, the staff shall report its findings to the committee at its next meeting or to its delegated subcommittee. Based upon the staff's report and other reliable information, the committee or delegated subcommittee shall approve or disapprove the application and notify the applicant accordingly. If the application is approved, the applicant's name shall be placed upon the list of approved processors.

(c) Certificate by processors. Upon request by the committee each approved processor shall submit to the committee on or before the 10th day of each month a report of the oranges and grapefruit used during the preceding calendar month. Each report shall contain a certificate to the United States Department of Agriculture and to the committee as to the truthfulness of the information shown therein.

(d) Diversion report. Each handler who ships fruit to processors for processing shall report to the committee on a form approved by it the following information:
   (1) Name and address of the processor's place of business where the fruit was shipped;
   (2) The net weight of oranges or grapefruit;
   (3) Truck license number or rail car initial and number;
   (4) Inspection certificate number; and
   (5) Such other information as the committee may require.

The handler shall prepare 4 copies of the report and sign them. The original copy shall be submitted to the committee within 7 days. One copy shall be retained by the handler. One copy shall be given to the party transporting the fruit who, upon arrival at the processor's place of business, shall turn it over to the party receiving the fruit with the understanding that the processor will record thereon the actual net weight of the fruit received and forward such copy to the committee office. One copy shall be submitted to the processor along with the invoice.


§ 906.137 Handlers use of identifying marks utilized by the committee in promotional and advertising projects.

(a) Pursuant to §906.37, the identifying marks “Texasweet”, “Sweeter By Nature”, “Texas Fancy”, and “Texas Choice” shall be available to handlers only under the following terms and conditions:

   (1) The identifying marks “Texasweet” and “Sweeter by Nature” may severally or jointly be affixed only to containers of grapefruit or to individual grapefruit comprising a lot which grades at least U.S. No. 1.

   (2) The identifying mark “Texas Fancy” may be affixed only to containers of grapefruit or to individual grapefruit comprising a lot which grades at least U.S. No. 1 with no more than 40 percent of the surface of the grapefruit, in the aggregate, affected by discoloration.

   (3) The identifying mark “Texas Choice” may be affixed only to containers of grapefruit or to individual grapefruit comprising a lot which grades at least U.S. No. 2, with no more than 60 percent of the surface of the grapefruit, in the aggregate, affected by discoloration.

   (4) The identifying marks “Texasweet” and “Sweeter by Nature” may severally or jointly be affixed only to containers of oranges or to individual oranges comprising a lot which grades at least U.S. Combination, with not less than 60 percent, by count, of the oranges in each container thereof grading at least U.S. No. 1 and the remainder U.S. No. 2.

   (5) The identifying mark “Texas Choice” may be affixed only to containers of oranges or to individual oranges comprising a lot which grades at least U.S. No. 2, except that in determining whether the fruit is reasonably well colored the yellow or orange color must predominate over the green color.
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on at least 75 percent of the fruit surface in the aggregate which is not discolored.

(b) When used herein, terms relating to grade shall have the same meaning as is given to the respective term in the U.S. Standards for Grapefruit (Texas and States other than Florida, California, and Arizona) (7 CFR 51.620 through 51.685) and in the U.S. Standards for Oranges (Texas and States other than Florida, California, and Arizona) (7 CFR 51.680 through 51.712).


§ 906.151 Reports.

(a) During each fiscal period, each handler shall upon request by the committee file with the committee within the time specified in the request an accurate report showing the total quantity or oranges and the total quantity of grapefruit received by him during such fiscal period or the preceding fiscal period, as requested.

(b) Each handler who sells over 400 pounds of oranges or grapefruit or a combination of both for resale inside the production area shall, for each transaction, report to the committee on a form approved by it the following information:

(1) Name and address of seller;
(2) Name and address of buyer;
(3) Description and quantity of oranges or grapefruit sold;
(4) Destination of fruit;
(5) A statement that the buyer certifies that fruit that is subsequently taken outside the production area for resale will be inspected; and
(6) Such other pertinent information as the committee may require.

(c) The handler shall prepare the report in triplicate. The buyer shall sign the certification statement. The pink copy shall be submitted to the committee within 7 days. The white copy shall be retained by the handler and the canary copy shall be given to the buyer. Such form shall be reviewed by the committee staff and the information compiled for the committee’s use.


§ 906.340 Container, pack, and container marking regulations.

(a) No handler shall handle any variety of oranges or grapefruit grown in the production area unless such fruit is in one of the following containers, and the fruit is packed and the containers are marked as specified in this section:

(i) Closed fiberboard carton with inside dimensions of 13½ × 10½ × 7¼ inches:

Provided, That the container has a Mullen or Cady test of at least 200 pounds:

Provided further, That the container may be used to pack any poly or mesh bags authorized in this section.

(ii) Bags having a capacity of five or eight pounds of fruit.

(iii) Bags of mesh or woven type having a capacity of 18 pounds of fruit;

(iv) Wire crib with inside dimensions of 4½×37×30 inches:

Provided, That such cribs be constructed of either 4½×4 inch mesh wire at least 0 gauge, or 2×2 inch mesh wire at least 2 gauge, and
that a new liner is placed in this container each time it is filled for shipment;

(vii) Rectangular or octagonal bulk fiberboard crib with approximate dimensions of 46 to 47 1/2 inches in length, 37 to 38 inches in width by 26 inches in height: Provided, That the crib has a Mullen or Cady test of at least 1,300 pounds, and that it is used only once for the shipment of citrus fruit; Provided further, That the container may be used to pack any poly or mesh bags authorized in this section or bulk fruit.

(viii) Rectangular or octagonal 3/4 fiberboard crib with dimensions of 46 to 47 1/2 inches long, 37 to 38 inches wide, by 24 inches high: Provided, That the crib has a Mullen or Cady test of at least 1,300 pounds, and that it is used only once for the shipment of citrus fruit; Provided further, That the container may be used to pack any poly or mesh bags authorized in this section or bulk fruit.

(ix) Octagonal fiberboard crib with approximate dimensions of 46 to 47 1/2 inches in width by 37 to 38 inches in depth by 26 to 26 1/2 inches in height: Provided, That the crib has a Mullen or Cady test of at least 1,300 pounds, and that it is used only once for the shipment of citrus fruit; Provided further, That the crib may be used to pack any approved poly or mesh bags authorized in this section or bulk fruit.

(x) Poly or vexar bag having capacity of four pounds of fruit: Provided, That only oranges are to be packed in this bag.

(xi) Mesh type bag having a capacity of ten pounds of fruit.

(xii) Such types and sizes of containers as may be approved by the committee for testing in connection with a research project conducted by or in cooperation with the committee: Provided, That the handling of each lot of fruit in such test containers shall be subject to prior approval and under the supervision of the committee.

(2) Pack regulation. (i) Oranges. (a) Oranges, except Navel oranges and Valencia and similar late-type oranges, when packed in boxes or cartons shall be sized in accordance with the sizes set forth in the following table, except as otherwise provided by regulations issued pursuant to this part, and otherwise meet the requirements of standard pack; and when in containers not packed according to a definite pattern shall be sized in accordance with the sizes set forth in the following table and otherwise meet the requirements of standard sizing: Provided, That the packing tolerances, which are set forth in the U.S. Standards for Oranges (Texas and States other than Florida, California, and Arizona), shall be applicable to fruit so packed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pack size</th>
<th>Minimum Diameter</th>
<th>Maximum Diameter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46's</td>
<td>4 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54's or 56's</td>
<td>3 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>4 1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64's</td>
<td>3 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>4 1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70's or 72's</td>
<td>3 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>4 1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80's</td>
<td>3 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>4 1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100's</td>
<td>3 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>4 1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112's</td>
<td>3 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>4 1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125's</td>
<td>3 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>4 1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163's</td>
<td>2 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>3 1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200's</td>
<td>2 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>3 1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>252's</td>
<td>2 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>288's</td>
<td>2 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>324's</td>
<td>2 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Oranges, except Navel oranges and Valencia and similar late-type oranges, when packed in boxes or cartons shall be sized in accordance with the sizes set forth in the following table, except as otherwise provided by regulations issued pursuant to this part, and otherwise meet the requirements of standard pack; and

(c) Navel oranges and Valencia and similar late-type oranges, when packed in any box or carton shall be sized in accordance with the sizes set forth in the following table, except as otherwise provided by regulations issued pursuant to this part, and otherwise meet the requirements of standard pack; and when in containers not packed according to a definite pattern shall be sized in accordance with the sizes set forth in the following table and otherwise meet the requirements of standard sizing: Provided, That the packing tolerances, which are set forth in the U.S. Standards for Oranges (Texas and States other than Florida, California, and Arizona), shall be applicable to fruit so packed: And provided further, That the variation from the smallest to the largest fruit in any container is not more than the following applicable amount:
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(1) 46, 54, 64, 70 or 72, or 80 sizes—not more than eight-sixteenths inch in diameter;
(2) 100, 112, or 125 sizes—not more than six-sixteenths inch in diameter;
(3) 163, or 200 sizes—not more than five-sixteenths inch in diameter; and
(4) 252, 288, or 324 sizes—not more than four-sixteenths inch in diameter.

TABLE II—1¼ BUSHEL BOX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pack size</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>163</td>
<td>2½ inches</td>
<td>2½ inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>3½ inches</td>
<td>3½ inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>4½ inches</td>
<td>4½ inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>5½ inches</td>
<td>5½ inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>6½ inches</td>
<td>6½ inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 or 72</td>
<td>7½ inches</td>
<td>7½ inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>8½ inches</td>
<td>8½ inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>9½ inches</td>
<td>9½ inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>10½ inches</td>
<td>10½ inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>11½ inches</td>
<td>11½ inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>12½ inches</td>
<td>12½ inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>13½ inches</td>
<td>13½ inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>14½ inches</td>
<td>14½ inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>15½ inches</td>
<td>15½ inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>16 inches</td>
<td>16 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 inches</td>
<td>17 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>18 inches</td>
<td>18 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>19 inches</td>
<td>19 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>20 inches</td>
<td>20 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>21 inches</td>
<td>21 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>22 inches</td>
<td>22 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>23 inches</td>
<td>23 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>25 inches</td>
<td>25 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>26 inches</td>
<td>26 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(ii) Grapefruit. Grapefruit, when packed in any box, bag or carton, shall be within the diameter limits specified for the various pack sizes in 7 CFR 51.630(c) of the United States Standards for Grades of Grapefruit (Texas and States other than Florida, California, and Arizona). Provided, that the minimum diameter limit for pack size 36 grapefruit shall be 4½ inches and the maximum diameter limit shall be 5½ inches; Provided, that the minimum diameter limit for pack size 96 grapefruit shall be 3½ inches and the maximum diameter limit shall be 4½ inches; and Provided, that any grapefruit in boxes or cartons shall be packed in accordance with the requirements of standard pack.

(3) Container grade markings. Except when the identifying marks “Texas Choice” or “Texas Fancy” are used by handlers pursuant to §906.137, any container of U.S. No. 2 grade fruit shall be marked to indicate the grade of the fruit in letters and numbers at least three-fourths inch in height: Provided, that bags containing five or eight pounds of fruit shall be so marked with letters and numbers at least one-fourth inch in height prominently displayed on the front panel of the bag. The requirements of this paragraph (a)(3) will not be effective until February 16, 1992.

(b) Nonapplicability. The provisions of this section shall not apply to gift packages of fruit.

(c) As used herein, terms relating to grade, pack, standard pack, and diameter mean the same as defined in the United States Standards for Grades of Oranges (Texas and States other than Florida, California, and Arizona), 7 CFR 51.680 through 51.714, or in the United States Standards for Grades of Grapefruit (Texas and States other than Florida, California, and Arizona), 7 CFR 51.620 through 51.632. The provisions of this section shall not apply to gift packages of fruit.

EDITORIAL NOTE: FOR FEDERAL REGISTER Citations Affecting §906.340, See the List of CFR Sections Affected in the Finding Aids Section of This Volume.

§ 906.365 Texas Orange and Grapefruit Regulation 34.

(a) No handler shall handle any variety of oranges or grapefruit grown in the production area unless:

(1) Such oranges grade U.S. Fancy, U.S. No. 1, U.S. No. 1 Bright, U.S. No. 1 Bronze, U.S. Combination (with not less than 60 percent, by count, of the oranges in any lot thereof grading at least U.S. No. 1), or U.S. No. 2.

(2) Such oranges are at least pack size 288, except that the minimum diameter limit for pack size 288 oranges in any lot shall be 2¼ inches.

(3) Such grapefruit grade U.S. Fancy, U.S. No. 1, U.S. No. 1 Bright, or U.S. No. 1 Bronze, or meet the quality requirements of “Texas Fancy” or “Texas Choice” as defined in §906.137 of this part.

(4) Such grapefruit are at least pack size 96, except that the minimum diameter limit for pack size 96 grapefruit in any lot shall be 3½ inches: Provided, that any handler may handle grapefruit, which are smaller than pack size 96, if such grapefruit grade at least U.S. No. 1 and they are at least pack size 112, except that the minimum diameter limit for pack size 112 grapefruit in any lot shall be 3½ inches.

(5) An appropriate inspection certificate has been issued for such fruit within 48 hours prior to the time of shipment. No handler may transport by
motor vehicle or cause the transportation of any shipment of fruit for which an inspection certificate is required unless each such shipment is accompanied by a copy of the inspection certificate applicable thereto, and a copy of such inspection certificate is surrendered upon request to Texas Department of Agriculture personnel designated by the committee.

(6) The fruit meets all the applicable container and pack requirements effective under this marketing order.

(7) Beginning in 1995, this paragraph (a) is suspended each year from July 1 through August 31 of each year.

(b) Terms relating to grade, pack size, and diameter shall mean the same as in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Oranges (Texas and States other than Florida, California, and Arizona) (7 CFR 51.680 through 51.714) or in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Grapefruit (Texas and States other than Florida, California and Arizona) (7 CFR 51.620 through 51.655).


**PART 911—LIMES GROWN IN FLORIDA**

**Subpart—Order Regulating Handling**

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911.6 Fiscal year.
911.7 Committee.
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Subpart—Order Regulating Handling


Definitions

§ 911.1 Secretary.
Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 911.2 Act.

§ 911.3 Person.
Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association or any other business unit.

§ 911.4 Production area.
Production area means all of the State of Florida, except the area west of the Suwannee River.

§ 911.5 Limes.
Limes means all varieties and clones of acid limes, grown in the production area, classified botanically as Citrus Aurantifolia (Christm.) Swingle, and includes the group known as true limes (also known as Mexican, West Indian, and Key limes and by other synonyms) and the group known as large fruited or Persian limes (including Tahiti, Bearss, and similar varieties).

§ 911.6 Fiscal year.
Fiscal year means the twelve-month period ending March 31 of each year.

§ 911.7 Committee.
Committee means the Florida Lime Administrative Committee established pursuant to § 911.20.

§ 911.8 Grower.
Grower is synonymous with producer and means any person who produces limes for market and who has a proprietary interest therein: Provided, That such term shall not include: (a) any person who produces limes for market and who has a proprietary interest therein: Provided, That as used in § 911.22 the term grower shall include only those who have a proprietary interest in the production of 10 or more bearing lime trees.


§ 911.9 Handler.
Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier transporting limes owned by another person) who handles limes or causes limes to be handled.

§ 911.10 Handle or ship.
Handle is synonymous with ship and means to sell, consign, deliver, or transport limes within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof: Provided, That such term shall not include: (a) The sale or delivery of limes to a handler, registered as such by the committee who has a packing facilities within the production area for preparing limes for market; (b) the transportation of limes by a handler, registered as such by the committee, from the grove to his packing facilities within the production area for the purpose of having such limes prepared for market. In the event a grower sells his limes to a handler who
§ 911.11

is not so registered with the committee, such grower shall be the first handler of such limes.


§ 911.11 District.

District means the applicable one of the following described subdivisions of the production area, or such other subdivisions as may be prescribed pursuant to § 911.29(n):

(a) District 1 shall include Dade and Monroe counties.

(b) District 2 shall include all of the production area except Dade and Monroe counties.

§ 911.12 Export.

Export means to ship limes to any destination which is not within the 48 contiguous States or the District of Columbia of the United States or Canada.

[43 FR 39320, Sept. 5, 1978]

§ 911.20 Establishment and membership.

(a) There is hereby established a Florida Lime Administrative Committee consisting of nine members, each of whom shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member for whom he is an alternate. Five of the members and their respective alternates shall be growers who shall not be handlers of limes produced by others or employees of such handlers. Four of the members and their respective alternates shall be handlers or employees of handlers. The five members of the committee who shall be growers who shall not be handlers of limes produced by others or employees of such handlers are referred to as “grower” members of the committee; and the four members who shall be handlers or employees of handlers are referred to as “handler” members of the committee. Four of the five grower members shall be producers of limes in District 1, and one grower member shall be a producer of limes in District 2. Three of the four handler members shall be handlers, or employees of handlers, of limes in District 1, and one handler member shall be a handler, or an employee of a handler of limes in District 2. No handler or handler organization shall be permitted to have more than one handler member and alternate on the committee from each district: Provided, That this requirement may be waived by the Secretary in the event that there are not enough persons available to be nominated and selected to serve on the committee.

(b) The committee may be increased by one public member and alternate. Persons for the public member positions would be nominated by the committee and selected by the Secretary. The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe qualifications, term of office, and the procedure for nominating the public member and alternate.


§ 911.21 Term of office.

The term of office of each member and alternate member of the committee shall begin April 1, and shall terminate March 31 of the following year. Members and alternate members shall serve in such capacities for the portion of the term of office for which they are selected and qualify and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified. The consecutive terms of office of members shall be limited to three terms.

§ 911.22 Nomination.

(a) Initial members. Nominations for each of the five initial grower members and four initial handler members of the committee, together with nominations for the initial alternate members for each position, may be submitted to the Secretary by individual growers and handlers. Such nominations may be made by means of group meetings of the growers and handlers concerned in each district. Such nominations, if made, shall be filed with the Secretary no later than the effective date hereof. In the event nominations for initial members and alternate members of the committee are not filed pursuant to, and within the time specified in, this section, the Secretary may select such
§ 911.23 Selection.

From the nominations made pursuant to §911.22, or from other qualified persons, the Secretary shall select the five grower members of the committee, the four handler members of the committee, and an alternate for each such member.

§ 911.24 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner prescribed in §911.22, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the members and alternate members of the committee on the basis of the representation provided for in §911.20.

§ 911.25 Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary within ten days after being notified of such selection.

§ 911.26 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate member of the committee, a successor for the unexpired term of such member or alternate member of the committee shall be nominated and selected in the manner specified in §§911.22 and 911.23. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within fifteen days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of representation provided for in §911.20.

§ 911.27 Alternate members.

An alternate member of the committee, during the absence or at the request of the member for whom he is an alternate, shall act in the place and stead of such member. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified. In the event both a member and his alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the chairman may designate any alternate who is present and who is not serving for any member to serve in such absent member’s place and stead: Provided, That only grower alternate members may be
so designated to serve for grower members and only handler alternate members may be so designated to serve for handler members.


§ 911.28 Powers.
The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;
(b) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the provisions of this part.
(c) To make and adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 911.29 Duties.
The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:
(a) To select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to define the duties of such officers;
(b) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary, and to determine the compensation and to define the duties of each;
(c) To submit to the Secretary as soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal year a budget for such fiscal year, including a report in explanation of the items appearing therein and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such fiscal year;
(d) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;
(e) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;
(f) To cause its books to be audited by a certified public accountant at least once each fiscal year, and at such other times as the Secretary may request;
(g) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;
(h) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to limes;
(i) To submit to the Secretary such available information as he may request;
(j) To notify, as provided in this part, producers and handlers of all meetings of the committee to consider recommendations for regulation;
(k) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to its members;
(l) To consult with such representatives of growers or groups of growers as may be deemed necessary and to pay the travel expenses incurred by such representatives in attending committee meetings at the request of the committee: Provided, That the committee shall not pay the travel expenses of more than three such representatives in connection with any one meeting of the committee;
(m) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part; and
(n) With the approval of the Secretary, to redefine the districts into which the production area is divided, and to reapportion the representation of any district on the committee: Provided, That any such changes shall reflect, insofar as practicable, shifts in lime production within the districts and the production area.

§ 911.30 Procedure.
(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section, six members of the committee, including alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum and any decision, recommendation or other action of the committee shall require not less than five concurring votes, including one by a handler, or an alternate acting as such: Provided, That if the committee is increased by one, the quorum requirement shall be increased to seven and any decision, recommendation or other action of the committee shall require not less than six concurring votes, including one by a handler or an alternate acting as such.
(b) The committee may provide for simultaneous meetings of groups of its members assembled at two or more designated places: Provided, That such
meetings shall be subject to the establishment of telephone communication between all such groups and the availability of loud speaker receivers for each group so that each member may participate in the discussions and other actions the same as if the committee were assembled in one place.

(c) For any recommendation of the committee pursuant to §911.53 as to the total quantity of limes deemed advisable to be handled during any week immediately following two or more continuous weeks of regulation pursuant to §911.54 nine members of the committee, including alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum and nine concurring votes shall be required. The quorum and voting requirements specified in this paragraph shall not apply to recommendations pursuant to §911.53 to increase the quantity that may be handled during the applicable week or pursuant to §911.54 to terminate or suspend a regulation.

(d) For any recommendation of the committee for an assessment rate exceeding $0.20 per bushel to be applied pursuant to §911.41, the quorum requirement shall be eight members or alternates acting for members and eight concurring votes shall be required.


§ 911.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred to enable the committee to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part during each fiscal year. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as provided for in §911.41.


§ 911.41 Assessments.

(a) Each person who first handles limes shall, with respect to limes so handled by him, pay to the committee upon demand such person’s pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee during each fiscal year. Each such person’s share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the total quantity of limes handled by him as the first handler thereof during the applicable fiscal year and the total quantity of limes so handled by all persons during the same fiscal year. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative. If a handler does not pay his assessment within the time prescribed by the committee, the unpaid assessment may be subject to an interest charge at rates prescribed by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment per 55-pounds of fruit or equivalent in any container or in bulk, to be paid by each such handler. At any time during or after a fiscal year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient
§ 911.42 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal year, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for as follows:

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, each person entitled to a proportionate refund of the excess assessment shall be credited with such refund against the operation of the following fiscal year unless such person demands repayment thereof, in which event it shall be paid to him: Provided, That any sum paid by a person in excess of his pro rata share of the expenses during any fiscal year may be applied by the committee at the end of such fiscal year to any outstanding obligations due the committee from such person.

(2) The Secretary, upon recommendation of the committee, may determine that it is appropriate for the maintenance and functioning of the committee that the funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year which are in excess of the expenses necessary for committee operations during such year may be carried over into following years as a reserve. Such reserve may be established at an amount not to exceed approximately 3 fiscal years' operational expenses. Funds in the reserve may also be used to cover the necessary expenses of liquidation, in the event of termination of this part to cover the expenses incurred for the maintenance and functioning of the committee during any fiscal year when there is a crop failure, or during any period of suspension of any or all the provisions of this part. Such reserve may also be used by the committee to finance its operations during any fiscal year prior to the time that assessment income is sufficient to cover such expenses and to cover deficits incurred during any fiscal year when income is less than expenses. Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: Provided, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this part, and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may, at any time, require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.


§ 911.45 Production research, marketing research and development.

The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, establish or provide for the establishment of production research, marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption or efficient production of limes. Such projects may provide for any form of marketing promotion, including paid advertising. The expenses of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to the applicable provisions of § 911.41.

[40 FR 52604, Nov. 11, 1975]
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in the production area and in other areas, including foreign competing areas; (c) the expected demand conditions for limes in different market outlets; (d) the expected shipments of limes produced in the production area and in other areas including foreign competing areas, together with a schedule of estimated weekly shipments of limes during such fiscal year; (e) supplies of competing commodities; (f) trend and level of consumer income; (g) other factors having a bearing on the marketing of limes; and (h) the type of regulations expected to be recommended during the season. In the event it becomes advisable, because of changes in the supply and demand situation for limes, to modify substantially such marketing policy, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a revised marketing policy report setting forth the information prescribed in this section. The committee shall publicly announce the contents of each marketing policy report and copies thereof shall be maintained in the offices of the committee where they shall be available for examination by growers and handlers.


§ 911.47 Recommendations for regulation.

(a) Whenever the committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of any variety or varieties of limes in the manner provided in § 911.48, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) In arriving at its recommendations for regulation pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the committee shall give consideration to current information with respect to the factors affecting the supply and demand for limes during the period or periods when it is proposed that such regulation should be made effective. With each such recommendation for regulation, the committee shall submit to the Secretary the data and information on which such recommendation is predicated, and such other available information as the Secretary may request.

(c) All meetings of the committee held for the purpose of formulating recommendations for regulations shall be open to growers and handlers. The committee shall give notice of such meetings to growers and handlers by mailing such notice to each grower and handler who has filed his address with the committee and requested such notice.


§ 911.48 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall regulate, in the manner specified in this section, the handling of limes whenever he finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee or from other available information, that such regulations will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act. Such regulations may:

(1) Prohibit, during any specified period or periods, the handling of any variety or varieties of limes which do not meet such grade, size, and quality (including internal quality and juice content) standards as shall be prescribed; Provided, That such regulations may require that limes not meeting minimum size requirements established under this section be marked with a Food and Drug Administration approved food dye as a necessary and incidental safeguard to prevent such limes from entering fresh marketing channels for regulated limes.

(2) Prescribe minimum standards of quality for any variety or varieties of limes and limit the handling thereof to those meeting such minimum standards;

(3) Limit the shipment of the total quantity of limes by prohibiting the shipment thereof: Provided, That no such prohibition shall be effective during any fiscal period other than for four periods not exceeding six days each immediately prior to, including, or following July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

(4) Fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, or pack of the container or containers which may be used in the packaging, and the transportation, sale, shipment, or other handling of limes; and
§ 911.49 Modification, suspension, or termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the committee at any time finds that, by reason of changed conditions, any regulations issued pursuant to §911.48 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds that a regulation obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall suspend or terminate such regulation. On the same basis and in like manner the Secretary may terminate any such modification or suspension.


§ 911.50 Exemption certificate.

In the event the handling of limes is regulated pursuant to §911.48, the committee shall issue one or more exemption certificates to any person who furnishes evidence satisfactory to the committee that, by reason of conditions beyond his control, he will be prevented, because of such regulation, from having as large a proportion of a particular variety of his limes handled as the average proportion of all such limes which may be handled. Such exemption certificates shall authorize the person to whom the certificates are issued to handle, or have handled, a percentage of his crop of the particular variety of limes equal to the percentage determined as aforesaid. The committee shall adopt, with the approval of the Secretary, procedural rules by which such exemption certificates will be issued and the limes covered thereunder may be handled. Exemption certificates shall be transferred to the handler of the limes covered by such certificates at the time the limes are delivered to such handler.


§ 911.51 Inspection and certification.

Whenever the handling of any variety of limes is regulated pursuant to §911.48, each handler who handles limes shall, prior thereto, cause each lot of limes handled to be inspected by the Federal-State Inspection Service and certified by it as meeting the applicable requirements of such regulation. Provided, That such inspection and certification shall be required when the limes previously have been so inspected and certified only if such limes
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Issuance of volume regulations.

Whenever the Secretary finds from the recommendation and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that to limit the quantity of limes which may be handled to destinations within the forty-eight contiguous States of the United States, the District of Columbia and Canada during a specified week of a regulatory period will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall fix such quantity: Provided, That such regulations during a regulatory period shall not in the aggregate limit the volume of lime shipments for more

§ 911.53

Recommendation for volume regulation.

(a) The committee may, during any week, recommend to the Secretary the total quantity of limes which it deems advisable to be handled to destinations within the forty-eight contiguous States of the United States, the District of Columbia and Canada during the next succeeding week: Provided, That such volume regulation shall not be recommended for any week except during the 18-week regulatory period beginning with the week preceding the first full week in May: Provided, further, That no such regulation shall be recommended after such regulations have been in effect for an aggregate of eight (8) weeks during the aforesaid period.

(b) In making its recommendations, the committee shall give due consideration to the following factors:

1. Market prices for limes;
2. Supply of limes en route to principal markets;
3. Supply, maturity, and condition of limes in the production area;
4. Market prices and supplies of fruits from competitive producing areas, including foreign competing areas, and supplies of other competitive fruits;
5. Trend and level in consumer income; and
6. Other relevant factors.

(c) At any time during a week for which the Secretary, pursuant to §911.54, has fixed the quantity of limes which may be handled, the committee may recommend to the Secretary that such quantity be increased for such week. Each such recommendation, together with the committee's reason for such recommendation, shall be submitted promptly to the Secretary.

§ 911.52 Limes not subject to regulations.

Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person may, without regard to the provisions of §§911.41, 911.48, 911.51, and 911.54 through 911.58, and the regulations issued thereunder, handle limes (a) for consumption by charitable institutions; (b) for distribution by relief agencies; (c) for commercial processing into products; or (d) in such minimum quantities or types of shipments, or for such specified purposes as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe. The committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe such rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to prevent limes handled under the provisions of this section from entering channels of trade for other than the specific purposes authorized by this section. Such rules, regulations, and safeguards may include the requirements that handlers shall file applications with the committee for authorization to handle limes pursuant to this section, and that such applications be accompanied by a certification by the intended purchaser or receiver that the limes will not be used for any purpose not authorized by this section.

§ 911.53 Recommendation for volume regulation.

(a) The committee may, during any week, recommend to the Secretary the total quantity of limes which it deems advisable to be handled to destinations within the forty-eight contiguous States of the United States, the District of Columbia and Canada during the next succeeding week: Provided, That such volume regulation shall not be recommended for any week except during the 18-week regulatory period beginning with the week preceding the first full week in May: Provided, further, That no such regulation shall be recommended after such regulations have been in effect for an aggregate of eight (8) weeks during the aforesaid period.

(b) In making its recommendations, the committee shall give due consideration to the following factors:

1. Market prices for limes;
2. Supply of limes en route to principal markets;
3. Supply, maturity, and condition of limes in the production area;
4. Market prices and supplies of fruits from competitive producing areas, including foreign competing areas, and supplies of other competitive fruits;
5. Trend and level in consumer income; and
6. Other relevant factors.

(c) At any time during a week for which the Secretary, pursuant to §911.54, has fixed the quantity of limes which may be handled, the committee may recommend to the Secretary that such quantity be increased for such week. Each such recommendation, together with the committee's reason for such recommendation, shall be submitted promptly to the Secretary.

§ 911.54 Issuance of volume regulations.

Whenever the Secretary finds from the recommendation and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that to limit the quantity of limes which may be handled to destinations within the forty-eight contiguous States of the United States, the District of Columbia and Canada during a specified week of a regulatory period will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall fix such quantity: Provided, That such regulations during a regulatory period shall not in the aggregate limit the volume of lime shipments for more
§ 911.55 Prorate bases.

(a) Each person who desires to handle limes shall submit to the committee, at such time and in such manner as may be designated by the committee, and upon forms made available by it, a written application for a prorate base and for allotments as provided in this section and § 911.56.

(b) Such application shall be substantiated in such manner and shall be supported by such information as the committee may require.

(c) The committee shall determine the accuracy of the information submitted pursuant to this section. Whenever the committee finds that there is an error, omission, or inaccuracy in any such information, it shall correct the same and shall give the person who submitted the information a reasonable opportunity to discuss with the committee the factors considered in making the correction.

(d) Each week during the regulatory period when volume regulation is likely to be recommended for the following week, the committee shall compute a prorate base for each handler who has made application in accordance with the provisions of this section. The prorate base for each such handler shall be computed by adding together the handler's shipments of limes in the current season and his shipments in the immediately preceding seasons, if any, with the representative period, in which he shipped limes and dividing such total by a divisor computed by adding together the number of weeks elapsed in the current season and eighteen weeks for each of such immediately preceding seasons within the representative period in which the handler shipped limes. For purposes of this section shipments shall include only those limes which were shipped to destinations within the forty-eight contiguous States of the United States, the District of Columbia and Canada; the representative period means the two preceding seasons together with the current season; the term season means the eighteen-week period beginning with the week preceding the first full week in May of any fiscal year; and the term current season means the period beginning with the week preceding the first full week in May of the current fiscal year through the fourth full week preceding the week of regulation. Provided, That when official shipping records are available to the committee he said "current season" shall extend through the third full week preceding the week of regulation.

§ 911.56 Allotments.

Whenever the Secretary has fixed the quantity of limes which may be handled during any week, the committee shall calculate the quantity of limes which may be handled during such week by each person who has applied for a prorate base and for whom such a base was computed by the committee. Such quantity shall be the allotment of such person and shall be that portion of the total quantity fixed by the Secretary which, expressed in terms of percent, is equal to the percentage that such applicant's prorate base is of the aggregate of the prorate bases of all such applicants. The committee shall give reasonable notice in writing to each person of the allotment computed for him pursuant to this section.

§ 911.57 Overshipments.

During any week for which the Secretary has fixed the total quantity of
§ 911.60 Reports.

(a) Each handler shall furnish to the committee, at such times and for such periods as the committee may designate, certified reports covering, to the extent necessary for the committee to perform its functions, the following:

1. The quantities of each variety of limes he received;
2. A complete record of the quantities disposed of by him, segregated as to varieties and as to the respective quantities subject to regulation and not subject to regulation;
3. The date of each such disposal, the destination, by State, zone, or market area, of each lot of limes handled, and identification of the carrier transporting such fruit;
4. Identification of the inspection certificates and the exemption certificates, if any, pursuant to which the fruit was handled, together with the destination of each such exempted disposition, and of all fruit handled pursuant to §911.56;
5. The quantity of each variety held by him at the end of the period.

(b) Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to
§ 911.61 Compliance.

Except as provided in this part, no person shall handle limes, the shipment of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this part; and no person shall handle limes except in conformity with the provisions of this part and the regulations issued under this part.

§ 911.62 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agents, employees, or representatives thereof, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in accordance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 911.63 Effective time.

The provisions of this part, and of any amendment thereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature to this part, and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in § 911.64.

§ 911.64 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this part by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner in which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any and all of the provisions of this part whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this part whenever the Secretary finds by referendum or otherwise that such termination is favored by a majority of the producers: Provided, That such majority has, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, produced more than 50 percent of the volume of the limes produced within the production area: And provided further, That such termination shall be announced by March 15 of the then current fiscal year.

(d) The Secretary shall conduct a referendum as soon as practicable after the end of the fiscal year ending March 31, 1990, and at such time every sixth year thereafter, to ascertain whether continuance of this part is favored by lime producers. The Secretary may terminate the provisions of this part at the end of any fiscal year in which the Secretary has found that continuance of this part is not favored by producers who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production for market of limes in the production area: Provided, That termination of this part...
shall be effective only if announced on
or before March 15 of the then current
fiscal year.

(e) The provisions of this part shall,
in any event, terminate whenever the
provisions of the Act authorizing them
cease to be in effect.

[20 FR 4179, June 15, 1955. Redesignated at 26
FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, and amended at 52 FR
7117, Mar. 9, 1987]

§ 911.65 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the pro-
visions of this part, the committee
shall, for the purpose of liquidating the
affairs of the committee, continue as
trustees of all the funds and property
then in its possession, or under its con-
trol, including claims for any funds un-
paid or property not delivered at the
time of such termination.

(b) The said trustees shall (1) con-
tinue in such capacity until discharged
by the Secretary; (2) from time to time
account for all receipts and disburse-
ments and deliver all property on hand,
together with all books and records of
the committee and of the trustees, to
such persons as the Secretary may di-
rect; and (3) upon the request of the
Secretary, execute such assignments or
other instruments necessary or appro-
priate to vest in such person, full title
and right to all of the funds, property,
and claims vested in the committee or
the trustees pursuant thereto.

(c) Any person to whom funds, prop-
erty, or claims have been transferred
or delivered, pursuant to this section,
shall be subject to the same obligation
imposed upon the committee and upon
the trustees.

§ 911.66 Effect of termination or
amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided
by the Secretary, the termination of
this part or of any regulation issued
pursuant to this part, or the issuance of
any amendment to either thereof,
shall not (a) affect or waive any right,
duty, obligation, or liability which
shall have arisen or which may there-
after arise in connection with any pro-
vision of this part or any regulation
issued under this part, or (b) release or
extinguish any violation of this part or
of any regulation issued under this
part, or (c) affect or impair any rights
or remedies of the Secretary or of any
other person with respect to any such
violation.

§ 911.67 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immuni-
ties conferred upon any person by vir-
tue of this part shall cease upon its ter-
mination, except with respect to acts
done under and during the existence of
this part.

§ 911.68 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in
writing, name any officer or employee
of the United States, or name any
agency or division in the United States
Department of Agriculture to act as
his agent or representative in connec-
tion with any of the provisions of this
part.

§ 911.69 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this part is, or
shall be construed to be, in derogation
or in modification of the rights of the
Secretary or of the United States (a) to
exercise any powers granted by the act
or otherwise, or (b) in accordance with
such powers, to act in the premises
whenever such action is deemed advis-
able.

§ 911.70 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of
the committee and no employee or
agent of the committee shall be held
personally responsible, either individ-
ually or jointly with others, in any way
whatsoever, to any person for errors in
judgment, mistakes, or other acts, ei-
ther of commission or omission, as
such member, alternate, employee, or
agent, except for acts of dishonesty,
willful misconduct, or gross neg-
ligence.

§ 911.71 Separability.

If any provision of this part is de-
clared invalid or the applicability
thereof to any person, circumstance, or
thing is held invalid, the validity of the
remainder of this part or the applica-
bility thereof to any other person, cir-
cumstance, or thing shall not be af-
teved thereby.
§ 911.110  
Subpart—Rules and Regulations

§ 911.110 Exemption certificates.

Exemption certificates under § 911.50 shall be issued by the Florida Lime Administrative Committee pursuant to the following rules and regulations:

(a) The grower must make application for exemption on a form supplied by the committee. A separate application must be made for each variety or classification of limes and shall contain the following:

(1) Name and mailing address of the applicant;
(2) Location (from established landmarks) of grove from which limes are to be shipped pursuant to the requested exemption certificate;
(3) Regulation from which exemption is requested;
(4) The reasons for requesting exemption from such regulation;
(5) Date when it is proposed to ship the limes for which exemption is requested; and
(6) Certification as to the correctness of the information contained in the application.

(b) Upon receipt of an application for exemption certificate, the Florida Lime Administrative Committee shall check all information furnished by the applicant and shall conduct such investigations concerning the grade, size, and quality of the applicant’s limes as may be necessary to determine whether the application shall be approved or denied.

(c) Approval of the application shall be evidenced by the issuance to the applicant, by the Manager of the Florida Lime Administrative Committee, of one or more exemption certificates which shall authorize the handling of such quantity of the applicant’s limes as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of §911.50.

(d) If the application is denied, the applicant shall be informed of such denial by written notice stating the reasons therefor.


§ 911.111 Pack-out reports.

(a) Each handler shall, at the end of each day’s operation, report to the committee the percent of that day’s pack-out in the following five size categories:

(1) Sizes 28 and 36,
(2) Size 42,
(3) Size 48,
(4) Size 54, and
(5) Sizes 63 and 72.

(b) Each handler shall, at the end of each day’s operation, report to the committee the number of containers of limes sold and delivered in the State of Florida in the following containers: (1) 1⁄2 Bushel, (2) 3⁄4 Bushel, and (3) 5⁄8 Bushel. Upon request by the committee, such reports shall be confirmed in writing on a weekly basis on a form prescribed by the committee.


Effective Date Note: At 61 FR 17552, Apr. 22, 1996, §911.111 was suspended indefinitely.

§ 911.115 Nomination procedure.

(a) Any grower who resides outside the production area and desires to be represented at a particular nomination meeting by a duly authorized agent and to participate through such agent in the nomination and election of nominees for grower members and alternate members to fill positions on the Florida Lime Administrative Committee, as provided in §911.22(b)(2), shall submit to the committee, prior to such meeting but not later than January 20, a written statement containing the following:

(1) Name of grower;
(2) Mailing address;
(3) Location of each lime grove (either legal or from established landmarks);
(4) Number of lime trees owned;
(5) Number of 55-pound units of limes marketed to date during the current season;
(6) Name of the handler of the fruit marketed;
(7) Authorization, including the name and address, of the person who is to represent said grower at the nomination meeting.

(b) Any grower who has not filed the statement as prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section must be present at the nomination meeting and cast his
own vote for it to be counted in connection with the nomination and election of nominees.

(c) Notwithstanding that a grower has authorized an agent to cast his vote as specified in paragraph (a) of this section, such grower may appear at the nomination meeting and cast his vote in person to the exclusion of such agent.


§ 911.120 Handler registration.

(a) Each handler who desires to handle limes pursuant to the exemptions in §911.10 shall, prior thereto, register with the committee. Such registration shall be by application for registration filed with the Florida Lime Administrative Committee on a form, prescribed and furnished by the committee, which shall contain the following information:

(1) Business name of applicant;
(2) Applicant’s business location and mailing address;
(3) Type of business organization (individual, corporation, partnership, etc.);
(4) If other than an individual, the names and addresses of officers, partners, and principal stockholders or others having financial interest in the business;
(5) Nature of business (Handler trucker, wholesaler, etc.);
(6) Number of years engaged in lime business;
(7) Estimated seasonal volume of limes handled;
(8) Name and address of three references, one of which shall be a bank;
(9) Certification as to accuracy of information furnished; and
(10) An agreement to comply with the provisions of this part.

(b) When the committee receives an application for registration, it shall issue the applicant a certificate of registration, if it determines based upon investigation that the applicant may be expected to handle limes in accordance with this part.

(c) If it is determined from the available information that the applicant is not entitled to be registered with the committee, he shall be so informed by written notice stating why the certificate of registration was not issued.

(d) Any certificate of registration issued to a handler pursuant to this section may be canceled by the committee under circumstances which would have justified denial of his application.

(e) The committee shall suspend the certificate of registration issued under this section of any handler who fails to pay assessments or furnish reports as required under this part, and so advise the handler in writing of the suspension and the effective date. The committee shall lift such suspension at such time as the handler pays such assessments and furnishes such reports, and the committee determines that the handler may be expected to handle limes in the future in accordance with this part.


§ 911.130 Limes not subject to regulation.

(a) Minimum quantity. During any one day any handler may handle not to exceed 55 pounds total of limes exempt from the provisions of §§911.41, 911.51, and 911.54, and the regulations issued thereunder: Provided, That such exempted quantity shall not be included as part of a shipment exceeding 55 pounds.

(b) Gift shipments. Any handler may, exempt from the provisions of §§911.41, 911.48, and 911.51, and the regulations issued thereunder, handle limes in individually addressed gift containers not exceeding 20 pounds net weight for use by the addressee other than for resale.

(c) Commercial processing into products. The term commercial processing into products, as used in §911.52(c) means the manufacture of any lime product which has been preserved by any recognized commercial process, including canning, freezing, dehydrating, drying, the addition of chemical substances, or by fermentation. Limes handled for conversion into juice without further processing or preservative treatment, as herein described, shall be deemed fresh.
§ 911.131  Limes for processing.

(a) No person shall handle any limes for commercial processing into products unless (1) such limes meet the applicable grade, size, and quality requirements in effect pursuant to § 911.52; or (2) prior to such handling such person notifies the Florida Lime Administrative Committee of the proposed handling and furnishes such committee with a statement executed by the intended processor that the limes will be used for the stated purpose only; or (3) the processor is an approved manufacturer of lime products, as prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) Any person who desires to buy, as an approved manufacturer of lime products, limes for commercial processing shall, prior thereto, submit to the Florida Lime Administrative Committee an application containing the following information: (1) Name and address of applicant; (2) location of processing facilities; (3) proposed type of product or products to be made or derived from limes; (4) description of facilities for processing limes; (5) quantity of limes processed during the previous year and estimate of quantity to be processed during current year; (6) expected source of limes for processing; (7) method of transporting and unloading point; (8) Lime Administrative Committee handler certificate of registration number, if any; (9) a statement that the limes obtained for processing into products will be used for that purpose only and will not be resold or disposed of in fresh fruit channels; and (10) an agreement to submit such reports as are required by the Florida Lime Administrative Committee. Each application shall be investigated by the Florida Lime Administrative Committee. Based upon the results of such investigation and other available information, the committee shall approve or disapprove the application and notify the applicant accordingly. If the application is approved the applicant’s name shall be placed upon the list of approved manufacturers of lime products.

7 CFR Ch. IX (1-1-98 Edition)

§ 911.142  Reserve fund.

(a) The establishment of a reserve fund at an amount not to exceed approximately 3 fiscal years’ operational expenses is appropriate and necessary to the maintenance and functioning of the Florida Lime Administrative Committee. Such reserve, including funds carried forward from prior fiscal years, shall be used to provide for the maintenance and functioning of the committee in accordance with the provisions of the marketing agreement, as amended, and this part.

(b) Terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as when used in said amended marketing agreement and order.

§ 911.155  Delinquent assessments.

Each handler shall pay interest of one percent per month on any unpaid assessment balance beginning 30 days after date of billing. Such interest charge is to apply to any unpaid assessments which become due the Florida Lime Administrative Committee after the effective date of this section.

§ 911.160  Public member eligibility requirements and nomination procedures.

(a) Public member and alternate member candidates shall not represent an agricultural interest and shall not have a financial interest in, or be associated with the production, processing, financing, or marketing of limes.

(b) Public member and alternate member candidates should be able to devote sufficient time to attend committee activities regularly and to familiarize themselves with the background and economics of the time industry.

(c) The public member and alternate member shall be a resident of the production area.
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 911.311

(d) The public member and alternate member shall be nominated by the Florida Lime Administrative Committee, and shall serve a one-year term which coincides with the term of the producer and handler members of the committee.

[44 FR 9370, Feb. 13, 1979]

EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g., sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g., sections .345 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

Subpart—Pack Regulation

§ 911.311 Florida lime pack and container marking regulation.

(a) No handler shall handle any limes grown in the production area, of the group known as seedless, large fruited, or Persian limes (including Tahiti, Bearss and similar varieties), in any container specified in § 911.329, unless such limes meet the requirements of standard pack and each container in each lot is marked or stamped on one outside end in letters at least \( \frac{1}{4} \) inch in height to show the United States grade applicable to such lot and either the average juice content of the limes in such lot or the phrase average juice content forty-two percent (42%) or more: Provided, That, in lieu of such marking requirement, any handler may affix to the container a label, brand, or trademark, registered with the Florida Lime Administrative Committee in accordance with the following, which appropriately identifies the grade:

(1) Registration of each label, brand, or trademark with the Florida Lime Administrative Committee shall be on forms prescribed by it and shall be filed with such committee not less than 30 days prior to use in lieu of the foregoing marking requirement.

(2) A label, brand, or trademark registered with the committee, during a fiscal year, to identify a specific grade may not be reregistered during the same fiscal year to identify any other grade until 30 days after notice of such reregistration has been filed with the committee.

(3) Each label, brand, or trademark registered with the committee shall include the name and address of the handler and shall be sufficiently distinctive otherwise that it can be readily identified and distinguished from other registered labels, brands, or trademarks.

(4) If a label, brand, or trademark is registered by a handler to identify a specific grade, in order for a label, brand, or trademark of practically the same design and lettering with a different color, or additional terms or name, to be registered to represent a different grade, the name of the color and the additional terms or name shall appear on the label, brand, or trademark in block letters of at least one-half (\( \frac{1}{2} \)) inch in height, of contrasting color.

(b) No handler shall handle any limes grown in the production area in any container specified in § 911.329 unless such container is marked with a Federal-State Inspection Service lot stamp number showing that the limes have been inspected in accordance with regulations issued under § 911.48 of the marketing order: Provided, That when inspection occurs after palletization, only all exposed or outside containers of limes must be plainly marked with the lot stamp number corresponding to the lot inspection conducted by an authorized inspector.

(c) The provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section shall not apply to individual packages of limes not exceeding four pounds, net weight, that are within master containers, except that if such packages are individual bags, either such bags or the master containers thereof shall be marked or labeled in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (b) and the requirements of § 911.329(a)(2)(v).
(d) No handler shall handle any container of seedless limes, grown in the production area, unless such container is marked on two sides with letters at least one inch in height with one of the size designations shown in column 1 of the following table: Provided, That the number of seedless limes in a ten pound sample of a particular size designation, representative of the limes in the container, corresponds to the permissible size range in column 2 of such table for such size designation: Provided further, That not more than 10 percent of the containers in any lot may fail to meet these requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 1 size designations</th>
<th>Column 2 size range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>68 to 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>59 to 67</td>
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<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>51 to 58</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>45 to 51</td>
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<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>39 to 44</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>33 to 38</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>25 to 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumbo</td>
<td>24 and larger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(e) Terms used in this section shall mean the same as in the marketing order, and terms relating to grade and standard pack shall mean the same as in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes (7 CFR 51.1000 through 51.1016).

Subpart—Container Regulation

§ 911.329 Florida lime container regulation.

(a)(1) No handler shall handle between the production area and any point outside thereof any variety of limes, grown in the production area, in individual bags having a capacity of more than four pounds net weight of limes.

(2) No handler shall handle between the production area and any point outside thereof any variety of limes, grown in the production area, in containers having a capacity of more than 4 pounds of limes unless such limes are handled in containers meeting the following specifications and conform to all other applicable requirements of this section:

(i) Containers with inside dimensions of 7¼ by 11¾ by 4½ inches: Provided, That such containers shall contain not less than 5.5 pounds or 2.5 kilograms net weight of limes.

(ii) Containers with inside dimensions of 13½ by 16½ by 5 inches: Provided, That any such container shall contain not less than 20 pounds nor more than 22 pounds net weight of limes.

(iii) Containers with inside dimensions of 12 by 9¾ by 3¾ inches: Provided, That any such container shall contain not less than 10 pounds net weight of limes.

(iv) Containers with inside dimensions of 12 by 9¾ by 5 inches: Provided, That any such container shall contain not less than 20 pounds nor more than 22 pounds net weight of limes.

(v) Containers with inside dimensions of 12¾ x 15¾ x 10¾ inches: Provided, That any such container shall contain not less than 38 pounds nor more than 42 pounds net weight of limes; Provided further, That when this container is used as a master container for bagged limes, the minimum net weight of limes shall be 35 pounds, provided the container is marked “Master Container.”

(vi) Containers with inside dimensions of 11¾ x 15¾ x 6¾ inches: Provided, That any such container shall contain not less than 20 pounds nor more than 22 pounds net weight of limes.

(vii) Containers with inside dimensions of 11¼ x 16¼ x 10 inches: Provided, That any such container shall contain not less than 38 pounds nor more than 42 pounds net weight of limes.

(viii) Containers with inside dimensions of 11½ x 16½ x 6½ inches: Provided, That any such container shall contain not less than 20 pounds nor more than 22 pounds net weight of limes.

(ix) Containers with inside dimensions of 11 x 16½ x 10 inches: Provided, That any such containers shall contain not less than 38 pounds nor more than 42 pounds net weight of limes.
(x) Containers with inside dimensions of 12\(\frac{3}{8}\) by 8\(\frac{3}{4}\) by 5\(\frac{7}{8}\) inches: Provided, That such containers shall contain not less than 10 pounds net weight of limes.

(xi) Such other types and sizes of containers as may be approved by the Florida Lime Administrative Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, for testing in connection with a research project conducted by or in cooperation with said committee: Provided, That the handling of each lot of limes in such test containers shall be subject to the prior approval, and under the supervision of, the Florida Lime Administrative Committee.

(3) The limitations set forth in paragraph (a)(2) of this section shall not apply to master containers of individual packages, including individual bags of limes: Provided, That the individual packages within such master container are of a capacity not exceeding 4 pounds net weight of limes and the markings or labels, if any, on such packages do not conflict with the markings or labels on the master container.

(b) The terms handler, handle, limes, and production area when used in this section shall have the same meaning as when used in the amended marketing agreement and this part.


**Subpart—Grade and Size Requirements**

§ 911.344 Florida lime grade, size, and container regulation.

(a) No handler shall handle any variety of limes grown in the production area unless:

(1) Such limes of the group known as seeded or true limes (also known as Mexican, West Indian, and Key limes and by other synonyms) meet the requirements specified for U.S. No. 2 Grade limes in the U.S. Standards for Persian (Tahiti) Limes, except as to color: Provided, That such limes not meeting these requirements may be handled within the production area, if they meet the minimum juice content requirement of at least 42% by volume specified in the U.S. Standards for Persian (Tahiti) Limes, and if they are handled in containers other than those authorized in §911.329.

(2) Such limes of the group known as seedless, large-fruited, or Persian limes (including Tahiti, Bearss, and similar varieties) meet the requirements of §§911.311 and 911.329 and grade at least U.S. Combination, Mixed Color: Provided, That at least 75 percent, by count, of the limes in the lot meet the requirements of the U.S. No. 1 grade, and the remainder meet the requirements of the U.S. No. 2 grade: Provided further, That stem length shall not be considered a factor of grade: Provided further, That such limes not meeting these requirements may be handled within the production area if:

(i) They meet the size requirements in paragraph (a)(3) of this section;

(ii) They contain not less than 42 percent juice content by volume;

(iii) They are packed in containers other than those authorized under §911.329: Provided, That they are packed in closed new or used rigid cardboard or wire-bound containers which are fairly well filled with the fruit not more than \(\frac{1}{2}\) inch below the top edge of the container, containing not more than 60 pounds, net weight, of limes; and

(iv) They are in containers marked with a Federal-State Inspection Service (FSIS) lot stamp number applied to an adhesive tape seal affixed to the container in a manner to prevent the container from being opened and/or the fruit being removed without breaking the seal. The stamp and tape shall be affixed to the container by the FSIS or by the handler under the supervision of the FSIS. Only stamps and tape which have been approved by the Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, may be used for purposes of stamping and sealing containers to meet these requirements.

(3) Such limes of the group known as seedless, large-fruited, or Persian limes (including Tahiti, Bearss, and similar varieties) shall be at least 2 inches in
diameter from January 1 through May 31, and at least 1 7/8 inches in diameter from June 1 through December 31; Provided, That not more than 10 percent, by count, of the limes in any lot of containers may fail to meet these minimum size requirements; Provided further, That not more than 15 percent, by count, in any individual container containing more than four pounds of limes may fail to meet these minimum size requirements.

(b) Terms relating to grade and diameter shall mean the same as defined in the United States Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes (7 CFR 51.1000 through 51.1016).


PART 915—AVOCADOS GROWN IN SOUTH FLORIDA

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

DEFINITIONS

§ 915.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States or any officer or employee of the United States Department of Agriculture who is, or may hereafter be, authorized to exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States.

§ 915.2 Act.


§ 915.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association or any other business unit.

§ 915.4 Production area.

Production area means the counties of Brevard, Orange, Lake, Polk, Hillsborough, and Pinellas in the State of Florida, and all of the counties of that State situated south of such counties.


§ 915.5 Avocados.

Avocados means all varieties of avocados grown in the production area.

§ 915.6 Fiscal year.

Fiscal year means the twelve-month period ending March 31 of each year.

§ 915.7 Committee.

Committee means the Avocado Administrative Committee established pursuant to § 915.20.

§ 915.8 Grower.

Grower is synonymous with producer and means any person who produces avocados for market and who has a proprietary interest therein: Provided, That as used in § 915.22 the term grower shall include only those who have a proprietary interest in the production of 10 or more bearing avocado trees.


§ 915.9 Handler.

Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier transporting avocados owned by another person) who handles avocados or causes avocados to be handled.

§ 915.10 Handle.

Handle means to sell, consign, deliver, or transport avocados within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof: Provided, That such term shall not include: (a) The sale or delivery of avocados to a handler, registered as such with the committee in accordance with such rules and regulations as it may prescribe with the approval of the Secretary, who has facilities within the production area for preparing avocados for market; (b) the delivery of avocados to such a handler solely for the purpose of having such avocados prepared for market; or (c) the transportation of avocados by a handler, so registered with the committee, from the grove to his packing facilities within the production area for the purpose of having such avocados prepared for market. In the event a grower sells his avocados to a handler who is not so registered with the committee, such grower shall be the first handler of such avocados.


§ 915.11 District.

District means the applicable one of the following described subdivisions of the production area: (a) District 1 shall include Dade County. (b) District 2 shall include all of the production area except Dade County.
§ 915.12 Export.

Export means to ship avocados to any destination which is not within the 48 contiguous States of the District of Columbia of the United States or Canada.

[43 FR 39322, Sept. 5, 1978]

§ 915.20 Establishment and membership.

(a) There is hereby established an Avocado Administrative Committee consisting of nine members, each of whom shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member for whom he is an alternate. Five of the members and their respective alternates shall be growers who shall not be handlers of avocados produced by others or employees of such handlers. Four of the members and their respective alternates shall be handlers or employees of handlers. The five members of the committee who shall be growers who shall not be handlers of avocados produced by others or employees of such handlers are referred to as “grower” members of the committee; and the four members who shall be handlers or employees of handlers are referred to as “handler” members of the committee. Four of the five grower members shall be producers of avocados in District 1, and one grower member shall be a producer of avocados in District 2. Three of the four handler members shall be handlers, or employees of handlers, of avocados in District 1, and one handler member shall be a handler, or an employee of a handler, of avocados in District 2. No handler or handler organization shall be permitted to have more than one handler member and alternate on the committee.

(b) The committee may be increased by one public member and an alternate. Persons for the public member positions would be nominated by the committee and selected by the Secretary. The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe qualifications, term of office and the procedure for nominating the public member and alternate.


§ 915.21 Term of office.

The term of office of each member and alternate member of the committee shall begin April 1, and shall terminate March 31 of the following year. Members and alternate members shall serve in such capacities for the portion of the term of office for which they are selected and qualify and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified. The consecutive terms of office of members shall be limited to three terms.

§ 915.22 Nomination.

(a) Initial members. Nominations for each of the five initial grower members and four initial handler members of the committee, together with nominations for the initial alternate members for each position, may be submitted to the Secretary by individual growers and handlers. Such nominations may be made by means of group meetings of the growers and handlers concerned in each district. Such nominations, if made, shall be filed with the Secretary no later than ten calendar days prior to the effective date hereof. In the event nominations for initial members and alternate members of the committee, or the filed pursuant to, and within the time specified in, this section, the Secretary may select such initial members and alternate members without regard to nominations, but selections shall be on the basis of the representation provided for in §915.20.

(b) Successor members. (1) The committee shall hold or cause to be held a meeting or meetings of growers and handlers in each district to designate nominees for successor members and alternate members of the committee; or the filed pursuant to, and within the time specified in, this section, the Secretary may select such initial members and alternate members without regard to nominations, but selections shall be on the basis of the representation provided for in §915.20.

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 915.28 rules, not inconsistent with the provisions of this section, for the conduct of nomination.

(2) Only growers may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for grower members and their alternates. Each grower shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each nominee to be elected in the district in which he produced avocados. No grower shall participate in the election of nominees in more than one district in any one fiscal year.

(3) Only handlers may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for handler members and their alternates. Each handler shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each nominee to be elected in the district in which such handler handles avocados. Each vote shall be weighted by the volume of avocados shipped by such handler during the immediately preceding twelve-month period, January through December.


§ 915.23 Selection.
From the nominations made pursuant to §915.22, or from other qualified persons, the Secretary shall select the five grower members of the committee, the four handler members of the committee, and an alternate for each such member.

§ 915.24 Failure to nominate.
If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner prescribed in §915.22, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the members and alternate members of the committee on the basis of the representation provided for in §915.20.

§ 915.25 Acceptance.
Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary within ten days after being notified of such selection.

§ 915.26 Vacancies.
To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate member of the committee, a successor for the unexpired term of such member or alternate member of the committee shall be nominated and selected in the manner specified in §§915.22 and 915.23. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within fifteen days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of representation provided for in §915.20.

§ 915.27 Alternate members.
An alternate member of the committee, during the absence or at the request of the member for whom he is an alternate, shall act in the place and stead of such member. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified. In the event both a member and his alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the chairman may designate any alternate who is present and who is not serving for any member to serve in such absent member’s place and stead: Provided, That only grower alternate members may be so designated to serve for grower members and only handler alternate members may be so designated to serve only for handler members.


§ 915.28 Powers.
The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;
(b) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the provisions of this part;
§ 915.29 Duties.

(c) To make and adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 915.29 Duties.

The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:
(a) To select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to define the duties of such officers;
(b) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary, and to determine the compensation and to define the duties of each;
(c) To submit to the Secretary as soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal year a budget for such fiscal year, including a report in explanation of the items appearing therein and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such fiscal year;
(d) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;
(e) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;
(f) To cause its books to be audited by a certified public accountant at least once each fiscal year, and at such other times as the Secretary may request;
(g) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;
(h) To investigate growing and maturity conditions of avocados, and to assemble data in connection therewith;
(i) To engage in such research relating to the determination of maturity and grade standards for avocados as may be approved by the Secretary;
(j) To submit to the Secretary such available information as he may request;
(k) To notify, as provided in this part, producers and handlers of all meetings of the committee to consider recommendations for regulation;

(l) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to its members;
(m) To consult with such representatives of growers or groups of growers as may be deemed necessary and to pay the travel expenses incurred by such representatives in attending committee meetings at the request of the committee: Provided, That the committee shall not pay the travel expenses of more than three such representatives in connection with any one meeting of the committee; and
(n) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part.

§ 915.30 Procedure.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, six members of the committee, including alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum and any decision, recommendation or other action of the committee shall require not less than five concurring votes including one by a handler, or an alternate acting as such: Provided, That if the committee is increased by one, the quorum requirement shall be increased to seven and any decision, recommendation or other action of the committee shall require not less than six concurring votes including one by a handler, or an alternate acting as such.

(b) The committee may provide for simultaneous meetings of groups of its members assembled at two or more designated places: Provided, That such meetings shall be subject to the establishment of telephone communication between all such groups and the availability of loud speaker receivers for each group so that each member may participate in the discussions and other actions the same as if the committee were assembled in one place.

(c) For any recommendation of the committee for an assessment rate exceeding $0.20 per bushel to be applied pursuant to §915.41, the quorum requirement shall be eight members or alternates acting for members and eight concurring votes shall be required.

§ 915.31 Expenses.

The members of the committee and their respective alternates when performing duties at the direction of the committee, shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part.

[43 FR 39323, Sept. 5, 1978]

§ 915.32 Annual report.

The committee shall, as soon as practicable after the close of each fiscal year, prepare and mail an annual report to the Secretary, and to each handler and grower who requests a copy of the report. This annual report shall contain at least: (a) A complete review, by districts, of the regulatory operations during the fiscal year; (b) an appraisal of the effect of such regulatory operations upon the avocado industry; and (c) any recommendations for changes in the program.


EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 915.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred to enable the committee to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part during each fiscal year. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as provided for in § 915.41.


§ 915.41 Assessments.

(a) Each person who first handles avocados shall, with respect to the avocados so handled by him, pay to the committee upon demand such person’s pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee during each fiscal year. Each such person’s share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the total quantity of avocados handled by him as the first handler thereof during the applicable fiscal year, and the total quantity of avocados so handled by all persons during the same fiscal year. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative. If a handler does not pay his assessment within the time prescribed by the committee, the unpaid assessment may be subject to an interest charge at rates prescribed by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment per 55-pounds of fruit or equivalent in any container or in bulk, to be paid by each such handler. At any time during or after a fiscal year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment, in order to secure sufficient funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expense which may be incurred. Such increase shall be applied to all fruit handled during the applicable fiscal year. In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part, the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance.


§ 915.42 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal year, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for as follows:

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, each person entitled to a proportionate refund of the excess assessment shall be credited with such refund against the operation of the following fiscal year unless such person demands repayment thereof, in which event it shall be paid to him: Provided, That any sum paid by a person in excess of his pro rata share of the expenses during any fiscal year may be applied by the committee at the end of such fiscal year to any outstanding obligations due the committee from such person.

(2) The Secretary, upon recommendation of the committee, may determine
that it is appropriate for the maintenance and functioning of the committee that the funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year which are in excess of the expenses necessary for committee operations during such year may be carried over into following years as a reserve. Such reserve may be established at an amount not to exceed approximately 3 fiscal years’ operational expenses. Funds in the reserve may be used to cover the necessary expenses of liquidation, in the event of termination of this part, and to cover the expenses incurred for the maintenance and functioning of the committee during any fiscal year when there is crop failure, or during any period of suspension of any or all of the provisions of this part. Such reserve may also be used by the committee to finance its operations during any fiscal year prior to the time that assessment income is sufficient to cover such expenses and to cover deficits incurred during any fiscal year when income is less than expenses. Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: Provided, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this part, and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may, at any time, require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.


§ 915.45 Production research, marketing research and development.

The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, establish or provide for the establishment of production research, marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption or efficient production of avocados. Such projects may provide for any form of marketing promotion, including paid advertising. The expenses of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to the applicable provisions of § 915.41.

[40 FR 52605, Nov. 11, 1975]

§ 915.49 Marketing policy.

Each season prior to making any recommendations pursuant to § 915.50, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its marketing policy for the ensuing season. Such marketing policy report shall contain information relative to (a) the estimated total production of avocados within the production area; (b) the expected general quality and maturity of avocados in the production area and in competing areas; (c) the expected demand conditions for avocados in different market outlets; (d) the expected shipments of avocados produced in the production area and competing areas; (e) supplies of competing commodities; (f) trend and level of consumer income; (g) other factors having a bearing on the marketing of avocados; and (h) the type of regulations expected to be recommended during the season. In the event it becomes advisable, because of changes in the supply and demand situation for avocados, to modify substantially such marketing policy, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a revised marketing policy report setting forth the information prescribed in this section. The committee shall publicly announce the contents of each marketing policy report and copies thereof shall be maintained in the offices of the committee where they shall be available for examination by growers and handlers.

[40 FR 52605, Nov. 11, 1975]

§ 915.50 Recommendations for regulation.

(a) Whenever the committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of any variety or varieties of avocados grown in District 1 or District 2 in the
manner provided in §915.51, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) In arriving at its recommendations pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the committee shall give consideration to such of the following factors as may be applicable: (1) The estimated total production and shipments of each variety of avocados, including avocados grown in other areas; (2) the time of bloom and growing conditions during the development of the crop; (3) the quality of the avocado crop; (4) the anticipated demand for avocados; and (5) other available information having a bearing on the market for avocados with each recommendation for regulation the committee shall submit to the Secretary the data and information on which such recommendation is predicated, and such other available information as the Secretary may request.

(c) All meetings of the committee held for the purpose of formulating recommendations for regulations shall be open to growers and handlers. The committee shall give notice of such meetings to growers and handlers by mailing such notice to each grower and handler who has filed his address with the committee and requested such notice.

§ 915.51 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall regulate, in the manner specified in this section, the handling of avocados whenever he finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee or from other available information, that such regulations will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such regulations may:

(1) Prohibit, prior to such time as shall be specified, the handling of any size or sizes of any variety or varieties of avocados grown in District 1 or District 2.

(2) Prohibit the handling of any variety or varieties of avocados grown in District 1 or District 2 which do not meet such quality and maturity standards as shall be prescribed.

(3) Limit the shipment of the total quantity of avocados by prohibiting the shipment thereof: Provided, That no such prohibition shall be effective during a fiscal period, other than for four periods not exceeding six days each immediately prior to, including, or following July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

(4) Fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, or pack of the container or containers which may be used in the packaging, and the transportation, sale, shipment or other handling of avocados.

(5) Establish and prescribe pack specifications for the grading and packing of any variety or varieties of avocados and require that all avocados handled shall be packed in accordance with such pack specifications, and shall be identified by appropriate labels, seals, stamps, or tags, affixed to the containers by the handler under the supervision of the committee or an inspector of the Federal-State Inspection Service, showing the particular pack specifications of the lot.

(6) Provide that any or all requirements effective pursuant to paragraphs (a)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of this section applicable to the handling of avocados shall be different for the handling of avocados within the production area and for the handling of avocados between the production area and any point outside thereof.

(7) Prescribe requirements, as provided in this paragraph, applicable to exports of any variety of avocados which are different from those applicable to the handling of the same variety to other destinations.

(b) The committee shall be informed immediately of any such regulations issued by the Secretary and the committee shall promptly give notice thereof to growers and handlers.


§ 915.52 Modification, suspension, or termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the committee at any time finds that, by reason of changed conditions, any regulations issued pursuant to §915.51 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.
§ 915.53 Exemption certificates.

Whenever a regulation is in effect pursuant to §915.51(a)(1), the committee shall issue one or more exemption certificates to any person who furnishes proof, satisfactory to the committee, that his avocados of a particular variety are mature prior to the time such variety may be handled under such regulation. Such exemption certificates shall authorize the person to whom the certificates are issued to handle, or have handled, only that portion of his avocados of the particular variety which the committee has determined to be mature. The committee shall adopt, with the approval of the Secretary, procedural rules by which such exemption certificates will be issued and the avocados covered thereunder may be handled. Exemption certificates shall be transferred to the handler of the avocados covered by such certificates at the time the avocados are delivered to such handler.

§ 915.54 Inspection and certification.

Whenever the handling of any variety of avocados is regulated pursuant to §915.51, each handler who handles avocados shall, prior thereto, cause each lot of avocados handled to be inspected by the Federal-State Inspection Service and certified by it as meeting the applicable requirements of such regulation: Provided, That such inspection and certification shall not be required whenever the avocados previously have been so inspected and certified. Promptly thereafter, each such handler shall submit, or cause to be submitted, to the committee a copy of the certificate of inspection with respect to such handling.

§ 915.55 Avocados not subject to regulations.

Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person may, without regard to the provisions of §§915.41, 915.51, and 915.54, and the regulations issued thereunder, handle avocados (a) for consumption by charitable institutions; (b) for distribution by relief agencies; (c) for commercial processing into products; or (d) in such minimum quantities or types of shipments as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe. The committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe such rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to prevent avocados handled under the provisions of this section from entering channels of trade for other than the specific purposes authorized by this section. Such rules, regulations, and safeguards may include the requirements that handlers shall file applications with the committee for authorization to handle avocados pursuant to this section, and that such applications be accompanied by a certification by the intended purchaser or receiver that the avocados will not be used for any purpose not authorized by this section.


§ 915.60 Reports.

(a) Each handler shall furnish to the committee, at such times and for such periods as the committee may designate, certified reports covering, to the extent necessary for the committee to perform its functions, the following: (1) The quantities of each variety of avocados he received; (2) a complete record of the quantities disposed of by him, segregated as to varieties and as to the respective quantities subject to regulation and not subject to regulation; (3) the date of each such disposition and the identification of the carrier transporting such fruit; (4) identification of the inspection certificates and the exemption certificates, if any,
§ 915.65 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this part, the committee shall, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, continue as trustees of all the funds and property then in its possession, or under its control, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination.
(b) The said trustees shall (1) continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; (2) from time to time account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such persons as the Secretary may direct; and (3) upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person, full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant thereto.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligation imposed upon the committee and upon the trustees.

§ 915.66 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this part or of any regulation issued pursuant to this part, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this part or any regulation issued under this part, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this part or of any regulation issued under this part, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violation.

§ 915.67 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this part shall cease upon its termination, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this part.

§ 915.68 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any officer or employee of the United States, or name any agency or division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

§ 915.69 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States (a) to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or (b) in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 915.70 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee and no employee or agent of the committee shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 915.71 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

§ 915.110 Exemption certificates.

Exemption certificates under § 915.53 shall be issued by the Avocado Administrative Committee pursuant to the following rules and regulations:

(a) The grower must make application for exemption on a form supplied by the committee. A separate application must be made for each variety or classification of avocados and shall contain the following:

(1) Name and address of the applicant, and date of application;
(2) District in which the applicant’s grove is located;
(3) Regulation from which exemption is requested;
(4) Variety for which exemption is requested;
(5) Location (by county, highway, rural route, distance from nearest
§ 915.120 Handler registration.

(a) Each handler who desires to handle avocados pursuant to the exceptions in §915.10 shall, prior thereto, register with the committee. Such registration shall be by application for registration filed with the Avocado Administrative Committee on a form, prescribed and furnished by the committee, which shall contain the following information:

(1) Name and address of applicant;
(2) Applicant’s principal place(s) of business;
(3) Type of business organization (individual, corporation, partnership, etc.);
(4) If other than an individual, the names and addresses of officers, partners, etc.;
(5) Nature of business (handler, trucker, wholesaler, etc.);
(6) Number of years engaged in avocado business;
(7) Estimated seasonal volume of avocados handled;
(8) Place within production area where the avocados will be prepared for market, and name and address of person responsible for such preparation;
(9) Name and address of three references, one of which shall be a bank;
(10) Certification of accuracy of information furnished; and
(11) An agreement to comply with the provisions of this part.

(b) When the committee receives an application for registration, it shall issue the applicant a certificate of registration, if it determines based upon an investigation that the applicant may be expected to handle avocados in accordance with this part.

(c) If it is determined from the available information that the applicant is not entitled to be registered with the committee, he shall be so informed by written notice stating why the certificate of registration was not issued.

(d) Any certificate of registration issued to a handler pursuant to this section may be canceled by the committee under circumstances which would have justified denial of his application.

(e) The committee shall suspend the certificate of registration issued under this section of any handler who fails to pay assessments or furnish reports as required under this part, and so advise the handler in writing of the suspension and the effective date. The committee shall lift such suspension at such time as the handler pays such assessments and files such reports, and the committee determines that the handler may be expected to handle avocados in the future in accordance with this part.

§ 915.141 Handling avocados for commercial processing into products.

(a) No person shall handle any avocados for commercial processing into products unless prior to such handling such person notifies the Avocado Administrative Committee of the proposed handling and provides the committee with the name of the intended processor. If the intended processor's name is not on the Avocado Administrative Committee's current list of approved manufacturers of avocado products, as prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section, or if on the list is suspended, such person shall furnish the committee, prior to each such handling, with a statement executed by the intended processor that the avocados will be used for the stated purpose only.

(b) Any person who desires to have his name placed on the Avocado Administrative Committee's list of approved manufacturers of avocado products shall, prior to such listing, submit to the Avocado Administrative Committee an application containing the following information: (1) Name and address of applicant; (2) location of the
§ 915.150 Reports.

(a) Each handler shall file with the Avocado Administrative Committee, on a weekly basis, a report of all avocados received by him. Such report shall be on forms prescribed by the committee and shall include: (1) The name and address of the handler; (2) weekly period covered by the report; (3) district in which the avocados were received; and (4) the quantity of each variety of avocados received. Each such report shall be filed with the committee not later than one week after the close of business of the last day of the period covered by the report.

(b) Each handler registered with the Avocado Administrative Committee shall render a report to the committee of the disposition of each lot of uncertified avocados removed from the premises of his handling facilities during each week in which any avocados
§ 915.155 Delinquent assessments.

Each handler shall pay interest of one percent per month on any unpaid assessment balance beginning 30 days after date of billing. Such interest charge is to apply to any unpaid assessments which become due the Avocado Administrative Committee after the effective date of this section.

[40 FR 50024, Oct. 28, 1975]

§ 915.160 Public member eligibility requirements and nomination procedures.

(a) Public member and alternate member candidates shall not represent an agricultural interest, and shall not have a financial interest in, or be associated with the production, processing, financing, or marketing of avocados.

(b) Public member and alternate member candidates should be able to devote sufficient time to attend committee activities regularly and to familiarize themselves with the background and economics of the avocado industry.

(c) The public member and alternate member shall be a resident of the production area.

(d) The public member and alternate member should be nominated by the Avocado Administrative Committee, and shall serve a one-year term which coincides with the term of the producer and handler members of the committee.

[44 FR 9370, Feb. 13, 1979]

NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g. sections .310 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

Subpart—Container and Pack Regulations

§ 915.305 Florida Avocado Container Regulation 5.

(a) On and after September 12, 1984 no handler shall handle any avocados for the fresh market from the production area to any point outside thereof in containers having a capacity of more than 4 pounds of avocados unless the
containers meet the requirements specified in this section: Provided, That the containers authorized in this section shall not be used for handling avocados for commercial processing into products pursuant to § 915.55(c).

(a) Containers with inside dimensions of 11"×16½"×10 or 13½"×16½"×9 or 12½"×15¼×10¾ inches: Provided, That (i) the net weight of the avocados in such a container shall be not less than 34 pounds, except that for avocados of unnamed varieties, which are avocados that have not been given varietal names, and for Booth 1, Fuchs, and Trapp varieties, such weight shall be not less than 32 pounds; (ii) with respect to each lot of such containers, not to exceed 10 percent, by count, of the individual containers in the lot may fail to meet the applicable specified weight but no container in such lot may contain a net weight of avocados exceeding 2 pounds less than the specified net weight, and (iii) each avocado in such container in a lot shall weigh at least 16 ounces, except that not to exceed 10 percent, by count, of the fruit in the lot may fail to meet such weight requirement but not more than double such tolerance shall be permitted for an individual container in the lot.

(2) Containers with inside dimensions of 16½"×13½" and depth varying from 3¼ to 5 inches: Provided, That such containers shall only be used for export shipments.

(3) Containers with inside dimensions of 13½"×16½"×3¾ inches.

(4) Containers with inside dimensions of 12¼"×15¼" with depth varying from 3¼ to 5 inches.

(5) Containers with inside dimensions of 11¼"×16¼" and depth varying from 3% to 4½ inches.

(6) Containers with inside dimensions of 13¼"×16½" and depth varying from 6½ to 8 inches.

(7) Containers with inside dimensions of 12¼"×15¼" and depth varying from 7% to 8½ inches.

(8) Containers with inside dimensions of 11¼"×13¾" and depth varying from 7 to 7½ inches.

(9) Such other types and sizes of containers as may be approved by the Avocado Administrative Committee for testing in connection with a research project conducted by or in cooperation with the said committee: Provided, That the handling of each lot of avocados in such test containers shall be subject to the prior approval, and under the supervision, of the Avocado Administrative Committee.

(10) With respect to the containers prescribed in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, all avocados packed in such containers shall be placed in one layer only and the net weight of all avocados in any such container shall not be less than 8.5 pounds: Provided, That not to exceed 5 percent, by count, of such containers in any lot may fail to meet such weight requirement.

(11) With respect to the containers prescribed in paragraphs (a)(3) through (a)(9) of this section, all avocados packed in such containers shall be placed in one layer only and the net weight of all avocados in any such container shall be not less than 12½ pounds: Provided, That not to exceed 5 percent, by count, of such containers in any lot may fail to meet such weight requirement.

(12) With respect to the containers prescribed in paragraph (a)(10), (a)(11), and (a)(12) of this section, all avocados in such containers shall be placed in two layers and the net weight of the avocados in any such container shall be not less than 25 pounds: Provided, That not to exceed 5 percent, by count, of such containers in any lot may fail to meet the applicable net weight requirement: Provided further, That the requirement as to placing avocados in two layers only shall not apply to such container if each of the avocados therein weighs 14 ounces or less.

(b) The limitations set forth in paragraph (a) of this section shall not apply to master containers for individual packages of avocados: Provided, That the individual packages within such master container are of a capacity not exceeding four pounds and the markings or labels, if any, on such packages do not conflict with the markings or labels on the master container.
§ 915.306 Florida avocado grade, pack, and container marking regulation.

(a) No handler shall handle any variety of avocados grown in the production area unless:

(1) Such avocados grade at least U.S. No. 2, except that avocados handled to destinations within the production area may be placed in containers with avocados of dissimilar varietal characteristics: Provided, That during the period November 2, 1992, through March 31, 1993, avocados may be handled to destinations within the production area in containers other than those authorized under § 915.305 affected by serious damage, but not very serious damage, caused by Cercospora Spot.

(2) Such avocados are in containers authorized under § 915.305, when handled to points outside the production area.

(3) Such avocados are packed in accordance with standard pack, when handled in containers authorized under § 915.305.

(4) Such avocados are in containers marked with a Federal-State Inspection Service lot stamp number, when handled in containers authorized under § 915.305.

(b) The provisions of paragraphs (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), (a)(5), and (a)(6) of this section shall not apply to individual packages of avocados weighing four pounds or less, net weight, in master containers.

(c) Terms pertaining to grades and standard pack mean the same as those defined in the United States Standards for Florida Avocados (7 CFR 51.3050 through 51.3069).

§ 915.332 Florida avocado maturity regulation.

(a) No handler shall handle any variety of avocados, except Hass, Fuerte, Zutano, and Edranol, grown in the production area unless:

(1) Any portion of the skin of the individual avocados has changed to the color normal for that fruit when mature for those varieties which normally change color to any shade of red or purple when mature, except for the Linda variety; or

(2) Such avocados meet the minimum weight or diameter requirements for the Monday nearest each date specified, through the Sunday immediately prior to the nearest Monday of the specified date in the next column, for each variety listed in the following TABLE I: Provided, that avocados may not be handled prior to the earliest date specified in column A of such table for the respective variety; Provided further, there are no restrictions on size or weight on or after the date specified in column D: Provided further,
That up to a total of 10 percent, by count to the individual fruit in each lot may weigh less than the minimum weight specified for the variety: Provided further, That up to double such tolerance shall be permitted for fruit in an individual container in a lot.

### TABLE I

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<th>Min. diam.</th>
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1. Avocados of the West Indian type varieties and seedlings not listed elsewhere in table I.
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2 Avocados of the Guatemalan type varieties and seedlings, hybrid varieties and seedlings, and unidentified seedlings not listed elsewhere in table I.

(b) The term diameter means the greatest dimension measured at a right angle to a straight line from the stem to the blossom end of the fruit.

[59 FR 30869, June 16, 1994]

PART 916—NECTARINES GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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916.350 California Nectarine Container and Pack Regulation.

Subpart—Grade and Size Regulation

916.356 California Nectarine Grade and Size Regulation.


Subpart—Order Regulating Handling


DEFINITIONS

§ 916.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been
§ 916.11 Handle.
Handle and ship are synonymous and mean to sell, consign, deliver, or transport nectarines, or to cause nectarines to be sold, consigned, delivered, or transported, between the production area and any point outside thereof, or within the production area: Provided, That the term handle shall not include the sale of nectarines on the tree, the transportation within the production area of nectarines from the orchard where grown to a packing facility located within such area for preparation for market, or the delivery of such nectarines to such packing facility for such preparation.

§ 916.12 District.
District means the applicable one of the following described subdivisions of the production area or such other subdivision as may be prescribed pursuant to § 916.31:

(a) District 1 shall include the counties of Madera, Fresno, and Kings and that portion of Tulare County north of the 4th Standard Parallel south of the Mount Diablo Base Line of the General Land Office.

(b) District 2 shall include that portion of Tulare County not included in District 1.

(c) District 3 shall include all of the production area lying south of the northern boundaries of the counties of San Luis Obispo, Kern, and San Bernardino.

(d) District 4 shall include the counties of Merced, Stanislaus, and the balance of the production area.

[31 FR 8176, June 10, 1966]

§ 916.13 Pack.
Pack means the specific arrangement, size, weight, count, or grade of a quantity of nectarines in a particular type and size of container, or any combination thereof.

§ 916.14 Container.
Container means a box, bag, crate, lug, basket, carton, package, or any other type of receptacle used in the packaging or handling of nectarines.
§ 916.15 Marketing season.

Marketing season means the period beginning on May 1 and ending on November 30 of any year.

§ 916.20 Establishment and membership.

There is hereby established a Nectarine Administrative Committee consisting of eight members, each of whom shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member for whom he is an alternate. The members and their alternates shall be growers or employees of growers. Five of the members and their respective alternates shall be producers of nectarines in District 1. One member and his alternate shall be producers of nectarines in District 2; one of the members and his alternate shall be producers of nectarines in District 3; and one member and his alternate shall be producers of nectarines in District 4.

[31 FR 8176, June 10, 1966]

§ 916.21 Term of office.

The term of office of each member and alternate member of the committee shall be for 2 years beginning on March 1 of an odd numbered year and ending on the last day of February of an odd numbered year. Members and alternate members shall serve in such capacities for the portion of the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified.

[36 FR 9290, May 22, 1971]

§ 916.22 Nomination.

(a) Initial members. Nominations for each of the initial members, together with nominations for the initial alternate members for each position, may be submitted to the Secretary by the committee responsible for promulgation of this part. Such nominations may be made by means of group meetings of the growers concerned in each district. Such nominations, if made, shall be filed with the Secretary no later than the effective date of this part. In the event nominations for initial members and alternate members of the committee are not filed pursuant to, and within the time specified in, this section, the Secretary may select such initial members and alternate members without regard to nominations, but selections shall be on the basis of the representation provided in § 916.20.

(b) Successor members. (1) The committee shall hold or cause to be held, not later than February 15 of each odd numbered year, a meeting or meetings of growers in each district for the purpose of designating nominees for successor members and alternate members of the committee. These meetings shall be supervised by the committee which shall prescribe such procedure as shall be reasonable and fair to all persons concerned.

(2) Only growers who are present at such nomination meetings, or represented at such meetings by duly authorized employees, may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for members and their alternates.

(3) A particular grower, including employees of such grower, shall be eligible for membership as principal or alternate to fill only one position on the committee.


§ 916.23 Selection.

From the nominations made pursuant to § 916.22, or from other qualified persons, the Secretary shall select the eight members of the committee and an alternate for each such member.

§ 916.24 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner prescribed in § 916.22, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the members and alternate members of the committee on the basis of the representation provided for in § 916.20.

§ 916.25 Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the Committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary promptly after being notified of such selection.
§ 916.26 Vacancies.
To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate member of the committee, a successor for the unexpired term of such member or alternate member of the committee shall be nominated and selected in the manner specified in §§ 916.22 and 916.23. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within a reasonable time after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of representation provided for in § 916.20.

§ 916.27 Alternate members.
An alternate member of the committee, during the absence of the member for whom he is an alternate, shall act in the place and stead of such member and perform such other duties as assigned. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified. In the event both a member of the committee and his alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the member or the committee members present may designate any other alternate to serve in such member’s place and stead provided such action is necessary to secure a quorum.


§ 916.30 Powers.
The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;
(b) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the provisions of this part;
(c) To make and adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 916.31 Duties.
The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:
(a) To select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to define the duties of such officers;
(b) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary, and to determine compensation and to define the duties of each;
(c) To submit to the Secretary as soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period a budget for such fiscal period, including a report in explanation of the items appearing therein and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such period;
(d) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;
(e) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;
(f) To cause its books to be audited by a competent public accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such times as the Secretary may request;
(g) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;
(h) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to nectarines;
(i) To submit to the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to its members;
(j) To submit to the Secretary such available information as he may request;
(k) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part;
(l) With the approval of the Secretary, to redefine the districts into which the production area is divided and to reapportion the representation of any district on the committee: Provided, That any such changes shall reflect, insofar as practicable, shifts in nectarine production within the districts and the production area.

[31 FR 8176, June 10, 1966]
§ 916.32 Procedure.

(a) Six members of the committee, or alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum and any action of the committee shall require the concurring vote of the majority of those present: Provided, That actions of the committee with respect to expenses and assessments, or recommendations for regulations pursuant to §§916.50 to 916.55, shall require at least six concurring votes.

(b) The committee may vote by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication, and any votes so cast shall be confirmed promptly in writing: Provided, That if an assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.


§ 916.33 Expenses and compensation.

The members of the committee, and alternates when acting as members, shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part: Provided, That the committee at its discretion may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members and may pay expenses as aforesaid.

[31 FR 8177, June 10, 1966]

§ 916.34 Annual report.

The committee shall, as soon as is practicable after the close of each marketing season, prepare and mail an annual report to the Secretary and make a copy available to each grower and handler who requests a copy of the report.


§ 916.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee for its maintenance and functioning and to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired in the manner prescribed in §916.41.
§ 916.41    Assessments.

(a) As his pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee during a fiscal period, each person who first handles nectarines during such period shall pay to the committee, upon demand, assessments on all nectarines so handled. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by each such person during a fiscal period in an amount designed to secure sufficient funds to cover the expenses which may be incurred during such period and to accumulate and maintain a reserve fund equal to approximately one fiscal period's expenses. At any time during or after the fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses which may be incurred. Such increase shall be applied to all nectarines handled during the applicable fiscal period. In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part during the first part of a fiscal period before sufficient operating income is available from assessments on the current year's shipments, the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance, and may also borrow money for such purposes.

§ 916.42    Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for in accordance with one of the following:

(1) If such excess is not retained in a reserve, as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, it shall be refunded proportionately to the persons from whom it was collected: Provided, That any sum paid by a person in excess of his pro rata share of the expenses during any fiscal period may be applied by the committee at the end of such fiscal period to any outstanding obligations due the committee from such person.

(2) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carry over such excess into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve: Provided, That funds already in the reserve do not equal approximately one fiscal period's expenses. Such reserve funds may be used (i) to defray expenses, during any fiscal period, prior to the time assessment income is sufficient to cover such expenses, (ii) to cover deficits incurred during any fiscal year when assessment income is less than expenses, (iii) to defray expenses incurred during any period when any or all provisions of this part are suspended or are inoperative, (iv) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. Upon such termination, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: Provided, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purpose specified in this part and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may at any time require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

(c) Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds in his possession to the committee, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in the committee full title to all of the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this part.

§ 916.45    Marketing research and development.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide
§ 916.50 Marketing policy.

(a) Each season prior to making any recommendations pursuant to §916.51, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its marketing policy for the ensuing marketing season. Such marketing policy report shall contain information relative to:

1. The estimated total production of nectarines within the production area;
2. The expected general quality and size of nectarines in the production area and in other areas;
3. The expected demand conditions for nectarines in different market outlets;
4. The expected shipments of nectarines produced in the production area and in areas outside the production area;
5. Supplies of competing commodities;
6. Trend and level of consumer income;
7. Other factors having a bearing on the marketing of nectarines; and
8. The type of regulations expected to be recommended during the marketing season.

§ 916.51 Recommendations for regulation.

(a) Whenever the committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of any variety or varieties of nectarines in the manner provided in §916.52, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) In arriving at its recommendations for regulation pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the committee shall give consideration to current information with respect to the factors affecting the supply and demand for nectarines during the period or periods when it is proposed that such regulations should be made effective. With each such recommendation for regulation, the committee shall submit to the Secretary the data and information on which such recommendation is predicated and such other available information as the Secretary may request.

§ 916.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall regulate, in the manner specified in this section, the handling of nectarines whenever he finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulations will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such regulations may:

1. Limit, during any period or periods, the shipment of any particular grade, size, quality, maturity, or pack, or any combination thereof, of any variety or varieties of nectarines grown in the production area;
2. Limit the shipment of nectarines by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity during any period when season average prices are expected to exceed the parity level;
3. Fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, markings, or pack of the container, or containers, which may be used in the packaging or handling of nectarines.

(b) The committee shall be informed immediately of any such regulation issued by the Secretary and the committee shall promptly give notice thereof to handlers.

§ 916.53 Modification, suspension, or termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the committee at any time finds that, by reason of changed conditions, any regulations issued pursuant to §916.52 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee or from other available information, that a regulation should be modified, suspended, or terminated with respect to any or all shipments of nectarines in
order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall modify, suspend, or terminate such regulation. If the Secretary finds that a regulation obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall suspend or terminate such regulation. On the same basis and in like manner the Secretary may terminate any such modification or suspension.

§ 916.54 Special purpose shipments.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person may, without regard to the provisions of §§ 916.41, 916.52, 916.53, and 916.55, and the regulations issued thereunder, handle nectarines (1) for consumption by charitable institutions; (2) for distribution by relief agencies; or (3) for commercial processing into products.

(b) Upon the basis of recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, the Secretary may relieve from any or all requirements, under or established pursuant to §§ 916.41, 916.52, 916.53, or 916.55, the handling of nectarines (1) to designated market areas within the State of California; or (2) for such specified purposes (including shipments to facilitate the conduct of marketing research and development projects established pursuant to §916.45), or in such minimum quantities or types of shipments, as may be prescribed.

(c) The committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe such rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to prevent nectarines handled under the provisions of this section from entering the channels of trade for other than the specific purposes authorized by this section. Such rules, regulations, and safeguards may include the requirements that handlers shall file applications and receive approval from the committee for authorization to handle nectarines pursuant to this section, and that such applications be accompanied by a certification by the intended purchaser or receiver that the nectarines will not be used for any purpose not authorized by this section.

§ 916.55 Inspection and certification.

(a) Whenever the handling of any variety of nectarines is regulated pursuant to §§ 916.52, or §916.53, each handler who handles nectarines shall, prior thereto, cause such nectarines to be inspected by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service and certified as meeting the applicable requirements of such regulation: Provided, That inspection and certification shall not be required for nectarines which previously have been so inspected and certified if such prior inspection was performed within such period as may be established pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section. Promptly after inspection and certification, each such handler shall submit, or cause to be submitted, to the committee a copy of the certificate of inspection issued with respect to such nectarines. The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe rules and regulations waiving the inspection requirements of this section where it is determined that inspection is not available: Provided, That all shipments made under such waiver shall comply with all regulations in effect.

(b) The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, establish a period prior to shipment during which the inspection required by this section must be performed.

(c) The committee may enter into an agreement with the Federal and Federal-State Inspection Services with respect to the costs of the inspection required by paragraph (a) of this section, and may collect from handlers their respective pro rata shares of such costs.

REPORTS

§ 916.60 Reports.

(a) Each handler shall furnish to the committee, at such times and for such periods as the committee may designate, certified reports covering, to the extent necessary for the committee to perform its functions, each shipment of nectarines as follows:

(1) The name of the shipper and the shipping point;

(2) The car or truck license number (or name of the trucker), and identification of the carrier;

(3) The date and time of departure;
§ 916.61 Compliance.

Except as provided in this part, no person shall handle nectarines, the shipment of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this part; and no person shall handle nectarines except in conformity with the provisions of this part and the regulations issued under this part.

§ 916.62 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agents, employees, or representatives thereof, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in accordance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 916.63 Effective time.

The provisions of this part, and of any amendment thereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in §916.64.

§ 916.64 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this part by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner in which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any and all of the provisions of this part whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this part whenever he finds by referendum or otherwise that such termination is favored by a majority of the growers: Provided, That such majority has, during the current marketing season, produced more than 50 percent of the volume of the nectarines which were produced within the production area for shipment in fresh form. Such termination shall become effective on the first day of March subsequent to the announcement thereof by the Secretary.

(d) The committee shall consider all petitions from growers submitted to it for termination of this part provided

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 916.61 Compliance.

Except as provided in this part, no person shall handle nectarines, the shipment of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this part; and no person shall handle nectarines except in conformity with the provisions of this part and the regulations issued under this part.
such petitions are received by the committee prior to October 1 of the then current fiscal period. Upon recommendation of the committee received not later than December 1 of the then current fiscal period, the Secretary shall conduct a referendum among the growers prior to February 15 of such fiscal period to ascertain whether continuance of this part is favored by producers.

(e) The Secretary shall conduct a referendum within the period beginning December 1, 1974, and ending February 15, 1975, to ascertain whether continuance of this part is favored by the growers. The Secretary shall conduct such referendum within the same period of every fourth fiscal period thereafter.

(f) The provisions of this part shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 916.66 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this part or of any regulation issued pursuant to this part, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this part or any regulation issued under this part, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this part or of any regulation issued under this part, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violation.

§ 916.67 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this part shall cease upon its termination, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this part.

§ 916.68 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any officer or employee of the United States, or name any agency or division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

§ 916.69 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States (a) to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or (b) in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 916.70 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee and no employee or agent of the committee shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in judgment, mistaken, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as
§ 916.71 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

§ 916.102 Procedure for nominating members and alternate members for the Nectarine Administrative Committee and the Shippers' Advisory Committee.

(a) The manager of the Nectarine Administrative Committee shall arrange for, and publicize, meetings of growers and shippers for the purpose of nominating members and alternate members for the Nectarine Administrative Committee and the Shippers' Advisory Committee. One growers' nomination meeting shall be held in each district. The shippers' nomination meeting shall be held in the district which, during the preceding year, produced the most nectarines. So far as possible, these meetings shall be held jointly with nomination meetings scheduled by the Control Committee, established under Order No. 917, as amended (7 CFR part 917), known as the California Tree Fruit Agreement. Each such meeting shall be attended by one or more employees of the Nectarine Administrative Committee. Members of the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of California may be authorized by the Manager to assist in publicizing such meetings.

(b) Eligible voters assembled at nomination meetings may select a chairman and secretary, but in the event none of the aforesaid employees of the Nectarine Administrative Committee is selected as secretary, one such employee shall, nevertheless, record all nominations made.

(c) The nominations at any meeting shall be conducted according to Robert’s Rules of Order. Voting may be by secret ballot or by acclamation in accordance with the desire of the majority of the eligible voters attending the meeting.

(d) No individual, whether representing a corporation or otherwise, may cast more than one vote for each nominee to be selected at the meeting where such individual is eligible to participate in the selection of nominees.


§ 916.105 Redefinition of certain districts.

The subdivisions of the production area are redefined and renumbered as follows:

(a) District 1 shall include the counties of Madera, Fresno, and Kings and that portion of Tulare County north of the 4th Standard Parallel south of Mount Diablo Base Line of the General Land Office.

(b) District 2 shall include that portion of Tulare County not included in District 1.

(c) District 3 shall include all of the production area lying south of the northern boundaries of the counties of San Luis Obispo, Kern, and San Bernardino.

(d) District 4 shall include the counties of Merced and Stanislaus and the balance of the production area.

[29 FR 3419, Mar. 17, 1964]

§ 916.107 Changes in the representation of certain districts.

The representation or membership on the Nectarine Administrative Committee is changed to provide for:

(a) Five (5) members and their respective alternates shall be producers of nectarines in District 1;

(b) One (1) member and his alternate shall be producers of nectarines in District 2;

(c) One (1) member and his alternate shall be producers of nectarines in District 3;

(d) One (1) member and his alternate shall be producers of nectarines in District 4.

[29 FR 3419, Mar. 17, 1964]
§ 916.110 Exemptions.

(a) Waivers. A handler may handle nectarines without inspection and certification, as prescribed under §916.55, if all the following conditions are met:

(1) The handler requests the Federal-State Inspection Service to provide inspection during its regular working hours at least 2 hours in advance of the time when inspection is needed. The request need not be in writing but it shall be confirmed immediately in writing on a waiver form to be supplied by the inspection service;

(2) The Federal-State Inspection Service advises the handler that it is not practicable to provide inspection at the time and place designated by the handler. This advice may be verbal but it shall be confirmed in writing by the Federal-State Inspection Service by execution of the waiver form on which the handler submitted his written request. A confirmed copy thereof shall be forwarded by the inspection service to the office of the Nectarine Administrative Committee;

(3) The Federal-State Inspection Service furnishes the handler with the number of the waiver which shall cover the nectarines on which inspection is requested;

(4) When instructed to do so, the handler plainly and conspicuously marks one end of each container with the letter “W” and the waiver number supplied by the Federal-State Inspection Service. The letter W and the number shall not be less than one-half inch in height.

(b) Minimum quantities. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, nectarines may be handled without regard to the provisions of §§916.41, 916.52, 916.53, 916.55, and 916.60 under the following conditions:

(1) Such nectarines meet the grade requirements set forth in Article 30 of the Food and Agriculture Code of California;

(2) Such nectarines are for home use and not for resale;

(3) The net weight of such nectarines to any one vehicle during any one day does not exceed 200 pounds;

(4) Such nectarines are handled by the person who produced them; and the handling takes place (i) on the premises where grown, (ii) at a packing-house or retail stand nearby which is operated by said handler, or (iii) at a certified farmers market in compliance with section 1392 of the regulations of the California Department of Food and Agriculture:

Provided, That the exemption for certified farmers markets shall not apply to nectarines sorted out by a handler unless the nectarines are packed in containers clearly and legibly marked to show that the nectarines contained therein are only to be sold at certified farmers markets, and the handler complies with regulations established under §§916.41, 916.52(a)(1), 916.55, and 916.60 except that nectarines may be handled to such markets if the nectarines fail to meet the U.S. No. 1 grade only on account of being soft and overripe.

§ 916.115 Lot stamping.

Except when loaded directly into railway cars, exempted under §916.110, or mailed directly to consumers in consumer packages, containers of nectarines shall be plainly stamped, prior to shipment, with a Federal-State Inspection Service lot stamp number, assigned by such Service, showing that such nectarines have been inspected in accordance with §916.55.

§ 916.160 Reporting procedure.

(a) Report of daily packout. When requested by the Nectarine Administrative Committee, each shipper who ships nectarines shall furnish to the manager of the Nectarine Administrative Committee or its designee a report of the number of packages by container type, by variety and by district of origin, which the shipper packed during the preceding day.

(b) Recapitulation of shipments. Each shipper of nectarines shall furnish to the manager of the Nectarine Administrative Committee not later than the 10th day of each month a recapitulation of his shipments of each variety completed during the preceding month. The recapitulation shall show: (1) The name of the shipper, (2) the shipping
§ 916.234
Assessment rate.

On and after March 1, 1996, an assessment rate of $0.1850 per 25-pound container or equivalent of nectarines is established for California nectarines.

[61 FR 37813, July 22, 1996]

Subpart—Container and Pack Regulation
§ 916.350 California nectarine container and pack regulation.

(a) During the period beginning April 1 and ending October 31, no handler shall ship any package or container of any variety of nectarines except in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

(i) Such nectarines when packed in any closed package or container, except master containers of consumer packages and individual consumer packages, shall conform to the requirements of standard pack: Provided, That nectarines in any such volume-filled container need only be filled to within one inch of the top of the container.

(ii) Each package or container of nectarines shall bear, on one outside end in plain sight and in plain letters, the word nectarines and, except for consumer packages mailed directly to consumers, the name of the variety, if known or, when the variety is not known, the words unknown variety.

(iii) Each package or container of nectarines, except for consumer packages mailed directly to consumers, shall bear on one outside end in plain sight and in plain letters the words U.S. Mature or US MAT if such nectarines are mature as defined in the United States Standards for Grades of Nectarines (7 CFR 51.3145 through 51.3160); or may instead bear on one outside end in plain sight and in plain letters the words California Well Matured or CA WELL MAT if such nectarines are well matured as defined in §916.356.

(iv) Each package or container of nectarines, except consumer packages mailed directly to consumers, shall bear, on one outside end in plain sight and in plain letters, the following count and/or size description of the nectarines as applicable.

(i) The size of nectarines packed in molded forms (tray-packs) in No. 22D standard lug boxes, No. 22G standard lug boxes, cartons, No. 12B fruit (peach) boxes or flats and the size of wrapped nectarines packed in rows in No. 12B fruit (peach) boxes shall be indicated in accordance with the number of nectarines in each container, such as “80 count,” “88 count,” etc.

(ii) The size of nectarines in molded forms (tray-packs) in No. 22G standard lug boxes shall be indicated according to the number of such nectarines when packed in molded forms in the No. 22D standard lug box in accordance with the requirements of standard pack, such as “80 size,” “88 size,” etc, along with count requirements in paragraph (a)(3)(i) of this section.

(iii) The size of nectarines loose-filled or tight-filled in any container shall be indicated according to the number of such nectarines when packed in molded forms in the No. 22D standard lug box in accordance with the requirements of standard pack, such as “80 size,” “88 size,” etc.

(iv) The size of nectarines, when packed in loose-filled or tight-filled containers, shall be marked in accordance with the following table 1 and table 2 which specify the tray-pack size designation in Column A with the corresponding maximum number of nectarines in a 16-pound sample of each size of the fruit in Column B: Provided, That the following procedure shall be...
TABLE 1—WEIGHT-COUNT STANDARDS FOR
minimum size requirements. To determine if the fruit meets the
requirements on the basis of an 8-pound
quirements shall be used, provided such sample
in a sample results in a number ending
loser full
one-half a fruit, the smaller full
number of fruit shall be used to deter-
mine the sample weight. If a sample
fails with respect to minimum size re-
mains the sample weight. If a sample
fails with respect to minimum size re-
requirements on the basis of an 8-pound
ample shall be used to deter-
m如果 fruit meets the
minimum size requirements.

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<th>Number of Fruit</th>
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(5) Each No. 22D standard lug box and
No. 22G standard lug box of loose-filled
nectarines shall bear on one outside end, in plain sight and in plain letters, the words 25 pounds net weight.

(6) Each No. 22E standard lug box of
loose-filled nectarines shall bear on
one outside end, in plain sight and in
plain letters, the words 35 pounds net weight.

(7) Each bulk bin container of loose-
filled nectarines shall contain not less
than 400 pounds net weight, and bear
on one outside panel, in plain sight and in
plain letters, the following information:
...
§ 916.356

(9) Each individual consumer package shall bear the name and address, including the zip code, of the shipper and the net weight. When a consumer package is not in a master container, it must also bear the number of nectarines contained in the package, the name of the variety, if known, or if the variety is not known, the words Unknown Variety, and be marked as specified in paragraph (a)(3) of this section.

(b) As used in this section, standard pack and fairly uniform in size shall have the same meanings as set forth in U.S. Standards for Grades of Nectarines (§§ 51.3145 to 51.3160) and all other terms shall have the same meaning as when used in the amended marketing agreement and order. No. 12B standard fruit box measures 2 3\(\frac{1}{8}\) to 7\(\frac{1}{8}\) × 11\(\frac{1}{2}\) × 16\(\frac{1}{8}\) inches, No. 22D standard lug box measures 2 7\(\frac{1}{8}\) to 7 1\(\frac{1}{8}\) × 13\(\frac{1}{2}\) × 16\(\frac{1}{8}\) inches, No. 22E standard lug box measures 8\(\frac{3}{4}\) x 13\(\frac{1}{2}\)×16\(\frac{1}{8}\) inches, No. 22G standard lug box measures 7\(\frac{3}{8}\) to 7\(\frac{1}{2}\) × 13\(\frac{1}{4}\) × 15\(\frac{7}{8}\) inches. All dimensions are given in depth (inside dimension) by width by length (outside dimension). Individual consumer packages means packages holding 15 pounds or less net weight of nectarines.

Tree ripe means tree ripened and fruit shipped and marked as tree ripe, tree ripened, or any similar terms using the words tree and ripe must meet minimum California Well Matured standards.

(c) Each container of nectarines in plastic, 12\(\times\)19\(\frac{1}{4}\) inch reusable and recyclable containers shall meet and bear, on the container lid or on the outside end, all applicable marking requirements under the order.

(d) During the period April 1 through October 31, 1997, each container or package when packed with nectarines meeting CA Utility requirements, shall bear the words “CA Utility,” along with all other required container markings, in letters of \(\frac{3}{4}\) inch minimum height on the visible display panel. Consumer bags or packages must also be clearly marked on the bag or package as “CA Utility” along with other required markings.


Subpart—Grade and Size Regulation

§ 916.356 California Nectarine Grade and Size Regulation.

(a) During the period beginning April 1 and ending October 31, no handler shall ship:

(1) Any lot or package or container of any variety of nectarines unless such nectarines meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade: Provided, That nectarines 2 inches in diameter or smaller, shall not have fairly light-colored, fairly smooth scars which exceed an aggregate area of a circle \(\frac{3}{8}\) inch in diameter, and nectarines larger than 2 inches in diameter shall not have fairly light-colored, fairly smooth scars which exceed an aggregate area of a circle \(\frac{1}{2}\) inch in diameter: Provided further, That an additional tolerance of 25 percent shall be permitted for fruit that is not well formed, but not badly misshapened: Provided further, That all varieties of nectarines which fail to meet the U.S. No. 1 grade only on account of lack of blush or red color due to varietal characteristics shall be considered as meeting the requirements of this subpart: Provided further, That during the period April 1 through October 31, 1997, any handler may handle nectarines if such nectarines meet “CA Utility” quality requirements. The term CA Utility means that not more than 30 percent of the nectarines in any container meet or exceed the requirements of the U.S. No. 1 grade and that such nectarines are mature and are:

(i) Free from insect injury which has penetrated or damaged the flesh; split pits which cause an unhealed crack or
one or more well healed cracks which, either singly or in the aggregate, are more than \( \frac{3}{8} \) inch in length; mold, brown rot, and decay which has affected the edible portion; and

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TABLE 1—Continued

NOTE: Consult with the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service Supervisor for the maturity guides applicable to the varieties not listed above.

(ii) Free from serious damage due to skin breaks, cuts, growth cracks, bruises, or other causes. Damage to any nectarine is serious when it causes a waste of 10 percent or more, by volume, of the individual nectarine.

(iii) Tolerances. Not more than 10 percent, by count, of the nectarines in any one container may be below the requirements which are prescribed by this paragraph, including not more than 5 percent, by count, for any one defect, except split pits. An additional tolerance of 10 percent, by count, of the nectarines in any one container or bulk lot may contain nectarines affected...
with split pits. This means a total tolerance of 20 percent is allowed for all defects, including split pits, but not to exceed 15 percent for split pits alone.

(iv) The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service shall make final determinations on maturity through the use of color guides or such other tests as determined appropriate by the inspection agency. The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service will use the maturity guides listed in table 1 to paragraph (a)(1)(iv) in making maturity determinations for the specified varieties when inspecting to the "well matured" level of maturity. For these varieties, not less than 90 percent of any lot shall meet the color guide established for the variety, and an aggregate area of not less than 90 percent of the fruit surface shall meet the color guide established for the variety, except that for the Fairlane, Tom Grand, and 61-61 varieties of nectarines, not less than an aggregate area of 80 percent of the fruit surface shall meet the color guide established for the variety. For varieties not listed, the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service will use such tests as it deems proper. A variance for any variety from the application of the maturity guides specified in table 1 to paragraph (a)(1)(iv) may be granted during the season to reflect changes in crop, weather, or other conditions that would make the specified guides an inappropriate measure of "well matured."

### TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (a)(1)(iv)—Continued

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TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (a)(1)(iv)—Continued

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<th>Column A variety</th>
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NOTE: Consult with the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service Supervisor for the maturity guides applicable to the varieties not listed in this table.

(v) If a grower or handler believes his/her fruit is meeting the appropriate maturity level but the fruit has not been so graded by the inspector, he/she may appeal the inspection by calling the officer-in-charge of the local Federal-State Inspection Service office to arrange for an on-site examination of the fruit.

(2) Any package or container of Mayglo variety nectarines through May 5 of each year; or April Glo, or Mayfire variety nectarines, unless:

(i) Such nectarines, when packed in molded forms (tray pack) in a No. 22D standard lug box, are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the requirements of a standard pack, not more than 108 nectarines in the lug box; or

(ii) Such nectarines, when packed other than as specified in paragraph (a)(2)(i) of this section, are of a size that a 16-pound sample, representative of the nectarines in the package or container, contains not more than 100 nectarines.

(3) Any package or container of Mayglo variety nectarines on or after May 6 of each year, or Earliglo, Early Diamond, Grand Sun, Johnny’s Delight, May Jim, or May Kist variety nectarines, unless:

(i) Such nectarines, when packed in molded forms (tray pack) in a No. 22D standard lug box, are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the require-

ments of a standard pack, not more than 96 nectarines in the lug box; or

(ii) Such nectarines, when packed other than as specified in paragraph (a)(3)(i) of this section, are of a size that a 16-pound sample, representative of the nectarines in the package or container, contains not more than 90 nectarines.

(4) Any package or container of Arctic Glo, Arctic Rose, Arctic Star, Early May, June Brite, Juneglo, Kay Glo, May Diamond, May Grand, May Lion, Pacific Star, Prima Diamond II, Prince Jim, Red Delight, Red Glo, Rose Diamond, Royal Glo, Sparkling May, Star Brite, or Zee Grand variety nectarines unless:

(i) Such nectarines, when packed in molded forms (tray pack) in a No. 22D standard lug box, are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the requirements of a standard pack, not more than 88 nectarines in the lug box; or

(ii) Such nectarines, when packed other than as specified in paragraph (a)(4)(i) of this section, are of a size that a 16-pound sample, representative of the nectarines in the package or container, contains not more than 83 nectarines.

(5) Any package or container of Red May variety nectarines unless:

(i) Such nectarines, when packed in molded forms (tray pack) in a No. 22D standard lug box, are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the requirements of a standard pack, not more than 84 nectarines in the lug box; or

(ii) Such nectarines, when packed other than as specified in paragraph (a)(5)(i) of this section, are of a size that a 16-pound sample, representative of the nectarines in the package or container, contains not more than 78 nectarines.

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(i) Such nectarines, when packed in molded forms (tray pack) in a No. 22D standard lug box, are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the requirements of a standard pack, not more than 80 nectarines in the lug box or if the nectarines are “well matured” not more than 84 nectarines in the lug box.

(ii) Such nectarines, when packed other than as specified in paragraph (a)(6)(i) of this section, are of a size that a 16-pound sample, representative of the nectarines in the package or container, contains not more than 67 nectarines or if the nectarines are “well matured” not more than 75 nectarines.

(7) During the period April 1 through May 31 of each fiscal year, no handler shall handle any package or container of any variety of nectarines not specifically named in paragraphs (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), (a)(5), or (a)(6) of this section unless:

(i) Such nectarines, when packed in molded forms (tray pack) in a No. 22D standard lug box, are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the requirements of a standard pack, not more than 88 nectarines in the lug box or if the nectarines are “well matured” not more than 84 nectarines in the lug box.

(ii) Such nectarines, when packed other than as specified in paragraph (a)(7)(i) of this section, are of a size that a 16-pound sample, representative of the nectarines in the package or container, contains not more than 80 nectarines in the lug box or if the nectarines are “well matured” not more than 84 nectarines in the lug box.

(8) During the period June 1 through June 30 of each fiscal period, no handler shall handle any package or container of any variety of nectarines not specifically named in paragraphs (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), (a)(5), or (a)(6) of this section unless:

(i) Such nectarines, when packed in molded forms (tray pack) in a No. 22D standard lug box, are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the requirements of a standard pack, not more than 88 nectarines in the lug box or if the nectarines are “well matured” not more than 84 nectarines in the lug box.

(ii) Such nectarines, when packed other than as specified in paragraph (a)(8)(i) of this section, are of a size that a 16-pound sample, representative of the nectarines in the package or container, contains not more than 80 nectarines.

(9) During the period July 1 through October 31 of each fiscal period, no handler shall handle any package or container of any variety of nectarines not specifically named in paragraphs (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), (a)(5), or (a)(6) of this section unless:

(i) Such nectarines, when packed in molded forms (tray pack) in a No. 22D standard lug box, are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the requirements of a standard pack, not more than 80 nectarines in the lug box or if the nectarines are “well matured” not more than 84 nectarines in the lug box.

(ii) Such nectarines, when packed other than as specified in paragraph (a)(9)(i) of this section, are of a size that a 16-pound sample, representative of the nectarines in the package or container, contains not more than 83 nectarines or if the nectarines are “well matured” not more than 84 nectarines in the lug box.

(b) The following procedure shall be used in determining whether nectarines meet the minimum size requirements specified for each size category in this section applying a 16-pound sample. A sample consisting of one-half of the number of fruit specified for a 16-pound sample, representative of the nectarines in the package or container, contains not more than 67 nectarines or if the nectarines are “well matured” not more than 75 nectarines.

(9) During the period June 1 through June 30 of each fiscal period, no handler shall handle any package or container of any variety of nectarines not specifically named in paragraphs (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), (a)(5), or (a)(6) of this section unless:

(i) Such nectarines, when packed in molded forms (tray pack) in a No. 22D standard lug box, are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the requirements of a standard pack, not more than 88 nectarines in the lug box or if the nectarines are “well matured” not more than 84 nectarines in the lug box.

(ii) Such nectarines, when packed other than as specified in paragraph (a)(9)(i) of this section, are of a size that a 16-pound sample, representative of the nectarines in the package or container, contains not more than 80 nectarines.

(b) The following procedure shall be used in determining whether nectarines meet the minimum size requirements specified for each size category in this section applying a 16-pound sample. A sample consisting of one-half of the number of fruit specified for a 16-pound sample, representative of the nectarines in the package or container, contains not more than 67 nectarines or if the nectarines are “well matured” not more than 75 nectarines.

(9) During the period July 1 through October 31 of each fiscal period, no handler shall handle any package or container of any variety of nectarines not specifically named in paragraphs (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), (a)(5), or (a)(6) of this section unless:

(i) Such nectarines, when packed in molded forms (tray pack) in a No. 22D standard lug box, are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the requirements of a standard pack, not more than 80 nectarines in the lug box or if the nectarines are “well matured” not more than 84 nectarines in the lug box.

(ii) Such nectarines, when packed other than as specified in paragraph (a)(9)(i) of this section, are of a size that a 16-pound sample, representative of the nectarines in the package or container, contains not more than 83 nectarines or if the nectarines are “well matured” not more than 84 nectarines in the lug box.

(b) The following procedure shall be used in determining whether nectarines meet the minimum size requirements specified for each size category in this section applying a 16-pound sample. A sample consisting of one-half of the number of fruit specified for a 16-pound sample, representative of the nectarines in the package or container, contains not more than 67 nectarines or if the nectarines are “well matured” not more than 75 nectarines.
(c) Container tolerances. A package may contain not more than double any specified tolerance except that at least two defective specimens may be permitted in any package: Provided, That the averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances specified in this part.

(d) As used herein, U. S. No. 1, mature, and standard pack, mean the same as defined in the United States Standards for Grades of Nectarines [7 CFR 51.3145 through 51.3160]; and No. 22D standard lug box means the same as defined in section 1380.19 (17) of the "Regulations of the California Department of Food and Agriculture". Well matured means a condition distinctly more advanced than mature.

§ 917.1

917.120 Changes in nomination of Peach Commodity Committee members.
917.121 Changes in nomination of Pear Commodity Committee members.
917.122 Qualification requirements and nomination procedure for public members of Commodity Committees.

REGULATION BY GRADES, SIZES, AND MINIMUM STANDARDS OF QUALITY AND MATURITY

917.143 Exemptions.
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REGULATION OF DAILY SHIPMENTS

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Subpart—Assessment Rates

917.258 Assessment rate.

Subpart—Container and Pack Regulation

917.442 California Peach Container and Pack Regulation.

Subpart—Grade and Size Regulation

917.459 California Peach Grade and Size Regulation.
917.461 Pear Regulation 12.


Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

SOURCE: 41 FR 17528, Apr. 27, 1976, unless otherwise noted.

DEFINITIONS

§ 917.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 917.2 Act.


§ 917.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 917.4 Fruit.

Fruit means the edible product of the following two kinds of trees (a) all varieties of peaches, and (b) all varieties of pears except Beurre Hardy, Beurre D’Anjou, Bosc, Winter Nelis, Doyenne du Comice, Beurre Easter, and Beurre Clairgeau.

[56 FR 46369, Sept. 12, 1991]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10055, Mar. 3, 1994, in §917.4, the words “, and (b) all varieties of pears except Beurre Hardy, Beurre D’Anjou, Bosc, Winter Nelis, Doyenne du Comice, Beurre Easter, and Beurre Clairgeau” were suspended, effective April 4, 1994.

§ 917.5 Grower.

Grower is synonymous with producer and means any person who produces fruit for market in fresh form, and who has a proprietary interest therein.

§ 917.6 Handle.

Handle and ship are synonymous and mean to sell, consign, deliver or transport fruit or to cause fruit to be sold, consigned, delivered or transported between the production area and any point outside thereof, or within the production area: Provided, That the term handle shall not include the sale of fruit on the tree, the transportation within the production area of fruit from the orchard where grown to a packing facility located within such area for preparation for market, or the delivery of such fruit to such packing facility for such preparation.

§ 917.7 Handler.

Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier transporting fruit owned by another person) who handles fruit.

§ 917.9 Fiscal period.

Fiscal period is synonymous with fiscal year and means the 12-month period ending on the last day of February of each year, or such other period that
may be approved by the Secretary pursuant to recommendations by the committee.

§ 917.11 Production area.
Production area means the State of California.

§ 917.12 Container.
Container means a box, bag, crate, lug, basket, carton, package, or any other type of receptacle used in the packaging or handling of fruit.

§ 917.13 Pack.
Pack means the specific arrangement, size, weight, count, or grade of a quantity of fruit in a particular type and size of container or any combination thereof.

§ 917.14 District.
District means any of the following subdivisions of the State of California:

(a) North Sacramento Valley District includes and consists of Glenn County, Shasta County, Tehama County, Modoc County, Siskiyou County, Lassen County, Plumas County, and Colusa County.

(b) Central Sacramento Valley District includes and consists of Sutter County, Butte County, Yuba County, and Sierra County.

(c) Sacramento River District includes and consists of Sacramento County, that portion of Yolo County east of a straight line from the northwest corner of Sacramento County to the northeast corner of Solano County, and that portion of Solano County east of a straight line from the northeast corner of Solano County to the town of Rio Vista.

(d) El Dorado District includes and consists of El Dorado County.

(e) Placer-Colfax District includes and consists of Nevada and Placer Counties.

(f) Solano District includes and consists of that portion of Yolo County not included in the Sacramento River District, and that portion of Solano County not included in the Sacramento River District.

(g) Contra Costa District includes and consists of Contra Costa County.

(h) Santa Clara District includes and consists of Alameda County, Monterey County, Santa Clara County, San Mateo County, Santa Cruz County, and San Benito County.

(i) Lake District includes and consists of Lake County.

(j) Mendocino District includes and consists of Mendocino County, Humboldt County, Trinity County, and Del Norte County.

(k) South Coast District includes and consists of San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, and Ventura County.

(l) Stockton District includes and consists of San Joaquin County, Amador County, Calaveras County, and Alpine County.

(m) Stanislaus District includes and consists of Merced County, Stanislaus County, Tuolumne County, and Mariposa County.

(n) Fresno District includes and consists of Madera County, Fresno County, Mono County, Kings County, and that portion of Tulare County north of the 4th Standard Parallel south of the Mount Diablo Base Line of the General Land Office.

(o) Tulare District includes and consists of that portion of Tulare County not included in Fresno District.

(p) Kern District includes and consists of that portion of Kern County west of the Tehachapi Mountains.

(q) Tehachapi District includes and consists of that portion of Kern County not included in Kern District, and Inyo County.

(r) Southern California District includes and consists of San Bernardino County, Orange County, San Diego County, Imperial County, Riverside County, and Los Angeles County.

(s) North Bay District includes and consists of Sonoma County, Napa County, and Marin County.

§ 917.15 Representation area.
Representation area means any one of the districts or groups of districts which are designated for nominating members and alternate members to the commodity committees under §§ 917.21 through 917.22 or as changed pursuant to §917.35(g).

[56 FR 46369, Sept. 12, 1991]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10055, Mar. 3, 1994, in §917.15, the words "§917.21
§ 917.16 Designation of Control Committee.

A Control Committee is hereby established consisting of 12 shipper members and 13 commodity committee members, and the members shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of § 917.17 through § 917.19. The members shall be selected annually for a term ending on the last day of February, and said members shall serve until their respective successors are selected and have qualified.

§ 917.17 Nomination of shipper members of the Control Committee.

Nominations for the 12 members of the Control Committee to represent shippers shall be made in the following manner:

(a) By February 1 of each year the Control Committee shall announce a time and place for a meeting of all shippers of fruit and shall conduct the election of nominees at such meeting. At said election meeting the shippers present shall select a nominee for each of the shipper member positions on the Control Committee. Each shipper shall cast only one vote.

(b) No shipper shall be entitled to participate in the nomination of members of the Control Committee, or be eligible for membership on such committee, if such shipper has failed to pay the assessments, due to be paid by him pursuant to the provisions of § 917.37.

§ 917.18 Nomination of commodity committee members of the Control Committee.

Nominations for the 13 members of the Control Committee to represent the commodity committees shall be made in the following manner:

(a) A nomination for one member shall be made by each commodity committee selected pursuant to § 917.25. Nominations for the remaining members shall be made by the respective commodity committees as provided in this section. The number of remaining members which each respective commodity committee shall be entitled to nominate shall be based upon the proportion that the previous three fiscal periods’ shipments of the respective fruit is of the total shipments of all fruit to which this part is applicable during such periods. In the event provisions of this part are terminated as to any one fruit, nominations of members to the Control Committee shall be composed of representatives of the remaining two fruits. The apportionment shall be determined as aforesaid. In the event provisions of this part are terminated as to any two fruits, the members of the commodity committee of the remaining fruit shall have all of the powers, duties, and functions given to the Control Committee under this part and sections of this part pertaining to the designation of the Control Committee shall be terminated.

(b) A person nominated by any commodity committee for membership on the Control Committee shall be an individual person who is a member or alternate member of the commodity committee which nominates him. Each member of each commodity committee shall have only one vote in the selection of nominees for membership on the Control Committee.

Effective Date Note: At 59 FR 10055, Mar. 3, 1994, in § 917.18, paragraph (a) the words "The number of remaining members which each respective commodity committee shall be entitled to nominate shall be based upon the proportion that the previous three fiscal period’s shipments of the respective fruit is of the total shipments of all fruit to which this part is applicable during such periods. In the event provisions of this part are terminated as to any one fruit, nominations of members to the Control Committee shall be composed of representatives of the remaining two fruits. The apportionment shall be determined as aforesaid. In the event provisions of this part are terminated as to any two fruits, the members of the commodity committee of the remaining fruit shall have all the powers, duties, and functions given to the Control Committee under this part and sections of this part pertaining to the designation of the Control Committee shall be terminated." were suspended, effective April 4, 1994.

§ 917.19 Selection of members of the Control Committee.

From the nominations made pursuant to § 917.17, or from other persons, the Secretary shall select the shipper members of the Control Committee.
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§ 917.24 Procedure for nominating members of various commodity committees.

(a) The Control Committee shall hold or cause to be held not later than February 15 of each odd numbered year a meeting or meetings of the growers of the fruits in each representation area set forth in §§ 917.21 and 917.22. These meetings shall be supervised by the Control Committee, which shall prescribe such procedure as shall be reasonable and fair to all persons concerned.

(b) With respect to each commodity committee only growers of the particular fruit who are present at such nomination meetings or represented at such meetings by duly authorized employees may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for commodity committee members. Each such grower, including employees of such grower, shall be entitled to cast but one vote for each position to be filled for the representation area in which he produces such fruit.

(c) A particular grower, including employees of such growers, shall be eligible for membership as principle or alternate to fill only one position on a commodity committee. A grower nominated for membership on the Pear Commodity Committee...
§ 917.25 Commodity Committee must have produced at least 51 percent of the pears shipped by him during the previous fiscal period, or he must represent an organization which produced at least 51 percent of the pears shipped by it during such period.

[41 FR 17528, Apr. 27, 1976, as amended at 56 FR 46369, Sept. 12, 1991]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10055, Mar. 3, 1994, in §917.24, paragraph (a) the words “§917.21 and” and in paragraph (c) the words “A grower nominated for membership on the Pear Commodity Committee must have produced at least 51 percent of the pears shipped by him during the previous fiscal period, or he must represent an organization which produced at least 51 percent of the pears shipped by it during such period.” were suspended, effective April 4, 1994.

§ 917.25 Selection of members of various commodity committees.

The Secretary shall select the members of each commodity committee from nominations made by growers, as provided in §§917.21 through 917.24, or from among other eligible persons. Any person selected as a member of a commodity committee shall qualify by filing with the Secretary a written acceptance of the appointment.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10055, Mar. 3, 1994, in §917.25, the words “§ 917.21 through” were suspended, effective April 4, 1994.

§ 917.26 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner prescribed in §§917.21 through 917.24, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the member and alternate members of commodity committees on the basis of representation provided in §§917.21 and 917.22. In the event nominations are not made for membership on the Control Committee, pursuant to the provisions of §§917.17 and 917.18, by May 1 of each year, the Secretary may select such members without waiting for nominees to be designated.

[41 FR 17528, Apr. 27, 1976, as amended at 56 FR 46369, Sept. 12, 1991]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10056, Mar. 3, 1994, in §917.26, the words “§917.21 through” and “§917.21 and” were suspended, effective April 4, 1994.

§ 917.26 Alternates.

There shall be an alternate for each member of the Control Committee, and an alternate for each member of each commodity committee. Each such alternate shall possess the same qualifications, shall be nominated and selected in the same manner and shall hold office for the same term, as the member for whom he is alternate. An alternate shall, in the event of such member’s absence at a meeting of the committee, act in the place and stead of such member; and, in the event of such member’s removal, resignation, disqualification, or death, the alternate for such member shall, until a successor for the unexpired term of said member has been selected, act in the place and stead of said member. In the event both a member and his alternate are unable to attend a meeting the member or the committee members present may designate any other alternative to serve in such member’s place and stead provided such action is necessary to secure a quorum.

§ 917.28 Procedure for filling vacancies on committees.

To fill any vacancy on the Control Committee or on any of the commodity committees occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate member to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate member, a successor for the unexpired term of such member or alternate shall be nominated and selected in the manner specified in §§917.17 through 917.19 and §§917.21 through 917.25. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within a reasonable time after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations on the basis of representation provided for in §§917.16, 917.21 and 917.22.

[41 FR 17528, Apr. 27, 1976, as amended at 56 FR 46369, Sept. 12, 1991]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10056, Mar. 3, 1994, in §917.28, the words “§917.21 through” and “§917.21” were suspended, effective April 4, 1994.
§ 917.29 Organization of committees.

(a) A majority of all of the members of the Control Committee shall constitute a quorum, and any action of the Control Committee shall require the concurrence of the majority of all members present at the meeting.

(b) A quorum of the Pear Commodity Committee and of the Peach Commodity Committee shall each consist of nine members.

(c) The Control Committee and each commodity committee shall give to the Secretary the same notice of each meeting that is given to the members of the respective committee.

(d) The Control Committee or any commodity committee may, upon due notice to all of the members of the respective committee, vote by letter, telegraph, or telephone: Provided, That any member voting by telephone shall promptly thereafter confirm in writing his vote so cast.

[41 FR 17528, Apr. 27, 1976, as amended at 56 FR 46369, Sept. 12, 1991]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10056, Mar. 3, 1994, in §917.29, in paragraph (b), the words “of the Pear Commodity Committee and” and “each” were suspended, effective April 4, 1994.

§ 917.30 Removal and disapproval.

The members of the Control Committee, including their respective successors and alternates, and the members of each commodity committee, including their respective successors and alternates, and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the Control Committee and the members of any other committee established pursuant to the provisions of this subpart shall be subject to removal or suspension at any time by the Secretary. Each regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the Control Committee, or any commodity committee, or any other committee established pursuant to the provisions of this subpart shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time; and, upon such disapproval, each such regulation, decision, determination, or other act, shall be deemed null and void except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 917.31 Compensation and expenses.

All committee members shall serve without compensation, but said members, and their respective alternates, shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. At its discretion any committee may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members, and may pay expenses as aforesaid.

§ 917.32 Funds and other property.

(a) All funds received by the Control Committee, pursuant to the provisions of this part, shall be used solely for the purpose specified in this part; and the Secretary may require the Control Committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

(b) Upon the resignation, removal, or expiration of the term of any member or employee of the Control Committee, or of any member of any commodity committee, all books, records, funds, and other property in his possession belonging to the Control Committee or any commodity committee shall be delivered to the Control Committee or to his successor in office; and such assignments and other instruments shall be executed as may be necessary to vest in the Control Committee full title to all the books, records, funds, and other property in the possession or under the control of such member or employee, pursuant to the provisions of this part.

(c) The Control Committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, maintain in its own name, or in the name of its members, a suit against any shipper for the collection of such shipper’s pro rata share of expenses, pursuant to the provisions of this part.

§ 917.33 Powers of Control Committee.

The Control Committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer, as specifically provided in this part, the terms and provisions of this part.

(b) To make administrative rules and regulations in accordance with and to
§ 917.34 Duties of Control Committee.

The Control Committee shall have the following duties:

(a) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or shippers.

(b) To keep minute books and records which will clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of said Control Committee; and such minute books and records shall be subject at any time to examination by the Secretary or by such person as may be designated by the Secretary.

(c) To investigate, from time to time, and assemble data on the growing, shipping, and marketing conditions respecting fruit, as defined in §917.4; to engage in such research and service activities in connection with the handling of such fruit as may be approved, from time to time, by the Secretary; and to furnish to the Secretary such available information as may be requested.

(d) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary, and to determine the compensation and define the duties of each.

(e) To develop and provide the commodity committees data on shared expenses to facilitate equitable apportionment of such expenses in the development of budgets.

(f) To confer with representatives of shippers and growers of fruit produced in other states and areas with respect to the formulation or operation of marketing agreements providing for the regulation of shipments among the several states and areas in the United States in which such fruit is grown.

(g) With the approval of the Secretary establish procedures for the selection and appointment of a public member and alternate to each of the commodity committees.

(h) To establish and define the duties of additional committees or sub-committees to assist in the performance of any of the duties and functions of the Control Committee.

(i) To defend all legal proceedings against any committee members (individually or as members) or any officers or employees of such committees arising out of any act or omission made in good faith pursuant to the provisions of this part.

(j) To cause the books of the Control Committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal period and at such other time or times as the Control Committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request. Such audit shall indicate whether the funds have been received and expended in accordance with the provisions of this part.

(k) To appoint nomination committees if it deems proper for any or each nomination meeting held pursuant to §§917.21 and 917.22. Such nomination committees would canvas prospective members and alternate members to the commodity committees to determine their eligibility and willingness to serve and present a slate of nominees to the meeting or meetings. The presentation of nominees by the nominating committee at these meetings shall not exclude the right of any grower to nominate any eligible person at such meeting.

[41 FR 17528, Apr. 27, 1976, as amended at 56 FR 46369, Sept. 12, 1991]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10056, Mar. 3, 1994, in §917.34 in paragraph (k), the words "§917.21 and" were suspended, effective April 4, 1994.

§ 917.35 Powers and duties of each commodity committee.

Each commodity committee shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) With regard to the respective fruit for which it was established, to establish production research and marketing research and development projects as authorized under §917.39, to recommend to the Secretary regulation of shipments pursuant to the provisions of this part, and to possess such other powers and exercise such other duties as will properly effectuate the purpose of this part: Provided, however, That the Peach and Pear Commodity Committee shall each approve actions...
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under §917.39 and make said recommendations pursuant to §§917.40 through 917.43 only upon the affirmative vote of not less than nine members of each said committee.

(b) To make such rules and regulations with respect to fruit for which it was established as may be necessary to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part.

(c) To forward to the Control Committee and to the Secretary a record of the minutes of each meeting of the commodity committee.

(d) To establish such other committees to aid the commodity committee in the performance of its duties under this part as may be deemed advisable.

(e) Each season prior to any recommendation to the Secretary for a regulation of shipments pursuant to §§917.40 through 917.43 to determine the marketing policy to be followed for the respective commodity during the ensuing fiscal period and to submit such policy to the Secretary, said policy report to contain, among other provisions, information relative to the estimated total production and shipments of the fruit by districts, information as to the expected general quality and size of fruit, possible or expected demand conditions of different market outlets, supplies of competitive commodities, such analysis of the foregoing factors and conditions as the committee deems appropriate, and the type of regulations of shipments expected to be recommended for the respective fruit.

(f) To submit as soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal year to the Secretary, for his approval, a budget of its expenses for such fiscal period, including its proportional share of the expenses of the Control Committee and an explanation of the items therein, and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for the respective fruit for which the commodity committee was established.

(g) With the approval of the Secretary, to redefine the Districts into which the State of California has been divided under §917.14 or change the representation of any representation area affecting the respective commodity committee. Provided, however, That if any such changes are made, representation on any such committee from the various representation areas shall be based, so far as practicable, upon the proportionate quantity of the respective fruit shipped from the respective representation area during the preceding three fiscal periods: Provided further, That the commodity committees shall follow the principle, so far as practicable, of assigning a member position on the commodity committees to any representation area from which five percent of regulated shipments have originated during such periods.

[41 FR 17528, Apr. 27, 1976, as amended at 56 FR 46369, Sept. 12, 1991]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10056, Mar. 3, 1994, in §917.35, in paragraph (a), the words “and Pear” and “each” were suspended everywhere they appear, effective April 4, 1994.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 917.36 Expenses.

Each commodity committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and are likely to be incurred by the said commodity committee during each fiscal period for the maintenance and functioning of such committee, including its proportionate share of the expenses of the Control Committee; and for such research and service activities relating to handling of the fruit for which the commodity committee was established as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as provided in §917.37.

§ 917.37 Assessments.

(a) As his pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds are reasonable and are likely to be incurred by the commodity committees during a fiscal period, each handler shall pay to the Control Committee, upon demand, assessments on all fruit handled by him. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committees may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.
§ 917.38 Accounting.

If, at the end of a fiscal period the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, each commodity committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carry over such excess into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve: Provided, That funds already in the reserve do not exceed approximately one fiscal period’s expenses. Such reserve funds may be used (1) to cover any expenses authorized by this part and (2) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. If any such excess is not retained in a reserve, each handler entitled to a proportionate refund shall be credited with such refund against the operations of the following fiscal period or be paid such refund. Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: Provided, That, to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

RESEARCH

§ 917.39 Production research, market research and development.

The committees, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production research, marketing research, and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption or efficient production of fruit. Such projects may provide for any form of marketing promotion including paid advertising. The expenses of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to §917.37.

REGULATIONS

§ 917.40 Recommendations for regulations.

(a) Whenever a commodity committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of any variety or varieties of fruit in the manner provided in §917.41, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) In arriving at its recommendations for regulation pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the commodity committee shall give consideration to current information with respect to the factors affecting the supply and demand for such fruit during the period or periods when it is proposed that such regulation should be made effective. With each such recommendation for regulation, the commodity committee shall submit to the Secretary the data and information on which such recommendation is predicated and such other available information as the Secretary may request.

§ 917.41 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall regulate, in the manner specified in this section, the handling of any variety or varieties of fruit whenever he finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the commodity committee, that such regulations will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such regulations may:
(1) Limit, during any period or periods, the total quantity of any grade, size, quality, maturity, or pack, or any combination thereof, of any variety or varieties of fruit;

(2) Limit the shipment of any variety or varieties of fruit by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity during any period when season average prices are expected to exceed the parity level;

(3) Fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, markings, or pack of the container, or containers, which may be used in the packaging or handling of any fruit.

(b) The commodity committee shall be informed immediately of any such regulation issued by the Secretary, and the commodity committee shall promptly give notice thereof to handlers.

§ 917.42 Modification, suspension, or termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the commodity committee at any time finds that, by reason of changed conditions, any regulations issued pursuant to §917.41 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the commodity committee or from other available information, that a regulation should be modified, suspended, or terminated with respect to any or all shipments of fruit in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall modify, suspend, or terminate such regulation. If the Secretary finds that a regulation obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall suspend or terminate such regulation. On the same basis and in like manner the Secretary may terminate any such modification or suspension.

§ 917.43 Special purpose shipments.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person may, without regard to the provisions of §§917.37, 917.41, and 917.42, and the regulations issued thereunder, handle fruit (1) for consumption by charitable institutions; (2) for distribution by relief agencies; or (3) for commercial processing into products.

(b) Upon the basis of recommendations and information submitted by the commodity committee, or from other available information, the Secretary may relieve from any or all requirements, under or established pursuant to §917.41, §917.42, §917.45, or §917.37, the handling of fruit; (1) To designated market areas outside the continental United States; (2) for such specified purposes (including shipments to facilitate the conduct of marketing research and development projects established pursuant to §917.39); or (3) in such minimum quantities or types of shipments, as may be prescribed.

(c) The commodity committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe such rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to prevent fruit handled under the provisions of this section from entering the channels of trade for other than the specified purposes authorized by this section. Such rules, regulations, and safeguards may include the requirements that handlers shall file applications and receive approval from the commodity committee for authorization to handle fruit pursuant to this section, and that such applications be accompanied by a certification by the intended purchaser or receiver that the fruit will not be used for any purpose not authorized by this section.

§ 917.45 Inspection and certification.

(a) Whenever the handling of any variety of a particular fruit is regulated pursuant to §917.41 or §917.42, each handler who handles such fruit shall, prior thereto, cause such fruit to be inspected by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service: Provided, That inspection and certification shall not be required if such fruit has previously been so inspected and certified. Promptly after inspection and certification, each such handler shall submit, or cause to be submitted, to the commodity committee a copy of the certificate of inspection issued with respect to such fruit. The commodity committees may, with the approval of
the Secretary, prescribe rules and regulations waiving the inspection requirements of this section where it is determined that inspection is not available: Provided, That all shipments made under such waiver shall comply with all regulations in effect.

(b) The Control Committee may enter into an agreement with the Federal and Federal-State Inspection Services with respect to the costs of the inspection required by paragraph (a) of this section, for any or all fruits, and may collect from handlers their respective pro rata shares of such costs.

REPORTS

§ 917.50 Reports.

(a) Each handler shall furnish to the Manager of the Control Committee, at such times and for such periods as the Control Committee or the commodity committees may designate, certified reports covering, to the extent necessary for the committees to perform their functions, each shipment of fruits as follows:

1. The name of the shipper and the shipping point;
2. The car or truck license number (or name of the trucker), and identification of the carrier;
3. The date and time of departure;
4. The number and type of containers in the shipment;
5. The quantities shipped, showing separately the variety, grade, and size of the fruit;
6. The destination;
7. Identification of the inspection certificate or waiver pursuant to which the fruit was handled;
8. The price per package at which sold, including specific and detailed information relative to all discounts, allowances, rebates, or other adjustments thereof.

(b) Upon request of any committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the Manager of the Control Committee, in such manner and at such times as it may prescribe, such other information as may be necessary to enable the committee to perform its duties under this part.

(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least two succeeding fiscal years, such records of the fruits received and disposed of by him as may be necessary to verify the reports he submits to the committee pursuant to this section.

(d) All reports and records submitted by handlers pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be received by, and at all times be in custody of, one or more designated employees of the Control Committee. No such employee shall disclose to any person, other than the Secretary upon request therefor, data or information obtained or extracted from such reports and records which might affect the trade position, financial condition, or business operation of the particular handler from whom received: Provided, That such data and information may be combined, and made available to any person, in the form of general reports in which the identities of the individual handlers furnishing the information are not disclosed and may be revealed to any extent necessary to effect compliance with the provisions of this part and the regulations issued thereunder.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 917.60 Effective time.

The provisions of this part and of any amendment thereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in § 917.61.

§ 917.61 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this part by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner in which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any and all of the provisions of this part whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this part or the applicability of the provisions of this part as to a particular fruit whenever he finds by referendum or otherwise that such termination is favored by a majority of the growers of the fruit: Provided, That such majority has during the current
§ 917.66 Agents.

The Secretary may by a designation in writing name any person, including any officer or employee of the Government or any agency or Division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.
§ 917.67 Derogation.
Nothing contained in this part is or shall be construed to be in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, and in accordance with such powers to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 917.68 Liability of committee members.
No members of the Control Committee, any commodity committee, any other committee, or any employee of the Control Committee shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any shipper or any other person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member or employee, except for acts of dishonesty.

§ 917.69 Separability.
If any provision of this part is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, thing, or any particular kind of fruit is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, thing, or kind of fruit shall not be affected thereby.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

DEFINITIONS
§ 917.100 Order.
Order means Marketing Order No. 917, as amended (this part 917), regulating the handling of fresh pears and peaches grown in the State of California.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10056, Mar. 3, 1994, in §917.100, the words “pears and” were suspended, effective April 4, 1994.

§ 917.101 Marketing agreement.
Marketing agreement means Marketing Agreement No. 85 as amended.

§ 917.103 Terms.
All other terms used in this subpart shall have the same meaning as when used in the marketing agreement and order.


GENERAL
§ 917.110 Communications.
Unless otherwise prescribed in this subpart, or in the marketing agreement and order, or required by the Control Committee or a particular commodity committee, all reports, applications, submittals, requests, and communications in connection with the marketing agreement and order shall be addressed as follows:

Control Committee, California Tree Fruit Agreement, 701 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, Calif. 95825.

[31 FR 7476, May 24, 1966]

ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES
§ 917.115 Nomination of shipper members for the Control Committee.
(a) All shippers who, prior to February 1 of the then current year, have not advised the manager of the Control Committee in writing of their participation in the formation of an elective body shall be notified promptly by the manager after that date, by mail, of the time and place for a meeting of such shippers to elect nominees for shipper membership on the Control Committee.

(b) The chairman of the then existing Control Committee shall schedule a meeting of shippers in the month of February of the then current year, for the purpose of making nominations to the shipper membership of the Control Committee; and such chairman is authorized to appoint a member of the Control Committee to act as chairman of the meeting and to conduct the election.
§ 917.119 Procedure for nominating members for various Commodity Committees; meetings.

(a) The manager of the then existing Control Committee shall arrange for, and publicize, meetings of growers to nominate members for the different commodity committees, and each such meeting shall be attended by one or more employees of the Control Committee. Members of the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of California may be authorized by the manager to assist in calling such meetings and advise growers, on their respective mailing lists, of such meetings.

(b) Growers assembled at any such meetings may select a chairman and secretary, but in the event none of the aforesaid employees of the Control Committee is selected as secretary of the meeting, one such employee shall, nevertheless, record all nominations made.

(c) The nominations at any meeting shall be conducted according to Robert’s rules of order. However, voting may be by secret ballot or by acclamation in accordance with the desire of the majority of the growers attending the meeting.

(d) No individual, whether representing a corporation or otherwise, may cast more than one vote for each nominee to be selected at the meeting where such individual is eligible to participate in the selection of nominees for members and alternate members of the Commodity Committees.


§ 917.120 Changes in nomination of Peach Commodity Committee members.

Nominations for membership on the Peach Commodity Committee shall be made by growers of peaches in the respective representation areas, as follows:

(a) South Coast District and Southern California District: one nominee.

(b) Tehachapi District and Kern District: one nominee.

(c) Tulare District: one nominee.

(d) Fresno District: nine nominees.

(e) Stanislaus District, Stockton District and all of the production area not included in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section: one nominee.

[54 FR 29322, July 12, 1989]

§ 917.121 Changes in nomination of Pear Commodity Committee members.

Nominations for membership on the Pear Commodity Committee shall be made by the growers of pears in the respective representation areas as follows:

(a) North Sacramento Valley District, Central Sacramento Valley District, Placer-Colfax District, El Dorado District, and all of the production area not included in paragraphs (b) through (d) of this section, one nominee.

(b) Sacramento River District, Stockton District, Stanislaus District, Contra Costa District, Santa Clara District and Solano District, three nominees.

(c) Lake District, six nominees.

(d) Mendocino District and North Bay District, three nominees.

[52 FR 12513, Apr. 17, 1987]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10056, Mar. 3, 1994, § 917.121 was suspended, effective April 4, 1994.

§ 917.122 Qualification requirements and nomination procedure for public members of Commodity Committees.

(a) Public members shall not have a financial interest in or be associated with production, processing, financing, or marketing (except as consumers) of the commodities regulated under this part.

(b) Public members should be able to devote sufficient time and express a willingness to attend committee activities regularly, and to familiarize themselves with the background and economics of the industry.

(c) Public members must be residents of California.

(d) Public members should be nominated by each Commodity Committee and should serve a two-year term which coincides with the term of office.
§ 917.143 Exemptions.

(a) Waivers. A handler may handle fruit without inspection and certification, as prescribed under §917.45, if all the following conditions are met:

(1) The handler requests the Federal-State Inspection Service to provide inspection during its regular working hours at least two hours in advance of the time when inspection is needed. The request need not be in writing but it shall be confirmed immediately in writing on a waiver form supplied by the inspection service;

(2) The Federal-State Inspection Service advises the handler that it is not practicable to provide inspection at the time and place designated by the handler. Such advice may be verbal but it shall be confirmed in writing by the Federal-State Inspection Service by execution of the waiver form on which the handler submitted his written request. A confirmed copy thereof shall be forwarded by the inspection service to the office of the Control Committee;

(3) The Federal-State Inspection Service furnishes the handler with the number of the waiver which shall cover the fruit on which inspection is requested;

(4) When so instructed, the handler plainly and conspicuously marks one end of each container with the letter W and the waiver number supplied by the Federal-State Inspection Service. The letter W and the number so marked shall be not less than one-half inch in height.

(b) Minimum quantities. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, pears and peaches may be handled without regard to the provisions of §§917.37, 917.41, 917.42, 917.45 and 917.50 under the following conditions:

(1) Such pears and peaches meet the grade requirements set forth in Articles 35, 38, and 34, respectively of the Food and Agriculture Code of California.

(2) Such pears and peaches are for home use and not for resale.

(3) The shipment does not exceed 200 pounds of pears and 200 pounds of peaches to any one vehicle during any one day.

(4) Such pears and peaches are handled by the person who produces them, and the handling takes place (i) on the premises where grown, (ii) at a packinghouse or retail stand nearby which is operated by said handler, or (iii) at a certified farmers market in compliance with section 1392 of the regulations of the California Department of Food and Agriculture; Provided, That the exemption for certified farmers markets shall not apply to fruit sorted out by a handler unless such fruit is packed in containers clearly and legibly marked to show that the fruit contained therein is only to be sold at a certified farmers market, and the handler complies with regulations established under §§917.37, 917.41(a)(1), 917.45, and 917.50, except that such fruit may be handled to such markets if the fruit fails to meet the applicable grade only on account of being soft and overripe.

§ 917.149 Special purpose shipments.

Any person may file a request with the Pear Commodity Committee to transport pears to a packing facility located in the State of Oregon without inspection and certification prior to such transporting. The committee may approve such a request subject to the following terms and conditions:

(a) Approval shall be requested by the person prior to transporting the pears out of the area of production.

(b) Such person shall file with the committee, in such manner as required, reports showing, among other things, the date and quantity of pears comprising each shipment of pears.
transported to Oregon and the disposition thereof.

(c) All such pears shall be of the person's own production and the packing facility to which they are transported must be owned and operated by that person.

(d) All such pears shall be inspected and certified, as required by §917.45, by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service prior to the time such pears are shipped from the packing facility. Any pears shipped to any such facility which, upon inspection, do not meet the requirements of the then effective grade, size, or quality regulations, may be shipped, or handled, within the State, for consumption by any charitable institution or for distribution by any relief agency or for conversion into products. Prior to any such shipment or handling, there shall first have been submitted to the committee proof satisfactory to the committee that the pears will not be handled contrary to the requirements of the marketing agreement and order. Such proof shall include a written certificate, executed by both the handler and the intended receiver, stating that the pears will not be used for any purpose not authorized by this section.

[41 FR 31180, July 27, 1976]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10056, Mar. 3, 1994, §917.149 was suspended, effective April 4, 1994.

REGULATION OF DAILY SHIPMENTS

§ 917.150 Lot stamping.

Except when loaded directly into railway cars, exempted under §917.143, or for peaches mailed directly to consumers in consumer packages, containers of fruit shall be plainly stamped, prior to shipment, with a Federal-State Inspection Service lot stamp number, assigned by such Service, showing that such fruit has been inspected in accordance with §917.45.

[56 FR 40225, Aug. 14, 1991]

REPORTS

§ 917.176 Pears.

(a) Report of daily packout. When requested by the Pear Commodity Committee, each shipper who ships pears shall furnish to the manager of the Control Committee or when designated to the Federal-State Inspection Service a report of the number of packages by container type, by variety and by district of origin, which the shipper packed during the preceding day.

(b) Recapitulation of shipments. When requested by the Pear Commodity Committee, each shipper of pears shall furnish to the manager of the Control Committee a recapitulation of his shipments. The recapitulation shall show: (1) The name of the shipper, (2) the shipping point, (3) the district of origin, (4) the variety, and (5) the number of packages, by size, for each container type.

(c) Report of pears held in storage. Each shipper who has pears under refrigeration in a storage warehouse shall upon request, file with the manager of the Control Committee within the time specified in the request an accurate report containing the following information:

(1) The name and address of the shipper; and
(2) The total quantity, as of the date specified in the request, of pears in storage outside of the State of California and in storage in the State of California.

[39 FR 27117, July 25, 1974]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10056, Mar. 3, 1994, §917.176 was suspended, effective April 4, 1994.

§ 917.178 Peaches.

(a) Report of daily packout. When requested by the Peach Commodity Committee, each shipper who ships peaches shall furnish to the manager of the Control Committee or when designated to the Federal-State Inspection Service a report of the number of packages by container type, by variety and by district of origin, which the shipper packed during the preceding day.

(b) Recapitulation of shipments. Each shipper of peaches shall furnish to the manager of the Control Committee not later than the tenth day of each month a recapitulation of his shipments of each variety completed during the preceding month. The recapitulation shall show: (1) The name of the shipper, (2) the shipping point, (3) the district of
§ 917.179 Origin, (4) the variety, and (5) the number of packages, by size, for each container type.

[39 FR 27118, July 25, 1974]

§ 917.179 Assessment reports.

In lieu of the reporting requirements set forth in §§ 917.176 and 917.178, the Control Committee may request a shipper to file, and upon such request such shipper shall file with the manager of the Control Committee a monthly summary showing the total quantity of pears and peaches which he shipped during the specified month; and such shipper may remit with his monthly report sufficient funds to cover the assessment due on the shipments which he reports.


EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10056, Mar. 3, 1994, in § 917.179, the words “§ 917.176 and” and “pears and” were suspended, effective April 4, 1994.

EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g. sections .300 through .398) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in this volume.

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 917.258 Assessment rate.

On and after March 1, 1996, an assessment rate of $0.1900 per 25-pound container or equivalent of fresh peaches is established for California fresh peaches.

[61 FR 37813, July 22, 1996]

Subpart—Container and Pack Regulation

§ 917.442 California Peach Container and Pack Regulation.

(a) During the period beginning April 1 and ending November 23, no handler shall ship any package or container of any variety of peaches except in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

(1) Such peaches when packed in any closed package or container, except master containers of consumer packages and individual consumer packages, shall conform to the requirements of standard pack: Provided, That peaches in any such volume-filled container need only be filled to within one inch of the top of the container.

(2) Each package or container of peaches shall bear, on one outside end in plain sight and in plain letters, the word peaches and, except for consumer packages in master containers and consumer packages mailed directly to consumers, the name of the variety, if known or, when the variety is not known, the words unknown variety.

(3) Each package or container of peaches, except for consumer packages in master containers and consumer packages mailed directly to consumers, shall bear on one outside end in plain sight and in plain letters the words U.S. Mature or US MAT if such peaches are mature as defined in the United States Standards for Grades of Peaches (7 CFR 51.1210 through 51.1223); or may instead bear on one outside end in plain sight and in plain letters the words California Well Matured or CA WELL MAT if such peaches are well matured as defined in § 917.459 of this part.

(4) Each package or container of peaches, except consumer packages mailed directly to consumers, shall bear on one outside end in plain sight and in plain letters, the following count and/or size description of the peaches as applicable:

(i) The size of peaches packed in molded forms (tray-packs) in No. 22D standard lug boxes, experimental containers, cartons, No. 12B fruit (peach) boxes, or flats and the size of wrapped peaches packed in rows in No. 12B fruit (peach) boxes shall be indicated in accordance with the number of peaches in the container, such as “80 count,” “88 count,” etc.

(ii) The size of peaches in molded forms in experimental containers shall be indicated according to the number of such peaches when packed in molded forms in the No. 22D standard lug box in accordance with the requirements of
standard pack, such as “80 size,” “88 size,” etc., along with count requirements in paragraph (a)(3)(i).

(iii) The size of peaches loose-filled or tight-filled in any container shall be indicated according to the number of such peaches when packed in molded forms in No. 22D standard lug boxes, in accordance with the requirements of standard pack, such as “80 size,” “88 size,” etc.

(iv) The size of peaches, when packed in loose-filled or tight-filled containers, shall be marked in accordance with the following table 1 and table 2 which specify the tray-pack size designation in Column A with the corresponding maximum number of peaches in a 16-pound sample of each size of the fruit in Column B. Provided, That the following procedure shall be used in determining whether peaches meet the minimum size requirements specified for each size category in this section applying the 16-pound sample. A sample consisting of one-half of the specified number of fruit for a particular size category shall be used, provided such sample weighs at least eight pounds. When one-half the specified number of fruit in a sample results in a number ending with one-half a fruit, the smaller full number of fruit shall be used to determine the sample weight. If a sample fails with respect to minimum size requirements on the basis of an 8-pound sample, a 16-pound sample shall be used to determine if the fruit meets the minimum size requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A—Tray pack size designation</th>
<th>Column B—Maximum number of peaches in a 16-pound sample applicable to varieties specified in paragraphs (a)(2)(i), (a)(3)(i), (a)(4)(iii), and (b)(3) of § 917.459</th>
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<th>Column A</th>
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<td>72</td>
<td>68</td>
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</table>

1Tray Pack Size Designation. Maximum Number of Peaches in a 16-pound Sample Applicable Varieties Specified in Paragraphs (g)(3)(ii), and (c)(3) of § 917.459.

(5) The variation in diameter between the smallest and largest peach in any individual container shall not exceed one-forth (¼) inch for size 80 and smaller and three-eighths (3/8) inch for peaches larger than size 80. Provided, That not more than five (5) percent, by count, of the peaches in any individual container may fail to meet the diameter requirements of this paragraph.
§ 917.459 California Peach Grade and Size Regulation.

(a) During the period beginning April 1 and ending November 23, no handler shall ship:

(1) Any lot or package or container of any variety of peaches unless such peaches meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade: Provided, That an additional 25% percent tolerance shall be permitted for fruit with open sutures which are damaged, but not seriously damaged: Provided further, That during the period April 1 through November 23, 1997, any handler may handle peaches if such peaches meet "CA Utility" quality requirements. The term CA Utility means that not more than 30 percent of the peaches in any container meet or exceed the requirements of the U.S. No. 1 grade and that such peaches are mature and are:

(i) Free from insect injury which has penetrated or damaged the flesh; split

shipped and marked as tree ripe, tree ripened, or any similar terms using the words tree and ripe, must meet minimum California Well Matured standards.

(c) Each container of peaches in plastic, 12 x 19 3/4 inch reusable and recyclable containers shall meet and bear, on the container lid or on the outside end, all applicable marking requirements under the order.

(d) During the period April 1 through November 23, 1997, each handler or package when packed with peaches meeting CA Utility requirements, shall bear the words "CA Utility," along with all other required container markings, in letters of 3/4 inch minimum height on the visible display panel. Consumer bags or packages must also be clearly marked on the bag or package as "CA Utility" along with other required markings.

Subpart—Grade and Size Regulation

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(i) Free from insect injury which has penetrated or damaged the flesh; split
pits which cause an unhealed crack or one or more healed cracks which, either singly or in the aggregate, are more than 1/2 inch in length; and mold, brown rot, and decay; and

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A variety</th>
<th>Column B maturity guide</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angelus</td>
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Table 1—Continued

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<td>Prime Crest</td>
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<td>Queencrest</td>
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<td>Red Cal</td>
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<td>Red Dancer (Red Boy)</td>
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<td>Redglobe</td>
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<td>Red Lady</td>
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<td>Redtop</td>
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<td>Regina</td>
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<td>Rich Lady</td>
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<td>Rich May</td>
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<td>Ryan Sun</td>
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<td>Willie Red</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zee Lady</td>
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**NOTE:** Consult with the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service Supervisor for the maturity guide applicable to the varieties not listed above.

(ii) Free from serious damage due to cuts, skin breaks, growth cracks, bruises, scab, rust, blight, disease, hail or other causes. Damage to any peach is serious when it causes a waste of 10 percent or more, by volume, of the individual peach.

(iii) Tolerances. Not more than 10 percent, by count, of the peaches in any container may be below the requirements prescribed by this paragraph. Not more than one-half of this tolerance shall be allowed for any one cause. Individual containers in any lot may contain not more than one and one-half times the tolerances specified if the percentage of defects of the entire lot averages within the tolerances.

(iv) The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service shall make final determinations on maturity through the use of color chips or such other tests as determined appropriate by the inspection agency. The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service will use the maturity guides listed in table 1 to
paragraph (a)(1)(iv) in making maturity determinations for the specified varieties when inspecting to the "well matured" level of maturity. For these varieties, not less than 90 percent of any lot shall meet the color guide established for the variety, and an aggregate area of not less than 90 percent of the fruit surface shall meet the color guide established for the variety. For varieties not listed, the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service will use such tests as it deems proper. A variance for any variety from the application of the maturity guides specified in Table 1 to paragraph (a)(1)(iv) may be granted during the season to reflect changes in crop, weather, or other conditions that would make the specified inappropriate measure of "well matured."

**Table 1 to Paragraph (a)(1)(iv)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A variety</th>
<th>Column B maturity guide</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Henry</td>
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<td>July Lady</td>
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<td>Kings Red</td>
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<td>May Lady</td>
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<td>Wille Red</td>
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<td>Zee Lady</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Consult with the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service Supervisor for the maturity guides applicable to the varieties not listed in this table.

(v) If a grower or handler believes his/her fruit is meeting the appropriate maturity level but the fruit has not been so graded by the inspector, he/she may appeal the inspection by calling the officer-in-charge of the local Federal-State Inspection Service office to arrange for an on-site examination of the fruit.
(2) Any package or container of Goldcrest or Topcrest variety peaches unless:
   (i) Such peaches when packed in molded forms (tray pack) in a No. 22D standard lug box are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the requirements of standard pack, not more than 88 peaches in the box; or
   (ii) Such peaches in any container when packed other than as specified in paragraph (a)(3)(i) of this section are of a size that a 16-pound sample, representative of the peaches in the package or container, contains not more than 92 peaches.

(3)(i) Such peaches when packed in molded forms (tray pack) in a No. 22D standard lug box are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the requirements of standard pack, not more than 84 peaches in the box; or
   (ii) Such peaches when packed in a No. 12B standard fruit (peach) box are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the requirements of standard pack, not more than 65 peaches in the box; or
   (iii) Such peaches in any container when packed other than as specified in paragraph (a)(3)(i) and (ii) of this section are of a size that a 16-pound sample, representative of the peaches in the package or container, contains not more than 83 peaches.

(4) Any package or container of Babcock, Crimson Lady, Crown Princess, David Sun, Early May Crest, Flavorcrest, Golden Crest, Honey Red, June Lady, June Sun, Kern Sun, Kingcrest, Kings Red, May Crest, May Sun, Merrill Gemfree, Queencrest, Ray Crest, Redtop, Rich May, Rich Mike, Snow Brite, Snow Flame, Springcrest, Spring Lady, Sugar May, Sweet Gem, or Sweet Scarlet variety of peaches unless:
   (i) Such peaches when packed in molded forms (tray pack) in a No. 22D standard lug box are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the requirements of standard pack, not more than 80 peaches in the box; or
   (ii) Such peaches when packed in a No. 12B standard fruit (peach) box are of a size that will pack, in accordance with the requirements of standard pack, not more than 65 peaches in the box; or
   (iii) Such peaches in any container when packed other than as specified in paragraph (a)(5)(i) and (ii) of this section are of a size that a 16-pound sample, representative of the peaches in the package or container, contains not more than 76 peaches.

(5) Any package or container of Amber Crest, August Lady, August Sun, Autumn Crest, Autumn Flame, Autumn Gem, Autumn Lady, Autumn Rose, Belmont (Fairmont), Berenda Sun, Blum's Beauty, Cal Red, Carnival, Cassie, Champagne, Diamond Princess, Early Elegant Lady, Early O'Henry, Elegant Lady, Fairtime, Fancy Lady, Fay Elberta, Fire Red, Flamecrest, John Henry, July Sun, June Pride, Kaweah, Kings Lady, Lacey, Late Ito Red, Mary Anne, O'Henry, Prima Gattie, Prima Lady, Red Dancer, Red Sun, Rich Lady, Royal Lady, Ryan Sun, Scarlet Snow, September Snow, September Sun, Sierra Lady, Snow Ball, Snow Diamond, Snow Giant, Snow King, Sparkle, Sprague Last Chance, Sugar Giant, Sugar Lady, Summer Lady, Summer Sweet, Summer Zee, Suncrest, Tra Zee, Vista, White Lady, or Zee Lady variety of peaches unless:
   (i) Such peaches when packed in molded forms (tray pack) in a No. 22D standard lug box are of a size that will pack in accordance with the requirements of standard pack, not more than 72 peaches in the lug box or if the peaches are "well matured" not more than 80 peaches in the lug box.
   (ii) Such peaches when packed in a No. 12B standard fruit (peach) box are of a size that will pack in accordance with the requirements of standard pack, not more than 65 peaches in the lug box.
   (iii) Such peaches in any container when packed other than as specified in paragraph (a)(6)(i) and (ii) of this section are of a size that a 16-pound sample, representative of the peaches in the package or container, contains not more than 64 peaches or if the peaches are "well matured" not more than 73 peaches.

(b) During the period April 1 through June 30 of each fiscal period, no handler shall handle any package or container of any variety of peaches not
§ 917.461  Pear Regulation 12.

(a) No handler shall ship:

1. Bartlett or Max-Red (Max-Red Bartlett, Red Bartlett) varieties of pears which do not grade at least U.S. Combination with not less than 80 percent, by count, of the pears grading at least U.S. No. 1. Provided, That for the 1992 crop year, no handler shall ship organic pears of these varieties unless they grade at least U.S. Combination with not less than 50 percent, by count, of the pears grading at least U.S. No. 1.

§ 917.461  Pear Regulation 12.

(a) No handler shall ship:

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Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA  
§ 917.461

grading at least U.S. No. 1 and the remainder grading at least U.S. No. 2, except that russetting shall not be scored as a defect for such organic pears. Handlers who intend to ship organic pears in accordance with this paragraph shall provide, upon request of the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, information to indicate that the pears were grown in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b)(5) of this section.

(2) Any box or container, including consumer packages in master containers and consumer packages not in master containers, of Bartlett or Max-Red (Max-Red Bartlett, Red Bartlett) varieties of pears unless such pears are of a size not smaller than the size known commercially as size 165;

(3) Any box or container, other than consumer packages in master containers and consumer packages not in master containers, of Bartlett or Max-Red (Max-Red Bartlett, Red Bartlett) varieties of pears unless such box or container is stamped or otherwise marked, in plain sight and in plain letters, on one outside end with the name of the variety;

(4) Bartlett or Max-Red (Max-Red Bartlett, Red Bartlett) varieties of pears, when packed in closed containers, other than consumer packages in master containers and consumer packages not in master containers, unless such box or container conforms to the requirement of standard pack, except that such pears may be fairly tightly packed;

(5) Bartlett or Max-Red (Max-Red Bartlett, Red Bartlett) varieties of pears, when packed in other than a closed container, unless such pears do not vary more than 3⁄8 inch in their transverse diameter for counts 120 or less, and 1⁄4 inch for counts 135 to 165, inclusive: Provided, That 10 percent of the containers in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this subparagraph: Provided further, That such varieties of pears shipped in bulk bin containers containing 300 pounds or more of pears shall be exempt from the requirements in this subparagraph.

(6) Any volume-filled box or container of Bartlett or Max-Red (Max-Red Bartlett, Red Bartlett) varieties of pears (not packed in rows and not wrap packed), other than consumer packages in master containers and consumer packages not in master containers, unless (i) such boxes or containers are well filled with pears fairly uniform in size; (ii) such pears are packed fairly tight; (iii) there is an approved top pad in each box or container that will cover the fruit with no more than ¼ inch between the pad and any side or end of the box or container; and (iv) the top of the box or container shall be securely fastened to the bottom: Provided, That 10 percent of the boxes or containers in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this paragraph.

(7) Each master container, when filled with pears packed in consumer packages, shall bear on one outside end in plain sight and plain letters the varietal name and size description of the contents; the number of consumer packages packed in the master container; the net weight of each consumer package; and the name and address, including zip code, of the handler.

(8) Each individual consumer package shall bear the name and address, including the zip code, of the handler and the net weight of the contents. When a consumer package is not shipped in a master container, it must also bear the varietal name, number and size description of pears contained in the package.

(b) Definitions. (1) Size known commercially as size 165 means a size of pear that will pack a standard pear box, packed in accordance with the specifications of standard pack, with 165 pears and that one-half of the count size designated, representative of the size of the pears in the box or container, shall weigh at least 22 pounds.

(2) Standard pear box means the container so designated in §1380.19 of the regulations of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

(3) U.S. No. 1, U.S. No. 2, U.S. Combination, and Standard Pack mean the same as defined in the United States Standards for Summer and Fall Pears (7 CFR 51.1260 to 51.1280).

(4) Approved top pad shall mean a pad of wood-type excelsior construction, fairly uniform in thickness, weighing at least 160 pounds per 1,000 square feet (e.g., an 11 inch by 17 inch pad will
weigh at least 21 pounds per 100 pads) or an equivalent made of material other than wood excelsior approved by the committee.

(5) Organic pears means pears which are produced, harvested, distributed, stored, processed and packaged without application of synthetically compounded fertilizers, pesticides, or growth regulators. In addition, no synthetically compounded fertilizers, pesticides, or growth regulators shall be applied by the grower to the field or area in which the pears are grown for 12 months prior to the appearance of flower buds and throughout the entire growing and harvest season for pears.

(6) Consumer package means a package holding 15 pounds or less net weight of pears.


EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 10056, Mar. 3, 1994, § 917.461 was suspended, effective April 4, 1994.

PART 920—KIWIFRUIT GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

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SOURCE: 49 FR 39658, Oct. 10, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

DEFINITIONS

§ 920.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department of whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated.

§ 920.2 Act.

Act means Public Act No. 10, 73rd Congress (May 12, 1933), as amended and as reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

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§ 920.3 Person.
Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association or any other business unit.

§ 920.4 Production area.
Production area means the State of California.

§ 920.5 Kiwifruit.
Kiwifruit means all varieties of kiwifruit, or kiwi grown in the production area.

§ 920.6 Varieties.
Varieties means and includes all classifications or subdivisions of kiwifruit.

§ 920.7 Fiscal period.
Fiscal period is synonymous with fiscal year and means a 12-month period beginning on August 1 of one year and ending on the last day of July of the following year or such other period as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe.

§ 920.8 Committee.
Committee means the Kiwifruit Administrative Committee established pursuant to § 920.20.

§ 920.9 Grower.
Grower is synonymous with producer and means any person who produces kiwifruit for the fresh market and who has a proprietary interest therein.

§ 920.10 Handler.
Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier transporting kiwifruit, or to cause kiwifruit to be sold, consigned, delivered, or transported, between the production area and any point outside thereof, or within the production area: Provided, That the term handle shall not include the sale of kiwifruit on the vine, the transportation within the production area of kiwifruit from the vineyard where grown to a packing facility located within such area for preparation for market, or the delivery of such kiwifruit to such packing facility for such preparation.

§ 920.12 District.
District means the applicable one of the following described subdivisions of the production area or such other subdivision as may be prescribed pursuant to § 920.31:

(a) District 1 shall include the counties of Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, and Butte (with the exception of that area set aside as ‘‘District 2’’).

(b) District 2 shall include the 95948 postal zip code area known as Gridley (and the surrounding area), incorporating the area located within the following boundaries: The area west of the Feather River; north of the Butte/Sutter county line; east of Pennington and Riley Roads; and south of Farris Road, Ord Ranch Road and Gridley Avenue.

(c) District 3 shall include the counties of Yuba, Sutter, Sierra, Nevada, and Placer.

(d) District 4 shall include the counties Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, Marin, Napa, Solano, Yolo, Colusa, and Glenn.

(e) District 5 shall include the counties of San Joaquin, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Merced, Stanislaus, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Amador, Sacramento, Alpine, San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey.

(f) District 6 shall include the counties of Mono, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno and Kings.

(g) District 7 shall include the counties of Tulare and Inyo.

(h) District 8 shall include the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, Kern, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego and Imperial.

§ 920.13 Pack.
Pack means the specific arrangement, size, weight, count, or grade of a quantity of kiwifruit in a particular type and size of container, or any combination thereof.
§ 920.14 Container.

Container means a box, bag, crate, lug, basket, carton, package, or any other type of receptacle used in the packaging or handling of kiwifruit.

§ 920.20 Establishment and membership.

There is hereby established a Kiwifruit Administrative Committee consisting of 12 members, each of whom shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member for whom he or she is an alternate. The 12-member committee shall be made up of the following: One public member (and alternate); one member (and alternate) from each of the eight California districts; three additional committee members and their alternates to be selected from the three districts with the three highest volumes of fresh shipments in the prior fiscal period; Provided, That no more than a total of two members and their alternates shall represent any one district. With the exception of the public member and alternate, all members and their respective alternates shall be growers or employees of growers.

§ 920.22 Nomination.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the committee shall hold, or cause to be held, not later than July 15 of each year, or such other date as may be specified by the Secretary, a meeting or meetings of growers in each district for the purpose of designating nominees to serve as grower members and alternates on the committee. Any such meetings shall be supervised by the committee, which shall prescribe such procedures as shall be reasonable and fair to all persons concerned.

(b) Nominations in any or all districts may be conducted by mail in a manner recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

(c) Only growers may participate in the nomination of grower members and their alternates. Each grower shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each position to be filled in the district in which such grower produces kiwifruit. No grower shall participate in the election of nominees in more than one district in any one fiscal year.

(d) A particular grower shall be eligible for membership as member or alternate member to fill only one position on the committee.

(e) The public member and alternate shall be nominated by the grower members of the committee.

§ 920.23 Selection.

From the nominations made pursuant to § 920.22, or from other qualified persons, the Secretary shall select the 12 members of the committee and an alternate for each such member, with the exception of the public member and alternate member, who shall be selected by the Secretary in his discretion.

§ 920.24 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner prescribed in § 920.22, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the members and alternate members of the committee on the basis of the representation provided for in § 920.20.
§ 920.25 Acceptance.

Each person to be selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the committee shall, prior to such selection, qualify by advising the Secretary that he/she agrees to serve in the position for which nominated for selection.

§ 920.26 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate member of the committee, a successor for the unexpired term of such member or alternate member of the committee shall be nominated and selected, or, in the case of the public member and alternate, selected by the Secretary in his discretion, in the manner specified in §§ 920.22 and 920.23. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within a reasonable time after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of representation provided for in § 920.20.

§ 920.27 Alternate members.

An alternate member of the committee, during the absence of either the member for whom that individual is an alternate, or, in the case of districts with two grower positions on the committee, the other member and that member’s alternate, shall act in the place and stead of such member and perform such other duties as assigned. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, the alternate of such member shall act for him or her until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified.

§ 920.30 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;
(b) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the provisions of this part;
(c) To make and adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 920.31 Duties.

The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:

(a) To select a chairperson and such other officers as may be necessary, and to define the duties of such officers;
(b) To appoint such employees, agents and representatives as it may deem necessary, and to determine compensation and to define the duties of each;
(c) To submit to the Secretary as soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period a budget for such fiscal period, including a report in explanation of the items appearing therein and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such period;
(d) To keep minutes, books and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;
(e) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;
(f) To cause its books to be audited by a public accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such times as the Secretary may request;
(g) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;
(h) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling and marketing conditions with respect to kiwifruit;
(i) To submit to the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to its members;
(j) To submit to the Secretary such available information as may be requested;
(k) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part;
(l) With the approval of the Secretary, to redefine the districts into which the production area is divided and to reapportion the representation...
§ 920.32 Procedure.

(a) Eight members of the committee, or alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum and any action of the committee shall require the concurring vote of the majority of those present: Provided, That actions of the committee with respect to expenses and assessments, or recommendations for regulations pursuant to §§ 920.50 through 920.55, of this part shall require at least eight concurring votes.

(b) The committee may vote by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication, and any votes so cast shall be confirmed promptly in writing: Provided, That if an assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.

§ 920.33 Expenses and compensation.

(a) Except for the public member and alternate, the members of the committee, and alternates when acting as members, shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part: Provided, That the committee at its discretion may request the attendance of one or more alternates, including the public alternate, at any or all meetings notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members and may pay expenses as aforesaid.

(b) The public member and alternate shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part, and shall receive per diem compensation established by the committee.

§ 920.34 Annual report.

The committee shall, as soon as is practicable after the close of each marketing season, prepare and mail an annual report to the Secretary and make a copy available to each grower and handler who requests a copy of the report.
year of order operation by the Consumer Price Index (cost of living) for California as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Such increase shall be applied to all kiwifruit handled during the applicable fiscal period. In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part during the first part of a fiscal period before sufficient operating income is available from assessments on the current year’s shipments, the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance, and may also borrow money for such purposes.


§ 920.42 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for in accordance with one of the following:

(1) If such excess is not retained in a reserve, as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, it shall be refunded proportionately to the persons from whom it was collected: Provided, That any sum paid by a person in excess of his or her pro rata share of the expenses during any fiscal period may be applied by the committee at the end of such fiscal period to any outstanding obligations due the committee from such person.

(2) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carry over such excess into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve: Provided, That funds already in the reserve do not equal approximately one fiscal period’s expenses. Such reserve funds may be used: (i) To defray expenses, during any fiscal period, prior to the time assessment income is insufficient to cover such expenses; (ii) to cover deficits incurred during any fiscal year when assessment income is less than expenses; (iii) to defray expenses incurred during any period when any or all provisions of this part are suspended or are inoperative; and, (iv) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. Upon such termination, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: Provided, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purpose specified in this part and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may at any time require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

(c) Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds in his or her possession to the committee, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in the committee full title to all of the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this part.

REGULATIONS

§ 920.50 Marketing policy.

(a) Each season prior to making any recommendations pursuant to §920.51, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its marketing policy for the ensuing marketing season. Such marketing policy report shall contain information relative to:

(1) The estimated total production of kiwifruit within the production area;
(2) The expected general quality and size of kiwifruit in the production area and in other areas;
(3) The expected demand conditions for kiwifruit in different market outlets;
(4) The expected shipments of kiwifruit produced in the production area and in areas outside the production area;
(5) Supplies of competing commodities;
(6) Trend and level of consumer income;
(7) Other factors having a bearing on the marketing of kiwifruit; and
(8) The type of regulations expected to be recommended during the marketing season.
§ 920.51 Recommendations for regulation.

(a) Whenever the committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of any variety or varieties of kiwifruit in the manner provided in §920.52, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) In arriving at its recommendations for regulation pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the committee shall give consideration to current information with respect to the factors affecting the supply and demand for kiwifruit during the period or periods when it is proposed that such regulations should be made effective. With each such recommendation for regulation, the committee shall submit to the Secretary the data and information on which such recommendation is predicated and such other available information as the Secretary may request.

§ 920.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall regulate, in the manner specified in this section, the handling of kiwifruit whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulations will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such regulations may:

(1) Limit, during any period or periods, the shipment of any particular grade, size, quality, maturity, or pack, or any combination thereof, of any variety or varieties of kiwifruit grown in the production area;

(2) Limit the shipment of kiwifruit by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity during any period when season average prices are expected to exceed the parity level;

(3) Fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, markings, or pack of the container, or containers, which may be used in the packaging or handling of kiwifruit.

(b) The committee shall be informed immediately of any such regulation issued by the Secretary and the committee shall promptly give notice thereof to handlers.

§ 920.53 Modification, suspension, or termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the committee at any time finds that, by reason of changed conditions, any regulations issued pursuant to §920.52 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee or from other available information, that a regulation should be modified, suspended, or terminated with respect to any or all shipments of kiwifruit in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, the Secretary shall modify, suspend, or terminate such regulation. If the Secretary finds that a regulation obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, the Secretary shall suspend or terminate such regulation. On the same basis and in like manner the Secretary may terminate any such modification or suspension.

§ 920.54 Special purpose shipments.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person may, without regard to the provisions of §§920.41, 920.52, 920.53 and 920.55 and the regulations issued thereunder, handle kiwifruit: (1) For consumption by charitable institutions; (2) for distribution by relief agencies; or (3) for commercial processing into products.

(b) Upon the basis of recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, the Secretary may relieve from any or all requirements, under or established pursuant to §920.41, §920.52, §920.53 or §920.55, the handling of kiwifruit: (1) To designated market areas; (2) for specified purposes (including shipments to facilitate the conduct of marketing research and development projects); or, (3) in such minimum quantities or types of shipments, as may be prescribed.

(c) The committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe such rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to prevent kiwifruit handled under the provisions of this section from entering the channels of trade for other than the specific purposes authorized by this section.
§ 920.55 Inspection and certification.

(a) Whenever the handling of any variety of kiwifruit is regulated pursuant to §920.52, or §920.53, each handler who handles kiwifruit shall, prior thereto, cause such kiwifruit to be inspected by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service and certified as meeting the applicable requirements of such regulation: Provided, That inspection and certification shall not be required for kiwifruit which previously have been so inspected and certified if such prior inspection was performed within such period as may be established pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section. Promptly after inspection and certification, each such handler shall submit, or cause to be submitted, to the committee a copy of the certificate of inspection issued with respect to such kiwifruit. The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe rules and regulations waiving the inspection requirements of this section where it is determined that inspection is not available: Provided, That all shipments made under such waiver shall comply with all regulations in effect.

(b) The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, establish a period prior to shipment during which the inspection required by this section must be performed.

(c) The committee may enter into an agreement with the Federal and Federal-State Inspection Services with respect to the costs of the inspection required by paragraph (a) of this section, and may collect from handlers their respective pro rata shares of such costs.

§ 920.60 Reports.

(a) Each handler shall furnish to the committee, at such times and for such periods as the committee may designate, certified reports covering, to the extent necessary for the committee to perform its functions, each shipment of kiwifruit as follows:

(1) The name of the shipper and the shipping point;
(2) The car or truck license number (or name of the trucker), and identification of the carrier;
(3) The date and time of departure;
(4) The number and type of containers in the shipment;
(5) The quantities shipped, showing separately the variety, size and grade of the fruit;
(6) The destination;
(7) Identification of the inspection certificate or waiver pursuant to which the fruit was handled.

(b) Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such times as it may prescribe, such other information as may be necessary to enable the committee to perform its duties under this part.

(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least two succeeding fiscal years, such records of the kiwifruit received and disposed of by such handler as may be necessary to verify the reports submitted to the committee pursuant to this section.

(d) All reports and records submitted by handlers pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be received by, and at all times be in custody of, one or more designated employees of the committee. No such employee shall disclose to any person, other than the Secretary upon request therefor, data or information obtained or extracted from such reports and records which might affect the trade position, financial condition, or business operation of the particular handler from whom received: Provided, That such data and information may be combined, and made available to any person, in the form of general reports in which the identities...
§ 920.61 Compliance.

(a) Except as provided in this part, no person shall handle kiwifruit, the shipment of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this part; and no person shall handle kiwifruit except in conformity with the provisions of this part and the regulations issued under this part.

(b) For the purpose of checking and verifying reports filed by handlers, the committee, through its duly authorized representatives shall have access to any handler’s premises during regular business hours, and shall be permitted at any such times to inspect such premises and any kiwifruit held by such handler, and any and all records of the handler with respect to his or her acquisition, sales, uses and shipments of kiwifruit. Each handler shall furnish all labor and equipment necessary to make such inspections.

§ 920.62 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agents, employees, or representatives thereof, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in accordance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 920.63 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this part by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner in which the Secretary may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any and all of the provisions of this part whenever the Secretary finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this part whenever the Secretary finds by referendum or otherwise that such termination is favored by a majority of the growers: Provided, That such majority has, during the current marketing season, produced more than 50 percent of the volume of the kiwifruit which were produced within the production area for shipment in fresh form. Such termination shall become effective on the first day of August subsequent to the announcement thereof by the Secretary.

(d) The committee shall consider all petitions from growers submitted to it for termination of this part provided such petitions are received by the committee prior to February 1 of the then current fiscal period. Upon recommendation of the committee received not later than April 1 of the then current fiscal period, the Secretary shall conduct a referendum among the growers prior to July 15 of such fiscal period to ascertain whether continuance of this part is favored by producers.

(e) The Secretary shall conduct a referendum within the period beginning May 15, 1990, and ending July 15, 1990, to ascertain whether continuance of this part is favored by the growers as set forth in paragraph (c) of this section. The Secretary shall conduct such a referendum within the same period of every sixth fiscal period thereafter.

(f) The provisions of this part shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 920.64 Proceeding after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this part, the committee shall, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, continue as trustee of all the funds and property then in its possession, or under its control, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination.
(b) The said trustees shall: (1) Continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; (2) from time to time account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such persons as the Secretary may direct; and (3) upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person, full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee of the trustees pursuant thereto.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligation imposed upon the committee and upon the trustees.

§ 920.65 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this part or of any regulation issued pursuant to this part, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this part or any regulation issued under this part, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this part or of any regulation issued under this part, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violation.

§ 920.66 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this part shall cease upon its termination, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this part.

§ 920.67 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any officer or employee of the United States, or name any agency or division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as the Secretary's agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

§ 920.68 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary of the United States (a) to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or (b) in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 920.69 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee and no employee or agent of the committee shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, employee or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 920.70 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 920.110 Exemptions.

(a) Waivers. A handler may handle kiwifruit without inspection and certification, as prescribed under §920.55, if all shipments made under such waivers comply with all regulations in effect, and all the following conditions are met:

(1) The handler requests the Federal-State Inspection Service to provide inspection during its regular working hours at least 4 hours in advance of the time when inspection is needed. The request need not be in writing but it shall be confirmed immediately in writing by the inspection service.

(2) The Federal-State Inspection Service advises the handler that it is not practicable to provide inspection at the time and place designated by the handler. This advice may be verbal but it shall be confirmed in writing by the Federal-State Inspection Service. A
§ 920.112 Late payments.

Pursuant to §920.41(a), interest will be charged at a 1.5 percent monthly simple interest rate. Assessments for kiwifruit shall be deemed late if not received within 30 days of invoice, or such other later time period as specified by the committee. A 10 percent late charge will be assessed when payment becomes 30 days late. Interest and late payment charges shall be applied only to the overdue assessment.


§ 920.122 Nomination procedures.

(a) The manner of nominating grower members and alternate members to the committee shall be as follows:

(1) The committee’s mailing of an approved nomination form to all kiwifruit growers of record shall constitute notice of nominations. All eligible kiwifruit growers may nominate themselves or any other eligible kiwifruit grower to vacant committee positions for the nominee’s district. Completed nomination forms shall be returned to the office of the committee by a date specified by the committee and approved by an agent of the Secretary. Nomination forms shall provide for names of nominees, as well as the nominating grower’s name, address, telephone number, and signature. Incomplete nominations forms will not be considered valid.

(2) For each district involved in the current year’s nominations, committee staff, with the Secretary’s oversight, shall establish a slate of candidates with the names of all qualified nominees received. Persons submitting invalid nomination forms shall be notified of such by the committee. Within a reasonable time period, a ballot containing a slate of candidates shall be mailed to all growers of record within the respective district represented by such candidates. The committee shall provide a reasonable period of time to growers to cast votes on the candidates and return the completed ballots for tallying.

(3) To be eligible to vote, growers must be producing kiwifruit during the crop year nominations are held and within the district represented by the candidates on the ballot. A grower may only vote for candidates from one district and may only cast one ballot. Growers may also cast votes for eligible candidates who do not appear on the ballots by writing in the name of such candidates on the ballot. Each ballot shall provide for a voter eligibility certification which must include the voter’s name, address, telephone number, and signature, as well as the name(s) of all handlers which handled the current season’s crop. At the discretion of the Secretary, the ballots...
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may include other background information about each candidate.

(4) In order to be valid, ballots must be executed in accordance with the instructions set forth on the ballot, and are to be returned to the Secretary’s agent who will tally the ballots with such assistance from the committee as may be requested by the agent. Such ballots shall be postmarked by a date specified by the committee and approved by an agent of the Secretary.

(5) The names of the persons receiving the highest total number of votes for a particular position shall be submitted to the Secretary as the nominees for such positions. In the event of a tie vote, a ballot containing only the names of the candidates receiving the tied vote shall be mailed to all growers in the affected district.

(b) In the event of a vacancy as specified in § 920.26, the committee shall utilize the same procedure as prescribed in § 920.122(a)(1) through (a)(5) to fill such vacancy.

[57 FR 62160, Dec. 30, 1992]

§ 920.131 Redistricting of kiwifruit districts.

Pursuant to § 920.31(l) the districts are redefined as follows:

(a) District 1 shall include the counties of Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Mendocino, Tehama, Plumas, Glenn, Lake, Colusa, Sonoma, Yolo, Solano, Napa, Marin, Sacramento, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, and Butte (with the exception of that area set aside as “District 2”).

(b) District 2 shall include the 95948 postal zip code area known as Gridley in Butte County, and the area surrounding Gridley, incorporating the area located within the following boundaries: The area west of the Feather River; north of the Butte/Sutter County line; east of Pennington and Riley Roads; and south of Farris Road, Ord Ranch Road and Gridley Avenue.

(c) District 3 shall include the counties of Sutter and Yuba.

(d) District 4 shall include the counties of San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, Monterey, San Benito, San Joaquin, Calaveras, Alpine, Mono, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, Merced, Mariposa, Madera, and Fresno.

(e) District 5 shall include Kings county and that portion of Tulare County north of Highway 198.

(f) District 6 shall include Inyo County and that portion of Tulare County south of Highway 198 to Avenue 56, excluding the west side of Highway 65 between Highway 137 and Avenue 56.

(g) District 7 shall include that portion of Tulare County of Tulare west of Highway 65 and between Highway 137 and Avenue 56.

(h) District 8 shall include of Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Bernardino, San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, Imperial Counties and that portion of Tulare County south of Avenue 56.

[60 FR 7432, Feb. 8, 1995]

§ 920.155 Inspection requirement.

Certification of any kiwifruit which is inspected and certified as meeting grade, size, quality, or maturity requirements in effect pursuant to § 920.52 or § 920.53 during each fiscal year shall be valid until December 31 of such year or 21 days from the date of inspection, whichever is later.

[60 FR 55176, Oct. 30, 1995]

§ 920.160 Reports.

(a) When requested by the Kiwifruit Administrative Committee, each shipper who ships kiwifruit, shall furnish a report of shipment and inventory data to the committee no later than the fifth day of the month following such shipment, or such other later time established by the committee: Provided, That each shipper who ships less than 10,000 trays, or the equivalent thereof, per fiscal year and has qualified with the committee shall furnish such report of shipment and inventory data to the committee twice per fiscal year. The first report shall be due no later than January 5 and the final report no later than the fifth day of the following month after such shipment is completed for the season, or such other later times established by the committee.

Such report shall show:

(1) The reporting period;

(2) the name and other identification of the shipper;
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(3) the number of containers by type and weight by shipment destination category;

(4) inventory at the end of the reporting period by container, and with respect to flats, the size of the kiwifruit;

(5) the amount of kiwifruit lost in re-pack; and

(6) the amount of fruit set aside for processing.

(b) Kiwifruit Inventory Shipping System (KISS) form. Each handler, except such handlers that ship less than 10,000 trays, or the equivalent thereof, per season and have qualified with the committee, shall file with the committee the initial Kiwifruit Inventory Shipment System (KISS) form, which consists of three sections “KISS/Add Inventory,” “KISS/Deduct Inventory,” and “KISS/Shipment,” on or before December 5th, or such other later time as the committee may establish.

(c) Handler report of returned fruit. After fruit is returned to a grower, each handler shall file with the committee, no later than five days from the date the fruit is returned, or such other time as the committee may establish, a Return Receipt of Kiwifruit to Grower Form.


§ 920.213 Assessment rate.

On and after August 1, 1997, an assessment rate of $0.0225 per tray or tray equivalent is established for California kiwifruit.


§ 920.302 Grade, size, pack, and container regulations.

(a) No handler shall ship any kiwifruit unless such kiwifruit meet the following requirements:

(1) Grade requirements. Fresh shipments of kiwifruit shall be at least KAC No. 1 quality.

(2) Size Requirements. Such kiwifruit shall be at least a minimum Size 45.

(3) Maturity requirements. Such kiwifruit shall have a minimum of 6.5 percent soluble solids at the time of inspection.

(4) Pack Requirements. (i) Kiwifruit packed in containers with cell compartments, cardboard fillers, or molded trays shall be of proper size for the cells, fillers, or molds in which they are packed. Such fruit shall be fairly uniform in size.

(ii) Kiwifruit packed in cell compartments, cardboard fillers or molded trays may not vary in diameter more than:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sizes</th>
<th>Diameter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 or larger</td>
<td>1/4-inch (12.7 mm).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-38</td>
<td>1/8-inch (9.5 mm).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 or smaller</td>
<td>1/16-inch (6.4 mm).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kiwifruit packed in bags, volume fill or bulk containers, fruit may not vary more than:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sizes</th>
<th>Diameter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 or larger</td>
<td>1/4-inch (12.7 mm).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33, 36, 39, and 42</td>
<td>1/8-inch (9.5 mm).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 or smaller</td>
<td>1/16-inch (6.4 mm).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not more than 10 percent, by count of the containers in any lot and not more than 5 percent, by count, of kiwifruit in any container, (except that for Size 42 kiwifruit, the tolerance, by count, in any one container, may not be more than 10 percent and except that for Size 45 kiwifruit, the tolerance, by count, in any one container, may not be more than 25 percent) may fail to meet the requirements of this paragraph.

(iii) The fruit packed in containers with cell compartments, cardboard fillers, or molded trays shall meet the following minimum weight requirements at the time of initial inspection:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count designation of fruit</th>
<th>Minimum net weight of fruit (pounds)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34 or larger</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 37</td>
<td>7.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 to 40</td>
<td>6.875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 to 43</td>
<td>6.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44 and smaller</td>
<td>6.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average weight of all sample units in a lot must meet the specified minimum net weight, but no sample unit may be more than 4 ounces less than such weight.

(iv) When kiwifruit is packed in bags, volume fill or bulk containers, the following table specifying the numerical size designation and maximum number
of fruit per 8-pound sample is to be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 1 numerical count size designation</th>
<th>Column 2 maximum number of fruit per 8-pound sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/28</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average weight of all sample units in a lot must weigh at least 8 pounds, but no sample unit may be more than 4 ounces less than 8 pounds.

(v) For shipments in volume fill containers in which the quantity is specified by count, the count must equal three times the size designation in accordance with tolerances specified in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Kiwifruit (7 CFR 51.2328(c)(2)).

(vi) All volume fill containers of kiwifruit designated by weight shall hold 22-pounds (10-kilograms) net weight of kiwifruit unless such containers hold less than 10-pounds or more than 35-pounds net weight of kiwifruit.

(b) Definitions. (1) The term KAC No. 1 quality means kiwifruit that meets the requirements of the U.S. No. 1 grade as defined in the United States Standards for Grades of Kiwifruit (7 CFR 51.2335 through 51.2340), except that the kiwifruit shall be “not badly misshapen,” and an additional tolerance of 7 percent is provided for kiwifruit that is “badly misshapen”. The terms fairly uniform in size and diameter mean the same as defined in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Kiwifruit.

(2) Size designations mean the same as defined in the table in (a)(4)(iii) of this section.

(c) Exemptions. Any person may handle kiwifruit without regard to the provisions of this section provided that such kiwifruit is handled for (1) consumption by charitable institutions; (2) distribution by relief agencies; or (3) commercial processing into products. For the purposes of this section, commercial processing into products means that the kiwifruit is physically altered in form or chemical composition through freezing, canning, dehydrating, pulping, juicing, or heating of the product. The act of slicing, dicing, or peeling shall not be considered commercial processing into products.

§ 920.303 Container marking regulations.

No handler shall ship any kiwifruit except in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

(a) Each package or container of kiwifruit shall bear on at least one outside principal display panel in plain sight and in plain letters, the word kiwifruit, the name of the variety (if other than the Hayward variety), if known or, when the variety is not known, the words unknown variety.

(b) Each package or container of kiwifruit shall bear on one outside principal display panel in plain sight and in plain letters the name and address (including the city, state, and zip code) of the shipper.

(c) Each package or container of kiwifruit shall bear on one outside principal display panel in plain sight and in plain letters the following information regarding the quantity of kiwifruit packed within the container:

(1) The quantity shall be indicated in terms of count for kiwifruit packed in cell compartments, cardboard fillers, or molded trays, and the contents shall conform to the count.

(2) The quantity shall be indicated in terms of size designation and either the net weight for volume-fill containers packed by weight or the count for volume-fill containers packed by count.

(3) For bulk bins, the quantity shall be indicated in terms of the size designation and net weight; or in terms of the size designation, net weight, and count.
(4) Master containers, which hold more than one individual package, must be properly marked with the quantity of the contents. The size designation must also be indicated.

(5) The quantity shall be indicated in terms of either net weight or count (or both) for individual consumer packages. If count is used, it must be accompanied by the size designation.

(6) Designations of size, count, and net weight on each container shall be accompanied by the words size, count, or net weight as applicable.

(d) All exposed or outside containers of kiwifruit, but not less than 75 percent of the total containers on a pallet, shall be plainly marked with the lot stamp number corresponding to the lot inspection conducted by an authorized inspector; except for individual consumer packages and containers that are being directly loaded into a vehicle for export shipment under the supervision of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service.

(e) As used in this section, the term principal display panel means that part of the package or container most likely to be displayed, presented, shown or examined under normal or customary conditions of display and purchase.


PART 922—APRICOTS GROWN IN DESIGNATED COUNTIES IN WASHINGTON

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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Definitions

§ 922.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 922.2 Act.


§ 922.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 922.4 Production area.

Production area means the counties of Okanogan, Chelan, Kittitas, Yakima, and Klickitat in the State of Washington and all of the counties in Washington lying east thereof.

§ 922.5 Apricots.

Apricots means all varieties of apricots, grown in the production area, classified botanically as Prunus armeniaca.

§ 922.6 Varieties.

Varieties means and includes all classifications or subdivisions of Prunus armeniaca.

§ 922.7 Fiscal period.

Fiscal period is synonymous with fiscal year and means the 12-month period ending on March 31 of each year or such other period that may be approved by the Secretary pursuant to recommendations by the committee.

§ 922.8 Committee.

Committee means the Washington Apricot Marketing Committee established pursuant to § 922.20.

§ 922.9 Grade.

Grade means any one of the officially established grades of apricots as defined and set forth in:

(a) United States Standards for Apricots (§§ 51.2925 to 51.2932 of this title) or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon;

(b) Standards for apricots issued by the State of Washington or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon.

§ 922.10 Size.

Size means the greatest diameter, measured through the center of the apricot, at right angles to a line running from the stem to the blossom end, or such other specification as may be established by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

§ 922.11 Grower.

Grower is synonymous with producer and means any person who produces apricots for market and who has a proprietary interest therein: Provided, That a grower who is also a handler must have produced not less than 51 percent of the apricots handled by him during the previous season in order to qualify as a grower under §§ 922.20, 922.22, and 922.23.

§ 922.12 Handler.

Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier transporting apricots owned by another person) who handles apricots.

§ 922.13 Handle.

Handle or ship means to sell, consign, deliver, or transport apricots within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof: Provided, That the term “handle” shall not include the transportation within the production area of...
§ 922.14

apricots from the orchard where grown to a packing facility located within such area for preparation for market.

[27 FR 5188, June 2, 1962]

§ 922.14 District.

District means the applicable one of the following described subdivisions of the production area, or such other subdivisions as may be prescribed pursuant to § 922.31(m):

(a) District 1 shall include all counties within the production area not included in District 2.

(b) District 2 shall include the Counties of Yakima, Benton, and Klickitat.


§ 922.15 Export.

Export means to ship apricots beyond the continental boundaries of the United States.

§ 922.16 Pack.

Pack means the specific arrangement, size, weight, count, or grade of a quantity of apricots in a particular type and size of container, or any combination thereof.

§ 922.17 Container.

Container means a box, bag, crate, lug, basket, carton, package, or any other type of receptacle used in the packaging or handling of apricots.

§ 922.20 Establishment and membership.

There is hereby established a Washington Apricot Marketing Committee consisting of twelve members, each of whom shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member for whom he is an alternate. Eight of the members and their respective alternates shall be growers or officers or employees of corporate growers. Four of the members and their respective alternates shall be handlers, or officers or employees of corporate handlers. The eight members of the committee who are growers or employees or officers of corporate growers are referred to in this part as "grower members" of the committee; and the four members of the committee who shall be handlers, or officers or employees of corporate handlers, are referred to in this part as "handler members" of the committee. Four of the grower members and their respective alternates shall be producers of apricots in District 1, and four of the grower members and their respective alternates shall be producers of apricots in District 2. Two of the handler members and their respective alternates shall be handlers of apricots in District 1, and two of the handler members with their respective alternates shall be handlers of apricots in District 2.

§ 922.21 Term of office.

The term of office of each member and alternate member of the committee shall be for 2 years beginning April 1 and ending March 31. Provided, That the terms of office of one-half the initial members and alternates shall end March 31, 1958. Members and alternate members shall serve in such capacities for the portion of the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified. The terms of office of successor members and alternates shall be so determined that one-half of the total committee membership ends each March 31.

§ 922.22 Nomination.

(a) Initial members. Nominations for each of the eight initial grower members and four initial handler members of the committee, together with nominations for the initial alternate members for each position may be submitted to the Secretary by individual growers and handlers. Such nominations may be made by means of group meetings of the growers and handlers concerned in each district. Such nominations, if made, shall be filed with the Secretary no later than the effective date of this part. In the event nominations for initial members and alternate members of the committee are not filed pursuant to, and within the time specified, in this section, the Secretary may select such initial members and alternate members without regard to
nominations, but selections shall be on the basis of the representation provided for in §922.20.

(b) Successor members. (1) The committee shall hold or cause to be held, not later than March 1 of each year, a meeting or meetings of growers and handlers in each district for the purpose of designating nominees for successor members and alternate members of the committee. At each such meeting a chairman and a secretary shall be selected by the growers and handlers eligible to participate therein. The chairman shall announce at the meeting the number of votes cast for each person nominated for member or alternate member and shall submit promptly to the committee a complete report concerning such meeting. The committee shall, in turn, promptly submit a copy of each such report to the Secretary.

(2) Only growers, including duly authorized officers or employees of corporate growers, who are present at such nomination meetings may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for grower members and their alternates. Each grower shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each nominee to be elected in the district in which he produces apricots. No grower shall participate in the election of nominees in more than one district in any one fiscal year. If qualified, a person may vote either as a grower or as a handler but not as both.

(3) Only handlers, including duly authorized officers or employees of corporate handlers, who are present at such nomination meetings, may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for handler members and their alternates. Each handler shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each nominee to be elected in the district in which he handles apricots. No handler shall participate in the election of nominees in more than one district in any one fiscal year. If qualified, a person may vote either as a grower or as a handler but not as both.

§ 922.23 Selection.

From the nominations made pursuant to §922.22, or from other qualified persons, the Secretary shall select the eight grower members of the committee, and an alternate for each such member.

§ 922.24 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner prescribed in §922.22, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the members and alternate members of the committee on the basis of the representation provided for in §922.20.

§ 922.25 Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary promptly after being notified of such selection.

§ 922.26 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate member of the committee, a successor for the unexpired term of such member or alternate member of the committee shall be nominated and selected in the manner specified in §§922.22 and 922.23. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within a reasonable time after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of representation provided for in §922.20.

§ 922.27 Alternate members.

An alternate member of the committee, during the absence or at the request of the member for whom he is an alternate, shall act in the place and stead of such member and perform such other duties as assigned. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified. In the event both a member of the committee and his alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the member or the committee may designate any other alternate member.
§ 922.30 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;
(b) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the provisions of this part;
(c) To make and adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 922.31 Duties.

The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:

(a) To select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to define the duties of such officers;
(b) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary, and to determine compensation and to define the duties of each;
(c) To submit to the Secretary as soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period a budget for such fiscal period, including a report in explanation of the items appearing therein and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such period;
(d) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;
(e) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;
(f) To cause its books to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such times as the Secretary may request;
(g) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;
(h) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to apricots;
(i) To submit to the Secretary such available information as he may request;
(j) To notify producers and handlers of all meetings of the committee to consider recommendations for regulations;
(k) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to its members;
(l) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part;
(m) With the approval of the Secretary, to redefine the districts into which the production area is divided, and to reapportion the representation of any district on the committee: Provided, That any such changes shall reflect, insofar as practicable, shifts in apricot production within the districts and the production area.

§ 922.32 Procedure.

(a) Eight members of the committee, including alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum; and any action of the committee shall require the concurring vote of at least 7 members: Provided, That when two-thirds of the membership present is greater than 7, such requirement shall be two-thirds of such membership.
(b) The committee may provide for simultaneous meetings of groups of its members assembled at two or more designated places: Provided, That such meetings shall be subject to the establishment of communication between all such groups and the availability of loud speaker receivers for each group so that each member may participate in the discussions and other actions the same as if the committee were assembled in one place. Any such meeting shall be considered as an assembled meeting.
(c) The committee may vote by telegraph, telephone, or other means of communication, and any votes so cast shall be confirmed promptly in writing: Provided, That if an assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.

§ 922.33 Expenses and compensation.

The members of the committee, and alternates when acting as members,
shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part and may also receive compensation, as determined by the committee, which shall not exceed $10 per day or portion thereof spent in performing such duties: Provided, That at its discretion the committee may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members, and may pay expenses and compensation, as aforesaid.

§ 922.34 Annual report.

The committee shall, prior to the last day of each fiscal period, prepare and mail an annual report to the Secretary and make a copy available to each handler and grower who requests a copy of the report. This annual report shall contain at least: (a) A complete review of the regulatory operations during the fiscal period; (b) an appraisal of the effect of such regulatory operations upon the apricot industry; and (c) any recommendations for changes in the program.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 922.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part during each fiscal period. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as prescribed in § 922.41.

§ 922.41 Assessments.

(a) Each person who first handles apricots shall, with respect to the apricots so handled by him, pay to the committee upon demand such person's pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds will be incurred by the committee during each fiscal period. Each such person's share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the total quantity of apricots handled by him as the first handler thereof during the applicable fiscal period and the total quantity of apricots so handled by all persons during the same fiscal period. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by each such person. At any time during or after the fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses which may be incurred. Such increase shall be applied to all apricots handled during the applicable fiscal period. In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part during the first part of a fiscal period before sufficient operating income is available from assessments on the current year's shipments, the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance, and may also borrow money for such purpose.

§ 922.42 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for as follows:

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section each person entitled to a proportionate refund of any excess assessment shall be credited with such refund against the operation of the following fiscal period unless such person demands repayment thereof, in which event it shall be paid to him: Provided, That any sum paid by a person in excess of his pro rata share of the expenses during any fiscal period may be applied by the committee at the end of such fiscal period to any outstanding obligations due the committee from such person.

(2) The Secretary, upon recommendation of the committee, may determine that it is appropriate for the maintenance and functioning of the committee that the funds remaining at the end of a fiscal period which are in excess of the expenses necessary for committee operations during such period may be carried over into following periods as a
§ 922.45 Marketing research and development.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption of apricots. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to §922.41.

§ 922.50 Marketing policy.

(a) Each season prior to making any recommendations pursuant to §922.51, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its marketing policy for the ensuing season. Such marketing policy report shall contain information relative to:

1. The estimated total production of apricots within the production area;
2. The expected general quality and size of apricots in the production area and in other areas;
3. The expected demand conditions for apricots in different market outlets;
4. The expected shipments of apricots produced in the production area and in areas outside the production area;
5. Supplies of competing commodities;
6. Trend and level of consumer income;
7. Other factors having a bearing on the marketing of apricots; and
8. The type of regulations expected to be recommended during the season.

(b) In the event it becomes advisable, because of changes in the supply and demand situation for apricots, to modify substantially such marketing policy, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a revised marketing policy report setting forth the information prescribed in this section. The committee shall publicly announce the contents of each marketing policy report, including each revised marketing policy report, and copies thereof shall be maintained in the office of the committee where they shall be available for examination by growers and handlers.

§ 922.51 Recommendations for regulation.

(a) Whenever the committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of any variety or varieties of apricots in
the manner provided in §922.52, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) In arriving at its recommenda-
tions for regulation pursuant to para-
graph (a) of this section, the commit-
tee shall give consideration to current
information with respect to the factors
affecting the supply and demand for
apricots during the period or periods
whenever, or proposed that such regula-
tion should be made effective. With
each such recommendation for regula-
tion, the committee shall submit to
the Secretary the data and information
on which such recommendation is
predicated and such other available in-
formation as the Secretary may re-
quest.

§922.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall regulate, in
the manner specified in this section,
the handling of apricots whenever he
finds from the recommendations and
information submitted by the commit-
tee, or from other available informa-
tion, that such regulations will tend to
effectuate the declared policy of the
act. Such regulations may:

1. Limit, during any period or peri-
dods, the shipment of any particular
grade, size, quality, maturity, or pack,
or any combination thereof, of any va-
riety or varieties of apricots grown in
any district or districts of the produc-
tion area;

2. Limit the shipment of apricots by
establishing, in terms of grades, sizes,
or both, minimum standards of quality
and maturity during any period when
season average prices are expected to
exceed the parity level;

3. Fix the size, capacity, weight, di-
-mensions, markings, or pack of the
container, or containers, which may be
used in the packaging or handling of
apricots.

(b) The committee shall be informed
immediately of any such regulation
issued by the Secretary, and the com-
mittee shall promptly give notice thereof
to growers and handlers.

[22 FR 3514, May 21, 1957. Redesignated at 26
FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, and amended at 27 FR
5188, June 2, 1962]

§922.53 Modification, suspension, or
termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the committee at any
time finds that, by reason of changed
conditions, any regulations issued pur-
suant to §922.52 should be modified,
suspended, or terminated, it shall so
recommend to the Secretary.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds,
from the recommendations and infor-
mation submitted by the committee or
from other available information, that
a regulation should be modified, sus-
ponded, or terminated with respect to
any or all shipments of apricots in
order to effectuate the declared policy
of the act, he shall modify, suspend or
terminate such regulation. On the
same basis and in like manner the Sec-
retary may terminate any such modi-
fication or suspension. If the Secretary
finds that a regulation obstructs or
does not tend to effectuate the declared
policy of the act, he shall suspend or
terminate such regulation. On the
same basis and in like manner the Sec-
retary may terminate any such suspen-
sion.

§922.54 Special purpose shipments.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in
this section, any person may, without
regard to the provisions of §§922.41,
922.52, 922.53, and 922.55, and the regula-
tions issued thereunder, handle apri-
cots (1) for consumption by charitable
institutions; (2) for distribution by re-
lied agencies; or (3) for commercial
processing into products.

(b) Upon the basis of recommenda-
tions and information submitted by the
committee, or from other available in-
formation, the Secretary may relieve
from any or all requirements, under or
established pursuant to §922.41, §922.52,
§922.53, or §922.55, the handling of apri-
cots in such minimum quantities, or
types of shipments, or for such speci-
fied purposes (including shipments to
facilitate the conduct of marketing re-
search and development projects estab-
lished pursuant to §922.45), as the com-
mittee, with approval of the Secretary,
may prescribe.

(c) The committee shall, with the ap-
proval of the Secretary, prescribe such
rules, regulations, and safeguards as it
may deem necessary to prevent apric-
cots handled under the provisions of
§ 922.55 Inspection and certification.

Whenever the handling of any variety of apricots is regulated pursuant to §922.52 or §922.53, each handler who handles apricots shall, prior thereto, cause such apricots to be inspected by the Federal-State Inspection Service and certified by it as meeting the applicable requirements of such regulation: Provided, That inspection and certification shall be required for apricots which previously have been so inspected and certified only if such apricots have been regraded, resorted, re-packaged, or in any other way further prepared for market. Promptly after inspection and certification, each such handler shall submit, or cause to be submitted, to the committee a copy of the certificate of inspection issued with respect to such apricots. The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe rules and regulations modifying the inspection requirements of this section as to time and place such inspection shall be performed whenever it is determined it would not be practical to perform the required inspection at a particular location: Provided, That all such shipments shall comply with all regulations in effect.


§ 922.60 Reports.

(a) Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such time as it may prescribe, such reports and other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part. Such reports may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: (1) The quantities of each variety of apricots received by a handler, (2) the quantities disposed of by him segregated as to the respective quantities subject to regulation and not subject to regulation; (3) the date of each such disposition and the identification of the carrier transporting such apricots, and (4) the destination of each such shipment.

(b) All such reports shall be held under appropriate protective classification and custody by the committee, or duly appointed employees thereof, so that the information contained therein which may adversely affect the competitive position of any handler in relation to other handlers will not be disclosed. Compilations of general reports from data submitted by handlers are authorized, subject to the prohibition of disclosure of individual handler's identities or operations.

(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least two succeeding years such records of the apricots received, and of apricots disposed of, by such handler as may be necessary to verify reports pursuant to this section.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 922.61 Compliance.

Except as provided in this part, no person shall handle apricots, the shipment of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this part; and no person shall handle apricots except in conformity with the provisions of this part.

§ 922.62 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agents, employees, or representatives thereof, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the committee shall
be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in accordance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 922.63 Effective time.

The provisions of this part, and of any amendment thereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature to this part, and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in §922.64.

§ 922.64 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this part by giving at least one day's notice by means of a press release or in any other manner in which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any and all of the provisions of this part whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this part at the end of any fiscal period whenever he finds that continuance is not favored by the majority of producers who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, were engaged in the production area in the production of apricots for market: Provided, That such majority has produced for market during such period more than 50 percent of the volume of apricots produced for market in the production area; but such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before March 31 of the then current fiscal period.

(d) The provisions of this part shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 922.65 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this part, the committee shall, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, continue as trustees of all the funds and property then in its possession, or under its control, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination.

(b) The said trustees shall (1) continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; (2) from time to time account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and (3) upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person, full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant hereto.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered pursuant to this section shall be subject to the same obligation imposed upon the committee and upon the trustees.

§ 922.66 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulation issued under this subpart, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violation.

§ 922.67 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 922.68 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any officer or employee of the United States, or name any agency or division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.
§ 922.69 Derogation.

Nothing contained in the provisions of this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States (a) to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or (b) in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 922.70 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee and no employee or agent of the committee shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other act, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 922.71 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

Subpart—Container Exemption; Waivers of Inspection and Certification

§ 922.110 Container exemption.

Whenever container limitations are effective pursuant to §922.52, a handler may make test shipments of apricots in experimental containers, approved by the committee, subject to the following:

(a) Test shipments shall be made only in connection with a container research project, or projects, being conducted by or in cooperation with the Washington Apricot Marketing Committee.

(b) The handler shall first make application to, and receive a permit from, the Washington Apricot Marketing Committee on a form of the committee to handle each experimental container proposed to be used by the handler for test shipments. Such application shall contain the following information:

(1) Name and address of the applicant and date of application;

(2) Description of the container, including size, weight, inside dimensions, and type of pack;

(3) Quantity of such containers proposed to be shipped.

(c) Approval of the application shall be evidenced by the issuance to the applicant by the committee of a permit which shall authorize the handling of apricots in such quantity of experimental containers as the committee may approve.

(d) With respect to each test shipment of apricots handled in experimental containers, the handler shall, prior to such handling, advise the committee as to (1) the number and type of the container or containers in the test shipment, (2) identification of the carrier, (3) name and address of the receiver, and (4) expected time of arrival at destination.

(e) Terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as when used in said marketing agreement and order (§§ 922.1 to 922.71).


§ 922.111 Waiver of inspection and certification.

(a) Application. Any handler (including a grower-handler packing and handling apricots of his own production), whose packing facilities are located in an area where a Washington State Horticultural Division Inspection Office or Federal-State Inspector is not readily available to perform the required inspection, may, prior to shipment, apply to the Committee for a permit authorizing a waiver of inspection. Applications shall be made on forms furnished by the Committee and shall contain such information as the Committee may require including: Name and address of applicant, location of packing facility, distance of packing facility from the nearest inspection office, period (by approximate beginning and ending dates) during which applicant expects to ship apricots, estimated quantity of apricots applicant expects to ship to fresh market during such period, manner in which the majority of
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§ 922.306

(a) The establishment of a reserve fund of an amount not greater than approximately one fiscal year’s operational expenses is appropriate and necessary to the maintenance and functioning of the Washington Apricot Marketing Committee. The committee is hereby authorized to carry forward in the aforesaid reserve $5,765.09 which are excess assessment funds from the fiscal period ended March 31, 1961. Such reserve shall be used in accordance with the provisions of §922.42 of the said marketing agreement and order (§§922.1 to 922.71).

(b) Terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as given to the respective term in said marketing agreement and order.


EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g. sections .322 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

(a) On and after August 1, 1981, no handler shall handle any container of apricots unless such apricots meet the following applicable requirements, or are handled in accordance with paragraph (a)(3) of this section:

(1) Minimum grade and maturity requirements. Such apricots that grade not less than Washington No. 1 and are at least reasonably uniform in color:

Provided, That the grade requirement shall not apply to apricots handled from June 15, 1996, through March 31, 1997; and

(2) Minimum size requirements. Such apricots measure not less than 1 5/8 inches in diameter except that apricots of the Blenheim, Blenril, and Tilton varieties may measure not less than 1 1/4 inches: Provided, That not more than 10 percent, by count, of such apricots may fail to meet the applicable minimum size requirements.

(b) The terms diameter and Washington No. 1 shall have the same meaning as when used in the State of Washington Department of Agriculture Standards for Apricots, effective May 31, 1966; reasonably uniform in color means that the apricots in the individual container do not show sufficient variation in color to materially affect the general appearance of the apricots; and generally well matured means that with respect to not less than 90 percent, by count, of the apricots in any lot of containers, and not less than 85 percent, by count, of such apricots in any container in such lot, at least 40 percent of the surface area of the fruit is at least as yellow as Shade 3 on U.S. Department of Agriculture Standard Color Chart of Apples and Pears in Western States.

PART 923—SWEET CHERRIES GROWN IN DESIGNATED COUNTIES IN WASHINGTON

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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923.4 Production area.
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923.6 Varieties.
923.7 Fiscal period.
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ASSESSMENT RATE

§ 923.236 Assessment rate.

GRADE, SIZE, CONTAINER AND PACK REGULATION

§ 923.322 Washington Cherry Regulation 22.


§ 923.9 Grade.
Grade means any one of the officially established grades of cherries as defined and set forth in:
(a) United States Standards for Sweet Cherries (§§ 51.2646 to 51.2660 of this title) or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon;
(b) Standards for sweet cherries issued by the State of Washington or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon.

§ 923.10 Size.
Size means the greatest diameter, measured through the center of the cherry, at right angles to a line running from the stem to the blossom end, or such other specification as may be established by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

§ 923.11 Grower.
Grower is synonymous with producer and means any person who produces cherries for market and who has a proprietary interest therein.

§ 923.12 Handler.
Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier transporting cherries owned by another person) who handles cherries.

§ 923.13 Handle.
Handle and ship are synonymous and mean to sell, consign, deliver, or transport cherries or cause the sale, consignment, delivery, or transportation of cherries or in any other way to place cherries, or cause cherries to be placed, in the current of the commerce from any point within the production area to any point outside thereof: Provided, That the term handle shall not include the transportation within the production area of cherries from the orchard where grown to a packing facility located within such area for preparation for market, or the delivery of such cherries to such packing facility for such preparation.

§ 923.14 District.
District means the applicable one of the following described subdivisions of the production area, or such other subdivisions as may be prescribed pursuant to §923.31(m):
(a) District 1 shall include the Counties of Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas, and Grant.
(b) District 2 shall include the Counties of Yakima and Benton.

§ 923.15 Export.
Export means to ship cherries beyond the continental boundaries of the United States.

§ 923.16 Pack.
Pack means the specific arrangement, size, weight, count, or grade of a quantity of cherries in a particular type and size of container, or any combination thereof.

§ 923.17 Container.
Container means a box, bag, crate, lug, basket, carton, package, or any other type of receptacle used in the packaging or handling of cherries.

ADMINISTRATIVE BODY

§ 923.20 Establishment and membership.
There is hereby established a Washington Cherry Marketing Committee consisting of fifteen members, each of whom shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member for whom he is an alternate. Ten of the members and their respective alternates shall be growers or officers or employees of corporate growers. Five of the members and their respective alternates shall be handlers, or officers or employees of handlers. The ten members of the committee who are growers or employees of corporate growers are referred to in this part as “grower members” of the committee; and the five members of the committee who shall be handlers, or officers or employees of handlers, are referred to in this part as “handler members” of the committee. Four of the grower members and their respective alternates shall be producers of cherries in District 1, and six of the grower members and their respective alternates shall be producers of cherries in District 2.
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§ 923.21 Term of office.

The term of office of each member and alternate member of the committee shall be for two years beginning April 1 and ending March 31. Provided, That the term of office of one-half the initial grower members and alternates from each district and one initial handler member from each district shall end March 31, 1958. Members and alternate members shall serve in such capacities for the portion of the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified.

§ 923.22 Nomination.

(a) Initial members. Nominations for each of the ten initial grower members and five initial handler members of the committee, together with nominations for the initial alternate members for each position, may be submitted to the Secretary by individual growers and handlers. Such nominations may be made by means of group meetings of the growers and handlers concerned in each district. Such nominations may be filed with the Secretary by individual growers and handlers. Such nominations may be made by means of group meetings of the growers and handlers concerned in each district. Such nominations, if made, shall be filed with the Secretary no later than the effective date of this part. In the event nominations for initial members and alternate members of the committee are not filed pursuant to, and within the time specified, in this section, the Secretary may select such initial members and alternate members without regard to nominations, but selections shall be on the basis of the representation provided for in § 923.20.

(b) Successor members. (1) The committee shall form or cause to be held, not later than March 1 of each year, a meeting of growers and handlers in each district for the purpose of designating nominees for successor members and alternate members of the committee. At each such meeting a chairman and a secretary shall be selected by the growers and handlers eligible to participate therein. The chairman shall announce at the meeting the number of votes cast for each person nominated for member or alternate member and shall submit promptly to the committee a complete report concerning such meeting. The committee shall, in turn, promptly submit a copy of each such report to the Secretary.

(2) Only growers, including duly authorized officers or employees of corporate growers, who are present at such nomination meetings may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for grower members and their alternates. Each grower shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each nominee to be elected in the district in which he produces cherries. No grower shall participate in the election of nominees in more than one district in any one fiscal year. If a person is both a grower and a handler of cherries, such person may vote either as a grower or as a handler but not as both.

(3) Only handlers, including duly authorized officers or employees of handlers, who are present at such nomination meetings, may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for handler members and their alternates. Each handler shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each nominee to be elected in the district in which he handles cherries. No handler shall participate in the election of nominees in more than one district in any one fiscal year. If a person is both a grower and a handler of cherries, such person may vote either as a grower or as a handler but not as both.

§ 923.23 Selection.

From the nominations made pursuant to §§ 923.22, or from other qualified persons, the Secretary shall select the ten grower members of the committee, the five handler members of the committee, and an alternate for each member.

§ 923.24 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner prescribed in § 923.22, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the members and alternate members of the
§ 923.25  Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary promptly after being notified of such selection.

§ 923.26  Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate member of the committee, a successor for the unexpired term of such member or alternate member of the committee shall be nominated and selected in the manner specified in §§923.22 and 923.23. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within a reasonable time after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of representation provided for in §923.20.

§ 923.27  Alternate members.

An alternate member of the committee, during the absence or at the request of the member for whom he is an alternate, shall act in the place and stead of such member and perform such other duties as assigned. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified. In the event both a member of the committee and his alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the member of the committee may designate any other alternate member from the same district and group (handler or grower) to serve in such member's place and stead.

§ 923.30  Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;
(b) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the provisions of this part;
(c) To make and adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 923.31  Duties.

The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:
(a) To select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to define the duties of such officers;
(b) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary, and to determine the compensation and to define the duties of each;
(c) To submit to the Secretary as soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period a budget for such fiscal period, including a report in explanation of the items appearing therein and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such period;
(d) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;
(e) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;
(f) To cause its books to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such time as the Secretary may request;
(h) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to cherries;
(i) To submit to the Secretary such available information as he may request;
(j) To notify producers and handlers of all meetings of the committee to consider recommendations for regulations;
(k) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to its members;
§ 923.32 Procedure.

(a) Twelve members of the committee, including alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum; and any action of the committee shall require the concurring vote of at least nine members.

(b) The committee may provide for simultaneous meetings of groups of its members assembled at two or more designated places: Provided, That such meetings shall be subject to the establishment of communication between all such groups and the availability of loud speaker receivers for each group so that each member may participate in the discussions and other actions the same as if the committee were assembled in one place. Any such meeting shall be considered as an assembled meeting.

(c) The committee may vote by telegraph, telephone, or other means of communication, and any votes so cast shall be confirmed promptly in writing: Provided, That if an assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.

§ 923.33 Expenses and compensation.

The members of the committee, and alternates when acting as members, shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part and may also receive compensation, as determined by the committee, which shall not exceed $10 per day or portion thereof spent in performing such duties: Provided, That at its discretion the committee may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members, and may pay expenses and compensation, as aforesaid.

§ 923.34 Annual report.

The committee shall, prior to the last day of each fiscal period, prepare and mail an annual report to the Secretary and make a copy available to each handler and grower who requests a copy of the report. This annual report shall contain at least: (a) A complete review of the regulatory operations during the fiscal period; (b) an appraisal of the effect of such regulatory operations upon the cherry industry; and (c) any recommendations for changes in the program.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 923.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part during each fiscal period. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as prescribed in §923.41.

§ 923.41 Assessments.

(a) Each person who first handles cherries shall, with respect to the cherries so handled by him, pay to the committee upon demand such person’s pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds will be incurred by the committee during each fiscal period. Each such person’s share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the total quantity of cherries handled by him as the first handler thereof during the applicable fiscal period and the total quantity of cherries so handled by all persons during the same fiscal period. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by each such person. At any time during or after the fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses which may be incurred.
§ 923.42 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for as follows:

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, each person entitled to a proportionate refund of any excess assessment shall be credited with such refund against the operation of the following fiscal period unless such person demands repayment thereof; in which event it shall be paid to him: Provided, That any sum paid by a person in excess of his pro rata share of the expenses during any fiscal period may be applied by the committee at the end of such fiscal period to any outstanding obligations due the committee from such person.

(2) The Secretary, upon recommendation of the committee, may determine that it is appropriate for the maintenance and functioning of the committee that the funds remaining at the end of such fiscal period may be carried over into following periods as a reserve. Such reserve may be established at an amount not to exceed approximately one fiscal period's operational expenses; and such reserve may be used to cover the necessary expenses of liquidation, in the event of termination of this part, and to cover the expenses incurred for the maintenance and functioning of the committee during any fiscal period when there is a crop failure, or during any period of suspension of any or all of the provisions of this part. Such reserve may also be used by the committee to finance its operations, during any fiscal period, prior to the time that assessment income is sufficient to cover such expenses; but any of the reserve funds so used shall be returned to the reserve as soon as assessment income is available for this purpose. Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: Provided, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this part and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may at any time require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

(c) Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds in his possession to his successor in office, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor full title to all of the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this part.

§ 923.45 Marketing research and development.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption of cherries. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to §923.41.

§ 923.50 Marketing policy.

(a) Each season prior to making any recommendations pursuant to §923.51, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its marketing policy for the ensuing season. Such marketing policy report shall contain information relative to:
(1) The estimated total production of cherries within the production area;
(2) The expected general quality and size of cherries in the production area and in other areas;
(3) The expected demand conditions for cherries in different market outlets;
(4) The expected shipments of cherries produced in the production area and in areas outside the production area;
(5) Supplies of competing commodities;
(6) Trend and level of consumer income;
(7) Other factors having a bearing on the marketing of cherries; and
(8) The type of regulations expected to be recommended during the season.

§ 923.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) Whenever the committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of any variety or varieties of cherries in the manner provided in §923.52, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) In arriving at its recommendations for regulation pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the committee shall give consideration to current information with respect to the factors affecting the supply and demand for cherries during the period or periods when it is proposed that such regulation should be made effective. With each such recommendation for regulation, the committee shall submit to the Secretary the data and information on which such recommendation is predicated and such other available information as the Secretary may request.

§ 923.53 Modification, suspension, or termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the committee at any time finds that, by reason of changed conditions, any regulations issued pursuant to §923.52 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee or from other available information, that a regulation should be modified, suspended, or terminated with respect to any or all shipments of cherries in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall modify, suspend, or terminate such regulation. On the same basis and in like manner the Secretary may terminate any such modification or suspension. If the Secretary finds that a regulation obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall suspend or terminate such regulation.
§ 923.54 Special purpose shipments.
(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person may, without regard to the provisions of §§923.41, 923.52, 923.53, and 923.55, and the regulations issued thereunder, handle cherries (1) for consumption by charitable institutions; (2) for distribution by relief agencies; or (3) for commercial processing into products.
(b) Upon the basis of recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, the Secretary may relieve from any or all requirements, under or established pursuant to §923.41, §923.52, §923.53, or §923.55, the handling of cherries in such minimum quantities, or types of shipments, or for such specified purposes (including shipments to facilitate the conduct of marketing research and development projects established pursuant to §923.45), as the committee, with approval of the Secretary, may prescribe.
(c) The committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe such rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to prevent cherries handled under the provisions of this section from entering the channels of trade for other than the specific purposes authorized by this section. Such rules, regulations, and safeguards may include the requirements that handlers shall file applications and receive approval from the committee for authorization to handle cherries pursuant to this section, and that such applications be accompanied by a certification by the intended purchaser or receiver that the cherries will not be used for any purpose not authorized by this section.

§ 923.55 Inspection and certification.
Whenever the handling of any variety of cherries is regulated pursuant to §923.52 or §923.53, each handler who handles cherries shall, prior thereto, cause such cherries to be inspected by the Federal-State Inspection Service, and certified by it as meeting the applicable requirements of such regulation; Provided, That inspection and certification shall be required for cherries which previously have been so inspected and certified only if such cherries have been regraded, resorted, repackaged, or in any other way further prepared for market. Promptly after inspection and certification, each such handler shall submit, or cause to be submitted, to the committee a copy of the certificate of inspection issued with respect to such cherries.

§ 923.60 Reports.
(a) Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such time as it may prescribe, such reports and other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part. Such reports may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: (1) The quantities of each variety of cherries received by a handler; (2) the quantities disposed of by him, segregated as to the respective quantities subject to regulation and not subject to regulation; (3) the date of each such disposition and the identification of the carrier transporting such cherries, and (4) the destination of each shipment of such cherries.
(b) All such reports shall be held under appropriate protective classification and custody by the committee, or duly appointed employees thereof, so that the information contained therein which may adversely affect the competitive position of any handler in relation to other handlers will not be disclosed. Compilations of general reports from data submitted by handlers are authorized, subject to the prohibition of disclosure of individual handler's identities or operations.
(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least two succeeding years such records of the cherries received, and of cherries disposed of, by such handler as may be necessary to verify reports pursuant to this section.
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 923.61 Compliance.
Except as provided in this part, no person shall handle cherries, the shipment of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this part; and no person shall handle cherries except in conformity with the provisions of this part.

§ 923.62 Right of the Secretary.
The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agents, employees, or representatives thereof, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in accordance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 923.63 Effective time.
The provisions of this part, and of any amendment thereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature to this part, and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in § 923.64.

§ 923.64 Termination.
(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this part by giving at least one day's notice by means of a press release or in any other manner in which he may determine.
(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any and all of the provisions of this part whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.
(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this part at the end of any fiscal period whenever he finds that continuance is not favored by the majority of producers who, during a representative period, determined by the Secretary, were engaged in the production area in the production of cherries for market; provided, That such majority has produced for market during such period more than 50 percent of the volume of cherries produced for market in the production area; but such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before March 31 of the then current fiscal period.
(d) The provisions of this part shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 923.65 Proceedings after termination.
(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this part, the committee shall, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, continue as trustees of all the funds and property then in its possession, or under its control, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination.
(b) The said trustees shall (1) continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; (2) from time to time account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and (3) upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person, full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant hereto.
(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered pursuant to this section shall be subject to the same obligation imposed upon the committee and upon the trustees.

§ 923.66 Effect of termination or amendment.
Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of
§ 923.67 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 923.68 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any officer or employee of the United States, or name any agency or division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

§ 923.69 Derogation.

Nothing contained in the provisions of this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States (a) to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or (b) in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 923.70 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee and no employee or agent of the committee shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission, or omission, as such member, alternate, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 923.71 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 923.142 Reserve fund.

(a) The establishment of a reserve fund of an amount which shall not exceed approximately 1 fiscal year’s operational expenses is appropriate and necessary to the maintenance and functioning of the Washington Cherry Marketing Committee. The committee is authorized to expend any funds in such reserve for expenses authorized pursuant to § 923.42.

(b) Terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as given to the respective term in said marketing agreement and order.


EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g. sections .323 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

ASSessment RATE

§ 923.236 Assessment rate.

On and after April 1, 1997, an assessment rate of $0.75 per ton is established for the Washington Cherry Marketing Committee.


GRADE, SIZE, CONTAINER AND PACK REGULATION

§ 923.322 Washington Cherry Regulation 22.

(a) Grade. No handler shall handle, except as otherwise provided in this section, any lot of cherries, except cherries of the Rainier, Royal Anne, and similar varieties, commonly referred to as “light sweet cherries” unless such cherries grade at least Washington No. 1 grade except that the following tolerances, by count, of the cherries in the lot shall apply in lieu of the tolerances for defects provided in the Washington State Standards for Grades of Sweet Cherries: Provided, That a total of 10 percent for defects including in this amount not more
than 5 percent, by count, of the cherries in the lot, for serious damage, and including in this latter amount not more than one percent, by count, of the cherries in the lot, for cherries affected by decay: Provided further, that the contents of individual packages in the lot are not limited as to the percentage of defects but the total of the defects of the entire lot shall be within the tolerances specified.

(b) Size. No handler shall handle, except as otherwise provided in this section, any lot of cherries, except cherries of the Royal Anne and similar varieties other than the Rainier variety commonly referred to as “light sweet cherries” unless such cherries meet the following minimum size requirements:

(1) For the Rainier variety, at least 90 percent, by count, of the cherries in any lot shall measure not less than 61\(\frac{1}{64}\) inch in diameter and not more than 5 percent, by count, may be less than 57\(\frac{1}{64}\) inch in diameter.

(2) For all other varieties, at least 90 percent, by count, of the cherries in any lot shall measure not less than 54\(\frac{1}{64}\) inch in diameter and not more than 5 percent, by count, may be less than 52\(\frac{1}{64}\) inch in diameter.

(i) All shipments handled in such containers shall be under the supervision of the committee; and

(ii) At least 90 percent, by count, of the cherries in any lot of such containers shall measure not less than 54\(\frac{1}{64}\) inch in diameter, and not more than 5 percent, by count, may be less than 52\(\frac{1}{64}\) inch in diameter.

(c) Maturity. No handler shall handle, except as otherwise provided in this section, any lot of Rainier cherries unless such cherries meet a minimum of 17 percent soluble solids as determined from a composite sample by refractometer prior to packing, at time of packing, or at time of shipment. Provided, that individual lots shall not be combined with other lots to meet soluble solids requirements.

(d) Containers. No handler shall handle any lot of cherries, except cherries of the Rainier, Royal Anne, and similar varieties commonly referred to as “light sweet cherries”, unless such cherries are in containers which meet each of the following applicable requirements:

(1) The net weight of loose packed (jumble-filled) cherries in any container shall be 12 pounds or less, or 20 pounds or more. The net weight of face packed cherries in any container shall be 15 pounds, or 12 pounds or less: Provided, That containers with a net weight of 12 pounds or less may be packed together with like containers in a master shipping container.

(2) Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (b)(2)(i) and (ii) of this section, shipments of cherries may be handled in such experimental containers as have been approved by the Washington Cherry Marketing Committee.

(e) Pack. (1) When containers of cherries are marked with a row count/row size designation the row count/row size marked shall be one of those shown in Column 1 of the following table and at least 90 percent, by count, of the cherries in any lot shall be smaller than the corresponding diameter shown in Column 2 of such table:

Provided, That the contents of individual containers in the lot are not limited as to the percentage of undersize; but the total of undersize of the entire lot shall be within the tolerance specified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 1, row count/row size</th>
<th>Column 2 diameter (inches)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>75(\frac{1}{64})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9(\frac{1}{6})</td>
<td>71(\frac{1}{64})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>67(\frac{1}{64})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10(\frac{1}{6})</td>
<td>64(\frac{1}{64})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>61(\frac{1}{64})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11(\frac{1}{6})</td>
<td>57(\frac{1}{64})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>54(\frac{1}{64})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) When containers of cherries are marked with a minimum diameter, at least 95 percent, by count, of the cherries in any lot and at least 90 percent, by count, of the cherries in any container, shall be not smaller than such minimum diameter.

(f) Exceptions. Any individual shipment of cherries which meets each of the following requirements may be handled without regard to the provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) of this section, and of §§ 923.41 and 923.55.

(1) The shipment consists of cherries sold for home use and not for resale;
(2) The shipment does not, in the aggregate, exceed 100 pounds, net weight, of cherries; and

(3) Each container is stamped or marked with the words not for resale in letters at least one-half inch in height.

(g) Definitions. When used herein, Washington No. 1 and diameter shall have the same meaning as when used in the Washington State Standards for Grades of Sweet Cherries (Order 1550 effective April 29, 1978, WAC 16-414-050); face packed means that cherries in the top layer in any container are so placed that the stem ends are pointing downward toward the bottom of the container; row count/row size means the number of cherries of a uniform size necessary to pack row-faced across a 10½ inch inside width container or comparable number of cherries when packed loose in a container.

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

DEFINITIONS

§ 924.1 Secretary.
Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 924.2 Act.

§ 924.3 Person.
Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 924.4 Production area.
Production area means the Counties of Okanogan, Chelan, Kittitas, Yakima, and Klickitat in the State of Washington and all counties in Washington lying east thereof and Umatilla County in the State of Oregon.

§ 924.5 Prunes
Prunes means all varieties of plums, classified botanically as Prunus domestica, grown in the production area, except those of the President variety.

§ 924.6 Varieties.
Varieties means and includes all classifications or subdivisions of prunes.

§ 924.7 Fiscal period.
Fiscal period is synonymous with fiscal year and means the 12-month period ending on March 31 of each year or such other period that may be approved by the Secretary pursuant to recommendations by the committee.

§ 924.8 Committee.
Committee means the Washington-Oregon Fresh Prune Marketing Committee established pursuant to §924.20.

§ 924.14 District.
District means the applicable one of the following described subdivisions of the production area, or such other subdivisions as may be prescribed pursuant to §924.31(m):
(a) District 1 shall include all of the production area except Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin Counties in the State of Washington, and Umatilla County in the State of Oregon.
(b) District 2 shall include the County of Umatilla in the State of Oregon and

Grad means any one of the officially established grades of prunes as defined and set forth in the United States Standards for Fresh Plums and Prunes (§§51.1520 through 51.1537 of this title) or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon.

§ 924.10 Size.
Size means the shortest dimension, measured through the center of the prune, at right angles to a line running from the stem to the blossom end, or such other specifications as may be established by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

§ 924.11 Grower.
Grower is synonymous with producer and means any person who produces prunes for market and who has a proprietary interest therein.

§ 924.12 Handler.
Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier transporting prunes owned by another person) who handles prunes.

§ 924.13 Handle.
Handle or ship means to sell, consign, deliver, or transport prunes within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof. Provided, That the term “handle” shall not include the transportation within the production area of prunes from the orchard where grown to a packing facility located within such area for preparation for market.

§ 924.14 District.
District means the applicable one of the following described subdivisions of the production area, or such other subdivisions as may be prescribed pursuant to §924.31(m):
(a) District 1 shall include all of the production area except Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin Counties in the State of Washington, and Umatilla County in the State of Oregon.
(b) District 2 shall include the County of Umatilla in the State of Oregon and
the Counties of Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin in the State of Washington.

§ 924.15 Export.

Export means to ship prunes to any destination which is not within the 48 contiguous States, or the District of Columbia, of the United States.

§ 924.16 Pack.

Pack means the specific arrangement, size, weight, count, or grade of a quantity of prunes in a particular type and size of container, or any combination thereof.

§ 924.17 Container.

Container means a box, bag, crate, lug, basket, carton, package, or any other type of receptacle used in the packaging or handling of prunes.

ADMINISTRATIVE BODY

§ 924.20 Establishment and membership.

There is hereby established a Washington-Oregon Fresh Prune Marketing Committee consisting of 9 members, each of whom shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member for whom he is an alternate. Six of the members and their respective alternates shall be growers or officers or employees of corporate growers. Three of the members and their respective alternates shall be handlers, or officers or employees of handlers. The 6 members of the committee who are growers or employees or officers of corporate growers are hereinafter referred to as “grower members” of the committee; and the 3 members of the committee who shall be handlers, or officers or employees of handlers, are hereinafter referred to as “handler members” of the committee. Four of the grower members and their respective alternates shall be producers of prunes in District 1, and 2 of the grower members and their respective alternates shall be producers of prunes in District 2. Two of the handler members and their respective alternates shall be handlers of prunes in District 1, and 1 of the handler members and his respective alternate shall be handlers of prunes in District 2.

§ 924.21 Term of office.

The term of office of each member and alternate member of the committee shall be for two years beginning April 1 and ending March 31. Provided, That the term of office of one-half the initial grower members and alternates from each district and one handler member and alternate from District 1 shall end March 31, 1961. Members and alternate members shall serve in such capacities for the portion of the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified.

§ 924.22 Nominations.

(a) Initial members. Nominations for each of the initial members of the committee, together with nominations for the initial alternate members for each position, may be submitted to the Secretary by individual growers and handlers. Such nominations may be made by means of group meetings of the growers and handlers concerned in each district. Such nominations, if made, shall be filed with the Secretary no later than the effective date of this part. In the event nominations for initial members and alternate members of the committees are not filed pursuant to, and within the time specified in, this section, the Secretary may select such initial members and alternate members without regard to nominations, but selections shall be on the basis of the representation provided for in §924.20.

(b) Successor members. (1) Except as may otherwise be prescribed pursuant to paragraph (b)(3) of this section, the committee shall hold or cause to be held, not later than March 1 of each year, a meeting or meetings of growers and handlers in each district for the purpose of designating nominees for successor members and alternate members of the committee. At each such meeting a chairman and a secretary shall be selected by the growers and handlers eligible to participate therein. The chairman shall announce at the meeting the number of votes cast for each person nominated for member or alternate member and shall submit promptly to the committee a complete report concerning such meeting. The
committee shall, in turn, promptly submit a copy of each such report to the Secretary.

(2) Only growers, including duly authorized officers or employees of corporate growers, who are present at such nomination meetings may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for grower members and their alternates. Each grower shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each nominee to be elected in the district in which he produces prunes. No grower shall participate in the election of nominees in more than one district in any one fiscal year. If a person is both a grower and a handler of prunes, such person may vote either as a grower or as a handler but not as both.

(3) Only handlers, including duly authorized officers or employees of handlers, who are present at such nomination meetings, may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for handler members and their alternates. Provided, That, in the event the committee determines that attendance at such nomination meetings is not representative of handlers generally, it may, with the approval of the Secretary, obtain nominations for handler members and their alternates by mail ballot. Each handler shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each nominee to be elected in the district in which he handles prunes, which vote shall be weighted by the volume of prunes handled by such handler during the then current fiscal year. No handler shall participate in the election of nominees in more than one district in any one fiscal year. If a person is both a grower and a handler of prunes, such person may vote either as a grower or as a handler but not as both.

§ 924.23 Selection.

From the nominations made pursuant to §924.22, or from other qualified persons, the Secretary shall select the 6 grower members of the committee, the 3 handler members of the committee, and an alternate for each such member.

§ 924.24 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner prescribed in §924.22, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the members and alternate members of the committee on the basis of the representation provided for in §924.20.

§ 924.25 Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary promptly after being notified of such selection.

§ 924.26 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate member of the committee, a successor for the unexpired term of such member or alternate member of the committee shall be nominated and selected in the manner specified in §§924.22 and 924.23. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within a reasonable time after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of representation provided for in §924.20.

§ 924.27 Alternate members.

An alternate member of the committee, during the absence or at the request of the member for whom he is an alternate, shall act in the place and stead of such member and perform such other duties as assigned. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified. In the event both a member of the committee and his alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the member or the committee may designate any other alternate member from the same district and group (handler or grower) to serve in such member’s place and stead.

§ 924.30 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:
§ 924.31 Duties.

The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:

(a) To select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to define the duties of such officers;

(b) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary, and to determine the compensation and to define the duties of each;

(c) To submit to the Secretary as soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period a budget for such fiscal period, including a report in explanation of the items appearing thereon and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such period;

(d) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;

(e) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;

(f) To cause its books to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such time as the Secretary may request;

(g) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;

(h) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to prunes;

(i) To submit to the Secretary such available information as he may request;

(j) To notify producers and handlers of all meetings of the committee to consider recommendations for regulations;

(k) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to its members;

(l) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part;

(m) With the approval of the Secretary, to redefine the districts into which the production area is divided, and to reapportion the representation of any district on the committee: Provided, That any such changes shall reflect, insofar as practicable, shifts in prune production within the districts and the production area.

§ 924.32 Procedure.

(a) Six members of the committee, including alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum; and any action of the committee shall require the concurring vote of at least 6 members: Provided, That any action relating to regulations authorized by §§924.52 and 924.53 which would be effective in District 2 shall require the concurring vote of at least 2 members from District 2.

(b) The committee may provide for simultaneous meetings of groups of its members assembled at two or more designated places: Provided, That such meetings shall be subject to the establishment of communication between all such groups and the availability of loud speaker receivers for each group so that each member may participate in the discussions and other actions the same as if the committee were assembled in one place. Any such meeting shall be considered as an assembled meeting.

(c) The committee may vote by telegraph, telephone, or other means of communication, and any votes so cast shall be confirmed promptly in writing: Provided, That if an assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.

§ 924.33 Expenses and compensation.

The members of the committee, and alternates when acting as members, shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part and may also receive compensation, as determined by the committee, which shall not exceed $10 per day or portion thereof spent in performing
such duties: Provided, That at its discretion the committee may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members, and may pay expenses and compensation, as aforesaid.

§ 924.34 Annual report.

The committee shall, prior to the last day of each fiscal period, prepare and mail an annual report to the Secretary and make a copy available to each handler and grower who requests a copy of the report. This annual report shall contain at least: (a) A complete review of the regulatory operations during the fiscal period; (b) an appraisal of the effect of such regulatory operations upon the prune industry; and (c) any recommendations for changes in the program.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 924.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee for its maintenance and functioning and to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part during each fiscal period. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as prescribed in §924.41.

§ 924.41 Assessments.

(a) Each person who first handles prunes shall, with respect to the prunes so handled by him, pay to the committee upon demand such person's pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds will be incurred by the committee during each fiscal period. Each such person's share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the total quantity of prunes handled by him as the first handler thereof during the applicable fiscal period and the total quantity of prunes so handled by all persons during the same fiscal period. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by each such person. At any time during or after the fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses which may be incurred. Such increase shall be applied to all prunes handled during the applicable fiscal period. In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part during the first part of a fiscal period before sufficient operating income is available from assessments on the current year's shipments, the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance, and may also borrow money for such purpose.

§ 924.42 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for as follows:

(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (a)(2) and (3) of this section, each person entitled to a proportionate refund of any excess assessment shall be credited with such refund against the operation of the following fiscal period unless such person demands repayment thereof, in which event it shall be paid to him: Provided, That any sum paid by a person in excess of his pro rata share of the expenses during any fiscal period may be applied by the committee at the end of such fiscal period to any outstanding obligations due the committee from such person.

(2) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish and maintain during one or more fiscal years an operating monetary reserve in an amount not to exceed approximately one fiscal year's operational expenses. Funds in such reserve shall be available for use by the committee for all expenses authorized pursuant to §924.40.

(3) Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: Provided, That to the extent
§ 924.45 Research and development.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production research, and marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption or efficient production of fresh prunes. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to § 924.41.

[39 FR 33306, Sept. 17, 1974]

§ 924.50 Marketing policy.

(a) Each season prior to making any recommendations pursuant to §924.51, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its marketing policy for the ensuing season. Such marketing policy report shall contain information relative to:

1. The estimated total production of prunes within the production area;
2. The expected general quality and size of prunes in the production area and in other areas;
3. The expected demand conditions for prunes in different market outlets;
4. The expected shipments of prunes produced in the production area and in areas outside the production area;
5. Supplies of competing commodities;
6. Trend and level of consumer income;
7. Other factors having a bearing on the marketing of prunes; and
8. The type of regulations expected to be recommended during the season.

(b) In the event it becomes advisable, because of changes in the supply and demand situation for prunes, to modify substantially such marketing policy, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a revised marketing policy report setting forth the information prescribed in this section. The committee shall publicly announce the contents of each marketing policy report, including each revised marketing policy report, and copies thereof shall be maintained in the office of the committee where they shall be available for examination by growers and handlers.

§ 924.51 Recommendations for regulation.

(a) Whenever the committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of any variety or varieties of prunes in the manner provided in §924.52, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) In arriving at its recommendations for regulation pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the committee shall give consideration to current information with respect to the factors affecting the supply and demand for prunes during the period or periods when it is proposed that such regulation should be made effective. With each such recommendation for regulation, the committee shall submit to the Secretary the data and information on which such recommendation is predicated and such other available information as the Secretary may request.

§ 924.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall regulate, in the manner specified in this section, the handling of prunes whenever he finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulations will tend to
effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such regulations may:

(1) Limit, during any period or periods, the shipment of any particular grade, size, quality, maturity, or pack or any combination thereof, of any variety or varieties of prunes grown in any district or districts: Provided, That whenever any regulation under this paragraph prescribes a specific maturity requirement applicable to the handling of any variety of prunes, such maturity requirement shall apply uniformly to all prunes of such variety grown in both districts;

(2) Limit the shipment of prunes by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity during any period when season average prices are expected to exceed the parity level;

(3) Fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, markings, or pack of the container, or containers, which may be used in the packaging or handling of prunes;

(4) Prescribe requirements, as provided in this paragraph, applicable to exports of any variety of prunes which are different from those applicable to the handling of the same variety to other destinations.

(b) The committee shall be informed immediately of any such regulation issued by the Secretary, and the committee shall promptly give notice thereof to growers and handlers.

§ 924.54 Special purpose shipments.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person may, without regard to the provisions of §§924.41, 924.52, 924.53, and 924.55, and the regulations issued thereunder, handle prunes (1) for consumption by charitable institutions; (2) for distribution by relief agencies; or (3) for commercial processing into products.

(b) Upon the basis of recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, the Secretary may relieve from any or all requirements, under or established pursuant to §924.41, §924.52, §924.53, or §924.55, the handling of prunes in such minimum quantities, or types of shipments, or for such specified purposes (including shipments to facilitate the conduct of marketing research and development projects established pursuant to §924.45) as the committee, with approval of the Secretary, may prescribe.

(c) The committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe such rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to prevent prunes handled under the provisions of this section from entering the channels of trade for other than the specific purposes authorized by this section. Such rules, regulations, and safeguards may include the requirements that handlers shall file applications and receive approval from the committee for authorization to handle prunes pursuant to this section, and that such applications be accompanied by a certification by the intended purchaser or receiver that the prunes will not be used for any purpose not authorized by this section.

§ 924.55 Inspection and certification.

Whenever the handling of any variety of prunes is regulated pursuant to §924.52 or §924.53, each handler who handles prunes shall, prior thereto, cause such prunes to be inspected by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, and certified by it as
§ 924.60

meeting the applicable requirements of such regulation: Provided, That inspection and certification shall be required for prunes which previously have been so inspected and certified only if such prunes have been regraded, resorted, repackaged, or in any other way further prepared for market. Promptly after inspection and certification, each such handler shall submit, or cause to be submitted, to the committee a copy of the certificate of inspection issued with respect to such prunes. The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe rules and regulations modifying the inspection requirements of this section as to time and place such inspection shall be performed whenever it is determined it would not be practical to perform the required inspection at a particular location: Provided, That all such shipments shall comply with all regulations in effect.

REPORTS

§ 924.60 Reports.

(a) Upon request of the committee made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such time as it may prescribe, such reports and other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part. Such reports may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: (1) The quantities of each variety of prunes received by a handler; (2) the quantities disposed of by him, segregated as to the respective quantities subject to regulation and not subject to regulation; (3) the date of each such disposition and the identification of the carrier transporting such prunes; and (4) the destination of each shipment of such prunes.

(b) All such reports shall be held under appropriate protective classification and custody by the committee, or duly appointed employees thereof, so that the information contained therein which may adversely affect the competitive position of any handler in relation to other handlers will not be disclosed. Compilations of general reports from data submitted by handlers are authorized, subject to the prohibition of disclosure of individual handler's identities or operations.

(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least two succeeding years such records of the prunes received, and of prunes disposed of, by such handler as may be necessary to verify reports pursuant to this section.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 924.61 Compliance.

Except as provided in this part, no person shall handle prunes, the shipment of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this part, and no person shall handle prunes except in conformity with the provisions and the regulations issued under this part.

§ 924.62 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agents, employees, or representatives thereof, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in accordance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 924.63 Effective time.

The provisions of this part and any amendments thereto shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature, and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in § 924.64.

§ 924.64 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this part by giving at least one day's notice by means of a press release or in any other manner in which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any and all of the provisions of this part whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend
to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this part at the end of any fiscal period whenever he finds that continuance is not favored by the majority of producers who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, were engaged in the production area in the production of prunes for market in fresh form: Provided, That such majority has produced for market during such period more than 50 percent of the volume of prunes produced for fresh market in the production area; but such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before March 31 of the then current fiscal period.

(d) The provisions of this part shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 924.65 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this part, the committee shall, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, continue as trustees of all the funds and property then in its possession, or under its control, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination.

(b) The said trustees shall (1) continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; (2) from time to time account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such persons as the Secretary may direct; and (3) upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person, full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant hereto.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligation imposed upon the committee and upon the trustees.

§ 924.66 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this part or of any regulation issued pursuant to this part, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this part or any regulation issued under this part, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this part or of any regulation issued under this part, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violation.

§ 924.67 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this part shall cease upon the termination of this part, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this part.

§ 924.68 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any officer or employee of the United States, or name any agency or division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

§ 924.69 Derogation.

Nothing contained in the provisions of this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States (a) to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or (b) in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 924.70 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee and no employee or agent of the committee shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in
§ 924.71 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

§ 924.101 Changes in district representation.

Beginning with the 1970-71 fiscal period, the representation or membership on the Washington-Oregon Fresh Prune Marketing Committee is reapportioned as follows:

(a) Three (3) grower members and their respective alternates shall be producers of prunes in District 1;
(b) Three (3) grower members and their respective alternates shall be producers of prunes in District 2;
(c) Two (2) handler members and their respective alternates shall be producers of prunes in District 1; and
(d) One (1) handler member and his alternate shall be handlers of prunes in District 2.

[35 FR 3798, Feb. 27, 1970]

§ 924.110 Waiver of inspection and certification.

(a) Application. Any handler (including a grower-handler packing and handling prunes of such handler's own production), whose packing facilities are located in an area where either a Washington State Plant Industry Division Inspection Office or Oregon State Plant Industry Inspection Office or Federal-State Inspector is not readily available to perform the required inspection may, prior to shipment, apply to the Committee for a permit authorizing a waiver of inspection. Applications shall be made on forms furnished by the Committee and shall contain such information as the Committee may require including: Name and address of applicant, location of packing facility, distance of packing facility from the nearest inspection office, period (approximate beginning and ending dates) during which the applicant expects to ship to fresh market during the period, manner in which the majority of applicant's fruit will be marketed (i.e., transported by applicant to market, sold at orchard to truckers, etc.), areas or markets to which the applicant expects to ship the majority of the prunes. The application shall also contain an agreement by applicant

(1) not to ship or handle any prunes unless such prunes meet the grade, size, maturity, container, and all other requirements of the marketing agreement and order in effect at time of handling;
(2) to report periodically to the Committee on reporting forms furnished by the Committee, the following information on each shipment: quantity, variety, grade, minimum size, container, date of shipment, destination, name and address of buyer or receiver, and such other information as the Committee may specify;
(3) to pay applicable assessments on each shipment;
(4) to have or cause to have each shipment of prunes inspected when such shipment is transported to a market or through a location enroute to market where an inspector is available; and
(5) to comply with such other safeguards as the Committee may prescribe.

(b) Issuance of permit. Whenever the Committee finds and determines from the information contained in the application or from other proof satisfactory to the Committee that the applicant is entitled to a waiver from the inspection requirements of the marketing agreement and order at time of shipment, the Committee shall issue a permit authorizing the applicant to ship prunes in accordance with these administrative regulations and the terms and conditions of such permit.

[44 FR 49416, Aug. 23, 1979]
§ 924.142 Reserve fund.

(a) The establishment of a reserve fund of an amount which shall not exceed approximately one fiscal year's operational expenses is appropriate and necessary to the maintenance and functioning of the Washington-Oregon Fresh Prune Marketing Committee. The committee is hereby authorized to carry forward in the aforesaid reserve $4,863.46 which are excess assessment funds from the fiscal period ended March 31, 1961. Such reserve shall be used in accordance with the provisions of § 924.42 of said marketing agreement and order (§§ 924.1 to 924.71).

(b) Terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as given to the respective term in said marketing agreement and order.


EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, "Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment" regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .299) and "Handling" regulations (e.g. sections .320 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the "List of CFR Sections Affected" in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

Subpart—Assessment Rate

§ 924.236 Assessment rate.

On and after April 1, 1997, an assessment rate of $0.75 per ton is established for the Washington-Oregon Fresh Prune Marketing Committee.


Subpart—Grade and Size Requirements

§ 924.319 Prune Regulation 19.

(a) During the period beginning July 15 and ending September 30, no handler shall handle any lot of prunes, except prunes of the Brooks variety, unless:

(1) Such prunes grade at least U.S. No. 1, except that at least two-thirds of the surface of the prune is required to be purplish in color, and such prunes measure not less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter as measured by a rigid ring:

Provided, That the following tolerances, by count, of the prunes in any lot shall apply in lieu of the tolerance for defects provided in the United States Standards for Grades of Fresh Plums and Prunes: A total of not more than 15 percent for defects, including therein not more than the following percentage for the defect listed:

(i) 10 percent for prunes which fail to meet the color requirement;

(ii) 10 percent for prunes which fail to meet the minimum diameter requirement;

(iii) 10 percent for prunes which fail to meet the remaining requirements of the grade: Provided, That not more than one-half of this amount, or 5 percent, shall be allowed for defects causing serious damage, including in the latter amount not more than 1 percent for decay; or

(2) Such prunes are handled in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this regulation, any individual shipment which, in the aggregate, does not exceed 500 pounds net weight, of prunes of the Stanley or Merton varieties of prunes, or 350 pounds net weight, of prunes of any variety other than Stanley or Merton varieties of prunes, which meets each of the following requirements may be handled without regard to the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, and of §§ 924.41 and 924.55:

(1) The shipment consists of prunes sold for home use and not for resale, and

(2) Each container is stamped or marked with the handler's name and address and with the words "not for resale" in letters at least one-half inch in height.

(c) The term U.S. No. 1 shall have the same meaning as when used in the United States Standards for Grades of Fresh Plums and Prunes (7 CFR 2851.1520 through 2851.1538); the term purplish color shall have the same meaning as when used in the Washington State Department of Agriculture Standards for Italian Prunes (April 29, 1978), and in the Oregon State Department of Agriculture Standards for Italian Prunes (October 5, 1977); the
term diameter means the greatest dimension measured at right angles to a line from the stem to blossom end of the fruit; and, except as otherwise specified, all other terms shall have the same meaning as when used in the marketing agreement and order.


PART 925—GRAPEs GROWN IN A DESIGNATED AREA OF SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA

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SOURCE: 45 FR 40566, June 16, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

DEFINITIONS

§ 925.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated.

§ 925.2 Act.


§ 925.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 925.4 Grapes.

Grapes means any variety of vinifera species table grapes grown in the production area.
§ 925.5 Production area.

Production area means Imperial County, California, and that part of Riverside County and San Diego County, California, situated east of a line drawn due north and south through the Post Office in White Water, California.

§ 925.6 Varieties.

Varieties means and includes all classifications or subdivisions of Vitis vinifera table grapes.

§ 925.7 Producer.

Producer is synonymous with grower and means any person who produces grapes for the fresh market and who has a proprietary interest therein.

§ 925.8 Handler.

Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier of grapes owned by another person) who handles grapes or causes grapes to be handled.

§ 925.10 Handle.

Handle is synonymous with ship and means to pack, sell, deliver (including delivery to a storage facility), transport, or in any way to place grapes in the current of commerce within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof: Provided, That such term shall not include the sale of grapes on the vine and except when regulations are effective pursuant to § 925.52(a)(5) shall not include the transportation or delivery of grapes to a packinghouse within the production area for preparation for market.

§ 925.11 Pack.

Pack means the specific arrangement, weight, grade or size, including the uniformity thereof, of the grapes within a container: Provided, That when used in or with respect to § 925.52(a)(5) such term shall mean to place grapes into containers for shipment to market as fresh grapes.

§ 925.12 Fiscal period.

Fiscal period is synonymous with fiscal year and means the 12 month period beginning on December 1 of one year and ending the last day of November of the following year or such other period as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe.

§ 925.13 Container.

Container means any lug, box, bag, crate, carton, or any other receptacle used in packing grapes for shipment as fresh grapes, and includes the dimensions, capacity, weight, marking, and any pads, liners, lids, and any or all appurtenances thereto or parts thereof. The term applies, in the case of grapes packed in consumer packages, to the master receptacle and to any and all packages therein.

§ 925.14 Committee.

Committee means the California Desert Grape Administrative Committee established under § 925.20.

ADMINISTRATIVE BODY

§ 925.20 Establishment and membership.

(a) There is hereby established a California Desert Grape Administrative Committee consisting of 12 members, each of whom shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member. Five of the members and their alternates shall be producers or officers or employees of producers (producer members). Five of the members and their alternates shall be handlers or officers or employees of handlers (handler members). One member and alternate shall be either a producer or handler or officer or employee thereof. One member and alternate shall represent the public.

(b) Not more than two members and not more than two alternate members shall be affiliated with the same handler entity.

(c) The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, provide such other allocation of producer or handler membership, or both, as may be necessary to assure equitable representation.

§ 925.21 Term of office.

The term of office of the members and alternates shall be one fiscal period. Each member and alternate shall serve in such capacities for the portion of the term of office for which they are
selected and have qualified and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified.

§ 925.22 Nomination.

(a) Initial members. Nominations for each of the initial members, together with nominations for the initial alternate members for each position, may be submitted to the Secretary by the Committee responsible for promulgation of this part. Such nominations may be made by means of a meeting of the growers and a meeting of the handlers. Such nominations, if made, shall be filed with the Secretary no later than the effective date of this part. In the event nominations for initial members and alternate members of the committee are not filed pursuant to, and within the time specified in, this section, the Secretary may select such initial members and alternate members without regard to nominations, but selections shall be on the basis of the representation provided in §925.20.

(b) Successor members. The Secretary shall cause to be held, not later than November 15, of each year, meetings of producers and handlers for the purpose of making nominations for members and alternate members of the committee.

(c) Only producers, including duly authorized officers or employees of producers, who are present at such nomination meetings, may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for producer members and their alternates. Each producer entity shall be entitled to cast only one vote. If a person is both a producer and a handler of grapes, such person may participate in both producer and handler nominations.

(d) Only handlers, including duly authorized officers or employees of handlers, who are present at such nomination meetings, may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for handler members and their alternates. Each handler entity shall be entitled to cast only one vote.

(e) One member and alternate member shall be nominated by a vote of both producers and handlers and may be of either group.

(f) The public member and alternate member shall be nominated by the committee. The committee shall prescribe, with the approval of the Secretary, procedures for the nomination of the public member and qualification requirements for such member.

§ 925.23 Selection.

The Secretary shall select members and alternate members of the committee from persons nominated pursuant to §925.22 or from other qualified persons.

§ 925.24 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner specified in §925.22 the Secretary may select the members and alternate members of the committee without regard to nominations on the basis of the representation provided for in §925.20.

§ 925.25 Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary promptly after being notified of such selection.

§ 925.26 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate member of the committee, a successor for the unexpired term of such member or alternate member of the committee shall be nominated and selected in the manner specified in §§925.22 and 925.23. If the names of the nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within a reasonable time after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of the representation provided for in §925.20.

§ 925.27 Alternate members.

An alternate member shall act in the place of the member during such member’s absence or at such member’s request, and may be assigned other program duties by the chairman or the committee. In the event of the death,
removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member the alternate shall act for the member until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified. In the event that both a member and that member’s alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the member or committee members present may designate any other alternate to serve in such member's place at the meeting if such action is necessary to secure a quorum: Provided, That not more than two members or alternates acting for members who are affiliated with the same handler entity shall serve as members at the same meeting.

§ 925.28 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;

(b) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the provisions of this part;

(c) To make and adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part; and

(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 925.29 Duties.

The committees shall have, among others, the following duties:

(a) To select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to define the duties of such officers;

(b) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary, and to determine compensation and to define the duties of each;

(c) To submit to the Secretary as soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period a budget for such period, including a report in explanation of the items appearing therein and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such period;

(d) To keep minutes, books, and records, which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;

(e) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;

(f) To cause its books to be audited by a competent public accountant at least once each fiscal period and at such times as the Secretary may request;

(g) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;

(h) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to grapes;

(i) To submit to the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to its members;

(j) To submit to the Secretary such available information as may be requested; and

(k) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part.

§ 925.30 Procedure.

(a) Eight members of the committee shall constitute a quorum and any action of the committee shall require at least eight concurring votes;

(b) The committee may vote by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communications; and any votes so cast shall be confirmed promptly in writing: Provided, That if an assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.

§ 925.31 Compensation and expenses.

The members of the committee, and alternates when acting as members, shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part: Provided, That the committee at its discretion may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members and may pay expenses as aforesaid.

§ 925.32 Annual report.

The committee should, as soon as practicable, after the close of each fiscal period, prepare and mail an annual report to the Secretary and make a copy available to each grower and handler who requests a copy of the report.
§ 925.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee for its maintenance and functioning and to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired in the manner prescribed in §925.41.

§ 925.41 Assessments.

(a) Each person who first handles grapes shall pay to the committee, upon demand, such handler’s pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee during a fiscal period. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by each such person during a fiscal period in an amount designed to secure sufficient funds to cover the expenses which may be incurred during such period and to accumulate and maintain a reserve fund equal to approximately one fiscal period’s expenses. At any time during or after a fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient funds to cover any later findings by the Secretary relative to the expenses which may be incurred. Such increase shall be applied to all grapes handled during the applicable fiscal period. In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part during the first part of a fiscal period before sufficient operating income is available from assessments in the current period’s shipments, the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance, and may also borrow money for such purpose.

(c) Any assessment not paid by a handler within a period of time prescribed by the committee may be subject to an interest or late payment charge, or both. The period of time, rate of interest, and late payment charge shall be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary. Subsequent to such approval, all assessments not paid within the prescribed time shall be subject to the interest or late payment charge, or both.

§ 925.42 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for in accordance with one of the following:

1. If such excess is not retained in a reserve, as provided in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, it shall be refunded proportionately to the persons from whom it was collected: Provided, That any sum paid by a person in excess of that person’s pro rata share of the expenses during any fiscal period may be applied by the committee at the end of such fiscal period to any outstanding obligations due the committee from such person.

2. The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carry over such excess into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve: Provided, That funds in the reserve shall not exceed approximately one fiscal period’s expenses. Such reserve funds may be used: (i) To defray expenses, during any fiscal period, prior to the time the assessment income is sufficient to cover such expenses; (ii) to cover deficits incurred during any fiscal period when assessment income is less than expenses; (iii) to defray expenses incurred during any period when any or all provisions of this part are suspended or are inoperative; or (iv) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. Upon such termination, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: Provided, That to the extent practicable such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the committee under this part shall be used solely for the purpose specified in this part.
and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may at any time require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

(c) Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds in such member’s possession to the committee, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in the committee full title to all of the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this part.

RESEARCH AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT

§ 925.45 Production research and market research and development.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production research, marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve or promote the marketing, distribution and consumption or the efficient production of grapes. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to this part.

REGULATIONS

§ 925.50 Marketing policy.

Each season prior to making any recommendation pursuant to §925.51 the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its marketing policy for the ensuing marketing season. Such marketing policy report shall contain information relative to:

(a) The estimated total shipments of grapes produced within the production area;
(b) The expected general quality of grapes in the production area;
(c) The expected demand conditions for grapes;
(d) The probable prices for grapes;
(e) Supplies of competing commodities, including foreign produced grapes;
(f) Trend and level of consumer income;
(g) Other factors having a bearing on the marketing of grapes; and
(h) The type of regulations expected to be recommended during the marketing season.

§ 925.51 Recommendation for regulation.

Upon complying with the requirements of §925.50 the committee may recommend regulations to the Secretary whenever the committee deems that such regulations as are provided in §925.52 will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

§ 925.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall regulate, in the manner specified in this section, the handling of grapes upon finding from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulation would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such regulation may: (1) Limit the handling of any grade, size, quality, maturity, or pack, or any combination thereof, of any or all varieties of grapes during any period or periods; (2) limit the handling of any grade, size, quality, maturity, or pack of grapes differently for different varieties, or any combination of the foregoing during any period or periods; (3) limit the handling of grapes by establishing in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity during any period when season average prices are expected to exceed the parity level; (4) fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, markings, materials, or pack of the container which may be used in handling of grapes; (5) establish holidays by prohibiting the packing of all varieties of grapes during a specified period or periods.

(b) No handler shall handle grapes that were packed during any period when such packing was prohibited by any regulation issued under paragraph (a)(5) of this section unless such grapes are handled under §925.54.

§ 925.53 Modification, suspension, or termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the committee at any time finds that, by reason of changed conditions, any regulations issued pursuant to §925.52 should be modified,
suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.  
(b) Whenever the Secretary finds from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee or from other available information that a regulation should be modified, suspended, or terminated with respect to any or all shipments of grapes in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, the Secretary shall modify, suspend, or terminate such regulation. If the Secretary finds that a regulation obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, the Secretary shall suspend or terminate such regulation. On the same basis and in like manner the Secretary may terminate any such modification or suspension.

§ 925.54 Special purpose shipments.
(a) Regulations in effect pursuant to §925.41, §925.52, or §925.55 may be modified, suspended, or terminated to facilitate handling of grapes for purposes which may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.
(b) The committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe such rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to prevent grapes handled under the provisions of this section from entering the channels of trade for other than the specific purposes authorized by this section.

§ 925.55 Inspection and certification.
(a) Whenever the handling of any variety of grapes is regulated pursuant to §925.52, each handler who handles grapes shall, prior thereto, cause such grapes to be inspected by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service and certified as meeting the applicable requirements of such regulation: Provided, That inspection and certification shall not be required for grapes which previously have been so inspected and certified if such prior inspection was performed within such period as may be established pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section. Promptly after the inspection and certification each such handler shall submit, or cause to be submitted, to the committee a copy of the certificate of inspection issued with respect to such grapes.
(b) The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, establish a period prior to shipment during which the inspection required by this section must be performed.
(c) The committee may enter into an agreement with the Federal and Federal-State Inspection Services with respect to the costs of the inspection required by paragraph (a) of this section, and may collect from handlers their respective pro rata share of such costs.

§ 925.60 Reports.
(a) Each handler shall furnish to the committee, at such times and for such periods as the committee may designate, certified reports covering, to the extent necessary for the committee to perform its functions, each shipment of grapes as follows: (1) The name of the shipper and the shipping point; (2) the car or truck license number (or name of the trucker), and identification of the carrier; (3) the date and time of departure; (4) the variety; (5) the number and type of containers in the shipment; (6) the destination; and (7) identification of the inspection certificate pursuant to which the grapes were handled.
(b) Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such times as it may prescribe, such other information as may be necessary to enable the committee to perform its duties under this part.
(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least two succeeding fiscal periods after the end of the fiscal period in which the transactions occurred, such records of the grapes received and disposed of by such handler as may be necessary to verify the reports such handler submits to the committee pursuant to this section.
(d) All reports and records submitted by handlers pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be received by, and at all times be in custody of one or more designated employees of the committee. No such employee shall disclose to any person, other than the
§ 925.65 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this part or any regulation issued pursuant to this part, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not: (a) Affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this part or any regulation issued under this part; or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this part or any
§ 925.66 Regulation issued under this part; or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or any other person with respect to any such violation.

§ 925.66 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this part shall cease upon its termination, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this part.

§ 925.67 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States: (a) To exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise; or (b) in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 925.68 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee and no employee or agent of the committee shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 925.69 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

(Secs. 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674))

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

§ 925.112 Fiscal period.

Beginning January 1, 1988, fiscal period will mean January 1 through December 31 of each year.

[52 FR 27538, July 22, 1987]

§ 925.141 Late payments.

(a) The committee shall impose a late payment charge of 5 percent on the unpaid balance on any handler whose assessment has not been received in the committee’s office, or the envelope containing the payment legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, within 45 days of the invoice date shown on the handler’s assessment statement.

(b) In addition to that specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the committee shall impose an interest charge on any handler whose assessment payment has not been received in the committee’s office, or the envelope containing the payment legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, within 45 days of the invoice date. The rate of 1 1/2 percent per month shall be applied to the unpaid balance and late payment charge for the number of days all or any part of the assessment specified in the handler’s assessment statement is delinquent beyond the 45 day period.

(c) The committee, upon receipt of a late payment, shall promptly notify the handler (by registered mail) of any late payment charge and/or interest charge due as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section. If such charges are not paid, or the envelope containing payment is not legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, within 45 days of the date of such notification, late payment and interest charges as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section will accrue on the unpaid amount.

[57 FR 24352, June 9, 1992]

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 925.215 Assessment rate.

On and after January 1, 1997, an assessment rate of $0.01 per lug is established for grapes grown in a designated area of southeastern California.


§ 925.304 California Desert Grape Regulation 6.

During the period April 20 through August 15 each year, no person shall pack or repack any variety of grapes except Emperor, Almeria, Calmeria, and Ribier varieties, on any Saturday, Sunday, Memorial Day, or the observed Independence Day holiday, unless approved in accordance with paragraph (e) of this section, nor handle any variety of grapes except Emperor, Calmeria, Almeria, and Ribier varieties, unless such grapes meet the requirements specified in this section: 


(a) Grade, size, and maturity. Except as provided under paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section, such grapes shall meet the minimum grade and size requirements of U.S. No. 1 Table, or U.S. No. 1 Institutional, as set forth in the United States Standards for Grades of Table Grapes (European or Vinifera Type, 7 CFR 51.880 through 51.913) (Standards), or shall meet all the requirements of U.S. No. 1 Institutional with the exception of the tolerance percentage for bunch size. Such tolerance shall be 33 percent instead of 8 percent as is required to meet U.S. No. 1 Institutional grade. Grapes meeting these quality requirements may be marked “DGAC No. 1 Institutional” but shall not be marked “Institutional Pack.”

(1) Grapes of the Perlette variety shall meet the minimum berry size requirement of ten-sixteenths of an inch;

(2) Grapes of the Flame Seedless variety shall meet the minimum berry size requirement of ten-sixteenths of an inch; shall be considered mature if the juice contains not less than 15 percent soluble solids and the soluble solids are equal to or in excess of 20 parts to every part acid contained in the juice in accordance with applicable sampling and testing procedures specified in sections 1436.3, 1436.5, 1436.6, 1436.7, 1436.12, and 1436.17 of Article 25 of the California Administrative Code [Title 3].

(b) Container and pack. (1) Such grapes shall be packed in one of the following containers, which are new and clean, and which otherwise meet the requirements of sections 1380.19(14), 1436.37, and 1436.38 of the California Administrative Code (Title 3):

(i) Sawdust pack with inside dimensions of 7½₄×14½₁₆×18½₈ inches, specified as container 28;

(ii) Polystyrene lug with inside dimensions of 6½₄×12½₄×15½₈ inches, specified as container 38;

(iii) Standard grape lug with dimensions in inches of 4½ to 8½ (inside) 13½ to 14½ (outside)×16% to 17½ (outside); specified as container 38K;

(iv) Polystyrene lug with inside dimensions of 6½₄×11¾ to 18¾ inches, specified as container 38Q;

(v) Grape lug with dimensions in inches of 4 to 7 inches (inside)×15¾ (outside)×19½₁₆ (outside), specified as container 38R;

(vi) Grape lug with dimensions in inches of 5 to 9 inches (inside)×11¹₈ to 12 (outside)×19¾ to 20 (outside), specified as container 38S;

(vii) Grape lug with dimensions in inches of 6½ to 7½ (inside)×13½ (outside)×15½ (outside), specified as container 38T;

(viii) Containers with a net weight of 5 kilograms (approximately 11 pounds) shall be for export only.

(ix) Such other types and sizes of containers as may be approved by the committee for experimental or research purposes.

(2) The minimum net weight of grapes in any such containers, except for containers containing grapes packed in sawdust, cork, excelsior or similar packing material, or packed in bags or wrapped in plastic or paper, and experimental containers, shall be 20 pounds based on the average net weight of grapes in a representative sample of containers. Containers of grapes packed in bags or wrapped in plastic or paper prior to being placed in these containers shall meet a minimum net weight requirement of 18 pounds.

(3) Such containers of grapes shall be plainly marked with the minimum net weight of grapes contained therein (with numbers and letters at least one-fourth inch in height), the name of the variety of the grapes and the name of the shipper.

(4) Such containers of grapes shall be plainly marked with the lot stamp
number corresponding to the lot inspection conducted by an authorized inspector, except that such requirement shall not apply to containers in the center tier of a lot palletized in a 3 box by a 3 box pallet configuration.

(c) Organically grown grapes. Organically grown grapes (defined to mean grapes which have been grown for market as natural grapes by performing all the normal cultural practices, but not using any inorganic fertilizers or agricultural chemicals including insecticides, herbicides, and growth regulators, except sulfur) need not meet the minimum individual berry size requirements of this section if the following conditions and safeguards are met: (1) The handler of such grapes has registered and certified with the committee on a date specified by the committee the location of the vineyard, the acreage and variety of grapes, and such other information as may be needed by the committee to carry out these provisions; (2) each container of organically grown grapes bears the words "organically grown" on one outside end of the container in plain letters in addition to requirements specified under paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(d) By-product grapes. The handling of grapes for processing (raisins, crushing and other by-products) is exempt from requirements specified in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section if the committee determines that the person handling such grapes has secured the appropriate permit or order from the County Agricultural Commissioner, and the by-product plant or packing plant to which the grapes are shipped has adequate facilities for commercial processing, grading, packing or manufacturing of by-products for resale.

(e) Suspension of packing holidays. Upon approval of the committee, the prohibition against packing or repacking grapes on any Saturday or Sunday, or on the Memorial Day or Independence Day holidays of each year, may be modified or suspended to permit the handling of grapes provided such handling complies with procedures and safeguards specified by the committee.

(f) Certain maturity, container, and pack requirements cited in this regulation are specified in the California Administrative Code (Title 3) and are incorporated by reference. Copies of such requirements are available from Ronald L. Cioffi, Chief, Marketing Order Administration Branch, F&V, AMS, USDA, Washington, DC 20090-6456, telephone (202) 720-2491. They are also available for inspection at the office of the Federal Register Information Center, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC 20408. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register. These materials are incorporated as they existed on the date of the approval and a notice of any change in these materials will be published in the Federal Register.

(g) Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, F&V, AMS, USDA, is the governmental inspection service for certifying the grade, size, quality, and maturity of table grapes grown in the production area. The inspection and certification services will be available upon application in accordance with the rules and regulations governing inspections and certification of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other products (7 CFR part 51); except that all persons who request such inspection and certification must provide adequate facilities in which the inspections may be conducted and also provide the necessary equipment and incidental supplies that are considered as standard requirements for providing fresh inspection under Federal or Federal-State inspection procedures.


EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979 “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g. sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.
PART 927—WINTER PEARS GROWN IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

§ 927.1 Definitions

§ 927.1 Secretary.
Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States.

§ 927.2 Act.
Act means Public Act No. 10, 73d Congress (May 12, 1933), as amended and as reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

§ 927.3 Person.
Person means an individual partnership, corporation, association, legal representative, or any organized group of individuals.

§ 927.4 Pears.
Pears means and includes any and all of the Beurre D’Anjou, Beurre Bosc, Winter Nelis, Doyenne du Comice, Forelle, and Sekel varieties of pears, and any other winter pear varieties or subvarieties that are grown in the production area and are recognized by the Control Committee and approved by the Secretary.


§ 927.5 Size.
Size means the number of pears which can be packed in a standard western pear box 18 in long, 11½ in wide and 8½ in deep (inside measurements) when packed in accordance with the packing requirements of the U.S. Standards for Pears (part 51 of this title), or as such standards hereafter may be modified or as “size” may be more specifically defined in a regulation issued under this part.

[61 FR 17554, Apr. 22, 1996]

§ 927.6 Grower.
Grower means any person engaged in the production of pears, either as owner or as tenant.

§ 927.7 Handler.
Handler means any person (except a common carrier of pears owned by another person) who, as owner, agent, broker, or otherwise, ships or handles pears, or causes pears to be shipped or handled, in fresh form by rail, truck, boat, or any other means whatsoever.

§ 927.8 Ship or handle.
Ship or handle means to sell, deliver, consign or transport pears, within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof. Provided, That the term “handle” shall not include the transportation of winter pear shipments within the production area from the orchard where grown to a packing facility located within the production area for preparation for market.

[61 FR 17554, Apr. 22, 1996]

§ 927.9 Fiscal period.
Fiscal period means the period beginning July 1 of any year and ending June 30 of the following year or such annual beginning and ending dates as may be approved by the Secretary pursuant to recommendations by the Control Committee.

[51 FR 30626, Aug. 28, 1986]

§ 927.10 Production area.
Production area means and includes the States of Oregon and Washington.


§ 927.11 District.
District means the applicable one of the following-described subdivisions of the area covered by the provisions of this subpart:
(a) Medford District shall include the counties of Jackson, Josephine, Curry, Coos, Douglas, Lane, and Klamath in the State of Oregon.
(b) Hood River-White Salmon-Underwood District shall include all of the State of Oregon not included in the Medford District, and the counties of Skamania and Klickitat in the State of Washington.
(c) Wenatchee District shall include the counties of Chelan, Okanogan, Douglas, and Spokane in the State of Washington.
(d) Yakima District shall include all of the State of Washington, not included in the Wenatchee District or in the Hood River-White Salmon-Underwood District.

§ 927.12 Export market.

Export market means any destination which is not within the 50 states, or the District of Columbia, of the United States.

[61 FR 17554, Apr. 22, 1996]

§ 927.13 Subvariety.

Subvariety means and includes any mutation, sport, or other derivation of any of the varieties covered in §927.4 which is recognized by the Control Committee and approved by the Secretary. Recognition of a subvariety by the Control Committee shall include classification within a varietal group for the purposes of votes conducted under §927.52.

[51 FR 30626, Aug. 28, 1986]

CONTROL COMMITTEE

§ 927.20 Establishment and membership.

A Control Committee, consisting of 12 individual persons as its members, is hereby established to administer the terms and provisions of this subpart as specifically provided in §§927.20 through 927.35. There shall be two alternates, designated as the "first alternate" and the "second alternate," respectively, for each member of the committee. Six members of the Control Committee and their respective alternates shall be growers of pears, and six members and their respective alternates shall be handlers of pears. Each district shall be represented on the Control Committee by one grower member and one handler member except that the Hood River-White Salmon-Underwood District and the Wenatchee District shall be represented on the committee by two grower members and two handler members.


§ 927.21 Nomination and selection of members and their respective alternates.

The grower members and their respective alternates for each district shall be selected by the Secretary from nominees elected by the growers in such district, and the handler members and their respective alternates for each district shall be selected by the Secretary from nominees elected by the handlers in such district.

§ 927.22 Meetings for election of nominees.

Nominations for members of the Control Committee and their alternates shall be made at meetings of growers and handlers held in each of the districts designated in §927.11 at such times and places as the Control Committee shall designate. At each of such meetings the growers or handlers eligible to participate therein shall select a chairman and a secretary of that meeting. In the election of nominees, each grower and each handler shall be entitled to vote in accordance with the provisions of §927.23. The chairman of the meeting shall announce at the meeting the name of each person for whom votes have been cast, whether as a member or as an alternate for a member, and the number of votes cast for each such person; and the chairman or the secretary of such meeting shall forthwith transmit such information to the Secretary or his designated representative.

§ 927.23 Voting.

Only growers in attendance at meetings for election of nominees shall participate in the nomination of grower members and their alternates, and only handlers in attendance at meetings for election of nominees shall participate in the nomination of handler members and their alternates. A grower may participate only in the election held in the district in which he produces pears, and a handler may participate only in the election held in the district or districts in which he handles pears. No person may vote both as a handler and as a grower. Each grower and each handler shall be entitled to cast one vote, on behalf of himself, his agents, partners, affiliates, subsidiaries, and representatives, for each nominee to be elected.

§ 927.24 Eligibility for membership.

Each grower member and each of his alternates shall be a grower who grows pears in the district in which and for which he is nominated and selected.
§ 927.25 Each handler member and each of his alternates shall be a handler, or an officer or employee of a handler, handling pears in the district in and for which he is nominated and selected.

§ 927.26 Qualifications. Any person prior to or within 15 days after selection as a member or as an alternate for a member of the Control Committee shall qualify by filing with the Secretary a written acceptance of the person’s willingness to serve.

[51 FR 30626, Aug. 28, 1986]

§ 927.27 Term of office. The term of office of each member and alternate member of the Control Committee shall be for two years beginning July 1 and ending June 30: Provided, that the terms of office of one-half the initial members and alternates shall end June 30, 1988; and that beginning with the 1987-88 fiscal periods, no member shall serve more than three consecutive two-year terms unless specifically exempted by the Secretary. Members and alternate members shall serve in such capacities for the portion of the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified. The terms of office of successor members and alternates shall be so determined that one-half of the total committee membership ends each June 30.

[51 FR 30627, Aug. 28, 1986]

§ 927.28 Alternates for members of the Control Committee. The first alternate for a member shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom he is an alternate during such member’s absence. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his first alternate shall act as a member until a successor for the member is selected and has qualified. The second alternate for a member shall serve in the place and stead of the member for whom he is an alternate whenever both the member and his first alternate are unable to serve.

§ 927.29 Vacancies. To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate for a member of the Control Committee to qualify, or in the event of death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any qualified member or qualified alternate for a member, a successor for his unexpired term shall be nominated and selected in the manner set forth in §§ 927.20 to 927.35. If nominations to fill any such vacancy are not made within 20 days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations.

§ 927.30 Compensation and expenses. The members and alternates for members of the Control Committee shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their respective duties.

§ 927.31 Powers of Control Committee. The Control Committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer, as specifically provided in §§ 927.20 to 927.35, the terms and provisions of this subpart;

(b) To make administrative rules and regulations in accordance with, and to effectuate, the terms and provisions of this subpart; and

(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the provisions of this subpart.

§ 927.32 Duties of Control Committee. The duties of the Control Committee shall be as follows:

(a) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;

(b) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect clearly all of the acts and transactions of the Control Committee, which minutes, books, and records shall be subject at any time to examination by the Secretary or by such person as may be designated by the Secretary;
(c) To investigate, from time to time, and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping, and marketing conditions relative to pears, and to furnish to the Secretary such available information as may be requested;

(d) To perform such duties as may be assigned to it from time to time by the Secretary in connection with the administration of section 32 of the act to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act, and for other purposes, Public Act No. 320, 74th Congress, approved August 24, 1935 (49 Stat. 774), as amended;

(e) To cause the books of the Control Committee to be audited by one or more competent accountants at the end of each fiscal year and at such other times as the Control Committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request, and to file with the Secretary copies of any and all audit reports made;

(f) To appoint such employees as it may deem necessary, and to determine the salaries and define the duties of such employees;

(g) To give the Secretary, or the designated agent of the Secretary, the same notice of meetings of the Control Committee as is given to the members of the Control Committee;

(h) To select a chairman of the Control Committee and, from time to time, such other officers as it may deem advisable; and

(i) To submit to the Secretary each fiscal period a budget of its expenses during that fiscal year.

(b) Mail voting. The Control Committee may provide for members voting by mail, telecopier or other electronic means, telephone, or telegraph, upon due notice to all members. Promptly after voting by telephone or telegraph, each member thus voting shall confirm in writing, the vote so cast.

§ 927.34 Rights of the Secretary.

The members and alternates for members of the Control Committee and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the Control Committee shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the Control Committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time, and, upon such disapproval, shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 927.35 Funds and other property.

(a) All funds received by the Control Committee pursuant to any of the provisions of this subpart shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this subpart, and the Secretary may require the Control Committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

(b) Upon the death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or expiration of the term of office of any member or employee of the Control Committee, all books, records, funds, and other property in his possession belonging to the Control Committee shall be delivered to his successor in office or to the Control Committee, and such assignments and other instruments shall be executed as may be necessary to vest in such successor or in the Control Committee full title to all the books, records, funds, and other property in the possession or under the control of such member or employee pursuant to this subpart.
§ 927.36 Public advisors.

The Control Committee may appoint such public advisors as it deems appropriate and determine the compensation and defines the duties of such advisors.

[51 FR 30627, Aug. 28, 1986]

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 927.40 Expenses.

The Control Committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds may be necessary to carry out its functions under this subpart. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as provided in §927.41.

§ 927.41 Assessments.

(a) Assessments will be levied only upon handlers who first handle pears. Each handler shall pay assessments on all pears handled by such handler as the pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the Control Committee during a fiscal period. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the Control Committee may be required under this part throughout the period such assessments are payable irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) Based upon a recommendation of the Control Committee or other available data, the Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment that handlers shall pay on all pears handled during each fiscal period, and may also fix supplemental rates of assessment on individual varieties or subvarieties to secure sufficient funds to provide for projects authorized under §927.47. At any time during the fiscal period when it is determined on the basis of a committee recommendation or other information that a different rate is necessary for all pears or for any varieties or subvarieties, the Secretary may modify a rate of assessment and such new rate shall apply to any or all varieties or subvarieties that are shipped during the fiscal period.

(c) The Control Committee may impose a late payment charge on any handler who fails to pay any assessment within the time prescribed by the committee. In the event the handler thereafter fails to pay the amount outstanding, including the late payment charge, within the prescribed time, the Control Committee may impose an additional charge in the form of interest on such outstanding amount. The amount of such late payment charge and rate of interest, shall be prescribed by the Control Committee, with the approval of the Secretary.

(d) In order to provide funds to carry out the functions of the Control Committee prior to commencement of shipments in any season, handlers may make advance payments of assessments, which advance payments shall be credited to such handlers and the assessments of such handlers shall be adjusted so that such assessments are based upon the quantity of each variety of pears handled by such handlers during such season. Further, payment discounts may be authorized by the Control Committee upon the approval of the Secretary to handlers making such advance assessment payments.


§ 927.42 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carryover such excess into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve: Provided, That funds already in the reserve do not exceed approximately one fiscal period’s expenses. Such reserve may be used (1) to cover any expense authorized under this part and (2) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. Any such excess not retained in a reserve or applied to any outstanding obligation of the person from whom it was collected shall be refunded proportionately to the persons from whom it was collected. Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: Provided, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.
(b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purpose specified in this part and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may at any time require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

[27 FR 93, Jan. 5, 1962]

**§ 927.43 Use of funds.**

From the funds acquired pursuant to §927.41 the Control Committee shall pay the salaries of its employees, if any, and pay the expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of the duties of the Control Committee.

**§ 927.44 Collection of unpaid assessments.**

The Control Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may institute and maintain, in its own name or in the names of its members, legal proceedings against any handler assessed for the collection of such handler’s pro rata share of the aforesaid expenses.

**§ 927.45 Contributions.**

The Control Committee may accept voluntary contributions but these shall only be used to pay expenses incurred pursuant to section 927.47. Furthermore, such contributions shall be free from any encumbrances by the donor and the Control Committee shall retain complete control of their use.

[61 FR 17555, Apr. 22, 1996]

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

**§ 927.47 Research and development.**

The Control Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production research, or marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption of pears. Such projects may provide for any form of marketing promotion, including paid advertising. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to §§927.41 and 927.46. Expenditures for a particular variety of pears shall approximate the amount of assessments and voluntary contributions collected for that variety of pears.

[61 FR 17555, Apr. 22, 1996]

**REGULATION OF SHIPMENTS**

**§ 927.50 Recommendation by the Control Committee.**

(a) It shall be the duty of the Control Committee to investigate, from time to time, supply and demand conditions relative to pears and each grade, size, and quality of each variety thereof. Such investigations by the Control Committee shall be with respect to the following: (1) Estimated production of each variety of pears and of each grade, size, and quality thereof; (2) prospective supplies and prices of Bartlett pears and other fruits, both in fresh and processed form, which are competitive to the marketing of pears; (3) prospective exports of pears and imports of pears from other producing areas; (4) probable harvesting period for each variety of pears; (5) the trend and level of consumer income; (6) general economic conditions; and (7) other relevant factors.

(b) On or before August 1 of each year, the Control Committee shall recommend regulations to the Secretary if it finds, on the basis of the foregoing investigations, that such regulation as is provided in §927.51 will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) In the event the Control Committee at any time finds that by reason of changed conditions any regulation issued pursuant to §927.51 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

**§ 927.51 Issuance of regulations; and modification, suspension, or termination thereof.**

(a) Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the Control Committee, or from other available information, that regulation, in the manner specified in this section, of the shipment of pears would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall so limit the shipment of pears during a specified period or periods. Such regulation: (1) May limit the total quantity of any grade, size, quality, or combinations thereof, of any variety of pears...
§ 927.52 Prerequisites to Control Committee recommendations.

(a) Decisions of the Control Committee with respect to any recommendations to the Secretary pursuant to the establishment or modification of a supplemental rate of assessment for an individual variety of pears shall be made by affirmative vote of not less than 75 percent of the applicable total number of votes, computed in the manner hereinafter described in this section, of all committee members. Decisions of the Control Committee pursuant to the provisions of §927.50 shall be made by an affirmative vote of not less than 80 percent of the applicable total number of votes, computed in the manner hereinafter prescribed in this section, of all committee members.

(b) With respect to a particular variety of pears, the applicable total number of votes shall be the aggregate of the votes allotted to the members of the committee in accordance with the following: Each member shall have one vote as an individual and, in addition, shall have an equal share of the vote of the district represented by such member; and such district vote shall be computed by the Control Committee as soon as practical after the beginning of each fiscal period on either—

(1) The basis of one vote for each 25,000 boxes (except 2,500 boxes for Forelle and Seckel varieties) of the average quantity of such variety produced in the particular district and shipped therefrom during the immediately preceding three fiscal periods; or

(2) Such other basis as the Control Committee may recommend and the Secretary may approve.

The votes so allotted to a member of the committees may be cast by such member on each recommendation relative to the variety of pears on which such votes were computed.

§ 927.53 Notification.

(a) The Control Committee shall give prompt notice to growers and handlers of each recommendation to the Secretary pursuant to the provisions of §927.50.

(b) The Secretary shall immediately notify the Control Committee of the issuance of each regulation and of each modification, suspension, or termination of a regulation and the Control Committee shall give prompt notice thereof to growers and handlers.

§ 927.54 Exemption certificates.

(a) As soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period the Control Committee shall adopt and announce the procedural rules by which exemption certificates may be issued to growers. The Control Committee shall determine the percentage which the grades and sizes of each variety of pears permitted to be shipped from each district under the regulation bears to the total quantity of each variety of pears which could be shipped from that district in the absence of regulation. An exemption certificate may thereafter be granted to any grower who furnishes proof that he will be prevented, because of the regulation in effect, from shipping a percentage of a particular variety of his pears equal to the percentage of pears of that particular variety permitted to be shipped.
from his district as determined by the Control Committee. Such exemption certificate shall permit the growers to ship that quantity of the particular variety of pears of the regulated grades and sizes of such variety as will enable him to ship as large a percentage of such variety of his pears as the average percentage of that particular variety of pears that is permitted to be shipped by all growers in his district.

(b) In the event the Control Committee shall determine and report to the Secretary that, by reason of general crop failure or other extraordinary conditions within a particular district, it is not feasible and would not be equitable to issue exemption certificates to growers within that district on the basis of the average percentage of the pears grown in the district which may be shipped in compliance with the requirements of §927.51, the Secretary may prescribe such other basis for the issuance of such certificates to growers within that district as he may find to be feasible, equitable, and proper.

(c) The Secretary shall have power to modify, change, alter, or amend any procedural rules and any exemption granted under this section.

INSPECTION

§ 927.60 Inspection and certification.

(a) Except as hereinafter provided no handler shall ship any pears not theretofore inspected, and a certificate issued with respect thereto, by a duly authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service: Provided, That such inspection and certification of shipments of pears may be performed by such other inspection service as the Control Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may designate. Promptly after shipment of any pears, the handler shall submit, or cause to be submitted, to the Control Committee a copy of the inspection certificate issued on such shipment.

(b) Any handler may ship pears, on any one conveyance and in such quantity as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe, exempt from the inspection and certification requirements of paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 927.71 Compliance.

Except as provided in §927.65, no handler shall ship any pears contrary to...
§ 927.72 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon termination hereof, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 927.73 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remaining provisions and the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 927.74 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this subpart is or shall be construed to be in derogation of, or in modification of, the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 927.75 Liability of Control Committee members.

No member or alternate for a member of the Control Committee, nor any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any party under this subpart or to any other person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate for a member, or employee, except for acts of dishonesty.

§ 927.76 Agents.

The Secretary may name, by designation in writing, any person, including any officer or employee of the Government or any bureau or division in the Department of Agriculture to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this subpart.

§ 927.77 Effective time.

The provisions of this subpart shall become effective August 26, 1939, and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in § 927.78.

§ 927.78 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate this subpart.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this subpart whenever he finds that such operation obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any fiscal period whenever the Secretary finds that such termination is favored by a majority of the growers of pears who, during such fiscal period, have been engaged in the area in the production of pears for market: Provided, That such majority have produced for market during such period more than 50 percent of the volume of pears produced for market in the area. Such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before the last day of the then current fiscal period.

(d) The Secretary shall conduct a referendum within every six-year period beginning on the date this section becomes effective, to ascertain whether continuance of this subpart is favored by producers. The Secretary may terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any fiscal period in which the Secretary has found that continuance of this subpart is not favored by producers who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production for market of pears in the production area: Provided, That termination of the order shall be effective only if announced on or before the last day of the then current fiscal period.

(e) The provisions of this part shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.
§ 927.79 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of this subpart, the members of the Control Committee then functioning shall continue as joint trustees for the purpose of liquidating all funds and property then in the possession or under the control of the Control Committee, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination.

(b) The joint trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; from time to time account for all receipts and disbursements; deliver all funds and property on hand, together with all books and records of the Control Committee and of the joint trustees, to such person as the Secretary shall direct; and, upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary and appropriate to vest in such person full title to all of the funds or claims vested in the Control Committee or in said joint trustees.

(c) Any funds collected pursuant to this subpart and held by such joint trustees or such person over and above the amounts necessary to meet outstanding obligations and the expenses necessarily incurred by the joint trustees or such other person in the performance of their duties under this subpart, as soon as practicable after the termination hereof, shall be returned to the handlers pro rata in proportion to their contributions thereto.

(d) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been delivered by the Control Committee or its members, upon direction of the Secretary, as provided in this section, shall be subject to the same obligations and duties with respect to said funds, property, or claims as are imposed upon the members of said Committee or upon said joint trustees.

§ 927.80 Amendments.

Amendments to this subpart may be proposed from time to time by the Control Committee or by the Secretary.

§ 927.81 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart or the issuance of any amendment to either, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued hereunder, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulation issued hereunder, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violation.

Subpart—Control Committee Rules and Regulations

§ 927.100 Terms.

Each term used in this subpart shall have the same meaning as when used in the marketing agreement and order.

§ 927.101 Marketing agreement.

Marketing agreement means Marketing Agreement No. 89, as amended, regulating the handling of Beurre D’Anjou, Beurre Bosc, Winter Nelis, Doyenne du Comice, Beurre Easter, and Beurre Clairgeau varieties of pears grown in the States of Oregon, Washington, and California.

§ 927.102 Order.

Order means Order No. 927, as amended (§§ 927.1 to 927.81), regulating the handling of Beurre D’Anjou, Beurre Bosc, Winter Nelis, Doyenne du Comice, Beurre Easter, and Beurre Clairgeau varieties of pears grown in the States of Oregon, Washington, and California.

Communications

§ 927.105 Communications.

Unless otherwise prescribed in this subpart, or in the marketing agreement and order, or required by the Control Committee, all reports, applications, submittals, requests, inspection certificates, and communications in connection with the marketing
agreement and order shall be forwarded to:
Winter Pear Control Committee
601 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon 97205
[40 FR 42851, Sept. 17, 1975]

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

§ 927.110 Determination of district percentages.
(a) The Control Committee, at its meeting held on or before August 1 of each year for the purpose of making recommendations to the Secretary under the provisions of § 927.50, shall estimate the district percentages which the grades and sizes of each variety of pears permitted to be shipped from each district under the recommended regulation bears to the total quantity of each variety of pears which could be shipped from that district in the absence of regulation.
(b) Any notice issued or given pursuant to this estimate shall specifically state that each of the said percentages is merely an estimate subject to change, and is not to be relied upon until final action is taken as hereinafter provided. Each exemption committee, as hereinafter constituted in each district, shall meet and elect a district chairman and a secretary, either at or within ten days following said meeting of the Control Committee. Said district chairman shall immediately notify the secretary of the Control Committee of the names of the chairman and the secretary. The chairman of each exemption committee shall call a meeting of such committee within his district not later than a date to be determined each year by the Control Committee at the meeting specified in paragraph (a) of this section.
(c) At said district meeting, the district percentage estimates made by the Control Committee shall be reviewed by the exemption committee, and, if found to be in accordance with conditions then existing within the district, said committee shall recommend proper adjustments to the Control Committee. Each exemption committee shall make only one recommendation for adjustment of district percentages in any one season, and said recommendation shall be made not later than the date specified by the Control Committee, except that should a major change occur in the crop or crops in any district after such date, the exemption committee may recommend a further change in such percentages. On the basis of the information submitted to it by the exemption committees and such other information and evidence as is available to it, the Control Committee shall establish all district percentages to be used in computing exemptions to growers. In the event no adjustment is recommended by the exemption committees by the date above specified, the Control Committee shall immediately, on the basis of information and evidence available to it, establish the district percentages to be used in computing exemptions to growers.
(d) The Control Committee shall give prompt notice to growers and handlers of the final percentages to be used in computing exemptions to growers.
(e) Any action taken by an exemption committee shall be approved by four affirmative votes, and each such committee shall keep accurate minutes and records of the proceedings of each of its meetings. A copy of such minutes and records shall be forwarded to the secretary of the Control Committee promptly after each meeting.

§ 927.110a Application for exemption certification.
Each application for an exemption certificate authorizing the shipment (pursuant to § 927.54) during a particular marketing season of any variety of pears shall be filed with the Secretary of the Control Committee. At the same time, and in order to insure prompt handling of such application, the applicant shall mail or deliver a copy of the application to the chairman of the exemption committee in the district in which the pears are grown. The application should be filed at the time the pears are harvested, and must be filed prior to the time the applicant’s crop is graded, sized, and packed. Each application duly mailed and received by the Secretary of the Control Committee shall be deemed to have been filed with the Secretary as of the date of such
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 927.112

mailing. As a part, and in support, of the application for an exemption certificate, the applicant shall submit one or more inspection certificates (or copies thereof) issued by a duly authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service indicating the percentage of such applicant's production of all pears of such variety which will meet the grade, size, and quality regulations in effect and the percentage which will not meet these regulations; and the volume of pears so inspected shall be representative of such applicant's total production of such variety. The said exemption committee shall have the right to make or cause to be made such additional investigation as may be necessary to determine whether the portion of the applicant's production covered by the inspection certificates adequately represents the applicant's total production of such variety. The cost of such inspection shall be borne by the applicant. The application to be submitted shall be "Form E-1 Growers Application for Exemption Certificate" and shall contain the following information:

(a) The name and address of the applicant;
(b) The location of the orchard (by district and distance from the nearest town) from which the fruit is to be shipped pursuant to the exemption certificate;
(c) The number and age of the trees producing the particular variety for which exemption is requested;
(d) The estimated quantity of such variety which could be shipped by the applicant in the absence of the grade, size, or quality regulations in effect, from shipping as large a percentage of the particular variety of his pears as the percentage of all pears of that particular variety permitted to be shipped from his district as determined by the Control Committee. In the event any member or alternate member of the Control Committee shall himself apply for an exemption certificate he shall be disqualified to serve as a member of the exemption committee to act upon the application.

§ 927.111 Exemption committee.
The members and alternate members of the Control Committee residing in the district in which the applicant grower's orchard is located shall act as an exemption committee for that district and shall make or cause to be made such investigation as may be necessary to determine whether and to what extent such applicant will be prevented, because of the aforesaid grade, size, or quality regulations in effect, from shipping as large a percentage of the particular variety of his pears as the percentage of all pears of that particular variety permitted to be shipped from his district as determined by the Control Committee. In the event any member or alternate member of the Control Committee shall himself apply for an exemption certificate he shall be disqualified to serve as a member of the exemption committee to act upon the application.

§ 927.112 Issuance of exemption certificate.
In the event such exemption committee finds and determines from proof, satisfactory to the committee, that the applicant is entitled to an exemption certificate, such exemption certificate shall be issued so as to permit the applicant to ship or have shipped the requisite quantity of his pears. Each exemption certificate shall be signed by the secretary or assistant secretary of the Control Committee and one copy
§ 927.113 Appeal to Control Committee.

Any grower, whose application is denied in whole or in part by the appropriate exemption committee or by the secretary of the Control Committee, may file a written appeal with the Control Committee within fifteen (15) days after the date of the notice to such grower of the decision involved. Upon receipt of such appeal, the secretary of the Control Committee shall submit the same, together with all applicable information and data, including the report of the exemption committee on that grower’s application to the members of the Control Committee, who thereafter shall review the same and shall determine whether and to what extent the applicant is entitled to an exemption certificate. Thereupon the secretary of the Control Committee shall issue to that grower such exemption certificate as the Control Committee shall determine to be proper.

§ 927.114 Appeal to Secretary.

Any grower who is dissatisfied with the Control Committee’s determination with respect to any appeal by that grower from a decision by an exemption committee or by the Secretary of the Control Committee with respect to that grower’s application for an exemption certificate, may appeal from such determination by the Control Committee to the Secretary of Agriculture. Any such appeal shall be made by filing with the secretary of the Control Committee a written notice of appeal within fifteen (15) days after notice to that grower of the aforesaid determination by the Control Committee. Promptly upon receipt of notice of an appeal signed by the applicant, the secretary of the Control Committee shall forward to the Secretary of Agriculture, or to his designated representative, a true and correct copy of all information pertaining to that grower’s application for an exemption certificate and the action taken thereon by the Control Committee, together with such written information and proof as was submitted to or obtained by the Control Committee with regard to said application, and a true copy of the appellant grower’s notice of appeal.

Exemptions and Safeguards

§ 927.120 Pears for charitable or by-product purposes.

Pears which do not meet the requirements of the then effective grade, size, or quality regulations shall not be shipped or handled for consumption by any charitable institution or for distribution by any relief agency or for conversion into any by-product, unless there first shall have been delivered to the manager of the Control Committee a certificate executed by the intended receiver and user of said pears showing, to the manager’s satisfaction, that said pears actually will be used for one or more of the aforesaid purposes.

§ 927.121 Pears for gift purposes.

There are exempted from the provisions of the marketing agreement and order any and all pears which, in individual gift packages, are shipped directly to, or which are shipped for distribution without resale to, an individual person as the consumer thereof, and any and all pears which, in individual gift packages are shipped directly to, or are shipped for distribution without resale to, a purchaser who will use these pears solely for gift purposes and not for sale.

§ 927.122 Shipments to designated storages.

(a) Pears may be shipped without prior inspection and certification to any public warehouse in Yakima, Zillah, Wenatchee, or Grandview in the...
State of Washington; in Portland, Klamath Falls, or Medford in the State of Oregon; or in Tulelake or Yuba City in the State of California, for storage therein in transit: Provided, That any pears so shipped shall be inspected, and a certificate issued with respect thereto, as provided in §927.60 of the marketing agreement and order, prior to such pears being removed from such warehouse. At the time any pears are so shipped into such public storage warehouse and again when such pears are shipped out of such warehouse, the handler shall, on his “Handler’s Statement of Pear Shipments,” report each such shipment as prescribed in §927.125(b).

(b) Any pears shipped to one of the aforesaid storage warehouses pursuant to this section which, upon inspection, do not meet the requirements of the then effective grade, size, or quality regulations may be (1) repacked at such warehouse so as to meet such requirements, (2) sold and delivered within the state where such warehouse is located for processing or conversion into by-products, or (3) returned to the state where the pears were produced for repacking or for sale within such state: Provided, That there first shall have been submitted to the manager of the Control Committee proof, satisfactory to the manager, that the pears will not be handled contrary to the provisions of the marketing agreement and order, such proof shall include, in the case of sale and delivery for by-products purposes, a written certificate, executed by both the handler and the intended receiver, stating that the pears will be processed or converted into by-products within the state where such warehouse is located.

§ 927.123 Interest and late payment charges.

Payments received more than 45 days after the date on which they are due shall be subject to a 1½ percent interest charge per month, until final payment is made and interest shall be applied to the total unpaid balance, including the late payment charge and any accumulated interest. Any amount paid shall be credited when the payment is received in the Control Committee office.

§ 927.125 Reports.

(a) Each shipper handling pears covered by an exemption certificate shall keep an accurate record, in the manner provided on such certificate, of all shipments of such pears. Such shipper, after having shipped as many pears as authorized by the particular exemption certificate, shall promptly mail to the Secretary of the Control Committee, such handler’s copy of the exemption certificate containing an accurate record of such shipments.

(b) Each handler shall furnish to the Control Committee, as of every other Friday, a report containing the following information on Form 1 “ Handlers’ Statement of Pear Shipments”:

(1) The number of standard western pear boxes (two half boxes shall be counted as one box) of each variety of pears shipped by that handler during the preceding two weeks;
(2) The date of each shipment;
(3) The ultimate destination, by city and state or city and country; and
(4) The name and address of such handler. In addition, the handler shall indicate, for each lot of pears shipped in accordance with the provisions of §927.122, the storage lot number, and the name and address of the storage warehouse.

(c) Each handler shall furnish to the Control Committee, as of every other Friday, a “Handler’s Packout Report” containing the following information:

(1) The total of the packout of each variety;
(2) The quantity of each variety loose in storage;
(3) The volume of each variety sold; and
(4) The name and address of such handler.
§ 927.142

(d) Each handler who has shipped less than 2,500 standard western pear boxes during any two-week reporting period of the shipping season may, in lieu of reporting biweekly, report as follows:

(1) At completion of harvest, on the next biweekly reporting date, furnish to the Control Committee a “Handler’s Packout Report”;

(2) After unreported shipments total 2,500 standard western pear boxes, furnish to the Control Committee a “Handler’s Statement of Pear Shipments” and a “Handler’s Packout Report” on the next biweekly reporting date;

(3) After completion of all shipments from regular storage (i.e. non-Controlled Atmosphere storage) at the end of the shipping season, furnish to the Control Committee a “Handler’s Statement of Pear Shipments” and a “Handler’s Packout Report” on the next biweekly reporting date;

(4) At mid-season for Controlled Atmosphere storage, at a date established by the Control Committee, furnish to the Control Committee a “Handler’s Statement of Pear Shipments” and a “Handler’s Packout Report”; and

(5) At the completion of all seasonal pear shipments, furnish to the Control Committee a “Handler’s Statement of Pear Shipments” and a “Handler’s Packout Report”; and

(e) Each handler who has pears inspected and certificated in lots larger than carload lots and who wishes to rely on such lot inspections in lieu of inspection certificates for individual carlot shipments shall deliver to the manager within 10 days after shipment of any such pears a written report showing the quantity, variety, grade, and size of the pears so shipped and the date of shipment thereof, and said report shall identify such pears with the lot-inspection certificate covering the same, and shall further show what portion of that lot remains unshipped, and where located; such report shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, the handler’s reports of shipments required under paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(f) Each handler shall specify on each bill of lading covering each shipment the variety, and number of boxes thereof, of all pears included in that shipment.


§ 927.142 Reserve fund.

(a) It is necessary and appropriate to establish and maintain an operating reserve fund in an amount not to exceed approximately one fiscal period’s expenses to be used in accordance with the provisions of § 927.42 of the amended marketing agreement and this part, and

(b) Assessments collected for the period ended June 30, 1962, were in excess of the expenses for such period and the committee is hereby authorized to place $2,500 of such excess in said reserve.


EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g. sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

§ 927.236 Assessment rate.

On and after July 1, 1997, an assessment rate of $0.44 per standard box is established for the Winter Pear Control Committee.

§ 928.6 Fiscal year.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

928.141 Interest charges.
928.150 Exemption from inspection.
928.151 Special purpose shipments.
928.152 Maturity exemption.
928.153 Minimum quantities exemption.
928.160 Utilization reports.
928.226 Assessment rate.
928.313 Hawaiian Papaya Regulation 13.


Source: 36 FR 8925, May 15, 1971, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

Definitions

§ 928.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may thereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 928.2 Act.


§ 928.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 928.4 Papayas.

Papayas means any and all varieties of papayas grown in the production area.

§ 928.5 Production area.

Production area means the State of Hawaii.

§ 928.6 Fiscal year.

Fiscal year means the 12-month period beginning January 1 of each year, or such other period that may be approved by the Secretary pursuant to a recommendation by the committee: Provided, That the initial fiscal year shall begin on the effective date of this part.
§ 928.7 Committee.

Committee means the Papaya Administrative Committee established pursuant to § 928.20.

§ 928.8 Grower.

Grower is synonymous with producer and means any person who produces papayas for market, and who has a proprietary interest therein.

§ 928.9 Handler.

Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier transporting papayas owned by another person) who handles papayas in fresh form or causes papayas to be handled.

§ 928.10 Handle.

Handle or ship are synonymous and mean to sell, consign, deliver, or transport papayas or cause papayas to be sold, consigned, delivered, or transported within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof; Provided, That such term shall not include: (a) The sale of papayas on the tree; (b) the transportation of papayas from the location where grown to a packinghouse within the production area for the purpose of having such papayas prepared for market; or (c) the sale of papayas at retail by a person in his capacity as a retailer.

§ 928.11 District.

District means the applicable one of the following described subdivisions of the production area, or such other subdivisions as may be prescribed pursuant to § 928.31(o):

(a) District 1 shall include the island of Hawaii.

(b) District 2 shall include the county of Kauai which consists of the islands of Kauai and Niihau; the county of Maui which consists of the islands of Maui, Molakai, Lanai, and Kahoolawe; and Kalawao County.

(c) District 3 shall include the county of Honolulu which includes all of the island of Oahu.

[53 FR 864, Jan. 14, 1988]

§ 928.12 Export.

Export means to ship papayas to any point outside the State of Hawaii.

ADMINISTRATIVE BODY

§ 928.20 Establishment and membership.

There is hereby established a Papaya Administrative Committee consisting of 13 members, each of whom shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member. Ten of the members and their alternates shall be growers and are referred to as “grower” members of the committee. Seven of the grower members and their alternates shall be producers of papayas in District 1, two grower members and their alternates shall be producers of papayas in District 2, and one grower member and alternate shall be producers of papayas in District 3. No grower organization shall be permitted to have more than three members on the committee. Three of the members and their alternates shall be representatives of handlers and are referred to as “handler” members of the committee. The three handler members and their alternates shall be selected from the production area at large. No handler organization shall be permitted to have more than one handler member on the committee. The number of grower and handler members and alternates on the committee, and the composition of the committee between growers and handlers may be changed as provided in § 928.31(o). The committee also may be increased by one public member and one alternate public member nominated by the committee and selected by the Secretary. The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe the qualifications of, and the nominating procedure for, the public member and alternate.

[53 FR 864, Jan. 14, 1988]

§ 928.21 Term of office.

The term of office of each member and alternate member of the committee shall be for two years beginning July 1 and ending on the second succeeding June 30, or such other dates recommended by the committee and
established by the Secretary. The consecutive terms of office of a member shall be limited to three 2-year terms. Members and alternate members shall serve in such capacity for the portion of the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified.

[53 FR 864, Jan. 14, 1988]

§ 928.22 Nomination.

(a) Successor members. (1) The committee shall hold or cause to be held, not later than 45 days before the beginning of the term of office of committee members, separate meetings of growers in each district and a meeting of handlers for the purpose of designating nominees for successor members and alternate members of the committee, which shall be publicized and open to all growers and handlers. At each grower meeting, a chairman and a secretary shall be selected by growers eligible to participate therein. The chairman shall announce at the meeting the number of votes cast for each person nominated for member or alternate member and shall submit promptly to the committee a complete report concerning such meeting. The chairman shall submit a copy of each such report to the Secretary. At each handler meeting, a chairman and a secretary may be selected by the handlers eligible to participate therein. If a chairman is elected he shall announce the number of votes cast for each person nominated for member or alternate member and shall submit promptly to the committee a report concerning such meeting. The chairman shall, in turn, promptly submit a copy of each such report to the Secretary.

(2) Only growers, including duly authorized officers or employees of growers, who are present at such nomination meetings may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for grower members and their alternates. Each grower shall be entitled to cast only one vote, which vote shall be weighted by the volume of papayas handled by such handler during the then current fiscal year. If a person is both a grower and a handler of papayas, such person may vote either as a grower, or as a handler but not as both.

(b) In the event that nominees for all available positions are not provided by the aforesaid procedure, then such unfiled positions shall be treated as vacancies and the provisions of §928.26 shall apply.

[53 FR 864, Jan. 14, 1988]

§ 928.23 Selection.

The Secretary shall select the grower, handler, and public members, and an alternate for each, from nominations made under §§928.20, 928.22 and 928.26, or from other qualified persons.

[53 FR 864, Jan. 14, 1988]

§ 928.24 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made in the time and manner prescribed in §§928.20, 928.22 and 928.26, the Secretary may without regard to nominations select the members and alternate members of the committee.

[53 FR 864, Jan. 14, 1988]

§ 928.25 Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary promptly after being notified of such selection.

§ 928.26 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a
§ 928.27 Alternate members.

An alternate member of the committee, during the absence or at the request of the member for whom he is an alternate, shall act in the place and stead of such member and perform such other duties as assigned. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified.

§ 928.30 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;
(b) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the provisions of this part;
(c) To make and adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 928.31 Duties.

The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:
(a) To select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to define the duties of such officers; and to select sub-committees, advisory committees or other committees and define the duties of each;
(b) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary, and to determine the compensation and to define the duties and procedures of each;
(c) To submit to the Secretary prior to each fiscal year a budget for such fiscal year, including a report in explanation of the items appearing therein and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such fiscal year;
(d) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;
(e) To prepare a statement of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;
(f) To require adequate fidelity bonds for all persons handling funds;
(g) To cause its books to be audited by a competent public accountant at least once each fiscal year, and at such other times as the Secretary may request;
(h) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;
(i) To provide an adequate system for estimating the total season crop of papayas and to make such determinations, as it may deem necessary, or as may be prescribed by the Secretary, in connection with the administration of this part;
(j) To investigate the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with
respect to papayas, and to assemble data in connection therewith;

(k) To engage in such research relating to the determination of maturity and grade standards for papayas as may be approved by the Secretary;

(l) To submit to the Secretary such available information, including verified reports, as he may request;

(m) To notify producers and handlers of meetings of the committee to consider recommendations for regulation;

(n) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part; and

(o) With the approval of the Secretary, to redefine the districts into which the production area is divided, to reapportion the grower member representation on the committee among the districts, to increase or decrease the number of grower and handler members and alternates on the committee, and to change the composition of the committee by changing the ratio between grower and handler members including their alternates. Any such changes shall reflect, insofar as practicable, structural changes within the papaya industry and shifts in papaya production among the districts within the production area.

§ 928.32 Procedure.

(a) A majority of all members of the committee, including alternates acting for members, shall be necessary to constitute a quorum and such majority must concur to approve any committee action.

(b) The committee may vote by telegraph, telephone, or other means of communication, and any vote so cast shall be confirmed promptly in writing: Provided, That if any assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.

(c) All meetings of the committee held for the purpose of formulating a marketing policy, for formulating recommendations for regulations, or for consideration of matters pertaining to production research, marketing research and development projects, including paid advertising shall be open to the growers and handlers. The committee shall give notice to each grower and handler who has requested such notice and has filed his name and address with the committee.

§ 928.33 Expenses and compensation.

The members of the committee and alternates when acting as members, or when requested by the committee to attend a committee meeting or to perform another committee function, may be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part.

§ 928.34 Annual report.

The committee may, as soon as practicable after the end of the fiscal year, prepare and mail an annual report to the Secretary and make a copy available to each handler and grower who requests a copy of the report. This annual report shall contain at least: (a) A complete review of the regulatory operations during the fiscal year; (b) an appraisal of the effect of such regulatory operations upon the papaya industry; and (c) any recommendations for changes in the program.

§ 928.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee for its maintenance and functioning and to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part during each fiscal year. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as prescribed in §928.41.

§ 928.41 Assessments.

(a) Each person who first handles papayas shall, with respect to the papayas so handled by him, pay to the committee upon demand such person’s pro rate share of the expenses which the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee during each fiscal year. Each such person’s share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the total quantity of papayas handled by him as
the first handler thereof during the applicable fiscal year and the total quantity of papayas so handled by all persons during the same fiscal year. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by each such person. At any time during or after the fiscal year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses which may be incurred. Such expenses shall be applied to all papayas handled during the applicable fiscal year. In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part during the first part of a fiscal year before sufficient operating income is available from assessments on the current year’s shipments, the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance, and may also borrow money for such purpose. Assessments not paid within a period of time prescribed by the committee may be made subject to interest or late payment charges, or both. The period of time, rate of interest, and late payment charge shall be as recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary. When such interest or late payment charges are in effect, they shall be applied to all assessments not paid within the prescribed period of time.

§ 928.42 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal year the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such expenses shall be accounted for as follows:

(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (a)(2) and (3) of this section, each person entitled to a proportionate refund of any excess assessment shall be credited with such refund against the operation of the following fiscal year unless such person demands payment thereof, in which event it shall be paid to him: Provided, That any sum paid by a person in excess of this pro rata share of the expenses during any fiscal year may be applied by the committee at the end of such fiscal year to any outstanding obligations from such person.

(2) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish and maintain during one or more fiscal years, an operating monetary reserve in an amount not to exceed approximately 1 fiscal year’s operational expense. Upon approval by the Secretary, funds in such reserve shall be available for use by the committee for all expenses pursuant to § 928.40.

(3) Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate. Provided, That to the extent practical, such funds will be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this part and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may at any time require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

(c) Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds in his possession to his successor in office and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor full title to all of the property, funds and claims vested in such member pursuant to this part.

§ 928.45 Production research, marketing research and development.

(a) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary may establish or provide for the establishment of production research, marketing research, and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the production, marketing, distribution, and consumption of papayas. Such projects may provide for any form of marketing promotion including paid advertising.
The expense of such projects shall be paid by funds collected pursuant to §928.41.

(b) In recommending projects pursuant to this section, the committee shall give consideration to the following factors:

(1) The expected supply of papayas in relation to market requirements;
(2) The supply situation among competing areas and commodities;
(3) The need for production or marketing research with respect to any production or marketing development activity.

(c) If the committee should conclude that a program of production or marketing research or development should be undertaken or continued pursuant to this section in any fiscal year, it shall submit the following for the approval of the Secretary:

(1) Its recommendation as to funds to be obtained pursuant to the applicable provisions of this part and the rate of assessment required to obtain such funds;
(2) Its recommendation as to any production research or marketing research projects; and
(3) Its recommendation as to promotion activity and paid advertising.

§ 928.50 Marketing policy.

(a) Each season prior to making any recommendations pursuant to §928.51, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its marketing policy for the season. Such marketing policy report shall contain information relative to:

(1) The estimated total production of papayas within the production area;
(2) The estimated utilization of the crop, showing the quantity and percentages of the crop expected to be marketed through fresh fruit channels within the State of Hawaii, within the continent of North America, and within the balance of the markets of the world; and showing the quantity and percent of the crop expected to be marketed through byproduct channels, together with quantities otherwise to be disposed of;
(3) Available supplies of competitive papayas in all producing areas of the United States and other competitive producing areas;
(4) Trend and level of consumer income;
(5) Other factors having a bearing on the marketing of papayas; and
(6) The type of regulations expected to be recommended during the season.

(b) In the event that it becomes advisable to substantially modify such marketing policy the committee shall submit to the Secretary a revised marketing policy setting forth the information as required in this section. The committee shall transmit a copy of each marketing policy report or revision thereof to the Secretary. Copies of all such reports shall be maintained in the office of the committee where they shall be available for examination by growers and handlers. The committee shall announce the contents of each marketing policy report, including each revised marketing policy report.

§ 928.51 Recommendations for regulation.

(a) Whenever the committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of papayas in the manner provided in §928.52 it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) In arriving at its recommendations for regulation pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the committee shall give consideration to current information with respect to the factors affecting the supply and demand for papayas during the period or periods when it is proposed that such regulation should be made effective. With each such recommendation for regulation, the committee shall submit to the Secretary the data and information on which such recommendation is predicated and such other available information as the Secretary may request.

§ 928.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall regulate, in the manner specified in this section, the handling of papayas whenever he finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulation will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such regulation may:
§ 928.53 Modification, suspension, or termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the committee at any time finds that, by reason of changed conditions, any regulations issued pursuant to §928.52 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds from the recommendation and information submitted by the committee or from other available information, that a regulation should be modified, suspended, or terminated with respect to any or all shipments of papayas in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall modify, suspend, or terminate such regulation. On the same basis and in like manner the Secretary may terminate any such modification or suspension.

§ 928.54 Special purpose and minimum quantity shipments.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person may, without regard to the provisions of §§928.41, 928.52, 928.53 and 928.55, and the regulations issued thereunder, handle papayas (1) for consumption by charitable institutions; (2) for distribution by relief agencies; or (3) for commercial processing into products.

(b) Upon the basis of recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, the Secretary may relieve from any or all requirements under or established pursuant to §§928.41, 928.52, 928.53, and 928.55, the handling of papayas in such minimum quantities, in such types of shipments, or for such specified purposes (including shipments to facilitate the conduct of marketing research and development projects established pursuant to §928.45) as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe.

(c) The committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe such rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to assure compliance with this section. Such rules, regulations, and safeguards may include the requirements that handlers shall file applications and receive approval from the committee for authorization to handle papayas pursuant to this section, and that such application be accompanied by certification by the intended purchaser or receiver that the papayas will not be used for any purpose not authorized by this section.

§ 928.55 Inspection and certification.

(a) Whenever the handling of any variety of papayas is regulated pursuant to §928.52 or §928.53, each handler who handles papayas shall, prior thereto, §928.52 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds from the recommendation and information submitted by the committee or from other available information, that a regulation should be modified, suspended, or terminated with respect to any or all shipments of papayas in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall modify, suspend, or terminate such regulation. On the same basis and in like manner the Secretary may terminate any such modification or suspension.
(b) The committee may enter into an agreement with the inspection agency with respect to the costs of inspection required by paragraph (a) of this section, and may collect from handlers their respective pro rata shares of such costs.

(c) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary to assure compliance with this section and provide for identification of containers of papayas which have been inspected and certified for handling.


REPORTS

§ 928.60 Reports.

(a) Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such time as it may prescribe, reports of papayas received and disposed of and such other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part.

(b) All such reports shall be held under appropriate protective classification and custody by the committee, or duly appointed employees thereof, so that the information contained therein which may adversely affect the competitive position of any handler in relation to other handlers will not be disclosed. Compilations of general reports from data submitted by handlers are authorized, subject to the prohibition of disclosure of individual handler's identities or operations.

(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least 2 succeeding fiscal years such records of the papayas received and of papayas disposed of by such handler as may be necessary to verify reports pursuant to this section.

(d) Verification of reports: For the purpose of assuring compliance and checking and verifying the reports filed by handlers, the Secretary and the Committee, through its duly authorized agents, shall have access to any premises where applicable records are maintained, where papayas are handled, and, at any time during reasonable business hours, shall be permitted to inspect such handlers' premises and any and all records of such handlers with respect to matters within the purview of this part.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 928.61 Compliance.

Except as provided in this part, no person shall handle papayas, the shipment of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this part; and no person shall handle papayas except in conformity with the provisions and the regulations issued under this part.

§ 928.62 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agents, employees, or representatives thereof, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in accordance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 928.63 Effective time.

The provisions of this part and of any amendments thereto shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature, and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in § 928.64.

§ 928.64 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this order by giving at least one day's notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which the Secretary may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any and all of the provisions of this order whenever the Secretary finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this order at the end of
§ 928.65
Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this part, the committee shall, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, continue as trustees of all the funds and property then in its possession, or under its control, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination.

(b) The said trustees shall (1) continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; (2) from time to time account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such persons as the Secretary may direct; and (3) upon request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person, full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant thereto.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligation imposed upon the committee and upon the trustees.

§ 928.66 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this part or of any regulation issued pursuant to this part, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provisions of this part or any regulation issued under this part, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this part, or of any regulation issued under this part, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any violation.

§ 928.67 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this part shall cease upon the termination of this part, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this part.

§ 928.68 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any officer or employee of the United States, or name any agency or division in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.
§ 928.69 Derogation.

Nothing contained in the provisions of this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States (a) to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or (b) in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 928.70 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee and no employee or agent of the committee shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 928.71 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 928.106 Fiscal year.

Pursuant to § 928.6, the term fiscal year is redefined to mean the 12-month period beginning on July 1 of each year and ending on June 30 of the following year: Provided, That an interim fiscal period is established for the period October 1, 1986, through June 30, 1987.

§ 928.111 District redefinition.

District means the applicable one of the following described subdivisions of the production area:

(a) District 1 shall include the island of Hawaii.

(b) District 2 shall include the county of Kauai which consists of the islands of Kauai and Niihau; the county of Maui which consists of the islands of Maui, Molakai, Lanai, and Kahoolawe; and Kalawao County.

(c) District 3 shall include the county of Honolulu which includes all of the island of Oahu.

§ 928.120 Committee reapportionment.

The Papaya Administrative Committee shall consist of 13 members and alternate members. Nine of the members shall represent growers, and three shall represent handlers. Seven grower members and their alternates shall represent District 1, one grower member and alternate shall represent District 2, and one grower member and alternate shall represent District 3. No grower organization shall have more than two members on the committee. The three handler members shall be nominated from the production area at large. No handler organization is permitted to have more than one handler member on the committee. One voting public member and alternate shall also be included on the committee. The eligibility requirements and nomination procedures for the public member and alternate are specified in §928.122.

§ 928.121 Term of office.

Pursuant to §928.21, the term of office for each member and alternate member on the committee is reestablished to be a 24-month period beginning July 1 of each odd-numbered year and ending on June 30 of the following year: Provided, That committee members currently serving on the committee shall continue to serve through June 30, 1987.

§ 928.122 Public member eligibility requirements and nomination procedures.

(a) The public member and alternate member shall be nominated by the Papaya Administrative Committee and shall serve a two-year term which coincides with the term of the grower and handler members of the committee.

(b) Public member and alternate member candidates should be able to
§ 928.141

devote sufficient time to attend committee activities regularly and to familiarize themselves with the background and economics of the papaya industry.

(c) The public member and alternate member shall be residents of the production area.

(d) Public member and alternate member candidates shall not represent an agricultural interest and shall not have a financial interest in, or be associated with, the production, processing, financing, or marketing of papayas.

[54 FR 20516, May 12, 1989]

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

SOURCE: 36 FR 22360, Nov. 25, 1971, unless otherwise noted.

§ 928.141 Interest charges.

(a) Assessments levied pursuant to §928.41 not paid within five days after the 25th of each month on papayas handled during the preceding month shall be subject to an interest charge of one and one-half percent per month.

(b) Notification that assessments are due not later than five days after the 25th of each month shall constitute a demand on a handler for the payment of the handler’s pro rata share of expenses within the meaning of §928.41(a).

[50 FR 31586, Aug. 5, 1985]

§ 928.150 Exemption from inspection.

(a) Waivers. A handler may handle papayas without inspection and certification, as prescribed under §928.55, if all the following conditions are met:

(1) The handler requests the Federal-State Inspection Service to provide inspection during its regular working hours at least 2 hours in advance of the time when inspection is needed. The request need not be in writing but it shall be confirmed immediately in writing on a waiver form supplied by the inspection service;

(2) The Federal-State Inspection Service advises the handler that it is not practicable to provide inspection at the time and place designated by the handler. Such advice may be verbal but it shall be confirmed in writing by the Federal-State Inspection Service by execution of the waiver form on which the handler submitted his written request. A confirmed copy thereof shall be forwarded by the inspection service to the office of the Papaya Administrative Committee;

(3) The Federal-State Inspection Service furnishes the handler with the number of the waiver which shall cover the fruit on which inspection is requested;

(4) When so instructed, the handler plainly and conspicuously marks one end of each container with the letter “W” and the waiver number supplied by the Federal-State Inspection Service. The letter W and the number so marked shall be not less than one-half inch in height.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 38104, July 27, 1994, §928.150 was suspended, effective July 1, 1994.

§ 928.151 Special purpose shipments.

(a) Papayas delivered to a handler for sale by the handler for the account of the grower shall be deemed a consignment only with respect to papayas which are actually sold by the handler; consignment shall not extend to those papayas delivered but disposed of by dumping as evidenced by a dumping certificate issued by the Federal-State Inspection Service. Papayas not consigned as herein defined shall not be subject to assessment levied pursuant to §928.41.

(b) Any handler may, after application for and receipt of committee approval, handle papayas to be used as animal feed exempt from the provisions of §§928.41, 928.52, 928.53, and 928.55 and the regulations issued thereunder.

(c) Any handler may, after application for and receipt of committee approval, handle papayas exempt from the provisions of §§928.41, 928.52, 928.53, and 928.55, and the regulations issued thereunder: Provided, That such fruit is donated for use by charitable institutions or distribution by relief agencies.

(d) Any handler may, after application for and receipt of committee approval, handle papayas exempt from
the provisions of §§ 928.41, 928.52, 928.53, and 928.55 and the regulations issued thereunder, for market research and development projects.

(e) Any handler may handle papayas exempt from the provisions of §§ 928.41, 928.52, 928.53, and 928.55 and the regulations issued thereunder, for commercial processing. Commercial processing of papayas means to can, freeze, cook, slice, dice, or pickle or convert such fruit into a beverage base for resale. All other product forms are considered fresh fruit and are subject to the provisions of the agreement and order.

§ 928.152 Maturity exemption.

(a) An immature papaya is one which has not reached the stage of maturity wherein the lower or blossom end half of the papaya shows a definite tinge of yellow.

(b) The handling of immature papayas shall be limited to papaya handlers whose name appears on the committee's current list of approved immature papaya handlers established pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section. Such papayas so handled shall be exempt from grade, size, quality, and maturity regulations issued pursuant to §§ 928.52 and 928.53.

(c) Any handler who desires to handle immature papayas shall, prior thereto, file with the committee an application and agreement therefor on PAC Form 7, which shall contain the following information: (1) Name and address of the applicant; (2) an agreement that containers of immature papayas handled to destinations within the State of Hawaii shall be clearly marked “Off-Grade—Immature” or “Immature” in letters not less than one-half inch in height and further that each immature papaya, regardless of destination, shall be stamped or labeled in a uniform manner approved by the committee indicating immaturity; and (3) an agreement to promptly submit such reports as may be required by the committee.

(d) Upon approval of the producer's application, such producer may sell not to exceed a total of 100 pounds of papayas during any one day direct to consumers for home use and not for resale.

[45 FR 50325, July 29, 1980]

§ 928.160 Utilization reports.

(a) Each handler shall file with the Papaya Administrative Committee, not later than the 15th day of each month, a duly executed PAC Form 1 reporting all papayas handled by him during the immediately preceding calendar month. Such report shall include, but is not limited to, the following information: (1) Quantity of papayas handled subject to assessments including papaya handlers. The applicant shall be notified of the committee's action.

(e) The committee may reject an application for just cause, such as a handler's past failure to comply with the requirements for the handling of immature papayas or his past failure to promptly submit reports as may be required under paragraph (c)(3) of this section and may also, for like causes, immediately suspend upon written notice, authorization previously granted a handler to handle immature papayas and remove his name from the list of approved immature papaya handlers.

[42 FR 17422, Apr. 1, 1977]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 38104, July 27, 1994, § 928.152 was suspended, effective July 1, 1994.
§ 928.226

the date and destination of each shipment; (2) quantity of papayas handled without regard to the assessment or regulatory provisions of the marketing agreement and order with such quantity itemized as to the amount (i) shipped to authorized commercial processors, (ii) donated to charitable organizations or relief agencies, (iii) shipped to authorized market research and development projects, and (iv) disposed of otherwise, and indicating such disposition.


EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g. sections .314 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in this volume.

§ 928.226 Assessment rate.

On and after July 1, 1996, an assessment rate of $0.0059 per pound is established for papayas grown in Hawaii.

[61 FR 26001, June 4, 1996]

§ 928.313 Hawaiian Papaya Regulation 13.

(a) On and after October 17, 1984, no handler shall ship any container of papayas to any destination (except immature papayas handled pursuant to §928.152) unless such papayas grade at least Hawaii No. 1: Provided, That not more than 5 percent shall be immature fruit: Provided further, That the weight requirements specified in this grade shall not apply to such shipments.

(b) “Hawaii No. 1” cited in this regulation is specified in the Hawaii Department of Agriculture Standards for Fruits and Vegetables (Title 4, Subtitle 4, Chapter 41, Subchapter 7, §4-41-52) (5/29/81). Copies of the grade specifications are available from William J. Doyle, Chief, Fruit Branch, F&V, AMS, USDA, Washington, DC 20250, telephone 202-447-5975, and they are also available for inspection at the Office of the Federal Register Information Center, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC 20408. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register. The materials are incorporated as they exist on the date of approval and a notice of any changes in the material will be published in the Federal Register.


EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 59 FR 38104, July 27, 1994, §928.313 was suspended, effective July 1, 1994.

PART 929—CRANBERRIES GROWN IN STATES OF MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND, CONNECTICUT, NEW JERSEY, WISCONSIN, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, OREGON, WASHINGTON, AND LONG ISLAND IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

DEFINITIONS

Sec. 929.1 Secretary. 929.2 Act. 929.3 Person. 929.4 Production area. 929.5 Cranberries. 929.6 Fiscal period. 929.7 Committee. 929.8 Grower. 929.9 Handler. 929.10 Handle. 929.11 To can, freeze, or dehydrate. 929.12 Acquire. 929.13 Sales history. 929.14 Marketable quantity. 929.15 Annual allotment. 929.16 [Reserved] 929.17 Barrel.

ADMINISTRATIVE BODY

929.20 Establishment and membership. 929.21 Term of office. 929.22 Nomination. 929.23 Selection. 929.24 Failure to nominate. 929.25 Acceptance. 929.26 Vacancies. 929.27 Alternate members. 929.30 Powers. 929.31 Duties. 929.32 Procedure. 929.33 Expenses and compensation.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

929.40 Expenses. 929.41 Assessments. 929.42 Accounting.
§ 929.6 Public member eligibility requirements and nomination procedures.

Subpart—Assessment Rate

§ 929.236 Assessment rate.


Source: 27 FR 8101, Aug. 15, 1962, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

Definitions

§ 929.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the United States Department of Agriculture to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 929.2 Act.


§ 929.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 929.4 Production area.


§ 929.5 Cranberries.

Cranberries means all varieties of the fruit Vaccinium Macrocarpon, known as cranberries, grown in the production area.

§ 929.6 Fiscal period.

Fiscal period is synonymous with fiscal year and crop year and means the 12-month period beginning September 1 of 1 year and ending August 31 of the following year.

[33 FR 11640, Aug. 16, 1968]
§ 929.12 Acquire.
Acquire means to obtain cranberries by any means whatsoever for the purpose of handling such cranberries.

§ 929.13 Sales history.
Sales History means the number of barrels of cranberries established for a grower by the committee pursuant to § 929.48.

§ 929.14 Marketable quantity.
Marketable quantity means for a crop year the number of pounds of cranberries necessary to meet the total market demand and to provide for an adequate carryover.

§ 929.15 Annual allotment.
A grower's annual allotment for a particular crop year is the number of barrels of cranberries determined by multiplying such grower's sales history by the allotment percentage established pursuant to § 929.49 for such crop year.

§ 929.16 [Reserved]

§ 929.17 Barrel.
Barrel means a quantity of cranberries equivalent to 100 pounds of cranberries.

§ 929.20 Establishment and membership.
There is hereby established a Cranberry Marketing Committee consisting of seven members, each of whom shall have an alternate. Except as hereafter provided, members and their alternates shall be growers or employees, agents, or duly authorized representatives of growers. Persons filling grower positions may be referred to as industry members. The committee may be increased by one public member and alternate nominated by the committee and selected by the Secretary. The public member and alternate shall be neither a grower nor a handler. Persons
filling these positions may be referred to as non-industry members. The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe qualifications and the procedure for nominating the public member. Each of the following subdivisions of the production area shall be represented by at least one member and one alternate member, each of whom shall be a grower, or an employee, agent, or duly authorized representative of a grower, in the designated district of the production area:

(a) District 1: The States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut;
(b) District 2: The State of New Jersey and Long Island in the State of New York;
(c) District 3: The States of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota; and
(d) District 4: The States of Oregon and Washington.

§ 929.21 Term of office.

The term of office for each member and alternate member of the committee shall be for two years, beginning on August 1 of each even-numbered year and ending on the second succeeding July 31. Members and alternate members shall serve the term of office for which they are selected and have been qualified or until their respective successors are selected and have been qualified. Beginning on August 1 of the even-numbered year following the adoption of this amendment, committee members shall be limited to three consecutive terms: Provided, That committee members representing Districts 1 and 2 shall be limited to two consecutive terms of office for the initial period following adoption of this amendment. The consecutive terms of office for alternate members shall not be limited. Members serving three consecutive terms may become eligible to serve on the committee by not serving for one full term as either a member or an alternate member, unless specifically exempted by the Secretary.

§ 929.22 Nomination.

(a) Initial members. Nominations for each of the initial members and alternate members may be submitted, not later than 10 days after the effective date of this part, to the Secretary by individual growers or groups of growers.

(b) Successor members. (1) Any cooperative marketing organization that handled more than two-thirds of the total volume of cranberries produced during the fiscal period during which nominations for membership on the committee are made, or the growers affiliated therewith, shall nominate four or more qualified persons for members and four or more qualified persons for alternate members of the committee. At least one such nominee for member and one such nominee for an alternate member shall represent growers in the State of Oregon and the State of Washington. The names and addresses of such nominees shall be submitted to the Secretary not later than July 1 of each even-numbered year.

(2) The committee shall hold or cause to be held, not later than July 1, of each even-numbered year, meetings of growers in Districts 1, 2, and 3, other than those affiliated with the cooperative marketing organization designated in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, to elect nominees for member and alternate member positions on the committee.

(i) With respect to such meeting in District 3, eligible growers in District 4 shall be permitted to attend the meeting and participate in the selection of nominees. Such growers shall be eligible to be nominated for and serve as member or alternate member. Eligible growers in District 4 who do not attend the nomination meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to participate in the selection of nominees by mail. Selection of the nominees for member and the nominee for alternate member from Districts 3 and 4 shall be on the basis of the total vote of the eligible growers who attended the meeting plus any mail ballots cast by District 4 growers.

(ii) Except as hereinbefore provided, the growers in each such district who are present at the meeting, including District 4 growers who are present at...
§ 929.23 Selection.

(a) Initial members. From the nominations made pursuant to §929.22(a), or from other qualified persons, the Secretary shall select the initial members of the committee and an alternate for each such member on the basis of the representation provided for in §929.20 and in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) Successor members. From the nominations made pursuant to §929.22(b)(1), or from other qualified persons, the Secretary shall select four members of the committee and an alternate for each such member. From the nominations made pursuant to §929.22(b)(2), or from other qualified persons, the Secretary shall select three members of the committee and an alternate for each such member.


§ 929.24 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner prescribed in §929.22, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the members and alternate members of the committee on the basis of representation provided for in §§929.20 and 929.23.

§ 929.25 Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary promptly after being notified of such selection.

§ 929.26 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate member of the committee, a successor for the unexpired term of such member or alternate member of the committee shall be nominated and selected in the manner specified in §§929.22 and 929.23. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within a reasonable time after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of representation provided for in §§929.20 and 929.23.

§ 929.27 Alternate members.

An alternate member of the committee, during the absence of the member for whom he is an alternate, shall act in the place and stead of such member and perform such other duties as assigned. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified. In the event both a grower member of the committee and his alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the committee may designate any other grower alternate member to serve in such member’s place and stead at that meeting: Provided, That not more than four members and alternate members selected from those nominated pursuant to §929.22(b)(1) shall serve as members at the same meeting; And provided, further, That grower alternates shall
§ 929.30 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;
(b) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the provisions of this part;
(c) To make and adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 929.31 Duties.

The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:
(a) To select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to define the duties of such officers;
(b) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary and to determine the compensation and to define the duties of each;
(c) To submit to the Secretary as soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period a budget for such fiscal period, including a report in explanation of the items appearing therein and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such period;
(d) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;
(e) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;
(f) To cause its books to be audited by a competent public accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such times as the Secretary may request;
(g) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;
(h) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to cranberries;
(i) To submit to the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to its members;
(j) To submit to the Secretary such available information as he may request; and
(k) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part.

§ 929.32 Procedure.

(a) Five members of the committee, or alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum and any action of the committee shall require at least five concurring votes: Provided, That if the committee is increased by the addition of a public member and such public member or alternate is present at a meeting, 6 members shall constitute a quorum and any action of the committee on which the public member votes shall require 6 concurring votes. If the public member abstains from voting on any particular matter, 5 concurring votes shall be required for an action of the committee.
(b) The committee may vote by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication, and any votes so cast shall be confirmed promptly in writing: Provided, That if an assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.
(c) All assembled meetings of the committee shall be open to growers and handlers. The committee shall publish notice of such meetings in such newspapers as it deems appropriate and shall mail notice of such meetings to each grower and handler who has filed his name and address with the committee for such purpose.

§ 929.33 Expenses and compensation.

The members of the committee, and alternates when acting as members, shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses, as approved by the committee, incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part. The committee at its discretion may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members, and may pay expenses, as aforesaid.
§ 929.40 Expenses and Assessments

§ 929.40 Expenses.
The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee for its maintenance and functioning and to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions hereof. The funds to cover such expenses shall be paid to the committee by handlers in the manner prescribed in § 929.41.

§ 929.41 Assessments.

(a) As a handler's pro rate share of the expenses which the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee during a fiscal period, a handler shall pay to the committee assessments on all cranberries acquired as the first handler thereof during such period, except as provided in § 929.55. Provided, That no handler shall pay assessments on excess cranberries as provided in § 929.57. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect, irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by each handler during a fiscal period in an amount designated to secure funds sufficient to cover the expenses which may be incurred during such period and to accumulate and maintain a reserve fund equal to approximately one fiscal period's expenses. At any time during or after the fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the assessment rate in order to secure funds sufficient to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses which may be incurred. Such increase shall be applied to all cranberries acquired during the applicable fiscal period. In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part during the first part of a fiscal year, before sufficient operating income is available from assessments, the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance and may also borrow money for such purposes.

(c) If a handler does not pay such assessment within the period of time prescribed by the committee, the assessment may be increased by either a late payment charge, or an interest charge, or both, at rates prescribed by the committee, with the approval of the Secretary.

[57 FR 38748, Aug. 27, 1992]

§ 929.42 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carryover such excess into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve: Provided, That funds already in the reserve do not exceed approximately one fiscal period's expenses. Such reserve funds may be used (1) to cover any expenses authorized by this part and (2) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. If any such excess is not retained in a reserve, it shall be refunded proportionately to the handlers from whom the excess was collected. Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate; Provided, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may at any time require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

§ 929.45 Research and development.

(a) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production research, marketing research, and market development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, consumption, or efficient production of cranberries. The expense of such projects shall be paid
§ 929.46 Marketing policy.

(a) Each year prior to May 1 the committee shall estimate the marketable quantity for the following crop year.

(b) As soon as practicable after August 1 of each crop-year and prior to making any recommendations pursuant to paragraphs (b)(7) and (8) of this section or to §929.51, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its marketing policy for the crop-year. Such marketing policy shall contain the basis therefor and information relating to:

1. The estimated total production of cranberries;
2. The expected general quality of such cranberry production;
3. The estimated carryover, as of September 1, of frozen cranberries and other cranberry products;
4. The expected demand conditions for cranberries in different market outlets;
5. Supplies of competing commodities;
6. Trend and level of consumer income;
7. The recommended desirable total marketable quantity of cranberries including a recommended adequate carryover into the following crop year of frozen cranberries and other cranberry products;
8. Regulation pursuant to §929.52 expected to be recommended by the committee during the crop year together with its recommendation of the free and restricted percentages and beginning with the 1974-75 crop year, the recommended allotment percentages, if any, for the crop year; and
9. Other factors having a bearing on the marketing of cranberries.

§ 929.47 Preliminary regulation.

(a) Beginning with the 1968-69 crop year, and continuing for each crop year thereafter through August 31, 1974, no handler shall handle, as the first handler thereof, cranberries purchased by him from a grower or acquired by him for handling for the account of a grower until he has determined the identity of the grower and the quantity of cranberries attributed to such grower. The handler shall furnish such information to the committee at such times and in such forms as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may request.

(b) So that each producer may qualify for a base quantity, pursuant to §929.48, the committee shall furnish each producer early in each calendar year beginning in 1969, and as soon as practicable after the effective date of the amendment for the 1968 calendar year, a form to be filed with the committee wherein the producer reports the location of his bog(s), the acreage of cranberries he intends to harvest, and such other information as the committee needs to establish a base quantity for such producer.

§ 929.48 Sales history.

(a) Determination of sales history. (1) The initial sales history shall be computed by the committee for each grower using the best four out of six years of such grower’s sales history, which shall include all commercial sales from the first complete crop year following adoption of this amendment, plus the prior five years’ history of commercial sales, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a)(5) of this section. For a grower with four years or less of commercial sales history, the initial sales history shall be computed by the committee using all available years of such grower’s commercial sales history.

(2) A new sales history shall be computed for each grower after each crop year during which no volume regulation was established, in the same manner as for the initial sales history, except that the most recent crop year shall be used instead of the earliest.
§ 929.49 Marketable quantity, allotment percentage, and annual allotment.

(a) Marketable quantity and allotment percentage. If the Secretary finds, from the recommendation of the committee or from other available information, that limiting the quantity of cranberries purchased from or handled on behalf of growers during a crop year would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act, the Secretary shall determine and establish a marketable quantity for that crop year.

(b) The marketable quantity shall be apportioned among growers by applying the allotment percentage to each grower's sales history, established pursuant to §929.48. Such allotment percentage shall be established by the Secretary and shall equal the marketable quantity divided by the total of all growers' sales histories. Except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section, no handler shall purchase or handle on behalf of any grower cranberries not within such grower's annual allotment.

(c) In any crop year in which the production of cranberries is estimated by the committee to be equal to or less than its recommended marketable quantity, the committee may recommend and the Secretary may increase or suspend the allotment percentage applicable to that year. In the event it is found that market demand is greater than the marketable quantity previously set, the committee may recommend and the Secretary may increase such quantity.

(d) Issuance of annual allotments. The committee shall require all growers to qualify for that allotment by filing with the committee, on or before April 15 of each year, a form wherein growers include the following information: The location of their cranberry producing acreage from which their annual allotment will be produced; the amount of acreage which will be harvested; changes in location, if any, of annual allotment; and such other information, rules and regulations necessary for the implementation and operation of this section.

[57 FR 38749, Aug. 27, 1992]
including a copy of any lease agreement, as is necessary for the committee to administer this part. On or before June 1, the committee shall issue to each grower an annual allotment determined by applying the allotment percentage established pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section to the grower’s sales history.

(e) On or before June 1 of any year in which an allotment percentage is established by the Secretary, the committee shall notify each handler of the annual allotment that can be handled for each grower whose total crop will be delivered to that handler. In cases where a grower delivers a crop to more than one handler, such grower’s annual allotment will be apportioned equitably among the handlers.

(f) Growers who do not produce cranberries equal to their computed annual allotment shall transfer their unused allotment to such growers’ handlers. The handler shall equitably allocate the unused annual allotment to growers with excess cranberries who deliver to such handler. Unused annual allotment remaining after all such transfers have occurred shall be transferred to the committee pursuant to paragraph (g) of this section.

(g) Handlers who receive cranberries more than the sum of their growers’ annual allotments have “excess cranberries,” pursuant to §929.59, and shall so notify the committee. Handlers who have remaining unused allotment pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section are “deficient” and shall so notify the committee. The committee shall equitably distribute unused allotment to all handlers having excess cranberries.

(h) The committee may establish, with the approval of the Secretary, rules and regulations necessary for the implementation and operation of this section.

[33 FR 11641, Aug. 16, 1968, as amended at 57 FR 38749, Aug. 27, 1992]

§ 929.50 Transfers.

(a) Transfers to another grower. A grower who owns cranberry acreage on which a sales history has been established may transfer the acreage and sales history to another grower. When transfers of acreage occur, transfers of sales history will be made under the following conditions:

1. A lease agreement between the owner of the cranberry producing acreage and a lessee: Terms of such lease agreement shall be filed with the committee prior to the committee recognizing such transfer. The lease agreement filed with the committee shall include the following information:
   (i) Name of owner and lessee;
   (ii) Starting and ending dates of the lease;
   (iii) Amount of acreage transferred; and
   (iv) The amount of sales history transferred.

2. Total sale of cranberry acreage. When there is a sale of a grower’s total cranberry producing acreage, the seller and buyer shall file a completed transfer form with the committee and the buyer will have immediate access to the sales history computation process.

3. Partial sale or lease of cranberry acreage. When less than the total cranberry producing acreage is sold or leased, sales history associated with the portion of the acreage being sold or leased shall be transferred with the acreage. The seller and lessor shall provide the committee with a completed transfer or lease form outlining such distribution of acreage and sales history between the parties. Such transfer or lease form shall include that percentage of the sales history, as defined in §929.48(a)(1), attributable to the acreage being transferred or leased.

4. No transfer shall be recognized by the committee unless the transferee and transferor notify the committee in writing: Provided That, if unusual circumstances exist, the Committee may recognize a transfer when only one form from the transferee or transferor is filed with the committee.

5. In a year of nonregulation, in the absence of any sales history associated with the cranberry acreage being transferred or leased, the committee shall determine the buyer’s or lessee’s sales history pursuant to §929.48 of the order.

6. During a year when a volume regulation has been established, no transfer or lease of cranberry producing acreage, without accompanying sales history, shall be recognized until the
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committee is in receipt of a completed transfer or lease form.

(b) The committee may establish, with the approval of the Secretary, rules and regulations, as needed, for the implementation and operation of this section.

[57 FR 38749, Aug. 27, 1992]

§ 929.51 Recommendations for regulation.

(a) Whenever the committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of cranberries in the manner provided in §929.52, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) In arriving at its recommendations for regulation pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the committee shall give consideration to current information with respect to the factors affecting the supply of and demand for cranberries during the period or periods when it is proposed that such regulation should be made effective. With each such recommendation for regulation, the committee shall submit to the Secretary the data and information on which such recommendation is predicated and such other available information as the Secretary may request.

§ 929.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall regulate, in the manner specified in this section, the handling of cranberries whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulation should be made effective. With such recommendation for regulation, the committee shall submit to the Secretary the data and information on which such recommendation is predicated and such other available information as the Secretary may request.

(b) The committee shall be informed immediately of any such regulation issued by the Secretary, and the committee shall promptly give notice thereof to handlers.

[27 FR 8101, Aug. 15, 1962, as amended at 57 FR 38750, Aug. 27, 1992]

§ 929.53 Modification, suspension, or termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the committee at any time finds that, by reason of changed conditions, any regulations issued pursuant to §929.52 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee or from other available information, that a regulation should be modified, suspended, or terminated in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall modify, suspend, or terminate such regulation: Provided, That no such modification shall increase the restricted percentage previously established for the then current fiscal year. If the Secretary finds that a regulation obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall suspend or terminate such regulation.

§ 929.54 Withholding.

(a) Whenever the Secretary has fixed the free and restricted percentages for any fiscal period, as provided for in §929.52(a), each handler shall withhold from handling a portion of the cranberries he acquires during such period: Provided, That such withholding requirements shall not apply to any lot of cranberries for which such withholding requirement previously has been met by another handler in accordance with §929.55. The withheld portion shall be equal to the sum of the products obtained by multiplying each of the following quantities, as applicable, by the restricted percentage:

(1) The quantity of screened cranberries acquired:

(2) The quantity of screened cranberries obtained at the time unscreened lots of cranberries are screened: Provided, That, if the cranberries have not been screened by a date specified by the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, as the date by which each handler shall have met the withholding requirement, the quantity of screened cranberries shall
be determined as set forth in paragraph (a)(3) of this section; and

(3) The quantity of screened cranberries contained in unscreened lots of cranberries acquired (i) which are destined for disposition without screening, or (ii) but which have not been screened prior to the date referred to in paragraph (a)(2) of this section. The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe uniform rules to be followed in determining the quantity of screened cranberries in each lot of unscreened cranberries.

(b) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe the manner in which, and date or dates during the fiscal period by which, handlers shall have complied with the withholding requirements specified in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) Withheld cranberries shall meet such standards of grade, size, quality, or condition as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe. All such cranberries shall be inspected by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service. A certificate of such inspection shall be issued which shall show, among other things, the name and address of the handler, the number and type of containers in the lot, the location where the lot is stored, identification marks, including lot stamp, if used, and a certification of the quantity of cranberries in such lot that meet the prescribed standards. Promptly after inspection and certification, each such handler shall submit, or cause to be submitted, to the committee a copy of the certificate of inspection issued with respect to such cranberries.

(d) Any handler who withholds from handling a quantity of cranberries in excess of that required pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section shall have such excess quantity credited toward the next fiscal year’s withholding obligation, if any, of such handler. Provided, That such credit shall be applicable only (1) if the restricted percentage established pursuant to §929.52 was modified pursuant to §929.53; (2) to the extent such excess was disposed of prior to such modification; and (3) after such handler furnishes the committee with such information as it prescribes regarding such withholding and disposition.

§ 929.55 Interhandler transfer.

(a) Transfer of cranberries from one handler to another may be made without prior notice to the committee, except during a period when a volume regulation has been established. If such transfer is made between handlers who have packing or processing facilities located within the production area, the assessment and withholding obligations provided under this part shall be assumed by the handler who agrees to meet such obligation. If such transfer is to a handler whose packing or processing facilities are outside of the production area, such assessment and withholding obligation shall be met by the handler residing within the production area.

(b) All handlers shall report all such transfers to the committee on a form provided by the committee four times a year or at other such times as may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

(c) The committee may establish, with the approval of the Secretary, rules and regulations necessary for the implementation and operation of this section.

§ 929.56 Special provisions relating to withheld (restricted) cranberries.

(a) Except as otherwise directed by the Secretary, as near as practicable to the beginning of the marketing season of each fiscal period with respect to which the marketing policy proposes regulation pursuant to §929.52(a), the committee shall determine the amount per barrel each handler shall deposit with the committee for it to release to him, in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section, all or part of the cranberries he is withholding; and the committee shall give notice of such amount to handlers. Such notice shall state the period during which such amount of deposit shall be in effect. Whenever the committee determines that, by reason of changed

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conditions or otherwise, a different amount should thereafter be deposited for the release of withheld cranberries, it shall give notice to handlers of the new amount and the effective period thereof. Each determination as to the amount of deposit shall be on the basis of the committee’s evaluation of the following factors: (1) The prices at which growers are selling cranberries to handlers, (2) the prices at which handlers are selling fresh market cranberries to dealers, (3) the prices at which cranberries are being sold for processing into products, and (4) the prices the committee has paid to purchase cranberries to replace released cranberries in accordance with this section.

(b) Any handler may make a written request to the committee for the release of all or part of the cranberries he is withholding from handling pursuant to §929.54(a). Each such request shall state, in addition to all other information as may be prescribed by the committee, the quantity of cranberries for which release is requested and shall be accompanied by a deposit (in cash, or a cashier’s or certified check made payable to the Cranberry Marketing Committee) in an amount equal to the product of the number of barrels stated in the request multiplied by the then effective amount per barrel to be deposited. If the committee determines such request is properly filled out, is accompanied by the required deposit, and contains a certification that the handler is withholding such cranberries, it shall release to such handler the quantity of cranberries specified in his request. Such determination shall be made not later than 72 hours after the request is received by the committee.

(c) Funds deposited for the release of withheld cranberries, pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, shall be used by the committee to purchase from handlers unrestricted (free percentage) cranberries in an aggregate amount as nearly equal to, but not in excess of, the total quantity of the released cranberries as it is possible to purchase to replace the released cranberries. All handlers shall be given an opportunity to participate in such purchase. If a larger quantity is offered than can be purchased, the purchases shall be made at the lowest prices possible. If two or more handlers offer at the same price, purchases from such handlers shall be in proportion to the quantity of their respective offerings insofar as such division is practicable. The cranberries so purchased shall be disposed of by the committee as restricted cranberries in accordance with §929.57. Any funds received by the committee for cranberries so disposed of, which are in excess of the costs incurred by the committee in making such disposition, shall be paid or credited proportionately to handlers on the basis of the volume of cranberries withheld by each handler.

(d) In the event any portion of the funds deposited with the committee pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section cannot, for reasons beyond the committee’s control, be expended to purchase unrestricted (free percentage) cranberries to replace those released, such unexpended funds shall, after deducting expenses incurred by the committee in connection with the purchase and disposition of cranberries pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section, be offered and paid or credited proportionately to handlers on the basis of the volume of cranberries withheld by each handler. In the event that the offer is not accepted or directions given by a handler to credit the funds within 90 days, the funds will accrue to the committee’s general account.

(e) Cranberries purchased by the committee to replace released cranberries shall be inspected and shall meet such standards as are prescribed for withheld cranberries.

(f) Inspection of withheld cranberries released to a handler is not required.


§ 929.57 Outlets for restricted cranberries.

(a) Except as provided in this section and in §929.56, cranberries withheld from handling may be disposed of only through diversion to such outlets as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, finds are noncompetitive to outlets for unrestricted (free percentage) cranberries.
(b) The storage and disposition of all cranberries withheld from handling shall be subject to the supervision and accounting control of the committee.

§ 929.58 Exemption.

(a) Upon the basis of the recommendation and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, the Secretary may relieve from any or all requirements pursuant to this part the handling of cranberries in such minimum quantities as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe.

(b) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe such rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to ensure that cranberries handled under the provisions of this section are handled only as authorized.

§ 929.59 Excess cranberries.

(a) Whenever the Secretary establishes an allotment percentage pursuant to §929.52, handlers shall be notified by the committee of such allotment percentage and shall withhold from handling such cranberries in excess of the total of their growers' annual allotments obtained during such period. Such withheld cranberries shall be defined as “excess cranberries” after all unused allotment has been allocated.

(1) Excess cranberries received by a handler shall be made available for inspection by the committee or its representatives from the time they are received until final disposition is completed. Such excess cranberries shall be identified in such manner as the committee may specify in its rules and regulations with the approval of the Secretary.

(2) All matters dealing with handler-held excess cranberries shall be in accordance with such rules and regulations established by the committee, with the approval of the Secretary.

(b) Prior to January 1, or such other date as recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary, all excess cranberries shall be disposed of pursuant to §929.61.

[57 FR 38750, Aug. 27, 1992]

§ 929.60 Handling for special purposes.

Regulations in effect pursuant to §§929.10, 929.41, 929.47, 929.48, 929.49, 929.51, 929.52, or 929.53 or any combination thereof, may be modified, suspended, or terminated to facilitate handling of excess cranberries for the following purposes:

(a) Charitable institutions;
(b) Research and development projects described pursuant to §929.61;
(c) Any nonhuman food use;
(d) Foreign markets, except Canada; and
(e) Other purposes which may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

[57 FR 38750, Aug. 27, 1992]

§ 929.61 Outlets for excess cranberries.

(a) Noncommercial outlets. Excess cranberries may be disposed of only in the following noncommercial outlets that the committee finds, with the approval of the Secretary, meet the requirements outlined in paragraph (c) of this section:

(1) Charitable institutions; and
(2) Research and development projects approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the development of foreign and domestic markets, including, but not limited to, dehydration, radiation, freeze drying, or freezing of cranberries.

(b) Noncompetitive outlets. Excess cranberries may be sold to outlets that the committee finds, with the approval of the Secretary, are noncompetitive with established markets for regulated cranberries and meet the requirements outlined in paragraph (c) of this section. These outlets include:

(1) Any nonhuman food use; and
(2) Foreign markets, except Canada.

(c) Requirements for diversion. The following requirements, as applicable,
shall be met by the handler diverting excess cranberries into noncompetitive or noncommercial outlets:

(1) Diversion to charitable institutions. A statement from the charitable institution shall be submitted to the committee showing the quantity of cranberries diverted and certifying that the cranberries will be utilized by the institution;

(2) Diversion to research and development projects. A report shall be given to the committee describing the project, quantity of cranberries diverted, and date of disposition;

(3) Diversion to a nonhuman food use. Notification shall be given to the committee at least 48 hours prior to such disposition; and

(4) Diversion to foreign markets, except Canada. A copy of the on-board bill of lading shall be submitted to the committee showing the amount of cranberries loaded for export.

(d) Withholding. Each handler shall, upon request of the committee, file promptly with the committee a certified report showing, for such period as the committee may specify, the total quantity of cranberries withheld from handling, in accordance with §929.54, the portion of such withheld cranberries on hand, and the quantity and manner of disposition of any such withheld cranberries disposed of.

(e) Other reports. Upon the request of the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee such other information with respect to the cranberries acquired and disposed of by such handler as may be necessary to enable the committee to exercise its powers and perform its duties under this part.


§ 929.63 Records.

Each handler shall maintain such records of all cranberries acquired, withheld from handling, handled, and otherwise disposed of as will substantiate the required reports and as may be prescribed by the committee. All such records shall be maintained for not less than three years after the termination of the crop year in which the transactions occurred or for such lesser period as the committee may direct.


§ 929.64 Verification of reports and records.

For the purpose of assuring compliance and checking and verifying records and the reports filed by handlers, the committee, through its duly authorized agents, shall have access to any premises where applicable records are maintained, where cranberries are received, stored, handled, and otherwise disposed of and, at any time during reasonable business hours, shall be permitted to inspect such handler premises and any and all records of such handlers with respect to matters within the purview of this part.

§ 929.65 Confidential information.

All reports and records furnished or submitted by handlers to the committee and its authorized agents which include data or information constituting a trade secret or disclosing the trade position, financial condition, or business operations of the particular handler from whom received, shall be received by and at all times kept in the custody and under the control of one or more employees of the committee, who shall disclose such information to no person other than the Secretary.


MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 929.66 Compliance.

Except as provided in this part, no person shall handle cranberries, the handling of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this part; and no person shall acquire or handle cranberries except in conformity with the provisions of this part and the regulations issued hereunder.


§ 929.67 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agents, employees, or representatives thereof, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in accordance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.


§ 929.68 Effective time.

The provisions of this part, and of any amendment thereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in § 929.68.


§ 929.69 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this part by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner in which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this part whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this part whenever he finds by referendum or otherwise that such termination is favored by a majority of the growers: Provided, That such majority has, during the current fiscal year, produced more than 50 percent of the volume of the cranberries which were produced within the production area. Such termination shall become effective on the last day of July subsequent to the announcement thereof by the Secretary.

(d) The Secretary shall conduct a referendum during the month of May 1975 to ascertain whether continuance of this part is favored by the growers as set forth in paragraph (c) of this section. The Secretary shall conduct such a referendum during the month of May of every fourth year thereafter.

(e) The provisions of this part shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be effective.


§ 929.70 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this part, the committee shall, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, continue as trustees of all the funds and property then in its possession, or under its control, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination.

(b) The said trustees shall (1) continue in such capacity until discharged
§ 929.71 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this part or of any regulation issued pursuant to this part, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this part or any regulation issued hereunder, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this part or any regulation issued hereunder, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violation.


§ 929.72 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this part shall cease upon its termination, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this part.


§ 929.73 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any officer or employee of the United States, or name any agency or division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.


§ 929.74 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States (a) to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or (b) in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.


§ 929.75 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee and no employee or agent of the committee shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.


§ 929.76 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.


Subpart—Rules and Regulations

§ 929.101 Minimum exemption.

The requirements of §929.41 Assessments and §929.54 Withholding shall not apply to any handler in a fiscal year during which the handler handles not
§ 929.102 Procedure to determine quantity of screened cranberries in unscreened lots.

The determination pursuant to §929.54 of the quantity of screened cranberries contained in an unscreened lot shall be made in accordance with the following procedure and on the basis of a sample of representative boxes comprising no less than 2 percent of the cranberries in the lot:

(a) The cranberries in the sample are cleaned to remove chaff, and the boxes of cleaned berries are weighed. The weight of the boxes themselves is then deducted to determine the weight of the cleaned berries. The weight of the cleaned berries is divided by the number of boxes in the sample to obtain the net weight of cleaned cranberries per box. The net weight is multiplied by the number of boxes in the lot to obtain the net weight of the berries in the unscreened lot.

(b) The cleaned berries are run through a separator, having a 9⁄32 inch screen, and with the bounce boards in the lowest position.

(c) The berries from the lower three bounce boards are rerun through the separator.

(d) The berries from the upper four bounce boards are thoroughly mixed and a random cupful (approximately 1 pint) is used to determine, from a count of the sound and unsound berries, the percentage of sound berries in the lot.

(e) Such percentage is adjusted by increasing it by 5 percentage points but not to exceed a total of 100 percent. (This increase makes the sample comparable to lots of screened cranberries, as such lots generally contain an average of 5 percent unsound berries.)

(f) The net weight, as determined in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section, of the berries in the unscreened lot, is multiplied by the adjusted percentage to obtain the quantity of screened cranberries in the unscreened lot.

[28 FR 11611, Oct. 31, 1963]

§ 929.103 Inspection procedure.

(a) Inspection of withheld cranberries shall be limited to any plant, storage facility, or other location, within the production area where facilities suitable to the inspection service are available for sampling, weighing, and inspection of cranberries.

(b) The handler offering any lot of cranberries for inspection shall furnish the necessary labor and pay the costs of moving, weighing, and otherwise making available the sample the inspector chooses for inspection. The size of the sample shall be determined by the inspector. In the case of inspection of a lot of unscreened cranberries, the sample shall be screened by the handler under the supervision of the inspector and the inspection certificate shall show the quantity of cranberries in such lot which meets the requirements established for withheld cranberries pursuant to §929.54(c).

[28 FR 11611, Oct. 31, 1963]

§ 929.104 Outlets for restricted cranberries.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, after inspection pursuant to §929.54(c), cranberries withheld from handling may, in accordance with §929.57, be disposed of only through diversion in the following noncompetitive outlets but only if the requirements in paragraph (b) of this section also are complied with:

(1) Foreign countries, except Canada.

(2) Charitable institutions.

(3) Any nonhuman food use.

(4) Research and development projects dealing with dehydration, radiation, freeze drying, or freezing of cranberries, approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for the development of foreign markets.

(b) The following requirements, as applicable, shall be met by the handler diverting the withheld cranberries in the noncompetitive outlets:

(1) Diversion to foreign countries except Canada: A copy of the on-board bill of lading showing the amount of cranberries loaded for export shall be submitted to the committee.

(2) Diversion to charitable institutions: A statement from the charitable institution showing the quantity of
§ 929.105 Reporting.

(a) Each report required to be filed with the committee pursuant to §§ 929.6 and 929.48 shall be mailed to the committee office or delivered to that office. If the report is mailed, it shall be deemed filed when postmarked.

(b) Certified reports shall be filed with the committee, on a form provided by the committee, by each handler not later than January 5, May 5, and August 5 of each fiscal period and by September 5 of the succeeding fiscal period showing:

(1) The total quantity of cranberries the handler acquired and the total quantity of cranberries and Vaccinium oxycoccus cranberries the handler handled from the beginning of the reporting period indicated through December 31, April 30, July 31, and August 31, respectively, and

(2) The respective quantities of cranberries and Vaccinium oxycoccus cranberries and cranberry products and Vaccinium oxycoccus cranberry products held by the handler on January 1, May 1, August 1, and August 31 of each fiscal period.


§ 929.106 Fiscal period.

The fiscal period specified in § 929.6 of this part which began September 1, 1968, and ends on August 31, 1969, is changed to include the period of August 1, through August 31, 1968. Thereafter, the fiscal period will begin on September 1 and end on August 31 of the following year.

[33 FR 16492, Nov. 13, 1968]

§ 929.107 Basis for determining cranberry acreage.

(a) To be classified as cranberry acreage pursuant to section 929.48, all such acreage must be producing cranberries on a commercial basis or planted, in accordance with order provisions, so as to produce cranberries on a commercial basis. Commercial crop is synonymous with commercial basis and shall mean acreage that has a sufficient density of growing vines to show that such acreage can produce a commercial crop of at least 15 barrels per acre without replanting or renovation of any kind.

(b) So that the committee may properly identify cranberry acreage, the grower shall furnish, upon request, on forms furnished by the committee, information sufficient for the committee to establish that such grower is the grower for the acreage involved. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to determine by physical inspection or other means whether there is sufficient vine density as to qualify as "cranberry acreage" in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section. In making such determination, the committee shall be guided by standards of comparison between the potential bog and existing bogs in the same area.

(c) If the determination were that all or part of the acreage eligible under paragraph (a) of this section does not have sufficient vine coverage to produce 15 barrels per acre, that portion without sufficient vine coverage will not qualify as cranberry acreage under this section. In the event only a portion of an acreage has sufficient
vines population and density to produce 15 barrels of cranberries per acre, such portion will qualify as cranberry acreage pursuant to this section. Since such qualified portion of the acreage would be eligible for a sales history, it must be definitely and permanently delineated.

(d) It shall be the responsibility of the grower to maintain adequate sales records to show actual sales from their cranberry acreage and submit such records to the committee separately from sales records pertaining to any other acreage. The report of sales must be filed by the grower no later than January 15 of the calendar year succeeding the crop year to which such sales pertain.

[59 FR 36023, July 15, 1994]

§ 929.109 Unusual circumstances as used in determining base quantities.

Unusual circumstances, as used in §929.48(a)(3), shall include but not necessarily be limited to the taking of property under the power of eminent domain and also "Acts of God," such as an earthquake, seashore erosion, encroachment of sand dunes, saline contamination due to prolonged inundation, a forest fire, and any other circumstances which are beyond the grower’s control and destroy the ability of a cranberry bog to produce cranberries to such an extent that the bog is found, in the judgment of the committee, to be permanently lost for commercial purposes. When a grower believes he has lost cranberry acreage due to "unusual circumstances" under the provisions of §929.48, he shall apply and furnish information to the committee to sufficiently establish that "unusual circumstances" exist.

[34 FR 1304, Jan. 28, 1969]

§ 929.110 Transfers or sales of cranberry acreage.

(a) Sales or transfers of cranberry acreage shall be reported by the transferor and transferee to the committee, in writing, on forms provided by the committee. Completed forms shall be sent to the committee office not later than 30 days after the transaction has occurred.

(b) Upon transfer of all or a portion of a growers’ acreage, the committee shall be provided with certain information on the forms it will provide to the parties. The transferor and transferee must provide the following information:

1. Crop records for the acreage involved;
2. Annual production and sales for each crop year on the acreage involved, either in total, or for each individual parcel; and
3. Such other information as the committee deems necessary.

(c) Cranberry acreage sold or transferred shall be recognized in connection with the issuance of sales history as follows:

1. If a grower sells all of the acreage comprising the entity, all prior sales history shall accrue to the purchaser;
2. If a grower sells only a portion of the acreage comprising the entity from which prior sales have been made, the purchaser and the seller must agree as to the amount of sales history attributed to each portion and shall provide, on a form provided by the committee, sufficient information so that sales are shown separately by crop year. However, the sales history attributed to each portion shall not exceed the total sales history, as determined by the committee, for such acreage at the time of transfer.

[59 FR 36023, July 15, 1994]

§ 929.125 Committee review procedures.

Pursuant to §929.48(c), growers may request, and the committee shall grant, a review of determinations made by the committee pursuant to §929.48(a) and (b), in accordance with the following procedures:

(a) If a grower is dissatisfied with a determination made by the committee which affects him, he may submit to the committee within 30 days after he is notified of the determination, a request for a review by the committee of that determination, along with any materials which he feels are pertinent and a written argument if he so desires.

(b) The committee shall review its determination within a reasonable length of time taking into account all
§ 929.142 Reserve.

(a) It is necessary and appropriate to establish and maintain a reserve in an amount not to exceed one fiscal period’s operational expenses to be used in accordance with the provisions of §929.42 of the marketing agreement and this part, and

(b) Assessments collected for each of the fiscal periods ended July 31, 1963; July 31, 1965; July 31, 1966; and July 31, 1967, were in excess of expenses for such periods. The committee is hereby authorized to place excess funds in said reserve.


§ 929.150 Transfer or assignment of sales history.

(a) If indebtedness is incurred with regard to the acreage to which the cranberries are attributed, and on which a sales history is established, the sales history holder may transfer or assign the sales history solely as security for the loan. During the existence of such indebtedness no further transfer or assignment of sales history by the sales history holder shall be recognized by the committee unless the lender agrees thereto: Provided, That a copy of such loan agreement or assignment shall be filed with the committee before any right expressed therein, with regard to the sales history, shall be recognized by the committee under this paragraph (a).

(b) This regulation shall not in any way be construed to affect the right of the Secretary of Agriculture to amend, modify or terminate this regulation, or the marketing order under which it is issued as provided by law.


§ 929.151 Allotment transfers and disposition of the growers annual allotment certificate.

(a) Growers who transfer or receive the transfer of cranberries or allotment to fill deficiencies pursuant to §929.49(c) shall report the details of such transfer to the committee on CMC forms T3 through T6, as applicable.

(b) Growers may enter into an agreement with a handler or handlers as to the disposition of the grower’s annual allotment. The terms of the agreement shall be contained on CMC form T7 or a similarly executed agreement acceptable to the committee, and shall include the following:

(1) The quantity of allotment available to the handler for transfer;

(2) The effective date of the agreement; and

(3) The signature of the grower and the handler or their authorized representatives.

Any transfer effected by the handler pursuant to this agreement shall be documented on committee forms and submitted to the committee.
(c) Each grower shall submit to the committee his annual allotment certificate: Provided, That each grower may authorize a handler to submit the annual allotment certificate to the committee. Notification that the handler agrees to perform this service shall be provided to the committee and the terms of the agreement shall be contained on CMC form T7 or similarly executed agreement acceptable to the committee. Each handler shall submit the allotment certificate to the committee. Each allotment certificate submitted by the grower or his authorized handler shall show quantities of cranberries purchased by handlers and the dates on which such purchases were made. Each certificate shall be signed by the handler and indicate the date on which any transfers were made. 

(d) Reports and annual allotment certificates required pursuant to this section shall be filed with the committee by January 15 of each year.

§ 929.152 Delinquent assessments.

There shall be a late payment charge of five percent and an interest charge of 1 1/2 percent per month applied to any assessment not received at the committee’s office before the end of the month in which such assessment was first invoiced to the handler: Provided, That if an assessment is first invoiced later than the 15th of the month, no late payment or interest charge shall be levied if such assessment is received at the committee office by the end of the following month in which the assessment was first invoiced to the handler.

§ 929.160 Public member eligibility requirements and nomination procedures.

(a) Public member and alternate member candidates shall not represent an agricultural interest and shall not have a financial interest in, or be associated with the production, processing, financing, or marketing of cranberries. 

(b) Public member and alternate member candidates should be able to devote sufficient time to attend committee activities regularly and to familiarize themselves with the background and economies of the cranberry industry.

(c) Names of candidates together with evidence of qualification for public membership on the Cranberry Marketing Committee shall be submitted to the committee at its business office.

(d) Questionnaires shall be sent by the committee to those persons submitted as candidates to determine their eligibility and interest in becoming a public member.

(e) The names of persons nominated by the committee for the public member and alternate positions shall be submitted to the Secretary with such information as deemed pertinent by the committee or as requested by the Secretary.

(f) Public members shall serve a two-year term which coincides with the term of office of industry members of the committee.

[44 FR 16884, Mar. 20, 1979, as amended at 53 FR 12374, Apr. 14, 1988]

EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g. sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

Subpart—Assessment Rate

§ 929.236 Assessment rate.

On and after September 1, 1996, an assessment rate of $0.04 per barrel is established for cranberries.

[61 FR 41730, Aug. 12, 1996]
§ 930.1

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930.9 Grower.
930.10 Handle.
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930.12 Person.
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930.15 Restricted percentage cherries.
930.16 Sales constituency.
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Subpart—Administrative Rules and Regulations
930.141 Delinquent assessments.

Subpart—Assessment Rates
930.200 Handler assessment rate.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601-674

Source: 61 FR 49942, Sept. 24, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

DEFINITIONS

§ 930.1 Act.

§ 930.2 Board.
Board means the Cherry Industry Administrative Board established pursuant to § 930.20.

§ 930.3 Cherries.
Cherries means all tart/sour cherry varieties grown in the production area classified botanically as Prunus cerasas, or hybrids of Prunus cerasas by Prunus avium, or Prunus cerasas by Prunus fruticosa.
§ 930.4 Crop year.
Crop year means the 12-month period beginning on July 1 of any year and ending on June 30 of the following year, or such other period as the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish.

§ 930.5 Department or USDA.
Department or USDA means the United States Department of Agriculture.

§ 930.6 District.
District means one of the subdivisions of the production area described in § 930.20(c), or such other subdivisions as may be established pursuant to § 930.21, or any subdivision added pursuant to § 930.52.

§ 930.7 Fiscal period.
Fiscal period is synonymous with fiscal year and means the 12-month period beginning on July 1 of any year and ending on June 30 of the following year, or such other period as the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish: Provided, That the initial fiscal period shall begin on the effective date of this part.

§ 930.8 Free market tonnage percentage cherries.
Free market tonnage percentage cherries means that proportion of cherries handled in a crop year which are free to be marketed in normal commercial outlets in that crop year under any volume regulation established pursuant to § 930.50 or § 930.51 and, in the absence of a restricted percentage being established for a crop year pursuant to § 930.50 or § 930.51, means all cherries received by handlers in that crop year.

§ 930.9 Grower.
Grower is synonymous with producer and means any person who produces cherries to be marketed in canned, frozen, or other processed form and who has a proprietary interest therein: Provided that, the term grower shall not include a person who produces cherries to be marketed exclusively for the fresh market in an unpitted condition.

§ 930.10 Handle.
Handle means the process to brine, can, concentrate, freeze, dehydrate, pit, press or puree cherries, or in any other way convert cherries commercially into a processed product, or divert cherries pursuant to § 930.59 or obtain grower diversion certificates issued pursuant to § 930.58, or otherwise place cherries into the current of commerce within the production area or from the area to points outside thereof: Provided, That the term handle shall not include:
(a) The brining, canning, concentrating, freezing, dehydration, pitting, pressing or the converting, in any other way, of cherries into a processed product for home use and not for resale.
(b) The transportation within the production area of cherries from the orchard where grown to a processing facility located within such area for preparation for market.
(c) The delivery of such cherries to such processing facility for such preparation.
(d) The sale or transportation of cherries by a grower to a handler of record within the production area.
(e) The sale of cherries in the fresh market in an unpitted condition.

§ 930.11 Handler.
Handler means any person who first handles cherries or causes cherries to be handled for his or her own account.

§ 930.12 Person.
Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 930.13 Primary inventory reserve.
Primary inventory reserve means that portion of handled cherries that are placed into handlers' inventories in accordance with any restricted percentage established pursuant to § 930.50 or § 930.51.

§ 930.14 Production area.
§ 930.15 Restricted percentage cherries.

Restricted percentage cherries means that proportion of cherries handled in a crop year which must be either placed into handlers' inventories in accordance with § 930.55 or § 930.57 or otherwise diverted in accordance with § 930.59 and thereby withheld from marketing in normal commercial outlets under any volume regulation established pursuant to § 930.50 or § 930.51.

§ 930.16 Sales constituency.

Sales constituency means a common marketing organization or brokerage firm or individual representing a group of handlers or growers.

§ 930.17 Secondary inventory reserve.

Secondary inventory reserve means any portion of handled cherries voluntarily placed into inventory by a handler under § 930.57.

§ 930.18 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in the Secretary's stead.

§ 930.20 Establishment and membership.

(a) There is hereby established a Cherry Industry Administrative Board (Board) consisting of 18 members. Seventeen of these members shall be qualified growers and handlers selected pursuant to this part, each of whom shall have an alternate having the same qualifications as the member for whom the person is an alternate. The remaining member of the Board shall be a public member who, along with his or her alternate, shall be elected by the Board from the general public.

(b) District representation on the Board shall be as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Grower members</th>
<th>Handler members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>3</td>
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(c) Upon the adoption of this part, the production area shall be divided into the following described subdivisions for purposes of this section:

District 1—Northern Michigan: that portion of the State of Michigan which is north of a line drawn along the northern boundary of Mason County and extended east to Lake Huron.

District 2—Central Michigan: that portion of the State of Michigan which is south of District 1 and north of a line drawn along the northern boundary of Allegan County and extended east to Lake St. Clair.

District 3—Southern Michigan: That portion of the State of Michigan not included in Districts 1 and 2.

District 4—The State of New York.

District 5—the State of Oregon.

District 6—the State of Pennsylvania.

District 7—the State of Utah.

District 8—the State of Washington.

District 9—the State of Wisconsin.

(d) The ratio of grower to handler representation in District 2 shall alternate each time the term of a Board member from the representative group having two seats expires. During the initial period of the order, the ratio shall be as designated in paragraph (b) of this section.

(e) Board members from Districts 5, 6, 8 and 9 may be either grower or handler members and will be nominated and elected as outlined in § 930.23. If District 5, 6, 8, and/or 9 becomes subject to volume regulation under §§ 930.52(a), then the Board shall be reestablished by the Secretary to provide such District(s) with at least one grower and one handler seat on the Board and such seats shall be filled according to the provisions of § 930.23.

(f) In order to achieve a fair and balanced representation on the Board, and to prevent any one sales constituency from gaining control of the Board, not more than one board member may be from, or affiliated with, a single sales constituency.
constituency in those districts having more than one seat on the Board. There is, however, no prohibition on the number of Board members from differing districts that may be elected from a single sales constituency which may have operations in more than one district. However, as provided in §930.23, a handler or grower may only nominate Board members and vote in one district.

(g) Subject to the approval of the Secretary, the Board shall at its first meeting and annually thereafter elect from among any of its members a chairperson and a vice-chairperson and may elect other appropriate officers.

§ 930.21 Reestablishment.

Districts, subdivisions of districts, and the distribution of representation among growers and handlers within a respective district or subdivision thereof, or among the subdivision of districts, may be reestablished by the Secretary, subject to the provisions of §930.23, based upon recommendations by the Board. In recommending any such changes, the Board shall consider:

(a) the relative importance of producing areas;
(b) relative production;
(c) the geographic locations of producing areas as they would affect the efficiency of administration of this part;
(d) shifts in cherry production within the districts and the production area;
(e) changes in the proportion and role of growers and handlers within the districts; and (f) other relevant factors.

§ 930.22 Term of office.

The term of office of each member and alternate member of the Board shall be for three fiscal years: Provided that, of the nine initial members and alternates from the combination of Districts 1, 2 and 3, one-third of such initial members and alternates shall serve only one fiscal year, one-third of such members and alternates shall serve only two fiscal years, one-third of such members and alternates shall serve three fiscal years; and one-half of such initial members and alternates shall serve two fiscal years (determination of which of the initial members and their alternates shall serve for 1 fiscal year, 2 fiscal years, or 3 fiscal years, in both instances, shall be by lot). Members and alternate members shall serve in such capacity for the portion of the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified until their respective successors are selected, have qualified and are appointed. The consecutive terms of office of grower, handler and public members and alternate members shall be limited to two 3-year terms, excluding any initial term lasting less than 3 years. The term of office of a member and alternate member for the same seat shall be the same. If this part becomes effective on a date such that the initial fiscal period is less than six months in duration, then the tolling of time for purposes of this subsection shall not begin until the beginning of the first 12-month fiscal period.

§ 930.23 Nomination and election.

(a) Forms and ballots. Nomination and election of initial and successor members and alternate members of the Board shall be conducted through petition forms and election ballots distributed to all eligible growers and handlers via the U.S. Postal Service or other means, as determined by the Secretary. Similar petition forms and election ballots shall be used for both members and alternate members and any requirements for election of a member shall apply to the election of an alternate.

(b) Nomination:

(1) In order for the name of a grower nominee to appear on an election ballot, the nominee's name must be submitted with a petition form, to be supplied by the Secretary or the Board, which, except in District 8, contains at least five signatures of growers, other than the nominee, from the nominee's district who are eligible to vote in the referendum. Grower petition forms in District 8 must be signed by only two growers, other than the nominee, from the nominee's district.

(2) In order for the name of a handler nominee to appear on an election ballot, the nominee's name must be submitted with a petition form, to be supplied by the Secretary or the Board,
which contains the signature of at least one handler, other than the nominee, from the nominee's district who is eligible to vote in the referendum. The requirement that the petition form be signed by a handler other than the nominee shall not apply in any District where less than two handlers are eligible to vote.

(3) Only growers, including duly authorized officers or employees of growers, who are eligible to serve as grower members of the Board shall participate in the nomination of grower members and alternate grower members of the Board. No grower shall participate in the submission of nominees in more than one district during any fiscal period. If a grower produces cherries in more than one district, that grower may select in which district he or she wishes to participate in the nominations and election process and shall notify the Secretary or the Board of such selection. A grower may not participate in the nomination process in one district and the election process in a second district in the same election cycle.

(4) Only handlers, including duly authorized officers or employees of handlers, who are eligible to serve as handler members of the Board shall participate in the nomination of handler members and alternate handler members of the Board. No handler shall participate in the selection of nominees in more than one district during any fiscal period. If a handler handles cherries in more than one district, that handler may select in which district he or she wishes to participate in the nominations and election process and shall notify the Secretary or the Board of such selection. A grower may not participate in the nominations process in one district and the elections process in a second district in the same election cycle. If a person is a grower and a grower-handler only because some or all of his or her cherries were custom packed, but he or she does not own or lease and operate a processing facility, such person may vote only as a grower.

(5) In Districts 5, 6, 8 and 9, both growers and handlers may be nominated for the district's Board seat. Grower and handler nominations must follow the petition procedures outlined in paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(2) of this section.

(6) All eligible growers and handlers in all districts may submit the names of the nominees for the public member and alternate public member of the Board.

(7) After the appointment of the initial Board, the Secretary or the Board shall announce at least 180 days in advance when a Board member's term is expiring and shall solicit nominations for that position in the manner described in this section. Nominations for such position should be submitted to the Secretary or the Board not less than 120 days prior to the expiration of such term.

(c) Election:

(1) After receiving nominations, the Secretary or the Board shall distribute ballots via the U.S. Postal Service or other means, as determined by the Secretary, to all eligible growers and handlers containing the names of the nominees by district for the respective seats on the Board, excluding the public voting member seat. The ballots will clearly indicate that growers and handlers may only rank or otherwise vote for nominees in their own district.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (c)(4) of this section, only growers, including duly authorized officers or employees of growers, who are eligible to serve as grower members of the Board shall participate in the election of grower members and alternate grower members of the Board. No grower shall participate in the election of Board members in more than one district during any fiscal period. If a grower produces cherries in more than one district, the grower must vote in the same district in which he or she chose to participate in the nominations process under paragraph (b)(3) of this section. However, if the grower did not participate in the nominations process, he or she may select in which district he or she wishes to vote and shall notify the Secretary or the Board of such selection.

(3) Except as provided in paragraph (c)(4) of this section, only handlers, including duly authorized officers or employees of handlers, who are eligible to serve as handler members of the Board...
shall participate in the election of handler members and alternate handler members of the Board. No handler shall participate in the election of Board members in more than one district during any fiscal period. If a handler does handle cherries in more than one district, he or she must vote in the same district in which the handler elected to participate in the nominations process under paragraph (b)(4) of this section. However, if a handler did not participate in the nominations process, that handler may select in which district he or she chooses to vote and shall notify the Secretary or the Board of such selection. If a person is a grower and a grower-handler only because some or all of his or her cherries were custom packed, but he or she does not own or lease and operate a processing facility, such person may vote only as a grower.

(4) In Districts 5, 6, 8 and 9, growers and handlers may vote for either the grower or handler nominee(s) for the single seat allocated to those districts.

(d) The members of the Board appointed by the Secretary pursuant to §930.24 shall, at the first meeting and whenever necessary thereafter, by at least a two-thirds vote of the entire Board, select individuals to serve as the public member and alternate public member of the Board from the list of nominees received from growers and handlers pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section or from other persons nominated by the Board on the basis of the representation provided for in §930.20 or as provided for in any reapportionment or reestablishment undertaken pursuant to §930.21. The public member and alternate public member are nominated by the Board pursuant to §930.23(d) and shall also be subject to appointment by the Secretary. The Secretary shall appoint from nominees by the Board or from other qualified individuals the public member and the alternate public member.

§ 930.25 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner prescribed in §930.23, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the members and alternate members of the Board on the basis of the representation provided for in §930.20 or as provided for in any reapportionment or reestablishment undertaken pursuant to §930.21.

§ 930.26 Acceptance.

Each person to be appointed by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the Board shall, prior to such appointment, qualify by advising the Secretary that he/she agrees to serve in the position for which nominated for selection.

§ 930.27 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person appointed as a member or as an alternate member of the Board to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate member of the Board, a successor for the unexpired term of such member or alternate member of the Board shall be appointed by the Secretary from the most recent list of nominations for the Board made by growers and handlers, from nominations made by the Board, or from other qualified individuals. Any nominations made by the Board to fill a vacancy must be received by the Secretary within 90 days of the effective date of the vacancy. Board members wishing to resign from the Board must do so in writing to the Secretary.

§ 930.28 Alternate members.

An alternate member of the Board, during the absence of the member for
§ 930.29 Eligibility for membership on Cherry Industry Administrative Board.

(a) Each grower member and each grower alternate member of the Board shall be a grower, or an officer or employee of a grower, in the district for which nominated or appointed.

(b) Each handler member and each handler alternate member of the Board shall be a handler, or an officer or employee of a handler, who owns, or leases, and operates a cherry processing facility in the district for which nominated or appointed.

(c) The public member and alternate public member of the Board shall be prohibited from having any financial interest in the cherry industry and shall possess such additional qualifications as may be established by regulation.

§ 930.30 Powers.

The Board shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer this part in accordance with its terms and provisions;

(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part;

(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of this part; and

(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 930.31 Duties.

The Board shall have, among others, the following duties:

(a) To select such officers, including a chairperson and vice-chairperson, as may be necessary, and to define the duties of such officers and the duties of the chairperson and the vice-chairperson;

(b) To employ or contract with such persons or agents as the Board deems necessary and to determine the duties and compensation of such persons or agents;

(c) To select such committees and subcommittees as may be necessary;

(d) To adopt bylaws and to adopt such rules for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;

(e) To submit to the Secretary a budget for each fiscal period, prior to the beginning of such period, including a report explaining the items appearing therein and a recommendation as to the rates of assessments for such period;

(f) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the Board and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;

(g) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the Board and to make copies of each statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the Board;

(h) To cause its financial statements to be audited by a certified public accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such times as the Secretary may request. Such audit shall include an examination of the receipt of assessments and the disbursement of all funds. The Board shall provide the Secretary with a copy of all audits and shall make copies of such audits, after the removal of any confidential individual grower or handler information that may be contained in them, available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the Board;

(i) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler with respect to the operations of this part;

(j) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to cherries;

(k) To apprise the Secretary of all Board meetings in a timely manner;

(l) To submit to the Secretary such available information as the Secretary may request;

(m) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part;

(n) To develop and submit an annual marketing policy for approval by the
§ 930.33 Expenses and compensation.

Except for the public member and alternate public member who shall receive such compensation as the Board may establish and the Secretary may approve, the members of the Board, and alternates when acting as members, shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable expenses, as approved by the Board, incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part. The Board at its discretion may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual

VerDate 20<JAN>98 13:27 Jan 23, 1998 Jkt 179021 PO 00000 Frm 00275 Fmt 8010 Sfmt 8010 Y:\SGML\179021.TXT 179021-3
§ 930.40 Expenses. The Board is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred for its maintenance and functioning and to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as provided in §930.41.

§ 930.41 Assessments. (a) An assessment may be levied upon handlers annually under this part to cover the administrative costs of the Board, costs of inspection, and any research, development and promotion activities initiated by the Board under §930.48.

(b) Each part of an assessment intended to cover the costs of each activity in paragraph (a) of this section, must be identified and approved by the Board and the Secretary, and any notification or other statement regarding assessments provided to handlers must contain such information.

(c) As a pro rata share of the administrative, inspection, research, development, and promotion expenses which the Secretary finds reasonable and likely to be incurred by the Board during a fiscal period, each handler shall pay to the Board assessments on all cherries handled, as the handler thereof, during such period: Provided, that the formula adopted by the Board and approved by the Secretary for determining the rate of assessment will compensate for differences in the number of pounds of cherries utilized for various cherry products and the relative market values of such cherry products.

§ 930.42 Accounting. (a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may carry over all or any portion of such excess into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve. Such reserve funds may be used to cover any expenses authorized by this part, and to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. If any such excess is not retained in a reserve, it shall be refunded proportionately to the presence of the respective member(s), and may pay the expenses of such alternates.
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 930.50

the handlers from whom the excess was collected. Without an additional reserve level approved by the Secretary, the amount held in reserve may not exceed approximately one year's operational expenses. Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such a manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: Provided, That to the extent practicable, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the Board pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purpose specified in this part and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may at any time require the Board and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

QUALITY CONTROL

§ 930.44 Quality control.

(a) Quality standards. The Board may establish, with the approval of the Secretary, such minimum quality and inspection requirements applicable to cherries as will contribute to orderly marketing or be in the public interest. If such requirements are adopted, no handler shall process cherries into manufactured products or sell manufactured products in the current of commerce unless such cherries and/or such cherries used in the manufacture of products meet the applicable requirements as evidenced by certification acceptable to the Board. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish rules and regulations necessary and incidental to the administration of this section.

(b) Inspection and certification. Whenever the handling of any cherries requires inspection pursuant to this part, each handler who handles cherries shall cause such cherries to be inspected by the appropriate division of USDA, and certified by it as meeting the applicable requirements of such regulation: Provided, That inspection and certification shall be required for cherries which previously have been so inspected and certified only if such cherries have been regraded, repackaged, or in any other way further prepared for market. Promptly after inspection and certification, each such handler shall submit, or cause to be submitted, to the Board a copy of the certificate of inspection issued with respect to such cherries.

RESEARCH, MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION

§ 930.48 Research, market development and promotion.

The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production and processing research, market research and development, and/or promotional activities, including paid advertising, designed to assist, improve or promote the efficient production and processing, marketing, distribution, and consumption of cherries subject to this part. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to this part and the income from such funds.

REGULATIONS

§ 930.50 Marketing policy.

(a) Optimum Supply. On or about July 1 of each crop year, the Board shall hold a meeting to review sales data, inventory data, current crop forecasts and market conditions in order to establish an optimum supply level for the crop year. The optimum supply volume shall be calculated as 100 percent of the average sales of the prior three years to which shall be added a desirable carryout inventory not to exceed 20 million pounds or such other amount as the Board, with the approval of the Secretary may establish. This optimum supply volume shall be announced by the Board in accordance with paragraph (h) of this section.

(b) Preliminary percentages. On or about July 1 of each crop year, the Board shall establish a preliminary free market tonnage percentage which shall be calculated as follows: From the optimum supply computed in paragraph (a) of this section, the Board shall deduct the carryin inventory to determine the tonnage requirements (adjusted to a raw fruit equivalent) for the current crop year which will be subtracted by the current year USDA
crop forecast. If the resulting number is positive, this would represent the estimated over-production which would need to be the restricted percentage tonnage. This restricted percentage tonnage would then be divided by the sum of the USDA crop forecast for the regulated districts to obtain the percentages for the regulated districts. The Board shall establish a preliminary restricted percentage equal to the quotient, rounded to the nearest whole number, with the compliment being the preliminary free tonnage percentage. If subtracting the current crop year requirement, computed in the first sentence from the current USDA crop forecast, results in a negative number, the Board shall establish a preliminary free market tonnage of 100 percent with a preliminary restricted percentage of zero. The Board shall announce these preliminary percentages in accordance with paragraph (h) of this section.

(c) Interim percentages. Between July 1 and September 15 of each crop year, the Board may modify the preliminary free market tonnage and restricted percentages to adjust to the actual pack occurring in the industry. The Board shall announce any interim percentages in accordance with paragraph (h) of this section.

(d) Final percentages. No later than September 15 of each crop year, the Board shall review actual production during the current crop year and make such adjustments as are necessary between free and restricted tonnage to achieve the optimum supply and recommend such final free market tonnage and restricted percentages to the Secretary and announce them in accordance with paragraph (h) of this section. The difference between any final free market tonnage percentage designated by the Secretary and 100 percent shall be the final restricted percentage. With its recommendation, the Board shall report on its consideration of the factors in paragraph (e) of this section.

(e) Factors. When computing preliminary and interim percentages, or determining final percentages for recommendation to the Secretary, the Board shall give consideration to the following factors:

1. The estimated total production of cherries;
2. The estimated size of the crop to be handled;
3. The expected general quality of such cherry production;
4. The expected carryover as of July 1 of canned and frozen cherries and other cherry products;
5. The expected demand conditions for cherries in different market segments;
6. Supplies of competing commodities;
7. An analysis of economic factors having a bearing on the marketing of cherries;
8. The estimated tonnage held by handlers in primary or secondary inventory reserves; and
9. Any estimated release of primary or secondary inventory reserve cherries during the crop year.

(f) Modification. In the event the Board subsequently deems it advisable to modify its marketing policy, because of national emergency, crop failure, or other major change in economic conditions, it shall hold a meeting for that purpose, and file a report thereof with the Secretary within 5 days (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) after the holding of such meeting, which report shall show the Board's recommended modification and the basis therefor.

(g) Reserve tonnage to sell as free tonnage. In addition, the Board shall make available tonnage equivalent to an additional 10 percent, if available, of the average sales of the prior 3 years for market expansion. Handlers can determine if they need the additional tonnage and inform the Board so that reserve cherries may be released to them. Handlers not desiring the additional tonnage would not have it released to them.

(h) Publicity. The Board shall promptly give reasonable publicity to growers and handlers of each meeting to consider a marketing policy or any modification thereof, and each such meeting shall be open to them and to the public. Similar publicity shall be given to growers and handlers of each marketing policy report or modification thereof, filed with the Secretary and of the Secretary's action thereon. Copies of
all marketing policy reports shall be maintained in the office of the Board, where they shall be made available for examination. The Board shall notify handlers, and give reasonable publicity to growers, of its computation of the optimum supply, preliminary percentages, and interim percentages and shall notify handlers of the Secretary's action on final percentages by registered or certified mail.

(i) Restricted Percentages. Restricted percentage requirements established under paragraphs (b), (c) or (d) of this section may be fulfilled by handlers by either establishing an inventory reserve in accordance with §930.55 or §930.57 or by diversion of product in accordance with §930.59. In years where required, the Board shall establish a maximum percentage of the restricted quantity which may be established as a primary inventory reserve such that the total primary inventory reserve does not exceed 50 million pounds. Handlers will be permitted to divert (at plant or with grower-diversion certificates) as much of the restricted percentage requirement as they deem appropriate, but may not establish a primary inventory reserve in excess of the percentage established by the Board for restricted cherries. In the event handlers wish to establish inventory reserve in excess of this amount, they may do so, in which case it will be classified as a secondary inventory reserve and will be regulated accordingly.

(j) Inventory Reserve Release. In years when inventory reserve cherries are available and when the expected availability of cherries from the current crop plus expected carryin inventory does not fulfill the optimum supply, the Board shall release not later than November 1st of the current crop year such volume from the inventory reserve as will satisfy the optimum supply.

(k) The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish rules and regulations necessary and incidental to the administration of this section.

§930.51 Issuance of volume regulations.

(a) Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendation and supporting information supplied by the Board, that to designate final free market tonnage and restricted percentages for any cherries acquired by handlers during the crop year will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act, the Secretary shall designate such percentages. Such regulation designating such percentage shall fix the free market tonnage and restricted percentages, totaling 100 percent, which shall be applied in accordance with this section, §§930.55, 930.57 and 930.59 to cherries grown in regulated districts, as determined under §930.52, and handled during such fiscal period.

(b) The Board shall be informed immediately of any such regulation issued by the Secretary, and the Board shall promptly give notice thereof to handlers.

(c) That portion of a handler's cherries that are restricted percentage cherries is the product of the restricted percentage imposed under paragraph (a) of this section multiplied by the tonnage of cherries, originating in a regulated district, handled, including those diverted according to §930.59, by that handler in that fiscal year. Therefore, while diverted cherries, including those represented by grower diversion certificates, may be exempt from assessment under §930.41, they must be counted when computing restricted percentage requirements.

(d) The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, shall develop rules and regulations which shall provide guidelines for handlers in complying with any restricted tonnage requirements, including, but not limited to, a grace period of at least 30 days to segregate and appropriately document any tonnage they wish to place in the inventory reserve and to assemble any applicable diversion certificates.

§930.52 Establishment of districts subject to volume regulations.

(a) Upon adoption of this part, the districts in which handlers shall be subject to any volume regulations implemented in accordance with this part shall be those districts in which the average annual production of cherries over the prior three years has exceeded 15 million pounds. Handlers in districts
§ 930.53 Modification, suspension, or termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the Board at any time finds that, by reason of changed conditions, any regulations issued pursuant to §§ 930.44 or 930.51 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the Board or from other available information, that a regulation issued pursuant to §§ 930.44 or 930.51 should be modified, suspended or terminated with respect to any or all shipments of cherries in order to effectuate the declared policy of the Act, the Secretary shall modify, suspend, or terminate such regulation.

§ 930.54 Prohibition on the use or disposition of inventory reserve cherries.

(a) Release of primary and secondary inventory reserve cherries. Except as provided in §930.50 and paragraph (b) of this section, cherries that are placed in inventory reserve pursuant to the requirements of §930.50, §930.51, §930.55, or §930.57 shall not be used or disposed of by any handler or any other person: Provided, That if the Board determines that the total available supplies for use in normal commercial outlets do not at least equal the amount, as estimated by the Board, needed to meet the demand in such outlets, the Board shall recommend to the Secretary and provide such justification that, during such period as may be recommended by the Board and approved by the Secretary, a portion or all of the primary and/or secondary inventory reserve cherries shall be released for such use.

(b) Reserved.

§ 930.55 Primary inventory reserves.

(a) Whenever the Secretary has fixed the free market tonnage and restricted percentages for any fiscal period, as provided for in §930.51(a), each handler in a regulated district shall place in his or her primary inventory reserve for such period, at such time, and in such manner, as the Board may prescribe, or otherwise divert, according to §930.59, a portion of the cherries acquired during the fiscal period.

(b) The form of the cherries, frozen, canned in any form, dried, or concentrated juice, placed in the primary inventory reserve is at the option of the handler. Except as may be limited by §930.50(i) or as may be permitted pursuant to §§ 930.59 and 930.62, such inventory reserve portion shall be equal to the sum of the products obtained by multiplying the weight or volume of the cherries in each lot of cherries acquired during the fiscal period by the then effective restricted percentage fixed by the Secretary: Provided, That in converting cherries in each lot to the form chosen by the handler, the inventory reserve obligations shall be adjusted in accordance with uniform rules adopted by the Board in terms of raw fruit equivalent.
(c) Inventory reserve cherries shall meet such standards of grade, quality, or condition as the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish. All such cherries shall be inspected by USDA. A certificate of such inspection shall be issued which shall show, among other things, the name and address of the handler, the number and type of containers in the lot, the grade of the product, the location where the lot is stored, identification marks (can codes or lot stamp), and a certification that the cherries meet the prescribed standards. Promptly after inspection and certification, each such handler shall submit, or cause to be submitted, to the Board, at the place designated by the Board, a copy of the certificate of inspection issued with respect to such cherries.

(d) Handlers shall be compensated for inspection costs incurred on cherries placed in the primary inventory reserve. All reporting of cherries placed in, rotated in and out, or released from an inventory reserve shall be in accordance with rules and procedures established by the Board, with the approval of the Secretary. The Board could, with the approval of the Secretary, also limit the number of inspections of reserve cherries being rotated into inventory reserves for which the Board would be financially liable.

(e) Except as provided in §930.54, handlers may not sell inventory reserve cherries prior to their official release by the Board. Handlers may rotate cherries in their inventory reserves with prior notification to the Board. All cherries rotated into the inventory reserve must meet the applicable inspection requirements.

§ 930.56 Off-premise inventory reserve.

Any handler may, upon notification to the Board, arrange to hold inventory reserve, of his or her own production or which was purchased, on the premises of another handler or in an approved commercial storage facility in the same manner as though the inventory reserve were on the handler’s own premises.

§ 930.57 Secondary inventory reserve.

(a) In the event the inventory reserve established under §930.55 of this part is at its maximum volume, and the Board has announced, in accordance with §930.50, that volume regulation will be necessary to maintain an orderly supply of quality cherries for the market, handlers in a regulated district may elect to place in a secondary inventory reserve all or a portion of the cherries the volume regulation would otherwise require them to divert in accordance with §930.59.

(b) Should any handler in a regulated district exercise his or her right to establish a secondary inventory reserve under paragraph (a) of this section, all costs of maintaining that reserve, as well as inspection costs, will be the responsibility of the individual handler.

(c) The secondary inventory reserve shall be established in accordance with §§930.55 (b) and (c) and such other rules and regulations which the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish.

(d) The Board shall retain control over the release of any cherries from the secondary inventory reserve. No cherries may be released from the secondary reserve until all cherries in any primary inventory reserve established under §930.55 have been released. Any release of the secondary inventory reserve shall be in accordance with the annual marketing policy and with §930.54.

§ 930.58 Grower diversion privilege.

(a) In general. Any grower may voluntarily elect to divert, in accordance with the provisions of this section, all or a portion of the cherries which otherwise, upon delivery to a handler, would become restricted percentage cherries. Upon such diversion and compliance with the provisions of this section, the Board shall issue to the diverting grower a grower diversion certificate which such grower may deliver to a handler, as though there were actual harvested cherries.

(b) Eligible diversion. Grower diversion certificates shall be issued to growers only if the cherries are diverted in accordance with the following terms and conditions or such other terms and conditions that the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish. Diversion may take such of the following forms which the Board, with the
approval of the Secretary, may designate: uses exempt under §930.62; nonhuman food uses; or other uses, including diversion by leaving such cherries unharvested.

(c) Application/mapping. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, shall develop rules and regulations providing for the diversion of cherries by growers. Such regulations may include, among other things:

(1) The form and content of applications and agreements relating to the diversion, including provisions for supervision and compensation; and

(2) Provisions for mapping areas in which cherries will be left unharvested.

(d) Diversion certificate. If the Board approves the application it shall so notify the applicant and conduct such supervision of the applicant’s diversion of cherries as may be necessary to assure that the cherries have been diverted. After the diversion has been accomplished, the Board shall issue to the diverting grower a diversion certificate stating the weight of cherries diverted. Where diversion is carried out by leaving the cherries unharvested, the Board shall estimate the weight of cherries diverted on the basis of such uniform rule prescribed in rules and regulations as the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may recommend to implement this section.

§ 930.59 Handler diversion privilege.

(a) In general. Handlers handling cherries harvested in a regulated district may fulfill any restricted percentage requirement in full or in part by voluntarily diverting cherries or cherry products in a program approved by the Board, rather than placing cherries in an inventory reserve. Upon such diversion and compliance with the provisions of this section, the Board shall issue to the diverting handler a handler diversion certificate which shall satisfy any restricted percentage or diversion requirement to the extent of the Board or Department inspected weight of the cherries diverted.

(b) Eligible diversion. Handler diversion certificates shall be issued to handlers only if the cherries are diverted in accordance with the following terms and conditions that the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish. Such diversion may take place in any of the following forms which the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may designate: uses exempt under §930.62; contribution to a Board approved food bank or other approved charitable organization; acquisition of grower diversion certificates that have been issued in accordance with §930.58; or other uses, including diversion by destruction of the cherries at the handler’s facilities: Provided, That diversion may not be accomplished by converting cherries into juice or juice concentrate.

(c) Notification. The handler electing to divert cherries through means specified in this section or other approved means (not including uses exempt under §930.62), shall first notify the Board of such election. Such notification shall describe in detail the manner in which the handler proposes to divert cherries including, if the diversion is to be by means of destruction of the cherries, a detailed description of the means of destruction and ultimate disposition of the cherries. It shall also contain an agreement that the proposed diversion is to be carried out under the supervision of the Board and that the cost of such supervision is to be paid by the handler. Uniform fees for such supervision shall be established by the Board, pursuant to rules and regulations approved by the Secretary.

(d) Application. The handler electing to divert cherries by utilizing an exemption under §930.62 shall first apply to the Board for approval of such diversion; no diversion should take place prior to such approval. Such application shall describe in detail the uses to which the diverted cherries will be put. It shall also contain an agreement that the proposed diversion is to be carried out under the supervision of the Board and that the cost of such supervision is to be paid by the applicant. The Board shall notify the applicant of the Board’s approval or disapproval of the submitted application.

(e) Diversion certificate. The Board shall conduct such supervision of the handler’s diversion of cherries under paragraph (c) or under paragraph (d) of
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 930.70

this section as may be necessary to assure that the cherries are diverted. After the diversion has been accomplished, the Board shall issue to the diverting handler a handler diversion certificate indicating the weight of cherries which may be used to offset any restricted percentage requirement.

§ 930.60 Equity holders.

(a) Inventory reserve ownership. The inventory reserve shall be the sole responsibility of the handlers who place products into the inventory reserve. A handler’s equity in the primary inventory reserve may be transferred to another person upon notification to the Board.

(b) Agreements with growers. Individual handlers are encouraged to have written agreements with growers who deliver their cherries to the handler as to how any restricted percentage cherries delivered to the handler will be handled and what share, if any, the grower will have in the eventual sale of any inventory reserve cherries.

(c) Rulemaking authority. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may adopt rules and regulations necessary and incidental to the administration of this section.

930.61 Handler compensation.

Each handler handling cherries from a regulated district that is subject to volume regulations shall be compensated by the Board for inspection relating to the primary inventory reserve as the Board may deem to be appropriate. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish such rules and regulations as are necessary and incidental to the administration of this section.

§ 930.62 Exemptions.

The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may exempt from the provisions of §§ 930.41, 940.44, 930.51, 930.53, and 930.55 through 930.57 cherries: Diverted in accordance with §930.59; used for new product and new market development; used for experimental purposes or for any other use designated by the Board, including cherries processed into products for markets for which less than 5 percent of the preceding 5-year average production of cherries were utilized. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe such rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to ensure that cherries handled under the provisions of this section are handled only as authorized.

§ 930.63 Deferment of restricted obligation.

(a) Bonding. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may require handlers to secure bonds on deferred inventory reserve tonnage. Handlers may, in order to comply with the requirements of §§930.50 and 930.51 and regulations issued thereunder, secure bonds on restricted percentage cherries to temporarily defer the date that inventory reserve cherries must be held to any date requested by the handler. This date shall be not later than 60 days prior to the end of that crop year. Such deferment shall be conditioned upon the voluntary execution and delivery by the handler to the Board of a written undertaking within thirty (30) days after the Secretary announces the final restricted percentage under §930.51. Such written undertaking shall be secured by a bond or bonds with a surety or sureties acceptable to the Board that on or prior to the acceptable deferred date the handler will have fully satisfied the restricted percentage amount required by §930.51.

(b) Rulemaking authority. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may adopt rules and regulations necessary and incidental to the administration of this section.

REPORTS AND RECORDS

§ 930.70 Reports.

(a) Weekly production, monthly sales, and inventory data. Each handler shall, upon request of the Board, file promptly with the Board, reports showing weekly production data; monthly sales and inventory data; and such other information, including the volume of any cherries placed in or released from a primary or secondary inventory reserve or diverted, as the Board shall specify with respect to any cherries handled by the handler. Such information may be provided to the Board members in summary or aggregated.
§ 930.71 Records.

Each handler shall maintain such records of all cherries acquired, handled, stored or sold, or otherwise disposed of as will substantiate the required reports and as may be prescribed by the Board. All such records shall be maintained for not less than two years after the termination of the fiscal year in which the transactions occurred or for such lesser period as the Board may direct with the approval of the Secretary.

§ 930.72 Verification of reports and records.

For the purpose of assuring compliance and checking and verifying the reports filed by handlers, the Secretary and the Board, through its duly authorized agents, shall have access to any premises where applicable records are maintained, where cherries are received, stored, or handled, and, at any time during reasonable business hours, shall be permitted to inspect such handlers premises and any and all records of such handlers with respect to matters within the purview of this part.

§ 930.73 Confidential information.

All reports and records furnished or submitted by handlers to the Board and its authorized agents which include data or information constituting a trade secret or disclosing trade position, financial condition, or business operations of the particular handler from whom received, shall be received by and at all times kept in the custody and under the control of one or more employees of the Board or its agent, who shall disclose such information to no person other than the Secretary.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 930.80 Compliance.

Except as provided in this part, no person may handle cherries, the handling of which has been prohibited by the Secretary under this part, and no person shall handle cherries in conformity with the provisions of this part and the regulations issued hereunder. No person may handle any cherries for which a diversion certificate has been issued other than as provided in §§ 930.58(b) and 930.59(b).

§ 930.81 Right of the Secretary.

Members of the Board (including successors and alternates), and any agents, employees, or representatives thereof, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the Board shall be subject to the Secretary's disapproval at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the Board shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in accordance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 930.82 Effective time.

The provisions of this part, and of any amendment thereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare, and shall continue in force until terminated, or suspended.

§ 930.83 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may, at any time, terminate any or all of the provisions of this part by giving at least 1 day's notice by means of a press notice or in any other manner in which the Secretary may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this part whenever the Secretary finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.
(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this part whenever the Secretary finds by referendum or otherwise that such termination is favored by a majority of the growers and processors; provided, That such majority has, during the current fiscal year, produced or canned and frozen more than 50 percent of the volume of the cherries which were produced or processed within the production area. Such termination shall become effective on the last day of June subsequent to the announcement thereof by the Secretary.

(d) The Secretary shall conduct a referendum within the month of March of every sixth year after the effective date of this part to ascertain whether continuation of this part is favored by the growers and processors. The Secretary may terminate the provisions of this part at the end of any fiscal period in which the Secretary has found that continuance is not favored by a majority of growers and processors who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production or processing of tart cherries in the production area. Such termination shall be announced on or before the end of the fiscal period.

(e) The provisions of this part shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the Act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 930.84 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this part, the then functioning members of the Board shall, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the Board, continue as trustees of all the funds and property then in its possession, or under its control, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination.

(b) The said trustees shall:

(1) continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary;

(2) from time to time account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the Board and of the trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct;

(3) upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the Board or in the trustees pursuant to this part.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, and claims have been transferred or delivered, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the Board and upon the trustees.

§ 930.85 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this part or of any regulation issued pursuant to this part, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not:

(a) Affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have risen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this part or any regulation issued thereunder;

(b) Release or extinguish any violation of this part or any regulation issued thereunder;

(c) Affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or any other person with respect to any such violation.

§ 930.86 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this part shall cease upon its termination, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this part.

§ 930.87 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any officer or employee of the United States, or name any agency or division in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to act as the Secretary’s agent or representative in connection with any provisions of this part.

§ 930.88 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the Act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises...
§ 930.89 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the Board and no employee or agent of the Board shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate member, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 930.90 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 930.91 Amendments.

Amendments to this subpart may be proposed, from time to time, by the Board or by the Secretary.

§ 930.100 Grower diversion certificates.

(a) In accordance with paragraph (b) of this section, the Board may, for the 1997 crop year, issue diversion certificates to growers, in districts subject to volume regulation (Northwest Michigan, Central Michigan, New York, and Utah) who have voluntarily elected to divert in the orchard all or a portion of their 1997 tart cherry production which otherwise, upon delivery to handlers, would become restricted percentage cherries. Growers may offer the diversion certificate to handlers in lieu of delivering cherries. Handlers may redeem diversion certificates with the Board through November 1 of the 1997 crop year. After November 1 of the 1997 crop year that crop year’s grower diversion certificates are no longer valid.

(b) Terms and conditions. To be eligible to receive diversion credit, growers voluntarily choosing to divert cherries must meet the following terms and conditions:

(1) In order to receive a certificate, a grower must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that rows or trees which were selected for diversion were not harvested. Trees six years old or younger do not qualify for diversion.

(2) The grower must furnish the Board with a total harvested production amount so the Board can calculate the amount of grower diversion tonnage to be placed on the diversion certificate. The Board will confirm the grower’s production amount with information provided by handlers (to which the grower delivers cherries) on Board Form Number Two.

(3) The grower must agree to allow a Board compliance officer to visit the grower’s orchard to confirm that diversion has actually taken place.

(c) Calculation of diversion amounts. The weight of cherries diverted and left unharvested shall be calculated by the Board after growers furnish the Board with the necessary information concerning their production. After verification of the volume of cherries diverted, the Board shall calculate the amounts of grower diversion tonnage to be placed on the diversion certificates and issue such certificates to growers. Such amounts shall be determined as follows:

(1) For whole block diversion, the weight of a harvested sample of 5 percent of each diverted block, provided by the grower, will be used to calculate the total volume of diverted cherries to be credited on the diversion certificate. For example, a grower farms 1,000 acres and elects to whole block divert a 200 acre block. If 5 percent of the harvested cherries diverted and left unharvested yield 80,000 pounds of cherries, the grower would receive a diversion certificate for 1,600,000 pounds (80,000 pounds divided by 5 percent (.05) yields 1,600,000 pounds). The rest of the block would remain unharvested.

(2) For random row diversion, such estimated volume would be calculated by applying the percentage of the grower’s production diverted to the actual average volume per acre of cherries produced and harvested. For example, a grower farms 1,000 acres and obtains 6,400,000 pounds of cherries, which represents a yield per acre of...
8,000 pounds. Such grower would receive a diversion certificate for 1,600,000 pounds of cherries (8,000 lbs multiplied by the 20 percent of the total acreage diverted; in this instance, 200 acres).


Subpart—Administrative Rules and Regulations

§ 930.141 Delinquent assessments.

(a) Pursuant to §930.41, the Board shall impose an interest charge on any handler whose assessment payment has not been received within 30 days from the due date of October 1 of each crop year. The interest rate shall be a rate of one percent per month and shall be applied to the unpaid assessment balance for the number of days all or any part of the unpaid balance is delinquent beyond the 30-day payment period. In addition to the interest charge, the Board shall impose a late payment charge on any handler whose payment charge has not been received within 90 days from the due date of October 1. The late payment charge shall be 10 percent of the unpaid balance.

(b) Due date for the 1997-98 fiscal period. For the 1997-98 fiscal period, the due date for assessments shall be November 30, 1997. Any interest charge for late assessment payments shall be accrued 30 days after the November 30 due date and any late fee shall be accrued 90 days after the November 30 due date.


Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 930.200 Handler assessment rate.

On and after the effective date of this rule, the assessment rate imposed on handlers shall be $0.0025 per pound of cherries handled for tart cherries grown in the production area and utilized in the production of tart cherry products other than juice, juice concentrate, or puree. The assessment rate for juice, juice concentrate, and puree products shall be $0.0125 per pound.

§ 931.1 Secretary.
Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 931.2 Act.

§ 931.3 Person.
Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

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§ 931.4 Production area.
Production area means and includes the States of Oregon and Washington.

§ 931.5 Pears.
Pears means all pears grown in the production area classified botanically as belonging to the Bartlett cultivar of Pyrus Communis.

§ 931.6 Variety.
Variety means any type or strain of pears which has distinctive attributes and is designated by a common name, such as Red Bartlett.

§ 931.7 Fiscal period.
Fiscal period means the period beginning July 1 of any year and ending June 30 of the following year or such other period as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish.

§ 931.8 Committee.
Committee means the Northwest Fresh Bartlett Pear Marketing Committee established pursuant to §931.20.

§ 931.9 Grade.
Grade means any one of the officially established grades of pears as defined and set forth in:
(a) United States Standards for Summer and Fall Pears (7 CFR 51.1260 et seq.) or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon; or
(b) Standards for pears issued by the State of Oregon or the State of Washington or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon.

§ 931.10 Size.
Size means the number of pears which can be packed in a standard western pear box 18 inches long, 11½ inches wide, and 8½ inches deep (inside measurements) when packed in accordance with the packing requirements of the U.S. Standards for Summer and Fall Pears (effective August 20, 1955), or as such standards thereafter may be modified, or Size means the greatest transverse diameter of the pear taken at right angles to a line running from the stem to the blossom end, or such
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 931.21

other specifications as may be estab-
lished by the committee, with the ap-
proval of the Secretary.

§ 931.11 Grower.

Grower is synonymous with producer
and means any person who produces
pears for fresh market and who has a
proprietary interest therein.

§ 931.12 Handler.

Handler is synonymous with shipper
and means any person (except a com-
mon or contract carrier transporting
pears owned by another person) who
handles pears.

§ 931.13 Handle.

Handle or ship means to sell, deliver,
consign, or transport pears within the
production area or between the produc-
tion area and any point outside there-
of: Provided, That the term handle shall
not include the transportation within
the production area from the orchard
where grown to a packing facility lo-
cated within such area for preparation
for market.

§ 931.14 District.

District means the applicable one of
the following described subdivisions of
the production area, or such other sub-
divisions as may be prescribed pursu-
ant to § 931.31(m):

(a) Wenatchee District shall include
the counties of King, Chelan, Douglas,
Grant, Lincoln, Spokane in the State
of Washington, and all other counties
in Washington lying north thereof.

(b) Yakima District shall include all
of the State of Washington not in-
cluded in the Wenatchee District or in
the Hood River-White Salmon District.

(c) Mid-Columbia District or the
Hood River-White Salmon District
shall include those counties in the
State of Oregon not included in the
Medford District and the counties of
Skamania and Klickitat in the State of
Washington.

(d) Medford District shall include the
Counties of Jackson, Josephine, Curry,
Coos, Douglas, Lane, and Klamath in
the State of Oregon.

§ 931.15 Export.

Export means to ship pears to any
destination which is not within the 48
contiguous States, or the District of
Columbia of the United States.

§ 931.16 Pack.

Pack means the specific arrangement,
size, weight, count, or grade of a quan-
tity of pears in a particular type and
size of container, or any combination
thereof.

§ 931.17 Container.

Container means a box, bag, crate,
lug, basket, carton, package, or any
other type of receptacle used in the
packaging or handling of pears.

ADMINISTRATIVE BODY

§ 931.20 Establishment and membership.

There is hereby established a North-
west Fresh Bartlett Pear Marketing
Committee consisting of fourteen (14)
members, each of whom shall have an
alternate who shall have the same
qualifications as the member for whom
his is an alternate. Eight (8) of the
members and their respective alter-
ates shall be growers or officers or
employees of growers. Six (6) of the
members and their respective alter-
ates shall be handlers or officers or
employees of handlers. Each district
shall be represented on the committee
by two (2) grower members and their
respective alternates who are produc-
ers of pears in such districts. The Yak-
ima and Medford Districts shall each
be represented on the committee by
two (2) handler members and the
Wenatchee and Mid-Columbia Districts
each by one (1) handler member who
are handlers of pears in the respective
district.

§ 931.21 Term of office.

The term of office of each member
and alternate member of the commit-
tee shall be for two years beginning
July 1 and ending June 30. Provided,
That the term of office of one-half of
the initial grower members and alter-
ates and one-half of the initial han-
der members and alternates from the
Yakima and Medford Districts and the
handler member and alternate from the
Wenatchee District shall end June 30,
1966. Members and alternate members
shall serve in such capacities for the
portion of the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified.

§ 931.22 Nomination.

(a) Initial members. Nominations for each of the initial members of the committee, together with nominations for the initial alternate members for each position, may be submitted to the Secretary by individual growers and handlers. Such nominations may be made by means of separate group meetings of the growers and handlers concerned in each district, which shall be publicized and open to all growers and handlers. Such nominations, if made, shall be filed with the Secretary no later than the effective date of this part. In the event nominations for initial members and alternate members of the committee are not filed pursuant to, and within the time specified in this section, the Secretary may select such initial members and alternate members without regard to nominations, but selections shall be on the basis of the representation provided for in §931.20.

(b) Successor members. (1) The committee shall hold or cause to be held, not later than June 1 of each year, separate meetings of growers and handlers in each district for the purpose of designating nominees for successor members and alternate members of the committee, which shall be publicized and open to all growers and handlers. At each such meeting, a chairman and a secretary shall be designated by the growers and handlers eligible to participate therein. The chairman shall announce at the meeting the results of nominations for member or alternate member and shall submit promptly to the committee a complete report concerning such meeting. The committee shall, in turn, promptly submit a copy of each such report to the Secretary.

(2) Only growers, including duly authorized officers or employees of growers, who are present at such nomination meetings may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for grower members and their alternates. Each grower shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each nominee to be elected in the district in which he produces pears. No grower shall participate in the election of nominees in more than one district in any one fiscal year. If a person is both a grower and a handler of pears, such person may vote either as a grower or as a handler but not as both.

(3) Only handlers, including duly authorized officers or employees of handlers, who are present at such nomination meetings may participate in the nomination and election of nominees for handler members and their alternates. Each handler shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each nominee to be elected in the district in which he handles pears. No handler shall participate in the election of nominees in more than one district in any one fiscal year. If a person is both a grower and a handler of pears, such person may vote either as a grower or as a handler but not as both.

§ 931.23 Selection.

From the nominations made pursuant to §931.22 or from other qualified persons, the Secretary shall select the eight grower members of the committee, the six handler members of the committee, and an alternate for each such member.

§ 931.24 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner prescribed in §931.22, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the members and alternate members of the committee on the basis of the representation provided for in §931.20.

§ 931.25 Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary promptly after being notified of such selection.

§ 931.26 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate member of the committee, a successor for the unexpired term of such member or alternate member of
the committee shall be nominated and selected in the manner specified in §§931.22 and 931.23. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within a reasonable time after such vacancy occurs the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of representation provided for in §931.20.

§ 931.27 Alternate members.
An alternate member of the committee, during the absence or at the request of the member for whom he is an alternate, shall act in the place and stead of such member and perform such other duties as assigned. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified. In the event both a member of the committee and his alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the member or the committee may designate any other alternate member from the same district and group (handler or grower) to serve in such member’s place and stead.

§ 931.30 Powers.
The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;
(b) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the provisions of this part;
(c) To make and adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 931.31 Duties.
The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:
(a) To select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to define the duties of such officers;
(b) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary, and to determine the compensation and to define the duties of each;
(c) To submit to the Secretary as soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period a budget for such fiscal period, including a report in explanation of the items appearing therein and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such period;
(d) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;
(e) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;
(f) To cause its books to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such time as the Secretary may request;
(g) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;
(h) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to pears;
(i) To submit to the Secretary such available information as he may request;
(j) To notify producers and handlers of all meetings of the committee to consider recommendations for regulations;
(k) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to its members;
(l) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part; and
(m) With the approval of the Secretary to redefine the districts into which the production area is divided, and to reapportion the representation of any district on the committee: Provided, That any such changes shall reflect, insofar as practicable, shifts in pear production within the districts and the production area.

§ 931.32 Procedure.
(a) Twelve members of the committee, including alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum, and any action of the committee shall require the concurring vote of all except two of the members present.
(b) The committee may provide for simultaneous meetings of groups of its members assembled at two or more designated places: Provided, That such
§ 931.33 Expenses.

The members of the committee and alternates when acting as members, shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part: Provided, That at its discretion the committee may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members, and may pay expenses as aforesaid.

§ 931.34 Annual report.

The committee shall, as soon as is practicable after the close of each fiscal period, prepare and mail an annual report to the Secretary and make a copy available to each handler and grower who requests a copy of the report. This annual report shall contain at least: (a) A complete review of the regulatory operations during the fiscal period; (b) a review of the effect of such regulatory operations upon the pear industry; and (c) any recommendations for changes in the program.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 931.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee for its maintenance and functioning and to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part during each fiscal period. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments as prescribed in §931.41.

§ 931.41 Assessments.

(a) Each person who first handles pears shall, with respect to the pears so handled by him, pay to the committee upon demand such person's pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds will be incurred by the committee during each fiscal period. Each such person's share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the total quantity of pears handled by him as the first handler thereof during the applicable fiscal period and the total quantity of pears so handled by all persons during the same fiscal period. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by each such person. At any time during or after the fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses which may be incurred. Such increase shall be applied to all pears handled during the applicable fiscal period. In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part during the first part of a fiscal period before sufficient operating income is available from assessments on the current year's shipments, the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance, and may also borrow money for such purpose.

§ 931.42 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for as follows: (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (a)(2) and (3) of this section, each person entitled to a proportionate refund of any excess assessment shall be credited with such refund against the operation of the following fiscal period unless such person demands repayment thereof, in which event it shall be paid to him: Provided, That any sum paid by
a person in excess of his pro rata share of the expenses during any fiscal period may be applied by the committee at the end of such fiscal period to any outstanding obligations due the committee from such person.

(2) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish and maintain during one or more fiscal years an operating monetary reserve in an amount not to exceed approximately one fiscal year's operational expenses. Upon approval by the Secretary, funds in such reserve shall be available for use by the committee for all expenses authorized pursuant to § 931.40.

(3) Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: Provided, That to the extent practical, such funds will be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this part and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may at any time require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

(c) Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds in his possession to his successor in office and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor full title to all of the property, funds and claims vested in such member pursuant to this part.

§ 931.51 Recommendations for regulation.

(a) Whenever the committee deems it advisable to regulate the handling of any variety or varieties of pears in the manner provided in § 931.52, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) In arriving at its recommendations for regulation pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the committee shall give consideration to current information with respect to the factors...
§ 931.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall regulate, in the manner specified in this section, the handling of pears whenever he finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulation will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such regulation may:

(1) Limit, during any period or periods, the shipment of any particular grade, size, quality, or pack, or any combination thereof, of any variety or varieties of pears grown in any district or districts of the production area;

(2) Limit the shipment of pears by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality during any period when the season average price is expected to exceed the parity level;

(3) Fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, or pack of the container, or containers, which may be used in packaging or handling of pears: Provided, That no regulations shall prohibit the use of the 14-pound box or the standard western pear box; and

(4) Prescribe requirements, as provided in this paragraph, applicable to exports of any variety of pears which are different from those applicable to the handling of the same variety to other destinations.

(b) The committee shall be informed immediately of any such regulation issued by the Secretary, and the committee shall promptly give notice thereof to growers and handlers.

§ 931.53 Modification, suspension, or termination of regulations.

(a) In the event the committee at any time finds that, by reason of changed conditions, any regulations issued pursuant to §931.52 should be modified, suspended, or terminated, it shall so recommend to the Secretary.

(b) Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee or from other available information, that a regulation should be modified, suspended, or terminated with respect to any or all shipments of pears in order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall modify, suspend, or terminate such regulation. On the same basis and in like manner, the Secretary may terminate any such modification or suspension. If the Secretary finds that a regulation obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall suspend or terminate such regulation. On the same basis and in like manner the Secretary may terminate any such suspension.

§ 931.54 Special purpose and minimum quantity shipments.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person may, without regard to the provisions of §§931.41, 931.52, 931.53 and 931.55, and the regulations issued thereunder, handle pears (1) for consumption by charitable institutions; (2) for distribution by relief agencies; or (3) for commercial processing into products.

(b) Upon the basis of recommendations and information submitted by the Committee, or from other available information, the Secretary may relieve from any or all requirements under or established pursuant to §931.41, §931.52, §931.53, or §931.55, the handling of pears in such minimum quantities, in such types of shipments, including gift fruit shipments, or for such specified purposes (including shipments to facilitate the conduct of marketing research and development projects established pursuant to §931.45) as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe.

(c) The committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary prescribe such rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to assure compliance with this section. Such rules, regulations, and safeguards may include the requirements that handlers shall file applications and receive approval from the committee for authorization.
to handle pears pursuant to this section. It may be required that such applications be accompanied by a certification by the intended purchaser or receiver that the pears will not be used for any purpose not authorized by this section.

§ 931.55 Inspection and certification.
Whenever the handling of any variety of pears is regulated pursuant to §931.52 or §931.53, each handler who handles pears shall, prior thereto, cause such pears to be inspected by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service and certified by it as meeting the applicable requirements of such regulation: Provided, That inspection and certification shall be required for pears which previously have been so inspected and certified only if such pears have been regarded, resorted, repackaged, or in any other way further prepared for market. Promptly after inspection and certification, each such handler shall submit or cause to be submitted to the committee a copy of the certificate of inspection issued with respect to such pears. The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe rules and regulations modifying the inspection requirements of this section as to time and place such inspection shall be performed whenever it is determined it would not be practical to perform the required inspection at a particular location: Provided, That all such shipments shall comply with all regulations in effect.

§ 931.56 Exemptions.
The committee shall issue certificates of exemption to any producer who applies for such exemption and furnishes adequate evidence to the committee:
(a) That by reason of a regulation he will be prevented from handling or having handled as large a proportion of his production as the average proportion of production handled by or for all producers in said applicant’s production district; and
(b) That the grade, size, or quality of the applicant’s pears have been adversely affected by acts beyond the applicant's reasonable expectation or control. Each certificate shall permit the producer to handle or to have handled the amount of pears specified thereon. Such certificates shall be transferred with such pears at time of shipment. The committee shall be permitted at any time to make a thorough investigation of any producer’s claim for exemptions and shall determine what conditions constitute acts beyond the grower’s reasonable expectation or control.

REPORTS
§ 931.60 Reports.
(a) Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such time as it may prescribe, reports of pears received and disposed of and such other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part.
(b) All such reports shall be held under appropriate protective classification and custody by the committee, or duly appointed employees thereof, so that the information contained therein which may adversely affect the competitive position of any handler in relation to other handlers will not be disclosed. Compilations of general reports from data submitted by handlers are authorized subject to the prohibition of disclosure of individual handler’s identities or operations.
(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least two succeeding years such records of the pears received and of pears disposed of, by such handler as may be necessary to verify reports pursuant to this section.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
§ 931.61 Compliance.
Except as provided in this part, no person shall handle pears the shipment of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this part; and no person shall handle pears except in conformity with the provisions and the regulations issued under this part.

§ 931.62 Right of the Secretary.
The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and
§ 931.63 Effective time.

The provisions of this part and of any amendments thereto shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature, and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in § 931.64.

§ 931.64 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this part by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner in which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any and all of the provisions of this part whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this part at the end of any fiscal period whenever he finds by a referendum or otherwise that continuance is not favored by the majority of producers who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, were engaged in the production area in the production of pears for market in fresh form: Provided, That such majority has produced for market during such period more than 50 percent of the volume of pears produced for fresh market in the production area; but such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before June 30 of the then current fiscal period: Provided further, That the Secretary shall conduct such a referendum not later than 5 years from the effective date of this part.

(d) The provisions of this part shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 931.66 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this part or of any regulation issued pursuant to this part, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this part or any regulation issued under this part, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this part or of any regulation issued under this part, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violation.

§ 931.67 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this part shall cease upon the
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termination of this part, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this part.

§ 931.68 Agents.
The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any officer or employee of the United States, or name any agency or division in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

§ 931.69 Derogation.
Nothing contained in the provisions of this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States (a) to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or (b) in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 931.70 Personal liability.
No member or alternate member of the committee and no employee or agent of the committee shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 931.71 Separability.
If any provision of this part is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g., sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .390) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

§ 931.120 Reports

SOURCE: 56 FR 65800, Dec. 19, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

DEFINITIONS

§ 931.100 Terms.
Each term used in this subpart, unless otherwise defined, shall have the same meaning as when used in the marketing agreement and order.

§ 931.101 Marketing agreement.
Marketing agreement means Marketing Agreement No. 147, as amended, regulating the handling of Bartlett pears grown in Oregon and Washington.

§ 931.102 Order.
Order means Order No. 931, as amended (§§ 931.1 to 931.71), regulating the handling of Bartlett pears grown in Oregon and Washington.

COMMUNICATIONS

§ 931.110 Communications.
Unless otherwise specifically prescribed in this subpart or in the marketing agreement and order, or unless otherwise required by the Committee, all reports, applications, submittals, requests, inspection certificates, and communications in connection with the marketing agreement or order shall be forwarded to:
Northwest Fresh Bartlett Pear Marketing Committee
813 SW Alder, suite 601
Portland, Oregon 97205-3182

REPORTS

§ 931.120 Reports.
(a) Each handler shall transmit to the Committee on the first and the fifteenth day of each calendar month during the shipping season the “Semi-Monthly Report on Destination of Shipments and Assessment Payments” containing the following information:
(1) The quantity of each variety of pears shipped by that handler during the preceding half month;
(2) The date of each shipment;
(3) The ultimate destination, by city and state, or city and country; and
(4) The assessment payment due; and
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(5) The name and address of such handler.

(b) Each handler shall transmit to the Committee each Friday during the shipping season the “Weekly Northwest Bartlett Packout Report” containing the following information for each variety:

(1) The projected total packout;
(2) The packout to date;
(3) The volume sold export (shipped/not shipped), sold domestic (shipped/not shipped) and shipped auction;
(4) The packout to date in controlled atmosphere (C.A.) storage and the volume in C.A. storage which is sold; and
(5) The name and address of such handler.

(c) Each handler shall furnish to the Committee, upon request, the “Pear Size and Grade Storage Report” containing the quantity of specific grades and sizes of pears in regular and C.A. storage by variety.

ASSIGNMENT RATE

§ 931.231 Assessment rate.

On and after July 1, 1997, an assessment rate of $0.03 per western standard pear box is established for the Northwest Fresh Bartlett Marketing Committee.


PART 932—OLIVES GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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Subpart—Assessment Rates

932.230 Assessment rate.


Source: 30 FR 12629, Oct. 2, 1965, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

Definitions

§ 932.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture who is or who may hereafter be authorized to exercise the powers or to perform the duties of the Secretary of Agriculture.

§ 932.2 Act.


§ 932.3 Person.

Person includes an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 932.4 Area.

Area means the State of California.

§ 932.5 Olives.

Olives means the fruit of any variety of the species olea europaea, whether or not processed, grown within the area.

§ 932.6 Variety group 1.

 Variety group 1 means the following varieties and any mutations, sports, or other derivations of such varieties: Aghizi Shami, Amellau, Ascolano, Ascolano dura, Azapa, Balady, Barouni, Carydolia, Cucco, Gigante di Cerignola, Gordale, Grosane, Jahlut, Polymorpha, Prunara, Ropades, Sevillano, Saint Agostino, Tafahi, and Touffahi.

§ 932.7 Variety group 2.

 Variety group 2 means the following varieties and any mutations, sports, or other derivations of such varieties: Manzanillo, Mission, Nevadillo, Obliza, Redding Picholine.

§ 932.8 Natural condition olives.

Natural condition olives means olives in their fresh harvested state, whether or not placed in a water or other preserving medium.

[33 FR 11266, Aug. 8, 1968]

§ 932.9 Packaged olives.

Packaged olives means (a) processed olives in hermetically sealed containers and heat sterilized under pressure, otherwise known as canned ripe olives and including the three distinct types, ripe, green ripe, and tree-ripened; or (b) olives, packed in brine, and which have been fermented and cured, otherwise known as green olives.

§ 932.10 Lot.

Lot means the total net weight of natural condition olives of any one variety delivered to a handler at any one time.

§ 932.11 Grade.

Grade means the classification of olives as to quality according to the grading specifications established pursuant to the provisions of this part.
§ 932.12 Size.

Size means the number of whole olives contained in a pound and may be referred to in terms of size ranges.

§ 932.13 Size-grade.

Size-grade means to classify olives, or to cause olives to be classified, by sample or otherwise, into separate size designations.

§ 932.14 Process.

Process means to change olives in any way from their natural condition by any commercial process.

§ 932.15 Handler.

Handler means any person who handles olives.

§ 932.16 Handle.

Handle means to: (a) Size-grade olives, (b) process olives, or (c) use processed olives in the production of packaged olives, within the production area, or (d) ship packaged olives from the area to any point outside thereof or within the area: Provided, This term shall not include natural condition olives acquired and (1) used for olive oil, salt cured oil coated olives (also variously referred to as "Greek Olives," "Greek Style Olives," or "Oil Cured Olives"), or Silician Style Olives, or (2) shipped to fresh market outlets.

§ 932.17 Producer.

Producer means any person engaged in a proprietary capacity in the production of olives for market as packaged olives.

§ 932.18 Committee.

Committee means the California Olive Committee established pursuant to § 932.25.

§ 932.19 Crop year and fiscal year.

(a) Crop year means the 12-month period beginning on August 1 of each year and ending on July 31 of the following year or such other period that may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

(b) Fiscal year means the 12-month period beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31 of each year or such other period that may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

[47 FR 32906, July 30, 1982]

§ 932.20 Part and subpart.

Part means the Order Regulating the Handling of Olives Grown in California and all rules and regulations, and supplementary orders issued thereunder. The aforesaid Order Regulating the Handling of Olives Grown in California shall be a subpart of such part.

§ 932.21 District.

District means any of the following geographical areas of the State of California:

(a) District 1 shall include the counties of Glenn, Tehama, and Shasta.

(b) District 2 shall include the counties of Mono, Mariposa, Merced, San Benito, Monterey, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and all counties to the south thereof.

(c) District 3 shall include all counties not included in Districts 1 and 2.

§ 932.22 Sublot.

Sublot means a quantity of olives resulting from the separation by the handler of a lot into two or more parts.

[36 FR 20356, Oct. 21, 1971]

§ 932.23 Undersize olives and limited use size olives.

Undersize olives means olives of a size which, pursuant to § 932.51(a)(3), shall be disposed of in noncanning use; and limited use size olives means processed olives of any size which, pursuant to § 932.52(a)(3), is authorized for limited use.

[36 FR 20356, Oct. 21, 1971, as amended at 47 FR 32906, July 30, 1982]

§ 932.23a Limited use.

Limited use means the use of processed olives in the production of packaged olives of the halved, segmented (wedged), sliced, or chopped styles, as defined in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives (7 CFR part 52) or subsequent amendments thereto, including modifications of the...
requirements for such styles pursuant to this part, and such additional styles (and the requirements applicable thereto) as may be specified pursuant to § 932.52(a)(7).

[47 FR 32906, July 30, 1982]

§ 932.24 Noncanning use.

Noncanning use means the use of olives other than in the production of canned ripe olives, and is the authorized outlet for undersize olives and the limited use size olives which, pursuant to § 932.52(b), are not permitted for limited use in any crop year in which limited use is restricted to less than the available quantity of limited use size olives.

[36 FR 20356, Oct. 21, 1971]

OLIVE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

§ 932.25 Establishment and membership.

A California Olive Committee consisting of 16 members, is hereby established to administer the terms and provisions of this part. Each member shall have an alternate who meets the same qualifications as the member. Eight of the members and their alternates shall be producers or officers or employees of producers, and eight of the members and their alternates shall be handlers or directors, officers, or employees of handlers. The eight members of the committee who are producers or officers or employees of producers are referred to in this subpart as “producer members” of the committee; and the eight members of the committee who are producers or officers or employees of producers are referred to in this subpart as “producer members” of the committee; and the eight members of the committee who are handlers or directors, officers, or employees of handlers are referred to in this subpart as “handler members” of the committee. The committee may be increased by one public member who shall not be a producer or handler of olives nor an officer or employee or director of any producer or handler of olives. District representation of the producer members shall be two from District 1, four from District 2, and two from District 3. Allocation of the handler members shall be four members to represent cooperative marketing organizations, herein referred to as “cooperative handlers”, and four members to represent handlers who are not cooperative marketing organizations, herein referred to as “independent handlers”: Provided, That whenever during the crop year in which nominations are made and in the preceding crop year, the cooperative handlers or the independent handlers handled as first handler 65 percent or more of the total quantity of olives so handled by all handlers, allocation shall be five members to represent the group which so handled 65 percent or more of such olives and three members to represent the group which handled 35 percent or less. The public member and alternate public member shall be selected from any place within the area. The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, provide such other allocation of producer or handler membership, or both, as may be necessary to assure equitable representation.

[47 FR 32907, July 30, 1982]

§ 932.26 Term of office.

The term of office of members and alternate members of the committee shall be 2 years beginning on June 1 and ending on May 31 of odd numbered years: Provided, That the term of office of initial members and alternate members shall begin on the effective date of this subpart. Each such member and alternate member shall serve during that portion of the term of office for which he is selected and has qualified and shall continue to serve until his successor is selected and has qualified.

§ 932.27 Selection.

Selection of members of the committee, and their respective alternates, shall be made in the appropriate numbers specified in § 932.25 by the Secretary from nominees nominated pursuant to this part or, in the discretion of the Secretary, from other persons eligible for nominations for such positions.

§ 932.28 Eligibility.

Each producer member of the committee shall, at the time of selection and during the member’s term of office, be a producer in the district for which selected, and except for producers who are members of cooperative handlers, shall not be engaged in the handling of
§ 932.29 Nominations.

(a) Producer members. (1) Nominations for producer members of the committee, and their respective alternates, may be conducted according to the following procedures, or other procedures recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary:

(i) Meetings shall be held in each producer district for the purpose of selecting candidates for the member and alternate member nominations;

(ii) Those candidates selected at the producer meetings shall be nominated by mail balloting of producers in that district;

(iii) The committee shall adopt, with approval of the Secretary, appropriate procedures to be observed for conducting producer nominations by mail: Provided, That the names of nominees shall be submitted to the Secretary prior to April 16 of the year in which nominations are made.

(2) Only producers, including duly authorized officers or employees of producers, shall participate in the nomination of producer members and alternate members. Each producer shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each nominee to be selected in the district in which the producer produces olives. No producer shall participate in the selection of nominees in more than one district. If a producer produces olives in more than one district, such producer shall select the district in which such producer will so participate and notify the committee of such choice.

(b) Handler members. (1) At a meeting or meetings called by the committee, the cooperative handlers shall nominate a qualified person for each member position and a qualified person for each alternate member position allocated to cooperative handlers as provided in § 932.25.

(2) At a meeting or meetings called by the committee, the independent handlers shall nominate a qualified person for each member position and a qualified person for each alternate member position allocated to independent handlers as provided in § 932.25.

(3) Each handler shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each nominee for cooperative handler member or alternate member or independent handler member or alternate member, as the case may be, which vote shall be weighed by the tonnages of olives handled by such handler during the crop year in which nominations are made and in the previous crop year.

(c) Public member. Nominations for the public member and alternate public member of the committee shall be submitted to the Secretary prior to April 16 of the year in which nominations are made. The committee shall prescribe procedures for the selection and voting for each candidate.

[33 FR 11266, Aug. 8, 1968, as amended at 47 FR 32907, July 30, 1982]

§ 932.30 Alternates.

An alternate for a member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of such member (a) during such member’s absence, and (b) in the event of such member’s removal, resignation, disqualification or death, until a successor for such member’s unexpired term has been selected and has qualified. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this subpart, the provisions of this part applicable to members also apply to alternate members. The committee or the chairman of the committee may request one or more alternates to attend any or all meetings notwithstanding the expected or actual attendance of the respective member or members.

[47 FR 32907, July 30, 1982]
§ 932.31 Failure to nominate.
If nominations for any position on the committee are not received by the Secretary by May 1 of the year in which nominations are to be made, the Secretary may select an eligible individual without regard to nomination.

§ 932.32 Acceptance.
Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary promptly after being notified of such selection.

§ 932.33 Vacancies.
To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member, or as an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the removal, resignation, disqualification, or death of any member or alternate member, a successor for such person’s unexpired term shall be nominated and selected in the manner set forth in § 932.29 insofar as such provisions are applicable. If nomination to fill any such vacancy is not made within 60 calendar days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, but on the basis of the applicable representations and qualifications set forth in §§ 932.25, 932.27, and 932.28.

§ 932.34 Powers.
The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer this subpart in accordance with its terms and provisions;
(b) To keep minutes, books, and other records, which shall clearly reflect all of its acts and transactions, and such minutes, books, and other records shall be subject to examination by the Secretary at any time;
(c) To make, subject to approval by the Secretary, scientific and other studies, and assemble data on the producing, handling, shipping, and marketing conditions relative to olives, which are necessary in connection with the performance of its official duties;
(d) To submit to the Secretary such available information with respect to olives as he may request or as the committee may deem desirable and pertinent;
(e) To select, from among its members, a chairman and other officers, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;
(f) To appoint or employ such other persons as it may deem necessary, and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person;
(g) To submit to the Secretary, prior to the beginning of each fiscal year and not later than December 15, a budget of the anticipated expenses of the committee and the proposed assessment rate for such fiscal year, together with a report thereon.
(h) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by one or more certified public accountants at least once each fiscal year, and at such other times as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request. The report of each such audit shall show, among other things, the receipts and expenditures of funds, and at least two copies of each such audit report shall be submitted to the Secretary.
(i) To prepare monthly statements of its financial operations and make such statements, together with the minutes of its meetings, available at the office of the committee for inspection by any producer or handler, and to submit copies of such statements and minutes to the Secretary;
(j) To give reasonable advance notice of each meeting by mail addressed to each member, and such notice shall be given as widespread publicity as practicable. The same notice of meetings
§ 932.36 Procedure.

Decisions of the committee shall be by majority vote of the members present and voting, and a quorum must be present: Provided, That decisions requiring a recommendation to the Secretary on matters pertaining to grade and size regulations shall require at least 10 affirmative votes, at least 5 of which must be from producer members and at least 5 of which must be from handler members and, if the committee is increased by the addition of a public member, at least 12 affirmative votes, at least 6 of which must be from producer members and at least 6 of which must be from handler members. A quorum shall consist of at least 10 members of whom at least 5 shall be producer members and at least 5 shall be handler members and, if the committee is increased by the addition of a public member, a quorum shall consist of at least 11 members of which at least 6 shall be producer members and at least 6 shall be handler members and, if the committee is increased by the addition of a public member, a quorum shall consist of at least 12 members of which at least 6 shall be producer members and at least 6 shall be handler members. Except in case of an emergency, a minimum of 5 days advance notice shall be given with respect to any meeting of the committee. In case of an emergency, to be determined within the discretion of the chairman of the committee, as much advance notice of a meeting as is practicable in the circumstances shall be given. The committee may vote by mail or telegram upon due notice to all members, but any proposition to be so voted upon first shall be explained accurately, fully, and identically by mail or telegram to all members. When voted on by such method, at least 14 affirmative votes, of which seven shall be producer member votes and seven shall be handler member votes, shall be required for adoption and, if the committee is increased by the addition of a public member, votes by mail or telegram shall require at least 15 affirmative votes, of which at least 7 shall be producer member votes and at least 7 shall be handler member votes. The committee may recommend for the Secretary's approval changes in the number of affirmative votes required for adoption of any proposition voted upon by means of a mail or telegram ballot: Provided, That the number of affirmative votes required for adoption shall not be less than ten, and in any case an equal number of producer member and handler member votes shall be required for adoption and, if the committee is increased by the addition of a public member, the number of affirmative votes required for adoption shall be increased by one.


§ 932.37 Compensation and expenses.

The members of the committee and alternates when acting as members or at the request of the committee or its chairman shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses, as approved by the committee, incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part.

[47 FR 32908, July 30, 1982]

Expenses and Assessments

§ 932.38 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee for its maintenance and functioning and to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired in the manner prescribed in § 932.39.

§ 932.39 Assessments.

(a) As each handler's pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary
finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee during a fiscal year, each handler who first handles olives during the current crop year shall pay to the committee, upon demand, assessments less any amounts which may be credited pursuant to §932.45, on all olives to be used in the production of packaged olives, including olives to be used in canned ripe olives of the “tree-ripened” type or green olives when such are regulated as packaged olives pursuant to §932.52. The payment of assessments for maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by each such handler during a fiscal year in an amount designed to secure sufficient funds to cover the expenses which may be incurred during such period. At any time during or after the fiscal year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses which may be incurred. Such increase shall be applied to all olives handled during the applicable crop year. In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part during the first part of a fiscal year before sufficient operation income is available from assessments, the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance, and may also borrow money for such purpose.

(c) Any assessment not paid by a handler within a period of time prescribed by the committee may be subject to an interest or late payment charge, or both. The period of time, rate of interest and late payment charge shall be as recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary. Subsequent to such approval, all assessments not paid within the prescribed period of time shall be subject to an interest or late payment charge or both.

§ 932.40 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal year, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for in accordance with one of the following:

(1) If such excess is not retained in a reserve as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the committee shall refund or credit to handler accounts the aforesaid excess. Each handler's share of such excess funds shall be the amount of assessments such handler has paid in excess of such handler's pro rata share of the actual net expenses of the committee for such fiscal year. Excess funds may be used temporarily by the committee to defray expenses of the subsequent fiscal year: Provided, That each handler's share of such excess shall be made available to the handler by the committee within five months after the end of the fiscal year.

(2) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carry over such excess into subsequent fiscal years as a reserve: Provided, That funds already in the reserve do not exceed approximately one fiscal year's expenses. Such reserve funds may be used for any expenses authorized pursuant to §932.38 and for necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. Upon such termination, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: Provided, That to the extent practicable, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purpose specified in this part and shall be accounted for in the manner provided in this part. The Secretary may at any time require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

(c) Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds in his possession to the committee, and shall.
execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in the committee full title to all of the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this part.


RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

§ 932.45 Production research and marketing research and development projects.

(a) The following activities of the committee are authorized under this section.

(1) The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, establish or provide for the establishment of production research, and marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption or efficient production of California olives. Such projects may provide for any form of marketing promotion including paid advertising. The expenses of such research and projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to §932.39 or from voluntary contributions. Voluntary contributions may be accepted by the committee only to pay the expenses of such projects: Provided, That the committee shall retain complete control over the use of such contributions which shall be free from any encumbrances.

(2) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may provide for crediting a portion of a handler’s direct expenditures for paid brand advertising for olives. Such expenditures may include, but are not limited to, money spent for advertising space in magazines, newspapers, outdoor media and transit or time charges for radio and television. No handler shall receive credit in excess of such handler’s pro rata share of the total monies allotted by the committee for brand advertising credit. Each advertisement must be published, broadcast or displayed during the fiscal year for which credit is requested. Before any creditable brand advertising may be undertaken pursuant to this paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the Secretary, upon recommendation by the committee, shall prescribe appropriate rules and regulations as are necessary to effectively regulate such activity.

(b) In recommending marketing research and development projects pursuant to this section, the committee shall give consideration to the following factors:

(1) The expected supply of olives in relation to market requirements;

(2) The supply situation among competing areas and commodities; and

(3) The need for marketing research with respect to any marketing development activity and the need for a coordinated effort with USDA’s Plentiful Food Program.

(c) In recommending production research projects pursuant to this section, the committee shall give consideration to the extent and need for assistance to, and improvement of California olive production.

(d) If the committee should conclude that a program of production research, marketing research, or development should be undertaken or continued pursuant to this section in any fiscal year, it shall submit the following for the approval of the Secretary:

(1) Its recommendations as to funds to be obtained pursuant to §932.39 or voluntary contributions;

(2) Its recommendations as to any production research or marketing research project; and

(3) Its recommendation as to promotion activity and paid advertising.

(e) The committee shall, as soon as practicable, prepare and mail reports on current production research and marketing research and development projects to the Secretary and make a copy of such reports available at the committee office for examination by producers, handlers, or other interested parties.

§ 932.50 Report of marketing policy.

At least 14 days prior to the start of each crop year (except that this period may be shortened by the committee not more than 5 days if warranted), the committee shall hold a meeting for the purpose of formulating a marketing policy for the coming crop year: Provided, That with respect to the 1982-83 crop year the committee shall hold a meeting for such purpose as soon as practicable. The committee shall prepare and submit to the Secretary promptly after each such meeting, a report setting forth its recommended marketing policy for the ensuing crop year. In the event it becomes advisable to modify such policy, because of changed supply, demand, or other conditions, the committee shall formulate a new policy and shall submit a report thereon to the Secretary. In developing the marketing policy, the committee shall give consideration to the handler carryover, production, probable quality and composition of olive sizes in the crop, trade demand, probable imports, whether producer prices are likely to exceed parity, the probable assessable tonnage and such other factors as may have a bearing on the marketing of olives or the administration of this part. Notice of the committee’s marketing policy, and of any modifications thereof, shall be given promptly by reasonable publicity to producers and handlers.


§ 932.51 Incoming regulations.

(a) Minimum standards for natural condition olives. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no handler shall process any lot of natural condition olives for use in the production of packaged olives which has not first been:

(i) Weighed on scales sealed by the State of California Department of Weights and Measures, an official certified weight certificate issued thereon, and a copy of such certificate furnished to the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service and the committee; and

(ii) Size-graded, either by sample or by lot, under the supervision of any such inspection service and classified into separate size designations and a certification issued with respect thereto by such inspection service. Such size designations shall be in accordance with those set forth in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives (7 CFR part 52) or subsequent amendments thereto, or such sizes as may be recommended by the committee and established by the Secretary: Provided, That for the purpose of this part, the size designations in said standards shall be deemed to include the following additional size designations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation(s)</th>
<th>Approximate count range (per pound)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subpetite</td>
<td>Subpetite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petite</td>
<td>181 and up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Large Sevillano &quot;L&quot;</td>
<td>141-160, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Large Sevillano &quot;C&quot;</td>
<td>65-75, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provided further, That the additional size designations may be renamed and/or modified as recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary. Such certification shall show, in addition to the quantities by weight of the olives in the lot that are classified as being in each size or size designation the quantity of olives classified as culls by the handler: Provided, That when the Secretary, upon the recommendation of the committee, issues a definition of and classification for “culls”, the aforesaid quantity of culls shall be determined on the basis of such definition and in accordance with such classification.

(2) Each handler may satisfy the incoming and outgoing size requirements for any lot of olives under the conditions set forth in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this paragraph: Provided, That any such lot shall be kept intact under surveillance by the inspection services:

(i) When the Secretary authorizes use of limited size olives for limited use styles during any crop year, any lot of limited use size olives may be used in the production of packaged olives for limited use styles without an outgoing inspection if such oliges are within the following average count range for that variety group, and meet such further
§ 932.51

size requirements as recommended by the committee with the approval of the Secretary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Average count range (per pound)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1, except Ascolano, Barouni, and St. Agostino.</td>
<td>76–88, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 1, Ascolano, Barouni and St. Agostino.</td>
<td>89–140, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2, except Obliza</td>
<td>141–180, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2, Obliza</td>
<td>128–140, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provided, That the varietal groupings and/or average count ranges may be changed, and additional size certification procedures and requirements may be established as recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary:

(ii) When limited use size olives are not authorized for limited use styles during any crop year, any lot of the minimum canning size olives may be used in the production of packaged olives for limited use styles without an outgoing inspection for size if such olives are within the following average count range for that variety group, and meet such further size requirements as recommended by the committee with approval of the Secretary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Average count range (per pound)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1, except Ascolano, Barouni, and St. Agostino.</td>
<td>65–75, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 1, Ascolano, Barouni, and St. Agostino.</td>
<td>65–88, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2, except Obliza</td>
<td>128–140, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2, Obliza</td>
<td>106–121, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Provided, That the varietal groupings and size requirements in the U.S. Grade Standards shall not apply. Size certification of suchstyles shall be applicable to any or all sizes of olives recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary pursuant to §932.52(a)(2). Size certification procedures recommended to the Secretary may include but are not limited to the establishment of average count ranges, acceptable count ranges, and approximate counts (midpoints) for each variety or variety group.

(3) Each handler shall, under the supervision of any such inspection service, dispose of into noncanning use an aggregate quantity of olives, comparable in size and characteristics and equal to the quantities shown on the certification for each lot to be:

(i) Variety Group 1 olives, except the Ascolano, Barouni, and St. Agostino varieties, of a size which individually weigh less than $\frac{1}{4}$ pound;
(ii) Variety Group 1 olives of the Ascolano, Barouni, and St. Agostino varieties of a size which individually weigh less than $\frac{1}{4}$ pound;
(iii) Variety Group 2 olives, except the Obliza variety, of a size which individually weigh less than $\frac{1}{4}$ pound;
(iv) Variety Group 2 olives of the Obliza variety of a size which individually weigh less than $\frac{1}{4}$ pound;
(v) Such other sizes for the foregoing variety groups as are not authorized for limited use pursuant to §932.52 and
(vi) Olives classified as culls.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a)(3) of this section, a handler may (i) meet any deficit in such handler’s undersize obligation in one variety by disposing of, under supervision of the inspection service, as other than canned ripe olives, an equal quantity of undersize olives, of any other variety, or by so disposing of an equal quantity of olives of that or any other variety of sizes larger than undersize of a quality better than culls, and (ii) meet any deficit in such handler’s cull obligation in one variety by so disposing of an equal quantity of cull olives of any other variety, or by so disposing of an equal quantity of olives of any variety of sizes larger than undersize of a quality better than culls.

(5) Each handler shall hold at all times a quantity of olives equal to the
§ 932.52 Outgoing regulations.

(a) Minimum standards for packaged olives. No handler shall use processed olives in the production of packaged olives or ship such packaged olives unless they have first been inspected as required pursuant to §932.53 and meet each of the following applicable requirements:

(1) Canned ripe olives, other than those of the “tree-ripened” type, shall grade at least U.S. Grade C as such grade is defined in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives (7 CFR part 52) or subsequent amendments thereto, or as modified by the committee, with approval of the Secretary, for purposes of this part.

(2) Except as provided in §932.51(a)(1) and (2), canned whole ripe olives, other than those of the “tree-ripened” type, shall conform to the single size designations set forth in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives (7 CFR part 52) or subsequent amendments thereto, or as modified by the committee, with approval of the Secretary, for purposes of this part.

(b) Whenever a handler receives a lot of natural condition olives, or makes a separation resulting in a sublot, solely for use in the production of green olives or canned ripe olives of the “tree-ripened” type, he may handle such lot or sublot without regard to the provisions of this section and §932.52 only if (1) he notifies the committee upon receiving such a lot or making such a separation; (2) the identity of all such lots and sublots of olives is maintained by keeping them separate and apart from other olives he receives; (3) the packaged olives produced from such lots and sublots after processing are canned ripe olives of the “tree-ripened” type or green olives; and (4) there are no outgoing regulations pursuant to §932.52 then applicable to packaged olives that are canned ripe olives of the “tree-ripened” type or green olives.

§ 932.53 Other provisions.

(a) Any handler desiring to sell processed olives to the Secretary for issuance to handlers under §§932.51 and 932.52, or to the Secretary for issuance to handlers under §§932.51 and 932.52, shall notify the committee of such intention.

(b) The committee shall determine the quantities required in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, less any quantity previously disposed of as specified in such subparagraph.

(c) Whenever a handler receives a lot of natural condition olives, or makes a separation resulting in a sublot, solely for use in the production of green olives or canned ripe olives of the “tree-ripened” type, he may handle such lot or sublot without regard to the provisions of this section and §932.52 only if (1) he notifies the committee upon receiving such a lot or making such a separation; (2) the identity of all such lots and sublots of olives is maintained by keeping them separate and apart from other olives he receives; (3) the packaged olives produced from such lots and sublots after processing are canned ripe olives of the “tree-ripened” type or green olives; and (4) there are no outgoing regulations pursuant to §932.52 then applicable to packaged olives that are canned ripe olives of the “tree-ripened” type or green olives.

§ 932.54 Regulations for canned olives.

(a) Minimum standards for canned olives. No handler shall use processed olives in the production of canned olives or ship such processed olives unless they have first been inspected as required pursuant to §932.53 and meet the following applicable requirements:

(1) Canned ripe olives shall grade at least U.S. Grade C as such grade is defined in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives (7 CFR part 52) or subsequent amendments thereto, or as modified by the committee, with approval of the Secretary, for purposes of this part.

(2) Canned whole ripe olives shall conform to the single size designations set forth in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives (7 CFR part 52) or subsequent amendments thereto, or as modified by the committee, with approval of the Secretary, for purposes of this part.

§ 932.55 Other provisions.

(a) Any handler desiring to sell processed olives to the Secretary for issuance to handlers under §§932.51 and 932.52, or to the Secretary for issuance to handlers under §§932.51 and 932.52, shall notify the committee of such intention.

(b) The committee shall determine the quantities required in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, less any quantity previously disposed of as specified in such subparagraph.

(c) Whenever a handler receives a lot of natural condition olives, or makes a separation resulting in a sublot, solely for use in the production of green olives or canned ripe olives of the “tree-ripened” type, he may handle such lot or sublot without regard to the provisions of this section and §932.52 only if (1) he notifies the committee upon receiving such a lot or making such a separation; (2) the identity of all such lots and sublots of olives is maintained by keeping them separate and apart from other olives he receives; (3) the packaged olives produced from such lots and sublots after processing are canned ripe olives of the “tree-ripened” type or green olives; and (4) there are no outgoing regulations pursuant to §932.52 then applicable to packaged olives that are canned ripe olives of the “tree-ripened” type or green olives.

VerDate 20<Jan>98 13:27 Jan 23, 1998 Jkt 179021 PO 00000 Frm 00309 Fmt 8010 Sfmt 8010 Y:\SGML\179021.TXT 179021-3
than $\frac{1}{2}$ pound except that (a) for olives of the medium size designation, not more than 35 percent, by count, of such olives may weigh less than $\frac{1}{2}$ pound each including not more than 7 percent, by count, of such olives that weigh less than $\frac{1}{3}$ pound each; and (b) for olives of any size designation, except the medium size, not more than 5 percent, by count, of such olives may weigh less than $\frac{1}{2}$ pound each.

(3) Subject to the provisions set forth in paragraph (a)(4) of this section and §932.51(a)(2) and (2), processed olives to be used in the production of canned pitted ripe olives, other than those of the "tree-ripened" type, shall meet the same requirements as prescribed pursuant to paragraph (a)(2) of this section: Provided, That olives smaller than those so prescribed, as recommended annually by the committee and approved by the Secretary, may be authorized for limited use but any such limited use size olives so used shall be not smaller than the following applicable minimum size: Provided further, that each such minimum size may also include a size tolerance (specified as a percent) as recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

(i) Variety Group 1 olives, except the Ascolano, Barouni, and St. Agostino varieties, of a size which individually weigh $\frac{1}{2}$ pound;

(ii) Variety Group 1 olives of the Ascolano, Barouni, or St. Agostino varieties, of a size which individually weigh $\frac{1}{4}$ pound;

(iii) Variety Group 2 olives, except the Obliza variety, of a size which individually weigh $\frac{1}{4}$ pound;

(iv) Variety Group 2 olives of the Obliza variety, of a size which individually weigh $\frac{1}{4}$ pound.

(4) The Secretary may, upon recommendation of the committee, restrict the total quantity of limited use size olives for limited use during any crop year. Such restricted quantity shall be apportioned among the handlers by applying a percentage, established annually by the Secretary upon recommendation by the committee, to each handler’s total receipts of limited use size olives during such crop year.

(5) Canned ripe olives of the "tree-ripened" type and green olives shall meet such grade, size, and pack requirements as may be established by the Secretary based upon the recommendation of the committee or other available information.

(6) The size designations used in this section mean the size designations described in (a)(1)(ii) of §932.51.

(7) For the purposes of this part the committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, specify the styles of olives, including the requirements with respect thereto, for limited use.

(b) Disposition requirements for limited use size olives. (1) The requirements of this paragraph are in addition to and not in substitution of the requirements of §932.51(a)(5).

(2) Each handler shall, under the supervision of the Processed Products Branch, USDA, or the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, dispose of limited use size olives into limited use or into noncanning use: Provided, That whenever a handler’s use of limited use size olives is restricted pursuant to §932.52(a)(4), such handler shall dispose of into noncanning use that quantity of such limited use size olives which is in excess of the quantity permitted for limited use.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (b)(2) of this section, a handler may meet any deficit in his obligation to dispose of limited use size olives into noncanning use pursuant to this paragraph by disposing of, under supervision of the inspection service, an equivalent quantity of olives of a size larger than the limited use size and of a quality better than culls.

(4) Each handler shall hold at all times a quantity of olives eligible to meet the disposition requirements of this paragraph less any quantity previously disposed of as specified in paragraphs (b)(2) and (3) of this section.

[36 FR 20357, Oct. 21, 1971, as amended at 47 FR 32910, July 30, 1982] 

Effective Date Note: At 56 FR 49669, Oct. 1, 1991, in §932.52, in paragraph (a)(3) introductory text and paragraphs (a)(3)(i) through (a)(3)(iv) the words "but any such limited use size olives so used shall be not smaller than the following applicable minimum size: Provided further, That each such minimum size may also include a size tolerance (specified as a percent) as recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary" were suspended indefinitely.
§ 932.53 Inspection and certification.

(a) Each handler shall have the olives such handler handles inspected and certified as for conformance with all applicable requirements pursuant to §§ 932.51 and 932.52 with respect to such handling. Inspection and certification for conformance with the requirements of § 932.51 shall be by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, including certification as to size, and inspection for conformance with the requirements of § 932.52 shall be by the Processed Products Branch, USDA, except that the disposition of olives, other than as canned ripe olives, in accordance with the requirements of § 932.51(a)(3) may be under the supervision of any of such inspection services. A copy of each certification by the said inspection services, pursuant to the provisions of this section, shall be furnished to the committee.

(b) The committee may enter into an agreement with either or both of said inspection services with respect to the costs of the inspection required by this section and may collect from handlers their respective pro rata share of such costs.


§ 932.54 Transfers.

Transfers within the area of olives from one handler to another for further handling within the area are permitted. Whenever such a transfer of olives is made, the transferring handler shall comply with all applicable regulations up to the time of such transfer, and the receiving handler shall comply with all applicable regulations subsequent to such transfer. Provided, That the disposition obligations referable to transferred natural condition olives pursuant to § 932.51(a)(3) may be transferred along with the olives, in which event the receiving handler shall comply with the disposition obligations. Transfers of olives from within the area to any point outside the area shall be subject to such requirements with respect to inspection, holding, disposition, and reporting as may be established by the Secretary on the basis of recommendations by the committee or other available information.


§ 932.55 Exemption.

(a) The provisions of this subpart shall not be applicable to processed olives on hand on the effective date of this subpart but only if the identity of such olives is maintained and such olives are not commingled with olives processed after such effective date in the production of packaged olives. However, olives on hand on such effective date that are commingled with olives processed after such date and are used in the production of packaged olives shall be subject to all relevant provisions applicable to the handling of packaged olives.

(b) Upon the basis of the recommendation submitted by the committee or from other available information, the Secretary may relieve from any or all requirements under this part the handling of olives in such minimum quantities, in such types of shipments, or for such specified purposes (including shipments to facilitate the conduct of marketing research and development projects established pursuant to § 932.45) as the committee with the approval of the Secretary may prescribe.

(c) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe rules, regulations, and safeguards as it may deem necessary to ensure that olives exempted under the provisions of this section are handled only as authorized.


REPORTS AND RECORDS

§ 932.60 Reports of acquisitions, sales, uses, shipments and creditable brand advertising.

(a) Each handler shall file such reports of his acquisitions, sales, uses, and shipments of olives, as may be requested by the committee.

(b) Upon the request of the committee, each handler shall furnish such other reports and information as are needed to enable the committee to perform its functions under this part.
§ 932.61

(c) Each handler shall file such reports of creditable brand advertising as recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.


§ 932.61 Records.

Each handler shall maintain such records of olives acquired, held, and disposed of by such handler as may be prescribed by the committee and needed by it to perform its functions under this subpart. Such records shall be retained for at least two years beyond the crop year in which the transaction occurred. The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe rules and regulations to include under this section handler records that detail advertising and promotion activities which the committee may need to perform its functions under § 932.45(a).

[47 FR 51094, Nov. 12, 1982]

§ 932.62 Verification of reports.

For the purpose of checking and verifying reports filed by handlers, the committee, through its duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any handler’s premises during regular business hours, and shall be permitted at any such time to: (a) Inspect such premises and any olives held by such handler, and any and all records of the handler with respect to such handler’s acquisition, sales, uses and shipments of olives; and (b) inspect any and all records of such handler with respect to advertising and promotion activities subject to § 932.45(a) and maintained by the handler pursuant to § 932.61. Each handler shall furnish all labor and equipment necessary to make such inspections.

[47 FR 51094, Nov. 12, 1982]

§ 932.63 Confidential information.

All reports and information submitted by handlers pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be received by, and at all times be in the custody of one or more designated employees of the committee. No such employees shall disclose to any person, other than the Secretary upon request therefor, data or information obtained or extracted from such reports and records which might affect the trade position, financial condition, or business operation of the particular handler from whom received. Provided, That such data and information may be combined, and made available in the form of general reports in which the identities of the individual handlers furnishing the information is not disclosed.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 932.65 Compliance.

Except as provided in this part, no person shall handle olives, the handling of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of this part, and no person shall handle olives except in conformity with the provisions of this part and the regulations issued hereunder.

§ 932.66 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates) and any agents or employees appointed or employed by the committee, shall be subject to removal or suspension at any time by the Secretary. Each and every order, regulation, determination, decision, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, such disapproved action shall be deemed null and void except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 932.67 Effective time.

The provisions of this subpart, as well as any amendments to this subpart, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare, above his signature, and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in § 932.68.

§ 932.68 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may, at any time, terminate the provisions of this subpart by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine. (b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this subpart whenever he finds such provisions do not tend to
effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any crop year whenever the Secretary finds that such termination is favored by a majority of producers who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the area in the production of olives for market as packaged olives: Provided, That such majority have during such representative period produced for market more than 50 percent of the volume of such olives produced for market, but such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before July 15 of the then current crop year.

§ 932.69 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart, the members of the committee then functioning shall continue as joint trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, of all funds and property then in the possession or under the control of the committee including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by such trustee shall require the concurrence of a majority of the trustees.

(b) Said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements, and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and the joint trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall, upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the joint trustees.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered by the committee or the joint trustees, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the said committee and upon said joint trustees.

§ 932.70 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or any regulation issued pursuant thereto, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen, or which may thereafter arise, in connection with any provision of this subpart, or any regulation issued thereunder; (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulation issued thereunder; or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or any other person with respect to any such violation.

§ 932.71 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 932.72 Agents.

The Secretary may, by a designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the U.S. Government or name any service or division in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this subpart.

§ 932.73 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this subpart is or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 932.74 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee or any employee or agent thereof shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person, for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts either of
§ 932.75 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

§ 932.108 Noncanning olives.

Noncanning olives means those olives which, pursuant to the requirements of §932.51(a)(2), are to be disposed of as other than canned ripe olives.

[31 FR 12634, Sept. 27, 1966]

§ 932.109 Canned ripe olives of the tree-ripened type.

(a) Canned ripe olives of the tree-ripened type means packaged olives, not oxidized in processing, that are prepared from a lot or sublot of natural condition olives of advanced maturity which:

(1) Range in color from pinkish red, with some greenish cast, to black; and

(2) Have not more than 10 percent, by count, of off-color olives (off-color means those olives whose greenish cast covers more than 50 percent of the surface of the individual olives).

[40 FR 38146, Aug. 27, 1975]

§ 932.121 Producer districts.

Pursuant to the authority in §932.25(k), commencing with the term of office beginning June 1, 1987, district means any of the following geographical areas of the State of California:

(a) District 1 shall include the counties of Glenn, Tehama, and Shasta.

(b) District 2 shall include the counties of Mono, Mariposa, Merced, San Benito, Monterey, and all counties south thereof excluding Tulare County.

(c) District 3 shall include all the counties of Alpine, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and all counties north thereof except those in District 1.

(d) District 4 shall include the county of Tulare.

[52 FR 12135, Apr. 15, 1987]

§ 932.125 Producer representation on the committee.

Pursuant to the authority in §§932.25 and 932.35(k), commencing with the term of office beginning June 1, 1987, representation shall be apportioned as follows:

(a) District 1 shall be represented by two producer members and alternates.

(b) District 2 shall be represented by one producer member and alternate.

(c) District 3 shall be represented by one producer member and alternate.

(d) District 4 shall be represented by four producer members and alternates.

[52 FR 12135, Apr. 15, 1987]

§ 932.129 Nomination procedures for producer members.

Members and alternate members of the Committee who represent producers shall be nominated in accordance with the procedures specified in either paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) of this section as the Committee may determine.

(a) Mail ballot voting. (1) The Committee shall schedule a meeting, prior to March 1 of each odd-numbered year, in each producing district for the purpose of selecting candidates for member and alternate member nominations. A notice of such meetings will be mailed to each producer of record in each district. The nomination process is as follows:

(i) Any person who produces olives in a particular district may offer the name of any producer from that district as a candidate for either a member or alternate member position in said district.

(ii) A producer, who produces olives in more than one district, can be selected as a candidate for a member or alternate member position in only one district.

(iii) The Committee will notify by mail producers who are selected as candidates but are not in attendance at such meetings. Such producers have the right to decline such listing on the ballot within 7 days of mailing such notice.
(iv) In the event a producer cannot attend a meeting but wishes to be included on the ballot, that producer may notify the Committee office in writing no later than 7 days after the date of the nomination meeting for the producer’s district and request that the producer’s name be included on the ballot.

(v) In the event that no candidates or an insufficient number of candidates are selected at such meetings for the producer members and alternates in the respective districts, the Committee will give written notice to producers in said district that additional names may be submitted for the specified position(s).

(2) Following such meetings, and no later than March 15 of each odd-numbered year, the Committee shall prepare and mail a ballot to each producer that delivered olives during that crop year in each district.

(i) A producer who produces olives in more than one district must choose the district in which the producer will vote and notify the Committee of that choice. If the Committee is not notified and more than one ballot is received from such a producer, the first ballot received will be counted. Candidates may only vote in the district in which they are seeking nomination.

(ii) Each ballot will list separately the names of candidates for the member positions and the names of candidates for the alternate member positions for said district.

(iii) A ballot will be mailed to producers of record to give them an opportunity to vote. Committee records will be used to determine the list of producers eligible to cast ballots. However, any producer who is not identified in such records may receive a ballot if the Committee determines that such producer is eligible to participate in nominations in that district.

(iv) A producer may cast a vote for as many candidates as there are member or alternate positions in said district.

(v) The candidate on each list, as prescribed in paragraph (a)(2)(ii) of this section, who receives the highest number of votes will be the nominee for the first position, and until all positions for that district are filled, the candidates receiving the second, third and fourth highest number of votes will be the nominees for the second, third and fourth position respectively.

(vi) In the event of a tie which would result in elimination of a tied candidate, a second ballot with the names of those tied candidates will be mailed to producers in said district for another vote.

(b) Nomination meetings. In lieu of the mail ballot nomination procedure specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the Committee may schedule nomination meetings. In such an event, the following procedure will apply:

(1) Prior to March 15 of each odd-numbered year, the Committee shall schedule a nomination meeting to be held in each district for the purpose of obtaining nominees for producer members and alternate members for such district.

(2) Nominations for members and balloting thereon shall precede nominations and balloting for alternate members.

(3) The candidate for each position who receives the highest number of votes shall be the nominee for the position: Provided, That such candidate receives a majority of the ballots cast. If no candidate receives such a majority, the two candidates who received the highest number of votes shall participate in a run-off balloting to determine which is the nominee.

(c) For the purposes of this section, a producer is a person engaged in a proprietary capacity as a single business unit in the production of olives for market as pack aged olives and includes an individual (owner-operated), partnership, corporation, association, institution, or other legal business unit.

(d) Determination of producer eligibility. (1) Only producers (including duly authorized officers or employees of producers) who produced olives within the district shall participate in the nomination and election of producer members and alternates.

(2) Each producer (as defined in paragraph (c) of this section) shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each position.

(3) A producer having olive acreage in more than one district may participate in nominations and elections in only one district. The district in which the
§ 932.130 Public member and alternate public member eligibility requirements and nomination procedures.

(a) Eligibility requirements. (1) The public member and alternate public member shall not be a producer, handler, or family member (husband, wife, son or daughter) of a producer or handler of olives and shall have no direct financial interest in, nor be engaged in, the commercial production, marketing, buying, grading or processing of olives; nor shall they be either an officer, director, or employee, or family member of an officer, director, or employee of any firm engaged in such activities.

(2) The public member and alternate public member should be able to devote sufficient time and must express a willingness to attend subcommittee and committee activities regularly and to familiarize themselves with the background and economics of the olive industry.

(3) The public member and alternate public member must be residents of California.

(b) Nomination procedures. (1) Prior to April 16 of the year in which nominations are made, the Committee will recommend to the Secretary a public member and alternate public member for the Committee for a two-year term of office beginning June 1 and ending May 31 of odd numbered years.

(2) The Committee will solicit, interview and recommend to the Secretary its nominees for public member and alternate public member.

(3) A majority vote is required in Committee actions concerning the nomination of the public member and alternate public member.

[48 FR 24313, June 1, 1983]

§ 932.139 Late payment and interest charges.

(a) The committee shall impose a late payment charge on any handler whose assessment has not been received in the committee's office, or the envelope containing the payment legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, within 30 days of the invoice date shown on the handler's assessment statement. The late payment charge shall be five percent of the unpaid balance.

(b) In addition to that specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the committee shall impose an interest charge on any handler whose assessment payment has not been received in the committee's office, or the envelope containing the payment legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, within 30 days of the invoice date. The interest charge shall be the current commercial prime rate of the committee's bank plus two percent which shall be applied to the unpaid balance and late payment charge for the number of days all or any part of the assessment specified in the handler's assessment statement is delinquent beyond the 30 day payment period.

(c) The committee, upon receipt of a late payment equal to or greater than the assessment specified on the handler's assessment statement, shall promptly notify the handler (by registered mail) of any late payment charge and/or interest due as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section. If such charges are not paid, or the envelope containing payment is not legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, within 30 days of the date on such notification, late payment and interest charges as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section will accrue on the unpaid amount.

[49 FR 29230, July 19, 1984]
Modified minimum quality requirements for specified styles of canned olives of the ripe type.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the minimum quality requirements prescribed in §932.52(a)(1) are modified as follows, for specified styles of canned olives of the ripe type:

(1) Canned whole and pitted olives of the ripe type shall meet the minimum quality requirements as prescribed in table 1 of this section;

(2) Canned sliced, segmented (wedged), and halved olives of the ripe type shall meet the minimum quality requirements as prescribed in table 2 of this section;

(3) Canned chopped olives of the ripe type shall meet the minimum quality requirements as prescribed in table 3 of this section; and shall be practically free from identifiable units of pit caps, end slices, and slices ("practically free from identifiable units" means that not more than 10 percent, by weight, of the unit of chopped style olives may be identifiable pit caps, end slices, or slices); and,

(4) Canned broken pitted olives of the ripe type shall meet the minimum quality requirements as prescribed in table 4 of this section;

(5) A lot of canned ripe olives is considered to meet the requirements of this section if all or most of the sample units meet the requirements specified in tables 1 through 4 of this section: Provided, That the number of sample units which do not meet the requirements specified in tables 1 through 4 of this section does not exceed the acceptance number prescribed for in the sample size provided in table 1 of 7 CFR 52.38: Provided further, That there is no off flavor in any sample unit.

Table 1—Whole and Pitted Style

| FLAVOR | Reasonably good; no "off" flavor Free from objectionable flavors of any kind |
| SALOMETER | Acceptable Range in degrees: 3.0 to 14.0 |
| COLOR | Reasonably uniform with not less than 60% having a color equal or darker than the USDA Composite Color Standard for Ripe Type |
| CHARACTER | Not more than 5 soft units or 2 excessively soft units |

Table 2—Sliced, Segmented (Wedged), and Halved Styles

| FLAVOR | Reasonably good; no "off" flavor |
| SALOMETER | Acceptable Range in degrees: 3.0 to 14.0 |
| COLOR | Reasonably uniform with no units lighter than the USDA Composite Color Standard for Ripe Type |
| CHARACTER | Not more than 13 grams excessively soft |

Table 3—Chopped Style

| FLAVOR | Reasonably good; no "off" flavor |
| SALOMETER | Acceptable Range in degrees: 3.0 to 14.0 |
| COLOR | Reasonably uniform with no units lighter than the USDA Composite Color Standard for Ripe Type |
| CHARACTER | Not more than 2 units per sample |

Table 4—Broken Pitted Style

| FLAVOR | Reasonably good; no "off" flavor |
| SALOMETER | Acceptable Range in degrees: 3.0 to 14.0 |
| COLOR | Reasonably uniform with no units lighter than the USDA Composite Color Standard for Ripe Type |
| CHARACTER | Not more than 13 grams excessively soft |
TABLE 4—BROKEN PITTED STYLE—Continued

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<td>HEVM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(b) Terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as are given to the respective terms in the current U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives (7 CFR part 52): Provided, That the definition of “broken pitted olives” is as follows: “Broken pitted olives” consist of large pieces that may have been broken in pitting but have not been sliced or cut.

§ 932.150 Modified minimum quality requirements for canned green ripe olives.

The minimum quality requirements prescribed in §932.52 (a)(1) of this part are hereby modified with respect to canned green ripe olives so that no requirements shall be applicable with respect to color and blemishes of such olives.


§ 932.151 Incoming regulations.

(a) Inspection stations. Natural condition olives shall be sampled and size-graded only at inspection stations which shall be a plant of a handler or other place having facilities for sampling and size-grading such olives: Provided, That such location and facilities are satisfactory to the Inspection Service and the committee: Provided further, That upon prior application to, and approval by, the committee, a handler may have olives size-graded at an inspection station other than the one where the lot was sampled.

(b) Lot identification. Immediately upon receipt of each lot of natural condition olives for which inspection is required, the handler shall complete Form COC 3A or 3C, weight and grade report, which shall contain at least the following: (i) Name of handler; (ii) name of producer; (iii) county of production; (iv) applicable lot number; (v) weight certificate number; (vi) net weight; (vii) number and type of containers; (viii) date received; (ix) time received; (x) method of size-grade determination (sample or lot); (xi) weight of sample, if size-graded by sample; and (xii) the quantity of olives in each size designation. The completed Form COC-3A or 3C shall be furnished to the Inspection Service which shall certify thereon that the lot was size-graded as required by §932.51 if in accordance with the facts.

(c) Disposition of noncanning olives—(1) Notification and inspection of noncanning olives. Prior to disposition of noncanning olives the handler shall complete Form COC-5, report of limited and undersize and cull olives inspection and disposition, which shall contain the following: (i) Type and number of containers; (ii) type of olives (undersize or culls); (iii) net weight; (iv) variety;
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 932.152 Outgoing regulations.

(a) Inspection stations. Processed olives shall be sampled and inspected

(f) Partially exempted lots. (1) Pursuant to § 932.55, any handler may process any lot of natural condition olives for use in the production of packaged olives which has not first been weighed and size-graded as an individual lot as required by § 932.51(a)(i) and (ii), but was combined with any other lot or lots of natural condition olives, only if (i) all the olives in the combined lot are delivered to the handler in the same day, (ii) the total net weight of the olives delivered to the handler by any person in such day does not exceed 500 pounds, (iii) each such person had authorized combination of his lot with other lots, and (iv) the combined lot of the natural condition olives is weighed and size-graded as required by § 932.51(a)(i) and (ii) prior to processing the olives.

(2) Whenever the natural condition olives in partially exempt individual lots are combined with other such olives as provided in paragraph (f)(1) of this section, the provision of the section applicable on individual lots shall apply instead to a combined lot.

(3) Each such handler shall file with the committee a weekly report showing for each day of the week the respective quantity in combined lots together with each person's authorization for combining lots. The report shall be filed upon a form supplied by the committee.

(g) Additional Marketing Order Size Designations. Pursuant to the authority in § 932.51(a)(1)(ii), the following additional size designations are established:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation(s)</th>
<th>Approximate count (per pound)</th>
<th>Average count range (per pound)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subpetite</td>
<td>181 and up.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petite</td>
<td>141–180, inclusive.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Large Sevillano “L”</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>76–85, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Large Sevillano “C”</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>65–75, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

only at an inspection station which shall be any olive processing plant having facilities for in-line or lot inspection which are satisfactory to the Inspection Service and the Committee; or an olive processing plant which has an approved Quality Assurance Program in effect.

(b) Inspection—General. Inspection of packaged olives for conformance with §932.52 shall be by a Quality Assurance Program approved by the Processed Products Branch (PPB), USDA; or by in-line or lot inspection. A PPB approved Quality Assurance Program shall be pursuant to a Quality Assurance contract as referred to in §52.2.

(c) Certification. (1) Each handler shall furnish daily to the Inspection Service a copy of a pack report for the preceding work day which shall contain at least the following: (i) The total number of cases of packaged olives; (ii) number of cans per case; (iii) can size; (iv) can code; (v) variety; (vi) fruit size; and (vii) style.

(2) The Inspection Service shall issue for each day's pack a signed certificate covering the quantities of such packaged olives which meet all applicable minimum quality and size requirements. Each such certificate shall contain at least the following: (i) Date; (ii) Place of inspection; (iii) Name and address of handler; (iv) Can code; (v) Variety; (vi) Fruit size; (vii) Can size; (viii) Style; (ix) Total number of cases; (x) Number of cans per case; and (xi) Reason why the applicable requirements were not met.

(2) All such packaged olives shall be kept separate and apart from other packaged olives and shall be so identified by control cards or other means satisfactory to the Inspection Service and the committee that their identity is readily apparent. Such packaged olives may be reprocessed under supervision of the Inspection Service. Any such packaged olives that are not so reprocessed may be disposed of only in accordance with §932.155.

(e) Examination of certain olives received for use in the production of canned ripe olives of the tree-ripened type. Pursuant to §932.51(b), whenever a handler receives a lot of natural condition olives or makes a separation resulting in a sublot, solely for use in the production of canned ripe olives of the tree-ripened type he shall, at the time of receiving such lot or making such separation, notify the committee or the Inspection Service of the lot so received or the sublot so created which shall then be subject to examination by the committee, or by the Inspection Service if so designated by the committee, to assure that the olives in such lot or sublot comply with the specifications set forth in §932.109. Each such handler shall identify all such lots and sublots of natural condition olives and keep them separate and apart from other olives received. Such identification and separation shall be maintained throughout the processing and production of such olives as canned ripe olives of the tree-ripened type.

(f) Size designations. (1) In lieu of the size designations specified in §932.52(a), except as provided in §932.51(a)(1) and (2), canned whole ripe olives, other than those of the "tree-ripened" type, shall conform to the marketing order size designations listed in table 1 contained herein, and shall be of a size not smaller than the

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applicable size requirements, tolerances, and percentages listed in paragraph (h) of this section.

Table I—Canned Whole Ripe Olive Sizes Average Count Ranges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size designation</th>
<th>Variety group 1</th>
<th>Variety group 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Except Ascolano, Barouni, St. Agostino</td>
<td>Ascolano, Barouni, St. Agostino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>91–105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Large</td>
<td>65–75</td>
<td>65–90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumbo</td>
<td>47–60</td>
<td>47–60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colossal</td>
<td>33–46</td>
<td>33–46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sup. Colossal</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*32 or fewer.
N.A.—Not Applicable.

(2) The size of the canned whole olives shall conform with the applicable count per pound range indicated in Table I of paragraph (f)(1) of this section. When the count per pound of whole olives falls between two count ranges, the size designation shall be that of the smaller size. The average count for canned whole ripe olives is determined from all containers in the sample and is calculated on the basis of the drained weight of the olives.

(3) Pitted olives must meet the size requirements for canned whole olives specified in paragraphs (f)(1) and (f)(2) of this section prior to pitting, or must meet the size designations specified in §52.3754 of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives subsequent to pitting, subject to the following minimum size requirements:

(i) Variety group 1 olives, except Ascolano, Barouni, and St. Agostino varieties, shall be at least “Extra Large;”
(ii) Variety group 1 olives of the Ascolano, Barouni, and St. Agostino varieties shall be at least “Large;”
(iii) Variety group 2 olives, except the Obliza variety, shall be at least “Small;”
(iv) Variety group 2 olives of the Obliza variety shall be at least “Medium.”

(g) Size Certification. (1) When limited-use size olives for limited-use styles are authorized during a crop year and a handler elects to have olives sized pursuant to §932.51(a)(2)(i), any lot of limited-use size olives may be used in the production of packaged olives for limited-use styles if such olives are within the average count range in table II contained herein for that variety group, and meet such further midpoint or acceptable count requirements for the average count range in each size as approved by the committee.

Table II.—Limited Use Size Olives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Average count range (per pound)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1, except Ascolano, Barouni, and St. Agostino</td>
<td>76–90, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 1, Ascolano, Barouni, and St. Agostino</td>
<td>106–140, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2, except Obliza</td>
<td>141–180, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2, Obliza</td>
<td>128–140, inclusive.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) When limited-use size olives are not authorized for limited-use styles during a crop year and a handler elects to have olives sized pursuant to §932.51(a)(2)(ii), any lot of canning-sized olives may be used in the production of packaged olives for whole, pitted, or limited-use styles if such olives are within the average count range in Table III contained herein for that variety group, and meet such further midpoint or acceptable count requirements for the average count range in each size as approved by the committee.
### § 932.153 Establishment of minimum quality and size requirements for processed olives for limited uses.

(a) Minimum quality requirements. On or after August 1, 1996, any handler may use processed olives of the respective variety group in the production of limited use styles of canned ripe olives if such olives were processed after July 1, 1996, or January 1, 1997.

(b) Canned whole ripe olives, other than those of the “tree-ripened” type, shall be of a size not smaller than the following applicable size requirements, tolerances and percentages:

1. With respect to variety group 1 olives, except Ascolano, Barouni, and St. Agostino varieties, the individual fruits shall each weigh no less than 1/75 pound, except that:
   - (i) For olives of the extra large size designation, not more than 25 percent, by count, of such olives may weigh less than 1/75 pound each including not more than 10 percent, by count, of such olives that weigh less than 1/82 pound each; and
   - (ii) For olives of any designation except the small size, not more than 5 percent, by count, of such olives may weigh less than 1/140 pound each;

2. With respect to variety group 1 olives of the Ascolano, Barouni, and St. Agostino varieties, the individual fruits shall each weigh not less than 1/105 pound, except that:
   - (i) For olives of the large size designation, not more than 25 percent, by count, of such olives may weigh less than 1/105 pound each including not more than 10 percent, by count, of such olives that weigh less than 1/116 pound each; and
   - (ii) For olives of any designation except the medium size, not more than 5 percent, by count, of such olives may weigh less than 1/127 pound each;

3. With respect to variety group 2 olives, except the Obliza variety, the individual fruits shall each weigh not less than 1/140 pound, except that:
   - (i) For olives of the small size designation, not more than 35 percent by count, of such olives may weigh less than 1/140 pound each including not more than 7 percent, by count, of such olives that weigh less than 1/160 pound each; and
   - (ii) For olives of any designation except the small size, not more than 5 percent, by count, of such olives may weigh less than 1/140 pound each;

4. With respect to variety group 2 olives of the Obliza variety, the individual fruit shall each weigh not less than 1/127 pound, except that:
   - (i) For olives of the medium size designation, not more than 35 percent, by count, of such olives may weigh less than 1/127 pound each including not more than 7 percent, by count, of such olives that weigh less than 1/135 pound each; and
   - (ii) For olives of any designation except the medium size, not more than 5 percent, by count, of such olives may weigh less than 1/127 pound each.

§ 932.153 Establishment of minimum quality and size requirements for processed olives for limited uses.

### TABLE III—CANNED WHOLE RIPE OLIVE SIZES AVERAGE COUNT RANGES

[Per Pound]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size designation</th>
<th>Variety group 1</th>
<th>Variety group 2</th>
<th>Variety group 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Except Ascolano, Barouni, St. Agostino</td>
<td>Ascolano, Barouni, St. Agostino</td>
<td>Obliza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>128–140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>106–127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>65–75</td>
<td>65–90</td>
<td>65–90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex. Large</td>
<td>47–60</td>
<td>47–60</td>
<td>47–60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colossal</td>
<td>33–46</td>
<td>33–46</td>
<td>33–46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sup. Colossal</td>
<td>(*)</td>
<td>(*)</td>
<td>(*)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* N.A.—Not Applicable.

1. 32 or fewer.
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 932.155

§ 932.154 Handler transfer.

(a) Except as hereinafter provided in paragraph (b) of this section, Form COC-6 “Report of Interhandler Transfer” shall be completed by the transferring handler for all lots of processed, but not packaged, olives transferred to another handler within the area and for all lots and sublots of natural condition olives transferred to another handler within the area or shipped to destinations outside the area except fresh market outlets. For natural condition and processed, but not packaged, olives transferred between handlers within the area, two completed copies of said form, signed by the transferring handler, shall accompany the lot or sublot to the receiving handler who shall certify on both copies as to receipt of the olives and forward one copy to the committee within 10 days following receipt of the olives. For natural condition olives transferred by a handler to a destination outside the area, except fresh market outlets, two copies of said form shall be completed by the transferring handler with the words “Outside the Area” included in the upper right corner of the form and one copy shall be returned to the committee within 10 days following transfer of the olives. The completed form shall contain at least the following information: (1) Name and address of both the transferor and transferee; (2) date of transfer; (3) condition (natural, processed but not packaged); (4) weight, number and size of each type of container; (5) variety; and (6) other identification (undersize olives, culls, style, etc.).

(b) Undersize or cull olives that are transferred from one handler to another and for which the transferring handler desires credit toward satisfaction of his obligation under § 932.51(a)(2) need only be accompanied by two copies of Form COC-5, report of limited and undersize and cull olives inspection and disposition: Provided, That such transfers are carried out under the supervision of the Inspection Service.

(c) No handler may ship any lot or sublot of natural condition olives to a destination outside the area, except fresh market outlets, unless such olives have first been size-graded and meet the disposition and holding requirements applicable under paragraphs (a)(2) and (4) of § 932.51. The size of such transferred olives shall be verified, prior to transfer, by certification issued to the transferring handler by the appropriate inspection service (Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service or the Processed Products Branch, USDA).

§ 932.155 Special purpose shipments.

(a) The disposition of packaged olives covered by §932.152(d) which are not reprocessed in accordance therewith

VerDate 20<JAN>98 13:27 Jan 23, 1998 Jkt 179021 PO 00000 Frm 00323 Fmt 8010 Sfmt 8010 Y:\SGML\179021.TXT 179021-3
§ 932.159 Reallocation of handler membership.

Pursuant to §932.25, handler representation on the committee is reallocated to provide that two members shall represent cooperative marketing organizations and six members shall represent handlers who are not cooperative marketing organizations.

[58 FR 28340, May 13, 1993]

§ 932.160 Modification of provisions relative to handler nominees.

Pursuant to §932.25 the nomination procedure set forth in §932.29(b) is modified to provide that no more than two nominees for member and two nominees for alternate member positions on the committee may be affiliated with the same handler.

[39 FR 37762, Oct. 24, 1974]

§ 932.161 Reports.

(a) Reports of olives received. Each handler shall submit to the committee, on a form provided by the committee, for each week (Sunday through Saturday, or such other 7-day period for which the handler has submitted a request and received approval from the committee) and not later than the fourth day after the close of such week, a report showing by size designation and culls the respective quantities of each variety of olives received. In addition thereto, he shall also report the seasonal totals to date of the report.

(b) Sales reports. (1) Each handler shall submit to the committee, on COC Form 21 as provided by the committee, for each month and not later than the 15th day following the end of that month, a report showing the handler’s total sales of packaged olives to commercial outlets in the United States, to governmental agencies, and to foreign countries. Such sales shall be reported in the following categories:
(i) Whole and whole pitted styles of canned ripe olives in consumer size containers;

(ii) Whole and whole pitted styles of canned ripe olives in institutional size containers;

(iii) Chopped style of canned ripe olives in all types of containers; and

(iv) Halved, segmented (wedged), and sliced styles of canned ripe olives in all types of containers.

The quantity in each category shall be reported in terms of the equivalent number of cases of 24 No. 300 (300 x 407) size cans.

(2) Each handler shall submit to the committee, on a form provided by the committee, for each month and not more than 15 days after the end of such month, a report showing the total quantity of packaged olives of the ripe and green ripe types sold during the month. Such reports shall include the following information, as applicable:

(i) With respect to the whole, pitted, and broken pitted styles of packaged olives of the ripe or green ripe type, each style shall be reported separately on COC Form 29a in terms of the quantity of each size of olives as designated on the form. Such quantity, or quantities, shall be reported in terms of the total amount packaged in each of the container sizes listed on said form except that the committee may require such reporting in terms of the equivalent number of cases of 24 No. 300 (300 x 407) size cans. Each handler shall report separately the total monthly sales of packaged olives of the green ripe type.

(ii) Limited use styles of packaged olives of the ripe or green ripe type shall be reported in terms of the quantity of each style packaged in each of the container sizes listed on COC Form 29b except that the committee may require such reporting in terms of the equivalent number of cases of 24 No. 300 (300 x 407) size cans. Each handler shall report separately the total monthly sales of packaged olives of the green ripe type.

(d) Packaged olive inventory reports. Each handler shall submit an inventory report to the committee, on a form provided by the committee, not later than the 15th day of each month showing the total quantity of packaged olives of the ripe and green ripe types held in storage at all locations on the last day of the preceding month. Such reports shall contain the following information, as applicable:

(1) With respect to the whole, pitted, and broken pitted styles of packaged ripe or green ripe type olives, each style shall be reported separately on COC Form 27a in terms of the packaged quantity of each size designated on the form. Such quantity, or quantities, shall be reported in terms of the total amount packaged in each of the container sizes listed on said form except that the committee may require such reporting in terms of the equivalent number of cases of 24 No. 300 (300 x 407) size cans. Each handler shall report separately the total quantity of any packaged olives of the green ripe type held in storage at all locations.

(2) Halved, sliced, segmented (wedged), and chopped styles of packaged olives of the ripe or green ripe type shall be reported in terms of the quantity of each style packaged in each of the container sizes listed on COC Form 27b except that the committee may require such reporting in terms of the equivalent number of cases of 24 No. 300 (300 x 407) size cans.

(e) Processed olive bulk inventory reports. Each handler shall submit an inventory report to the committee, on a form provided by the committee, not later than the 15th day of each month showing the total quantity of processed olives of the ripe and green ripe types held in bulk storage at all locations on the last day of the preceding month. Such reports shall contain the following information, as applicable:

(1) The total tonnage of processed olives of the ripe and green ripe types, held in storage by the handler, which are of any size that may be used in the production of packaged olives of the
whole or the pitted styles shall be reported on COC Form 27c in terms of the total quantity of each size designated on the form.

(2) The total tonnage of processed olives of the ripe and green ripe types, held in storage by the handler, which are of sizes that may be used in the production of packaged olives of the halved, sliced, segmented (wedged), or chopped style shall be reported on COC Form 27b.

(f) Packout reports. Each handler shall submit to the committee, on a form provided by the committee, for each month and not more than 15 days after the end of such month, a report showing the total production of packaged olives of the ripe and green ripe types. Such reports shall include the following information, as applicable:

(1) With respect to the whole, pitted, and broken pitted styles of packaged olives of the ripe or the green ripe types, each style shall be reported separately on COC Form 28a in terms of the total quantity of each size of olives as designated on the form. Such quantity, or quantities, shall be reported in terms of the total amount packaged in each of the container sizes listed on said form except that the committee may require such reporting in terms of the equivalent number of cases of 24 No. 300 (300 x 407) size cans. Each handler shall report separately the total monthly production of packaged olives of the green ripe type.

(2) Halved, sliced, segmented (wedged), and chopped styles of packaged olives of the ripe or green ripe types shall be reported in terms of the quantity of each style packaged in each of the container sizes listed on COC Form 28b except that the committee may require such reporting in terms of the equivalent number of cases of 24 No. 300 (300 x 407) size cans.


Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 932.230 Assessment rate.

On and after January 1, 1997, an assessment rate of $14.99 per ton is established for assessable olives grown in California.

Editorial Note: After January 1, 1979, "Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment" regulations (e.g., sections .200 through .299) and "Handling" regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the "List of CFR Sections Affected." in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

PART 944—FRUITS; IMPORT REGULATIONS

Sec.
944.28 Avocado Import Grade Regulation.
944.31 Avocado import maturity regulation.
944.106 Grapefruit import regulation.
944.209 Lime import Regulation 10.
944.312 Orange import regulation.
944.350 Safeguard procedures for avocados, grapefruit, kiwifruit, limes, olives, oranges, prune variety plums (fresh prunes), and table grapes, exempt from grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements.
944.400 Designated inspection services and procedure for obtaining inspection and certification of imported avocados, grapefruit, kiwifruit, limes, oranges, prune variety plums (fresh prunes), and table grapes regulated under section 8e of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended.
944.401 Olive Regulation 1.
944.503 Table Grape Import Regulation 4.
944.550 Kiwifruit import regulation.
944.700 Fresh prune import regulation.


Editorial Note: After January 1, 1979, Import regulations which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the "List of CFR Sections Affected." in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

§ 944.28 Avocado Import Grade Regulation.

(a) Pursuant to section 8e of the act and Part 944-Fruits; Import Regulations, the importation into the United States of any avocados is prohibited on and after May 28, 1985, unless such avocados grade at least U.S. No. 2, as such grade is defined in the United States Standards for Florida Avocados (7 CFR
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 944.31

(b) The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, is designated as the government inspection service for certifying the grade, size, quality, and maturity of avocados that are imported into the United States. Inspection by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with evidence thereof in the form of an official inspection certificate, issued by the respective service, applicable to the particular shipment of avocados, is required on all imports. The inspection and certification services will be available upon application in accordance with the rules and regulations governing inspection and certification of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other products (7 CFR part 51) and in accordance with the regulations designating inspection services and procedure for obtaining inspection and certification (7 CFR 944.400).

(c) The term importation means release from custody of the United States Customs Service. The term commercial processing into products means the manufacture of avocado product which is preserved by any recognized commercial process, including canning, freezing, dehydrating, drying, the addition of chemical substances, or by fermentation.

(d) Any person may import up to 55 pounds of avocados exempt from the requirements specified in this section.

(e) Any lot or portion thereof which fails to meet the import requirements, and is not being imported for purposes of consumption by charitable institutions, distribution by relief agencies, seed, or commercial processing into products; prior to or after reconditioning may be exported or disposed of under the supervision of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with the costs of certifying the disposal of such lot borne by the importer.

(f) The grade, size, and quality requirements of this section shall not be applicable to avocados imported for consumption by charitable institutions, distribution by relief agencies, seed, or commercial processing into products, but shall be subject to the safeguard provisions contained in §944.350.

§ 944.31 Avocado import maturity regulation.

(a) Pursuant to section 8e [7 U.S.C. 608e-1] of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended [7 U.S.C. 601-674], and Part 944—Fruits; Import Regulations, the importation into the United States of any avocados, except the Hass, Fuerte, Zutano, and Edranol varieties, is prohibited unless:

(1) Any portion of the skin of the individual avocados has changed to the color normal for that fruit when mature for those varieties which normally change color to any shade of red or purple when mature, except for the Linda variety; or

(2) Such avocados meet the minimum weight or diameter requirements for the Monday nearest each date specified, through the Sunday immediately prior to the nearest Monday of the specified date in the next column, for each variety listed in the following table I: Provided, that avocados may not be handled prior to the earliest date specified in column A of such table for the respective variety; Provided further, There are no restrictions on size or weight on or after the date specified in column D; Provided further, That up to a total of 10 percent, by count to the individual fruit in each lot may weigh less than the minimum specified or be less than the specified diameter, except that no such avocados shall be over 2 ounces lighter than the minimum weight specified for the variety: Provided further, That up to double such tolerance shall be permitted for fruit in an individual container in a lot.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>A date</th>
<th>Min. wt.</th>
<th>Min. diam.</th>
<th>B date</th>
<th>Min. wt.</th>
<th>Min. diam.</th>
<th>C date</th>
<th>Min. wt.</th>
<th>Min. diam.</th>
<th>D date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Dupuis</td>
<td>5-30</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>6-13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>7-04</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>7-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simmons</td>
<td>6-20</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>7-04</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>7-18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>8-01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollock</td>
<td>6-20</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>7-04</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>7-18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>8-01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardee</td>
<td>6-27</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>7-04</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2 7/8</td>
<td>7-11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>7-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nadir</td>
<td>6-27</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>7-04</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>7-11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2 7/8</td>
<td>7-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruehle</td>
<td>7-04</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>7-11</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>8-01</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>8-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zio (P)</td>
<td>7-04</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>8-01</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meya (P)</td>
<td>7-18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>7-04</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>7-11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2 7/8</td>
<td>7-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed (CP)</td>
<td>7-04</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>8-01</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>8-15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>8-25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Avocados of the West Indian type varieties and seedlings not listed elsewhere in table 1.
2. Avocados of the Guatemalan type varieties and seedlings, hybrid varieties and seedlings, and unidentified seedlings not listed elsewhere in table 1.
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 944.106

(b) The term diameter means the greatest dimension measured at a right angle to a straight line from the stem to the blossom end of the fruit.

(c) The term importation means release from custody of the United States Customs Service. The term commercial processing into products means the manufacture of avocado product which is preserved by any recognized commercial process, including canning, freezing, dehydrating, drying, the addition of chemical substances, or by fermentation.

(d) Any person may import up to 55 pounds of avocados exempt from the requirements specified in this section.

(e) The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, is designated as the governmental inspection service for certifying the grade, size, quality, and maturity of avocados imported into the United States. Inspection by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with evidence thereof in the form of an official inspection certificate, issued by the respective service, applicable to the particular shipment of avocados, is required on all such imports. The inspection and certification services will be available upon application in accordance with the Regulations Governing Inspection, Certification and Standards of Fresh Fruits, Vegetables, and Other Products (7 CFR part 51), and in accordance with the regulation designating inspection services and procedure for obtaining inspection and certification (7 CFR 944.400).

(f) Any lot or portion thereof which fails to meet the import requirements, and is not being imported for purposes of consumption by charitable institutions, distribution by relief agencies, seed, or commercial processing into products; prior to or after reconditioning may be exported or disposed of under the supervision of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with the costs of certifying the disposal of such lot borne by the importer.

(g) The maturity requirements of this section shall not be applicable to avocados imported for consumption by charitable institutions, distribution by relief agencies, seed, or commercial processing into products, but such avocados shall be subject to the safeguard provisions contained in §944.350.

§ 944.106 Grapefruit import regulation.

(a) Pursuant to Section 8e [7 U.S.C. Section 608e-1] of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended [7 U.S.C. 601-674], and Part 944—Fruits; Import Regulations, the importation into the United States of any grapefruit is prohibited unless such grapefruit meet the following minimum grade and size requirements for each specified grapefruit classification:

| Grapefruit classification | Regulation period | Minimum grade | Minimum diameter
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seeded</td>
<td>On and after 9/1/94</td>
<td>U.S. No. 1</td>
<td>3-12/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seedless, red</td>
<td>11/13/95–11/10/96</td>
<td>U.S. No. 1</td>
<td>3-5/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seedless, except red</td>
<td>11/11/96–11/9/97</td>
<td>U.S. No. 1</td>
<td>3-9/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On and after 11/10/97</td>
<td>U.S. No. 1</td>
<td>3-9/16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) The term grapefruit is defined as citrus paradisi, Macfadyen.

(c) Terms and tolerances pertaining to grade and size requirements, which are defined in the United States Standards for Grades of Florida Grapefruit (7 CFR 51.750-51.784), and in Marketing Order No. 905 (7 CFR 905.18), shall be applicable herein.

(d) The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, is designated as the governmental inspection service for certifying the grade, size, quality, and maturity of grapefruit imported into the
§ 944.209 Lime Import Regulation 10.

(a) Applicability to imports. Pursuant to section 8e of the act and Part 944—Fruits; Import Regulations, the importation into the United States of any limes is prohibited on or after June 10, 1985, unless such limes meet the minimum grade and size requirements specified in §911.344 Florida Lime Regulation 43.

(b) The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture is designated as the governmental inspection service for certifying the grade, size, quality and maturity of limes that are imported into the United States. Inspection by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with evidence thereof in the form of an official inspection certificate, issued by the respective Service, applicable to the particular shipment of limes, is required on all imports. The inspection and certification services will be available upon application in accordance with the rules and regulations governing inspection and certification of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other products (7 CFR part 2851) and in accordance with the Procedure for Requesting Inspection and Certification (7 CFR 944.400).

(c) The term importation means release from custody of the United States Customs Service. The term commercial processing into products means the manufacture of lime product which is preserved by any recognized commercial process, including canning, freezing, dehydrating, drying, the addition of chemical substances, or by fermentation. Limes imported for conversion into juice without further processing or preservative treatment, as herein described, shall be deemed fresh limes subject to all regulation under this section.

(h) The Secretary has determined that grapefruit imported into the United States are in most direct competition with grapefruit grown in Florida regulated under Marketing Order No. 905 (7 CFR part 905).
of consumption by charitable institutions, distribution by relief agencies, or commercial processing into products; prior to or after reconditioning may be exported or disposed of under supervision of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with the costs of certifying the disposal of said lot borne by the importer.

(e) Minimum quantity exemption: Any person may import up to 250 pounds of limes exempt from the requirements specified in this section.

(f) The grade, size, quality and maturity requirements of this section shall not be applicable to limes imported for consumption by charitable institutions, distribution by relief agencies, or commercial processing into products, but shall be subject to the safeguard provisions contained in §944.350.

§ 944.312 Orange import regulation.

(a) Pursuant to section 8e (7 U.S.C. 608e−1) of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C 601−674), and part 944—Fruits; Import Regulations, the importation into the United States of any oranges is prohibited unless such oranges grade at least U.S. No. 2, and they are at least 2½ inches in diameter. Effective July 1 through August 31 of each year this paragraph is suspended.

(b) The term oranges is defined as Citrus sinensis, Osbeck.

(c) The term importation means release from custody of the United States Customs Service. The term processing means the manufacture of any orange product which has been converted into sectioned fruit or into fresh juice, or preserved by any commercial process, including canning, freezing, dehydrating, drying, and the addition of chemical substances, or by fermentation.

(d) Terms and tolerances pertaining to grade and size requirements, which are defined in the United States Standards for Grades of Oranges (Texas and States other than Florida, California, and Arizona) (7 CFR 51.680−51.714), shall be applicable herein.

(e) Any person may import up to 400 pounds a day of oranges exempt from the requirements specified in this section.

(f) The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, is designated as the governmental inspection service for certifying the grade, size, quality, and maturity of oranges imported into the United States. Inspection by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with evidence thereof in the form of an official inspection certificate, issued by the respective service, applicable to the particular shipment of oranges, is required on all such imports. The inspection and certification services will be available upon application in accordance with the Regulations Governing Inspection, Certification and Standards of Fresh Fruits, Vegetables, and Other Products (7 CFR part 51), and in accordance with the regulation designating inspection services and procedure for obtaining inspection and certification (7 CFR 944.400).

(g) Any oranges which fail to meet the import requirements, and are not being imported for purposes of consumption by charitable institutions, distribution by relief agencies, or processing into products; prior to or after reconditioning may be exported or disposed of under the supervision of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with the costs of certifying the disposal of such oranges borne by the importer.

(h) The grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements of this section shall not be applicable to oranges imported for consumption by charitable institutions, distribution by relief agencies, or processing into products, but shall be subject to the safeguard provisions contained in §944.350. Provided that: oranges, imported as exempt under this regulation, cannot be shipped to processors who have facilities, equipment, or outlets to repack or sell fruit in fresh form.

(i) The Secretary has determined that oranges imported into the United States are in most direct competition
§ 944.350 Safeguard procedures for avocados, grapefruit, kiwifruit, limes, olives, oranges, prune variety plums (fresh prunes), and table grapes, exempt from grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements.

(a) Each person who imports:

(1) Avocados, grapefruit, kiwifruit, limes, olives, oranges, and prune variety plums (fresh prunes) for consumption by charitable institutions or distribution by relief agencies;

(2) Avocados, grapefruit, kiwifruit, limes, oranges, and prune variety plums (fresh prunes), and table grapes for processing;

(3) Olives for processing into oil;

(4) Grapefruit for animal feed; or

(5) Avocados for seed shall obtain an "Importer's Exempt Commodity Form" (FV-6 form) from the Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, and shall show the completed "Importer's Exempt Commodity Form" to the U.S. Customs Service Regional Director or District Director, as applicable, at the port at which the customs entry is filed. One copy shall be mailed to the Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, and shall show the completed "Importer's Exempt Commodity Form" to the United States Customs Service Regional Director. A third copy shall accompany the lot to the exempt outlet specified on the form. Any lot offered for inspection and, all or a portion thereof, subsequently imported as exempt under this provision shall be reported on an "Importer's Exempt Commodity Form" and such form, accompanied by a copy of the applicable inspection certificate, shall be mailed to the Marketing Order Administration Branch.

(b) Each person who receives an exempt commodity for the purposes specified in paragraph (a) of this section shall also receive a copy of the same numbered Importer's Exempt Commodity Form filed by the importer or customs broker and shall certify, by completing and signing Section II of the form and mailing the form to the Marketing Order Administration Branch within two days of receipt of the exempt lot, that such lot has been received and will be utilized in the exempt outlet.

(c) It is the responsibility of the importer to notify the Marketing Order Administration Branch of any lot of exempt commodity rejected by a receiver, shipped to an alternative exempt receiver, exported, or otherwise destroyed. In such cases, a second "Importer's Exempt Commodity Form" must be filed by the importer providing sufficient information to determine the ultimate disposition of the exempt lot and such disposition shall be so certified by the final receiver.

(d) All FV-6 forms and other correspondence regarding entry of 8e commodities must be mailed to the Marketing Order Administration Branch, USDA, AMS, P.O. Box 96456, room 2523-S, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, telephone (202)-720-4607. FV-6 forms submitted by fax must be followed by a mailed, original copy of the FV-6 form. Fax transmissions may be sent to the MOAB at (202) 720-5698.

§ 944.400 Designated inspection services and procedure for obtaining inspection and certification of imported avocados, grapefruit, kiwifruit, limes, oranges, prune variety plums (fresh prunes), and table grapes regulated under section 8e of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended.

(a) The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture is hereby designated as the governmental inspection service for the purpose of certifying the grade, size, quality and maturity of avocados, grapefruit, limes, nectarines, oranges, prune variety plums (fresh prunes), and table grapes that are imported into the United States. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is also designated as a governmental inspection service for the purpose of certifying grade, size, quality and maturity of prune variety plums (fresh prunes) only. Inspection

by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service or the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, with appropriate evidence thereof in the form of an official inspection certificate, issued by the respective services, applicable to the particular shipment of the specified fruit, is required on all imports. Inspection and certification by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service will be available upon application in accordance with the Regulations Governing Inspection, Certification and Standards for Fresh Fruits, Vegetables, and Other Products (7 CFR part 51) but, since inspectors are not located in the immediate vicinity of some of the small ports of entry, such as those in southern California, importers of avocados, grapefruit, limes, nectarines, oranges, prunes variety plums (fresh prunes), and table grapes should make arrangements for inspection through the applicable one of the following offices, at least the specified number of the days prior to the time when the fruit will be imported:

PORTS, OFFICES AND ADVANCE NOTICE

Eastern Region
In Alabama, Officer In Charge, Post Office Box 244, Mobile, AL 36601, PH: 205-690-6154, or
In Jacksonville, Florida, Officer In Charge, Unit B, 3335 N. Edgewood Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32207, PH: 904-354-3963, or
In Miami, Florida, Officer In Charge, 1350 N.W. 12th Ave., RM. 530, Miami FL 33134, PH: 305-324-6116, or
In Maryland, Officer In Charge, Maryland Wholesale Produce Market—Building B Unit 13, Jessup, MD 20794, PH: 301-799-5890, or
In Massachusetts, Officer In Charge, Boston Terminal Market, Room 1, 34 Market Street, Everett, MA 02149, PH: 617-389-2480, or
In Buffalo, New York, Officer In Charge, 176 Niagara Frontier Food Terminal—Rm. 7, Buffalo, NY 14206, PH: 716-824-1385, or
In New Jersey, Officer In Charge, Federal Building, Room 899, 970 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102, PH: 201-465-2208, or
In New York, New York, Officer In Charge, Room 28-A, Hunts Point Market, Bronx, NY 10474, PH: 212-991-7669, or
In Pennsylvania, Officer In Charge, 293 Produce Building, 3301 S. Galloway Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148, PH: 215-336-0845, or
In Virginia, Officer In Charge, 3661 Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23502, PH: 804-441-6218, or
In Puerto Rico, Officer In Charge, Post Office Box 9112, Santurce, PR 00908, PH: 809-783-2230.

Central Region
In Louisiana, Officer In Charge, 5027 U.S. Postal Service Building, 701 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70113, PH: 504-589-6741, or
In Michigan, Officer In Charge, 90 Detroit Union Produce, 7201 West Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48209, PH: 313-226-6059, or
In Minnesota, Officer In Charge, Agriculture Building Room 226, 90 West Plato Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55107, PH: 612-296-8557, or
In El Paso, Officer In Charge, 6070 Gateway East, Suite 410, El Paso, TX 79905, PH: 915-543-7723, or
In Houston, Texas, Officer In Charge, 3100 Produce Row, Room 14, Houston, TX 77023, PH: 713-923-2557.

All other Texas Ports: Officer In Charge, Post Office Box 107, San Juan, TX 78589, PH: 512-797-4001.
All other Central Ports of Entry: Regional Director, Room 1012, 610 South Canal Street, Chicago, IL 60607, PH: 312-353-6225.

Western Region
In Arizona, Officer In Charge, Post Office Box 1485, Nogales, AZ 85621, PH: 602-281-0703, or
In Los Angeles, California, Officer In Charge, Wholesale Terminal Bldg., Room 271, 784 South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90021, PH: 213-689-2489, or
In San Francisco, California, Officer In Charge, P.O. Box 4266, Burlingame, CA 94010, PH: 415-876-7093 & 1094, or
In Hawaii, Officer In Charge, P.O. Box 22159, Pawaa Substation, Honolulu, HI 96822, PH: 808-548-7147, or
In Oregon, Officer In Charge, Cascade Plaza, Suite 125, 2028 S.W. Corbett, Portland, OR 97201, PH: 503-229-6151, or
In Washington, Officer In Charge, 5507 Sixth Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98108, PH: 206-764-2500, or
In New Mexico, Officer In Charge, New Mexico Market and Development Branch, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 5600, Las Cruces, NM 88003, PH: 505-646-4029.

All other Western Ports of Entry: Regional Director, P.O. Box 214207, Sacramento, CA 95821, PH: 916-494-8452 & 8453.

§ 944.401 Olive Regulation 1.

(a) Definitions. (1) Canned ripe olives means olives in hermetically sealed containers and heat sterilized under pressure, of the two distinct types “ripe” and “green-ripe” as defined in the current U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives. The term does not include Spanish-style green olives. (2) Spanish-style green olives means olives packed in brine and which have been fermented and cured, otherwise known as “green olives.”

(b) Minimum quality requirements. Canned ripe olives shall meet the following requirements, except that no requirements shall be applicable with respect to color and blemishes for canned green ripe olives: (1) Canned whole and pitted olives of the ripe type shall meet the minimum quality requirements, and...
quality requirements prescribed in table 1 of this section;
(ii) Canned sliced, segmented (wedged), and halved olives of the ripe type shall meet the minimum quality requirements prescribed in table 2 of this section;
(iii) Canned chopped olives of the ripe type shall meet the minimum quality requirements prescribed in table 3 of this section and shall be practically free from identifiable units of pit caps, end slices, and slices ("practically free from identifiable units" means that not more than 10 percent, by weight, of the unit of chopped style olives may be identifiable pit caps, end slices, or slices); and
(iv) Canned broken pitted olives of the ripe type shall meet the minimum quality requirements prescribed in table 4 of this section, Provided. That broken pitted olives consist of large pieces that may have been broken in pitting but have not been sliced or cut.

(v) A lot of canned ripe olives is considered to meet the requirements of this section if all or most of the sample units meet the requirements specified in tables 1 through 4 of this section: Provided, That the number of sample units which do not meet the requirements specified in tables 1 through 4 of this section does not exceed the acceptance number prescribed for in the sample size provided in table 1 of 7 CFR 52.38: Provided further, That there is no off flavor in any sample unit.

Table 1—Whole and Pitted Style—Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Defects by count per 50 olives</th>
<th>Acceptance Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pits and Pit Fragments (Pitted Style Only)</td>
<td>Not more than 1.3% average by count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Stems</td>
<td>Not more than 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEVM</td>
<td>Not more than 1 unit per sample</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Damage</td>
<td>Not more than 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Split Pits or Misshapen</td>
<td>Not more than 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2—Sliced, Segmented (Wedged), and Halved Styles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Defects by count per 255</th>
<th>Acceptance Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLAVOR</td>
<td>Reasonably good; no &quot;off&quot; flavor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALOMETER</td>
<td>Acceptable range in degrees: 3.0 to 14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLOR</td>
<td>Reasonably uniform with no units lighter than the USDA Composite Color Standard for Ripe Type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHARACTER</td>
<td>Not more than 13 grams excessively soft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEFECTS:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pits and Pit Fragments</td>
<td>Average of not more than 1 by count per 300 grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Stems</td>
<td>Not more than 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEVM</td>
<td>Not more than 2 units per sample</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken Pieces and End Caps</td>
<td>Not more than 125 grams by weight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3—Chopped Style

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Defects by count per 255 grams</th>
<th>Acceptance Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLAVOR</td>
<td>Reasonably good; no &quot;off&quot; flavor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALOMETER</td>
<td>Acceptable range in degrees: 3.0 to 14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLOR</td>
<td>Reasonably uniform with no units lighter than the USDA Composite Color Standard for Ripe Type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHARACTER</td>
<td>Not more than 13 grams excessively soft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEFECTS:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pits and Pit Fragments</td>
<td>Average of not more than 1 by count per 300 grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Stems</td>
<td>Not more than 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEVM</td>
<td>Not more than 2 units per sample</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4—Broken Pitted Style

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Defects by count per 255 grams</th>
<th>Acceptance Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLAVOR</td>
<td>Reasonably good; no &quot;off&quot; flavor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALOMETER</td>
<td>Acceptable range in degrees: 3.0 to 14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLOR</td>
<td>Reasonably uniform with no units lighter than the USDA Composite Color Standard for Ripe Type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHARACTER</td>
<td>Not more than 13 grams excessively soft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEFECTS:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pits and Pit Fragments</td>
<td>Average of not more than 1 by count per 300 grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Stems</td>
<td>Not more than 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEVM</td>
<td>Not more than 2 units per sample</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) Canned whole ripe olives of Variety Group 1, except the Ascolano, Barouni, and St. Agostino varieties,
shall be of such a size that not more than 25 percent, by count, of the olives may weigh less than 1/75 pound (6.0 grams) each; except that not more than 10 percent, by count, of the olives may weigh less than 1/82 pound (5.5 grams) each;

(3) Canned whole ripe Variety Group 1 olives, of the Ascolano, Barouni, and St. Agostino varieties, shall be of such size that not more than 25 percent, by count, of the olives may weigh less than 1/105 pound (4.3 grams) each except that not more than 10 percent, by count, of the olives may weigh less than 1/116 pound (3.9 grams) each;

(4) Canned whole ripe Variety Group 2, except the Obliza variety, olives shall be of such a size that not more than 35 percent, by count, of the olives may weigh less than 1/140 pound (3.2 grams) each except that not more than 7 percent, by count, of the olives may weigh less than 1/160 pound (2.8 grams) each;

(5) Canned whole ripe Variety Group 2 olives, of the Obliza variety, shall be of such a size that not more than 35 percent, by count, of the olives may weigh less than 1/180 pound (2.5 grams) each except that not more than 7 percent, by count, of the olives may weigh less than 1/205 pound (2.2 grams) each;

(6) Canned whole ripe olives not identifiable as to variety or variety group shall be of such a size that not more than 35 percent, by count, of the olives may weigh less than 1/205 pound (2.2 grams) each;

(7) Canned pitted ripe olives of Variety Group 1, except the Ascolano, Barouni, or St. Agostino varieties, shall be at least “Medium” as defined in §52.3754 of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives. Canned pitted ripe Variety Group 2 olives of the Obliza variety shall be at least “Medium” as defined in §52.3754 of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives.

(11) Canned pitted ripe olives not identifiable as to variety or variety group shall be at least “Small” as defined in §52.3754 of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Canned Ripe Olives.

(12) Imported bulk olives when used in the production of canned ripe olives must be inspected and certified as prescribed in this section. Imported bulk olives which do not meet the applicable minimum size requirements specified in paragraphs (b)(2) through (b)(11) of this section may be imported after August 1, 1996, for limited-use, but any such olives so used shall not be smaller than the following applicable minimum size:

(i) Whole ripe olives of Variety Group 1, except Ascolano, Barouni, or St. Agostino varieties, of a size that not more than 35 percent of the olives, by count, may be smaller than 1/105 pound (4.3 grams) each.

(ii) Whole ripe olives of Variety Group 1 of the Ascolano, Barouni, or St. Agostino varieties, of a size that not more than 35 percent of the olives, by count, may be smaller than 1/180 pound (2.5 grams) each.

(iii) Whole ripe olives of Variety Group 2, except the Obliza variety, of a size that not more than 35 percent of the olives, by count, may be smaller than 1/205 pound (2.2 grams) each.

(iv) Whole ripe olives of Variety Group 2 of the Obliza variety of a size that not more than 35 percent of the olives, by count, may be smaller than 1/205 pound (2.2 grams) each.

(v) Whole ripe olives not identifiable as to variety or variety group of a size that not more than 35 percent of olives, by count, may be smaller than 1/205 pound (2.2 grams) each.

(c) The Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is hereby designated as the governmental inspection service for the purpose of certifying the grade and size of processed olives from imported bulk lots for use in canned ripe olives and the grade and size of imported canned ripe olives. Inspection
by said inspection service with appropriate evidence thereof in the form of an official inspection certificate, issued by the service and applicable to the particular lot of olives, is required. With respect to imported bulk olives, inspection and certification shall be completed prior to use as packaged ripe olives. With respect to canned ripe olives, inspection and certification shall be completed prior to importation. Any lot of olives which fails to meet the import requirements and is not being imported for purposes of contribution to a charitable organization or processing into oil may be exported or disposed of under the supervision of the Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, with the cost of certifying the disposal borne by the importer. Such inspection and certification services will be available, upon application, in accordance with the applicable regulations governing the inspection and certification of Processed Fruits and Vegetables, Processed Products Thereof, and Certain Other Processed Food Products (part 52 of this title). Application for inspection of canned ripe olives shall be made not less than 10 days prior to the time when the olives will be imported. Since inspectors are not located in the immediate vicinity of some of the small ports of entry, importers of canned ripe olives shall make arrangements for inspection through the following office at least 10 days prior to the time when the olives will be imported: Processed Products Branch, USDA, AMS, F&V Division, P.O. Box 96456, Room 0726-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456, telephone (202) 720-5021, fax (202) 690-1527. Application for inspection of processed bulk olives shall be made not less than 3 days prior to use in the production of canned ripe olives. Such application shall be made through one of the following offices: Regional Director, Eastern Regional Office, 800 Roosevelt Rd., Building A, suite 380 Glen Ellyn, IL 60137, telephone (708) 790-6973, fax (708) 469-5162; or Regional Director, Western Regional Office, 220 Monterey Street, suite 102-C, Fresno, CA 93721, telephone (209) 487-5901, fax (209) 487-5900.

(d) Inspection certificates shall cover only (1) the quantity of canned ripe olives that is being imported at a particular port of entry by a particular importer or (2) the quantity of canned ripe olives processed from a lot or sublot of imported bulk olives.

(e) Inspection shall be performed by USDA inspectors in accordance with said regulations governing the inspection and certification of processed fruits and vegetables and related products (part 52 of this title). The cost of each such inspection and related certification shall be borne by the applicant. Applications for inspection shall be accompanied by, or there shall be submitted promptly thereafter, either (1) an “on board” bill of lading designating the lots to be entered as canned ripe olives, (2) a list of such lots by variety and their identifying marks, or (3) a list identifying lots by variety of imported bulk olives.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this regulation, any importation of canned ripe olives or olives imported in bulk for use in the production of canned ripe olives which, in the aggregate, does not exceed 100 pounds drained weight may be imported without regard to the requirements of this section.

(g) It is hereby determined, on the basis of the information currently available, that the minimum quality requirements and size requirements set forth in this part are comparable to those applicable to California canned ripe olives.

(h) No provisions of this section shall supersedes the restrictions or prohibitions on canned ripe olives under the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or any other applicable laws or regulations or the need to comply with applicable food and sanitary regulations of city, county, State, or Federal agencies.

(i) Each inspection certificate issued with respect to canned ripe olives to be imported into the United States and canned ripe olives processed from a lot or sublot of imported bulk olives shall set forth among other things:

(1) The date and place of inspection;
(2) The name of the shipper or applicant;
(3) The commodity inspected;
(4) The quantity of the commodity covered by the certificate;
§ 944.503  Table Grape Import Regulation 4.

(a)(1) Pursuant to section 8e of the Act and Part 944—Fruits, Import Regulations, the importation into the United States of any variety of vinifera species table grapes, except Emperor, Calmeria, Almeria, and Ribier varieties, is prohibited unless such grapes meet the minimum grade and size requirements specified in §51.884 for U.S. No. 1 Table or in §51.885 for U.S. No. 1 Institutional grade, as set forth in the United States Standards for Grades of Table Grapes (European or Vinifera Type, 7 CFR §51.880 through §51.913), or shall meet all the requirements of U.S. No. 1 Institutional with the exception of the tolerance percentage for bunch size. Such tolerance shall be 33 percent instead of 8 percent as is required to meet U.S. No. 1 Institutional grade. Grapes meeting these quality requirements shall not be marked “Institutional Pack, but may be marked DGAC No.1 Institutional.”

(i) Grapes of the Perlette variety shall meet the minimum berry size requirement of ten-sixteenths of an inch, and

(ii) Grapes of the Flame Seedless variety shall meet the minimum berry size requirement of ten-sixteenths of an inch and shall be considered mature if the juice contains not less than 15 percent soluble solids and the soluble solids are equal to or in excess of 20 parts to every part acid contained in the juice in accordance with applicable sampling and testing procedures specified in sections 1436.3, 1436.5, 1436.6, 1436.7, 1436.12, and 1436.17 of Article 25 of the California Administrative Code (Title 3).

(b) The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, F&V, AMS, USDA, is designated as the governmental inspection service for certifying the grade, size, quality, and maturity of table grapes that are imported into the United States. Inspection by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with evidence thereof in the form of an official inspection certificate, issued by the respective service, applicable to the particular shipment of table grapes, is required on all imports. The inspection and certification services will be available upon application in accordance with the rules and regulations governing inspection and certification of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other products (7 CFR part 51) and in accordance with the Procedure for Requesting Inspection and designating...
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 944.550

the Agencies to Perform Requested Inspection and Certification (7 CFR 944.400).

(c) The term importation means release from custody of the United States Customs Service.

(d) Any lot or portion thereof which fails to meet the import requirements, and is not being imported for purposes of processing, prior to or after reconditioning may be exported or disposed of under the supervision of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with the costs of certifying the disposal of said lot borne by the importer.

(e) The grade, size, quality and maturity requirements of this section shall not be applicable to grapes imported for processing, but shall be subject to the safeguard provisions contained in §944.350.

§ 944.550 Kiwifruit import regulation.

(a) Pursuant to section 8e of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended, the importation into the United States of any kiwifruit is prohibited unless such kiwifruit meets all the requirements of a U.S. No. 1 grade as defined in the United States Standards for Grades of Kiwifruit (7 CFR 51.2335 through 51.2340), except that the kiwifruit shall be “not badly misshapen,” and an additional tolerance of 7 percent is provided for kiwifruit that is “badly misshapen.” Such fruit shall be at least Size 45, which means there shall be a maximum of 55 pieces of fruit and the average weight of all samples in a specific lot must weigh at least 8 pounds, provided that no individual sample may be less than 7 pounds 12 ounces.

(b) The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, is designated as the governmental inspection service for certifying the quality and size of kiwifruit imported into the United States. Inspection by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with evidence thereof in the form of an official inspection certificate, issued by the respective service, applicable to a particular shipment of kiwifruit, is required on all imports. The inspection and certification services will be available upon application in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the inspection and certification of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other products (7 CFR part 51) and in accordance with the procedure for requesting inspection and designating the agencies to perform required inspection and certification (7 CFR 944.400).

(c) The term importation means release from custody of the United States Customs Service. The term commercial processing into products means that the kiwifruit is physically altered in form or chemical composition through freezing, canning, dehydrating, pulping, juicing, or heating of the product. The act of slicing, dicing, or peeling shall not be considered commercial processing into products.

(d) Any lot or portion thereof which fails to meet the import requirements and is not being imported for purposes of consumption by charitable institutions, distribution by relief agencies, or commercial processing into products may be reconditioned or exported. Any failed lot which is not reconditioned or exported shall be disposed of under supervision of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with the costs of certifying the disposal of said lot borne by the importer.

(e) Any person may import up to 200 pounds of kiwifruit in any one shipment exempt from the requirements of this section.

(f) The grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements of this section shall not be applicable to kiwifruit imported for consumption by charitable institutions, distribution by relief agencies, or commercial processing into products, but shall be subject to the safeguard provisions contained in §944.350.

§ 944.700 Fresh prune import regulation.

(a) Pursuant to section 8e of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended, the importation into the United States of any fresh prunes, other than the Brooks variety, during the period July 15 through September 30 of each year is prohibited unless such fresh prunes meet the following requirements:

(1) Such fresh prunes grade at least U.S. No. 1, except that at least two-thirds of the surface of the fresh prune is required to be purplish in color, and such fresh prunes measure not less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter as measured by a rigid ring: Provided, That the following tolerances, by count, of the fresh prunes in any lot shall apply in lieu of the tolerance for defects provided in the United States Standards for Grades of Fresh Plums and Prunes (7 CFR 51.1520 through 51.1538): A total of not more than 15 percent for defects, including therein not more than the following percentage for the defect listed:

(i) 10 percent for fresh prunes which fail to meet the color requirement;
(ii) 10 percent for fresh prunes which fail to meet the minimum diameter requirement;
(iii) 10 percent for fresh prunes which fail to meet the remaining requirements of the grade: Provided, That not more than one-half of this amount, or 5 percent, shall be allowed for defects causing serious damage, including in the latter amount not more than 1 percent for decay.

(2) [Reserved]

(b) The importation of any individual shipment which, in the aggregate, does not exceed 500 pounds net weight, of fresh prunes of the Stanley or Merton varieties, or 350 pounds net weight, of fresh prunes of any variety other than the Stanley or Merton varieties, is exempt from the requirements specified in this section.

(c) The grade, size and quality requirements of this section shall not be applicable to fresh prunes imported for consumption by charitable institutions, distribution by relief agencies, or commercial processing into products, but such prunes shall be subject to the safeguard provisions in §944.350.

(d) The term U.S. No. 1 shall have the same meaning as when used in the United States Standards for Grades of Fresh Plums and Prunes (7 CFR 51.1520 through 51.1538); the term purplish color shall have the same meaning as when used in the Washington State Department of Agriculture Standards for Italian Prunes (April 28, 1978), and the Oregon State Department of Agriculture Standards for Italian Prunes (October 5, 1977); the term diameter means the greatest dimension measured at right angles to a line from the stem to the blossom end of the fruit.

(e) The term Prunes means all varieties of plums, classified botanically as Prunus domestica, except those of the President variety.

(f) The term importation means release from custody of the United States Customs Service.

(g) Inspection and certification service is required for imports and will be available in accordance with the regulation designating inspection services and procedure for obtaining inspection and certification (7 CFR 944.400).

(h) Any lot or portion thereof which fails to meet the import requirements, and is not being imported for purposes of consumption by charitable institutions, distribution by relief agencies, or commercial processing into products, prior to or after reconditioning may be exported or disposed of under the supervision of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service with the costs of certifying the disposal of such fresh prunes borne by the importer.

(i) It is determined that fresh prunes imported into the United States shall meet the same minimum grade, size and quality requirements as those established for fresh prunes under Marketing Order No. 924 (7 CFR part 924).

[61 FR 40959, Aug. 7, 1996]
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DEFINITIONS

§ 945.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the United States Department of Agriculture to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 945.2 Act.

§ 945.3 Person.
Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 945.4 Production area.
Production area means all territory included within Malheur County, Oregon, and the counties of Adams, Valley, Lemhi, Clark, and Fremont in the State of Idaho, and all of the counties in Idaho lying south thereof.

§ 945.5 Potatoes.
Potatoes means all varieties of Irish potatoes grown within the aforesaid production area.

§ 945.6 Varieties.
Varieties means and includes all classifications or subdivisions of Irish potatoes according to those definitive characteristics now or hereafter recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture.

§ 945.7 Certified seed potatoes.
Certified seed potatoes means and includes all potatoes officially certified and tagged, marked, or otherwise appropriately identified, under the supervision of the official seed potato certifying agency of the State in which the potatoes are grown, or other seed certification agencies which the Secretary may designate.

§ 945.8 Handler.
Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier of potatoes owned by another person) who ships potatoes.

§ 945.9 Ship or handle.
Ship or handle means to pack, sell, consign, transport or in any other way to place potatoes grown in the production area, or cause such potatoes to be placed, in the current of commerce within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof, so as to directly burden, obstruct, or affect any such commerce: Provided, That the definition of ship or handle shall not include the transportation of ungraded potatoes within the production area for the purpose of having such potatoes stored or prepared for market, except that the committee may impose safeguards pursuant to §945.53 with respect to such potatoes.

§ 945.10 Producer.
Producer means any person engaged in the production of potatoes for market.

§ 945.11 Committee.
Committee means the administrative committee, called the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Potato Committee, established pursuant to §945.20.

§ 945.12 Fiscal period.
Fiscal period means the period beginning and ending on the dates approved by the Secretary pursuant to recommendations by the committee.

§ 945.13 Grade and size.
Grade means any one of the officially established grades of potatoes, and size means any one of the officially established sizes of potatoes, as defined and set forth in:
(a) The United States Standards for Potatoes issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (§§ 51.1540 to 51.1556 of this title), or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon;
(b) The United States Consumer Standards for Potatoes as issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (§§ 51.1575 to 51.1587 of this title), or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon; or
(c) Standards for potatoes issued by the State from which the potatoes are shipped, or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon.

§ 945.14 Export.
Export means shipment of potatoes beyond the boundaries of continental United States.

§ 945.15 Pack.
Pack means a quantity of potatoes in any type of container and which falls within specific weight limits or within specific grade and/or size limits, or any
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combination thereof, recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 945.16 Container.

Container means a sack, box, bag, crate, hamper, basket, carton, package, barrel, or any other type of receptacle used in the packaging, transportation, sale, or other handling of potatoes.

§ 945.17 District.

District means each of the geographical divisions of the production area established pursuant to § 945.22 or as reestablished pursuant to § 945.23.

Administrative Committee

§ 945.20 Establishment and membership.

(a) The Idaho-Eastern Oregon Potato Committee is hereby established consisting of eight members, of whom four shall currently be producers of potatoes for the fresh market who produced such potatoes during at least three of the last five years; at least one member shall be a producer predominately of potatoes for seed during a similar period; and three shall be handlers. For each member of the committee, there shall be an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member. The number of producer and/or handler members and alternates on the committee may be increased and the composition of the committee between producers and handlers may be changed as provided in § 945.23.

(b) Each person selected as a committee member or alternate to represent producers shall be an individual who is a producer in the district for which selected, or an officer or employee of a producer in such district, and shall be a resident thereof. A producer who handles potatoes other than of his own production shall qualify as a producer under this section, §§ 945.24, 945.25, 945.27, and 945.29, only if the potatoes of his own production constituted 51 percent or more of the total quantity of potatoes handled by him during the portion of the then current season preceding his nomination.

(c) Each person selected as a committee member or alternate to represent handlers shall be an individual who is a handler or an officer or employee of a handler, and shall be a resident of the production area.

(d) At least every six years, the committee shall review committee size, composition, and representation and recommend to the Secretary whether changes should be made, as provided in § 945.23.


§ 945.21 Term of office.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the term of office of committee members and alternates shall be for two years beginning June 1 or such other date as recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary. The term of office of members and alternates shall be so determined that approximately one-half of the total producer and handler committee membership shall terminate each year.

(b) Committee members and alternates shall serve during the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified and continue until their successors are selected and have qualified. Beginning with the 1987 term of office, no member or alternate shall serve more than three full consecutive terms: Provided, That an alternate member may serve up to three consecutive terms and then serve as a member for up to three consecutive terms without a break in service. Members serving three consecutive terms could again become eligible to serve on the committee by not serving for one full term as either member or alternate member: Provided, That in the event a position would otherwise remain vacant for lack of eligible nominees or eligible persons willing to serve, the Secretary may authorize a member or alternate member to serve more than three full consecutive terms.

[53 FR 3188, Feb. 4, 1988]

§ 945.22 Districts.

For the purpose of selecting committee members and alternate members, the following districts of the production area are hereby established: Provided, That these districts may be changed as provided in § 945.23.
§ 945.23 Redistricting and reapportionment.

(a) The Secretary, upon recommendation of the committee, may reestablish districts within the production area, may reapportion committee membership among the various districts, may increase the number of producer and/or handler members and alternates on the committee, and may change the composition of the committee by changing the ratio between producer and handler members, including their alternates. At least every six years, the committee shall review committee size, composition and representation and recommend to the Secretary whether changes should be made. In recommending any such changes, the committee shall give consideration to:

(1) Shifts in potato acreage within districts and within the production area during recent years;

(2) the importance of new potato production in its relation to existing districts;

(3) the equitable relationship between committee membership and districts;

(4) economies to result for producers in promoting efficient administration due to redistricting or reapportionment of members within districts; and

(5) other relevant factors.

(b) Membership of the committee shall be apportioned among the districts of the production area so as to provide the following representation or such other representation as recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary:

(1) Three producer members, including at least one who predominately produces seed potatoes, and one handler member, with their respective alternates, from District No. 1;

(2) One producer member and one handler member, with their respective alternates, from District No. 2; and

(3) One producer member and one handler member, with their respective alternates, from District No. 3.

[60 FR 29726, June 5, 1995]

§ 945.24 Selection.

Members and alternates of the committee shall be selected by the Secretary on the basis specified in §945.23 from nominations made pursuant to §945.25 or from other eligible persons.

[60 FR 29727, June 5, 1995]

§ 945.25 Nominations.

For the selection by the Secretary of the members and alternates of the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Potato Committee, nominations may be made in the manner indicated in this section. Nominations for members and alternates may be submitted by producers or handlers, as the case may be, or groups of either thereof, on an elective basis or otherwise.

(a) In order to provide nominations for producer and handler committee members and alternates, the committee shall hold, or cause to be held, prior to April 1 of each year, or such other date as the Secretary may designate, one or more meetings of producers and of handlers in each district to nominate such members and alternates; or the committee may conduct nominations by mail in a manner recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

(b) In arranging for such meetings, the committee may, if it deems it to be desirable, utilize the services and facilities of existing organizations and agencies, and may combine its meetings with others.

(c) At least one nominee shall be designated for each position as member and for each position as alternate member on the committee.

(d) Only producers may participate in designating nominees for producer members and alternates, and only handlers may participate in designating nominees for handler members and alternates.

(e) Each person who is both a handler and a producer may vote either as a
handler or as a producer and may elect the group in which he will vote.

(f) Regardless of the number of districts in which a person produces or handles potatoes, each such person is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of himself, his agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and representatives, in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. In the event a person is engaged in producing or handling potatoes in more than one district, such person shall elect the district within which he may participate, as aforesaid, in designating nominees. An eligible voter’s privilege of casting only one vote, as aforesaid, shall be construed to permit a voter to cast one vote for each position to be filled in the district in which he elects to vote.

(g) Nominations shall be supplied to the Secretary in such manner and form as the Secretary may prescribe, not later than May 1 of each year, or such other date as the Secretary may specify.

§ 945.26 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner specified by the Secretary pursuant to §945.25, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the committee members and alternates on the basis of the representation prescribed in this subpart.

§ 945.27 Acceptance.

Any person nominated to serve on the committee as a member or as an alternate shall qualify by filing a statement of willingness to serve with the Secretary.

[53 FR 3189, Feb. 4, 1988]

§ 945.28 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a committee member or as an alternate to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any qualified member or alternate, a successor for his unexpired term may be selected by the Secretary from nominations made in the manner specified in §945.25 or the Secretary may select such committee member or alternate from previously unselected nominees on the current nominee list from the district involved. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within 30 days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of the representation provided for in §945.24.

§ 945.29 Alternate members.

An alternate member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom he is an alternate during such member’s absence and may perform such other duties as may be assigned or requested by the committee. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member his alternate shall act for him until a successor to such member is selected and has qualified. The committee may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members.

§ 945.30 Procedure.

(a) A simple majority of all members of the committee, including alternates acting for members, shall be necessary to constitute a quorum or to pass any motion or approve any committee action, except any motion regarding a change in committee size shall require a unanimous vote. At any assembled meeting, all votes shall be cast in person.

(b) The committee may provide for meetings by telephone, telegraph or other means of communication and any vote cast at such meeting shall be confirmed promptly in writing.


§ 945.31 Expenses.

Committee members and alternates shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties and in the exercise of their powers under this subpart, and may receive compensation.
§ 945.32 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the provisions of this subpart in accordance with its terms;
(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;
(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this subpart; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 945.33 Duties.

It shall be the duty of the committee:
(a) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;
(b) To select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, to select subcommittees of committee members, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;
(c) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person;
(d) To investigate, from time to time, and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping and marketing conditions with respect to potatoes, and to engage in such research and service activities which relate to the handling or marketing of potatoes as may be approved by the Secretary;
(e) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as he may request;
(f) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and such minutes, books, and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or his authorized agent or representative;
(g) To make available to producers and handlers the committee voting record on recommended regulations and on other matters of policy;
(h) At the beginning of each fiscal period to submit to the Secretary a budget of its expenses for such fiscal period, together with a report thereon;
(i) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal period, and at such other time as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request. The report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this subpart; a copy of each such report shall be furnished to the Secretary and a copy of each such report shall be made available at the principal office of the committee for inspection by producers and handlers; and
(j) To consult, cooperate and exchange information when deemed desirable by the committee with other potato marketing committees and other individuals or agencies in connection with all proper committee activities and objectives under this subpart.

BUDGET, EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 945.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary may find are reasonable and likely to be incurred during each fiscal period for its maintenance and functioning, and for such purposes as the Secretary, pursuant to this subpart, determines to be appropriate. Handlers shall share such expenses upon the basis of a fiscal period. Each handler’s share of such expense shall be proportionate to the ratio between the total quantity of potatoes handled by him as the first handler thereof during a fiscal period and the total quantity of potatoes handled by all handlers as first handlers thereof during the same period.

§ 945.41 Budget.

At the beginning of each fiscal period, and as may be necessary thereafter, the committee shall prepare an estimated budget of income and expenditures necessary for the administration of this part. The committee may recommend a rate of assessment
§ 945.42 Assessments.

(a) The funds to cover the committee's expenses pursuant to §945.40 shall be acquired by the levying of assessments upon handlers as provided in this subpart. Each handler who ships potatoes as the first handler thereof shall pay assessments to the committee upon demand, which assessments shall be in payment of such handler's pro rata share of such expenses.

(b) Assessments shall be levied upon handlers at a rate per hundredweight of potatoes or equivalent established by the Secretary. Such rate may be established upon the basis of the committee's budget recommendations, and other available information.

(c) At any time during or subsequent to a given fiscal period, the committee may recommend the approval of an amended budget and an increase in the rate of assessment. Upon the basis of such recommendation, or other available information, the Secretary may approve an amended budget and increase the rate of assessment. Such increase shall be applicable to all potatoes assessable under this part and handled by the first handler thereof during such fiscal period.

(d) The committee may impose a late payment charge or an interest charge, or both, on any handler who fails to pay, on or before the due date established by the Secretary, the total assessment for which such handler is liable. Such due date and the late payment fee and interest rate shall be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

(e) In order to provide funds to carry out its function, after the effective date of this subpart the committee may accept advance assessments from handlers. Advance assessments received from a handler shall be credited toward assessments levied against that handler during that fiscal period. In the case of an extreme emergency, the committee may also borrow money on a short term basis to provide funds for the administration of this part. Any such borrowed money shall only be used to meet the committee's current financial obligations, and the committee shall repay all borrowed money by the end of the next fiscal period from assessment income.


§ 945.43 Accounting.

(a) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this part.

(b) The Secretary may at any time require the committee, its members and alternates, employees, agents, and all other persons to account for all receipts and disbursements, funds, property, and records for which they are responsible. Whenever any person ceases to be a member or alternate of the committee, he shall account for all receipts, disbursements, funds, and property (including but not limited to books and other records) pertaining to the committee's activities for which he is responsible, and deliver all such property and funds in his hands to such successor, agency, or person as may be designated by the Secretary, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor, agency, or designated person, the right to all of such property and funds and all claims vested in such person.

(c) The committee may make recommendations to the Secretary for one or more of the members thereof, or any other person or persons to act as trustee or trustees for holding records, funds, or any other committee property during periods of suspension of this part, or during any period or periods when regulations are not in effect and, if the Secretary determines such action appropriate, he may direct that such person or persons shall act as trustee or trustees for the committee.

§ 945.44 Excess funds.

(a) The funds remaining at the end of a fiscal period which are in excess of the expenses necessary for committee operations during such period may be...
§ 945.50 Marketing policy.

(a) Preparation. Prior to or at the same time as recommendations are made pursuant to § 945.51, the committee shall consider, and prepare, a proposed policy for the marketing of potatoes. In developing its marketing policy the committee shall investigate relevant supply and demand conditions for potatoes. In such investigations the committee shall give appropriate consideration to the following:

(1) Market prices for potatoes, including prices by grade, size, and quality, in different packs, and in different containers;
(2) Supplies of potatoes by grade, size, and quality in the production area and in other potato producing areas;
(3) The trend and level of consumer income;
(4) Establishing and maintaining orderly marketing conditions for potatoes;
(5) Orderly marketing of potatoes as will be in the public interest; and
(6) Other relevant factors.

(b) Reports. (1) The committee shall promptly submit a report to the Secretary setting forth the aforesaid marketing policy and shall notify producers and handlers of the contents of such report.

(2) In the event it becomes advisable to deviate from such marketing policy because of changed supply and demand conditions, the committee shall formulate a new or revised marketing policy in the manner set forth in this section. The committee shall promptly submit a report thereon to the Secretary and notify producers and handlers of the contents of such report on the new or revised marketing policy.

§ 945.51 Recommendation for regulations.

Whenever the committee deems it advisable that the handling of potatoes be regulated pursuant to § 945.52, or § 945.53, or both, it shall recommend to the Secretary grade, size, quality, or maturity regulation, or any combination thereof, or amendment thereto, or modification, suspension, or termination thereof, whenever it finds that such regulation, as provided in such sections, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

§ 945.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall limit the handling of potatoes whenever he finds from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulation will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such limitation may:

(1) Regulate in any or all portions of the production area, the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities, or maturities, or any combination thereof, of any or all varieties of potatoes during any period; or
(2) Regulate the shipment of particular grades, sizes, qualities, or maturities of potatoes differently, for different varieties, for different portions of the production area, for different packs, for different containers, or for any combination of the foregoing, during any period; or
(3) Fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, pack, labeling or marking of the container, or containers, which
may be used in the packaging or handling of potatoes, or both; or

(4) Regulate the shipment of potatoes by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 945.53 Shipments for specified purposes.

Whenever the Secretary finds, upon the basis of the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that it will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall modify, suspend, or terminate regulations under or pursuant to § 945.42, § 945.52, or § 945.65, or any combination thereof in order to facilitate shipments of potatoes for the following purposes:

(a) Export;
(b) Relief or charity;
(c) Livestock feed;
(d) Certified seed potatoes;
(e) Processing into specified products; and

(f) Such other purposes which may be specified by the Committee, with the approval of the Secretary.

§ 945.54 Minimum quantity exemption.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish, for any or all portions of the production area, minimum quantities below which shipments will be free from regulations issued or in effect pursuant to §§ 945.40 to 945.65, inclusive, or any combination thereof.

§ 945.55 Notification of regulation.

The Secretary shall notify the committee of any regulations issued or of any modifications, suspension, or termination thereof. The committee shall give reasonable notice thereof to handlers.

§ 945.56 Safeguards.

(a) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe adequate safeguards to prevent shipments pursuant to § 945.53 from entering channels of trade and other outlets for other than the specific purpose authorized therefor.

(b) Safeguards, provided by this section, may include, but shall not be limited to, requirements that handlers:

(1) Shall obtain the inspection required by § 945.65 or pay the assessment provided by § 945.42, or both, in connection with the potato shipments effected in accordance with § 945.53; and

(2) Shall obtain Certificates of Privilege from the committee for shipments of potatoes effected or to be effected under provisions of § 945.53.

(c) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe rules governing the issuance and the contents of Certificates of Privilege.

(d) The committee may rescind, or deny to any handler, Certificates of Privilege if proof satisfactory to the committee is obtained that potatoes shipped by him for the purposes stated in § 945.53 were handled contrary to the provisions of this section.

(e) The committee shall make reports to the Secretary, as requested, showing the number of applications for such certificates, the quantity of potatoes covered by such applications for such certificates, the number of such applications denied and certificates granted, the quantity of potatoes shipped under duly issued certificates, and such other information as may be requested by the Secretary.

INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION

§ 945.65 Inspection and certification.

(a) During any period in which regulations are in effect pursuant to § 945.42, § 945.52, or § 945.53, or any combination thereof, no handler shall handle potatoes unless such potatoes are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service, and are covered by a valid inspection certificate, except when relieved from such requirements pursuant to recommendations by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

(b) Regrading, resorting, or repacking any lot of potatoes shall invalidate any prior inspection certificates covering such potatoes insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned. During any period in which shipments of potatoes are regulated, as
§ 945.70

Compliance

(a) Except as provided in this part, no handler shall ship potatoes, the shipment of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with provisions of this subpart, and no handler shall ship potatoes except in conformity to the provisions of this subpart.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 945.80 Reports.

(a) Upon the request of the committee, with approval of the Secretary, every handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such time as may be prescribed, such information as will enable the committee to exercise its powers and perform its duties under this subpart. The Secretary shall have the right to modify, change, or rescind any requests for reports pursuant to this section.

(b) All data or other information constituting a trade secret, or disclosing a trade position or business condition of a particular handler shall be treated as confidential and shall at all times be received by and kept in the custody and under the control of one or more designated employees of the committee. Information which would reveal the circumstances of a single handler shall be disclosed to no person other than the Secretary.

(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least two succeeding fiscal periods such records of potatoes received and of potatoes disposed of by such handler as may be necessary to verify reports required pursuant to this section. The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe rules and regulations issued pursuant to this section specifying handler records and reports which the committee may need to perform its functions.

(d) For the purpose of assuring compliance and checking and verifying reports filed by handlers, the Secretary and the committee, through its duly authorized agents, shall have access to any premises where applicable records are maintained, where potatoes are held, and, at any time during reasonable business hours, shall be permitted to inspect such handlers' premises and any and all records of such handlers with respect to matters within the purview of this part.


§ 945.81 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the committee, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every order, regulation, decision, determination or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the said committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 945.82 Effective time.

The provisions of this subpart shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature attached to this subpart, and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in this subpart.
§ 945.83 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may, at any time, terminate the provisions of this subpart by giving at least one day's notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary may terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this subpart whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any fiscal period whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of producers who, during the preceding fiscal period, have been engaged in the production for market of potatoes. Provided, That such majority has, during such period, produced for market more than fifty percent of the volume of such potatoes produced for market; but such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before April 30 of the then current fiscal period.

(d) The Secretary shall conduct a referendum as soon as practicable after July 31, 1992, and at such time every sixth year thereafter, to ascertain whether continuance of this order is favored by potato producers. The Secretary may terminate the provisions of this order at the end of any fiscal period in which the Secretary has found that continuance of this order is not favored by producers who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production for market of potatoes in the production area. Termination of the order shall be effective only if announced on or before July 1 of the then current fiscal period.

(e) The provisions of this subpart shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 945.84 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart the then functioning members of the committee shall continue as trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, of all the funds and property then in the possession of or under control of the committee, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trusteeship shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.

(b) The said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall, from time to time account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall upon request of the Secretary execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant thereto.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered by the committee or its members, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the committee and upon the said trustees.

§ 945.85 Effect of termination or amendments.

(a) Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendments to either thereof, shall not (1) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart, or (2) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulation issued under this subpart, or (3) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violation.
§ 945.86 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 945.87 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the Government, or name any bureau or division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this subpart.

§ 945.88 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers, granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 945.89 Personal liability.

No member or alternate of the committee, nor any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, or employee, except for acts of dishonesty.

§ 945.90 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart, or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing, shall not be affected thereby.

§ 945.91 Amendments.

Amendments to this subpart may be proposed, from time to time, by the committee or by the Secretary.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

§ 945.100 Communications.

Unless otherwise provided by specific direction of the committee, all reports, applications, submittals, requests, and communications in connection with the marketing agreement and order, both as amended, shall be addressed to the committee at its principal office.

Definitions

§ 945.110 Order.

Order means Order No. 945, as amended, effective September 1, 1958 (§§ 945.1 through 945.91) regulating the handling of Irish potatoes grown in Malheur County, Oregon, and the counties of Adams, Valley, Lemhi, Clark, and Fremont in the State of Idaho, and all of the counties in Idaho lying south thereof.

§ 945.111 Fiscal period.

The fiscal period that began June 1, 1981, shall end July 31, 1982. Each year thereafter fiscal period shall mean the period beginning August 1 and ending the following July 31.

[47 FR 17272, Apr. 22, 1982]

§ 945.112 Terms.

Terms used in this subpart shall have the same meaning as when used in the marketing agreement and order, both as amended.
§ 945.120 General.
Whenever shipments of potatoes for special purposes pursuant to §945.53 are relieved in whole or in part from grade and size regulations issued under §945.52 the committee shall require information and evidence as to the manner, methods, and timing of such shipments as safeguards against the entry of any such potatoes into trade channels other than those for which intended. Such information and evidence shall include the requirements set forth below with respect to Certificates of Privilege.

§ 945.121 Qualification.
Before handling potatoes for special purposes which do not meet regulations issued pursuant to §945.52 a handler must qualify with the committee to handle shipments for special purposes. To qualify he must (a) apply for and receive a Certificate of Privilege indicating his intent to so handle potatoes; (b) agree to comply with reporting and other requirements set forth in §§945.121 to 945.125, inclusive, with respect to such shipments; and (c) receive approval of the committee, or its duly authorized agents, to so handle potatoes. Such approval will be based upon evidence furnished in his application for a Certificate of Privilege, and other information available to the committee.

§ 945.122 Application.
(a) Application for a Certificate of Privilege shall be made on forms furnished by the committee. Each application may contain, but need not be limited to, the name and address of the handler; the quantity by grade, size, quality and variety of the potatoes to be shipped; the mode of transportation; the consignee; the destination; the purpose for which the potatoes are to be used; a certification to the United States Department of Agriculture and to the committee as to the truthfulness of the information shown thereon; and any other appropriate information or documents deemed necessary by the committee or its duly authorized agents for the purpose stated in §945.120.

(b) The committee may require each handler making shipments of potatoes for export to include with his application a copy of the Department of Commerce Shipper’s Export Declaration Form No. 7525-V applicable to such shipment.

§ 945.123 Approval.
The committee or its duly authorized agents shall give prompt consideration to each application for a Certificate of Privilege. Approval of an application, based upon a determination as to whether the information contained therein and other information available to the committee supports approval, shall be evidenced by the issuance of a Certificate of Privilege to the applicant. Each certificate shall cover a specified period, and specified qualities and quantities of potatoes to be sold or transported to the designated consignee for the purposes declared.

§ 945.124 Reports.
Each handler of potatoes shipping under Certificates of Privilege shall supply the committee with reports as requested by the committee or its duly authorized agents showing the name and address of the shipper; the car or truck identification; the loading point; destination; consignee; the inspection certificate number when inspection is required; and any other information deemed necessary by the committee.

§ 945.125 Disqualification.
The committee from time to time may conduct surveys of handling of potatoes for special purposes requiring Certificates of Privilege to determine whether handlers are complying with the requirements and regulations applicable to such certificates. Whenever the committee finds that a handler or consignee is failing to comply with requirements and regulations applicable to handling of potatoes in special outlets, and requiring such certificates, a Certificate or Certificates of Privilege issued such handler may be rescinded and further certificates denied. Such disqualification shall apply to, and not exceed, a reasonable period of time as determined by the committee but in no event shall it extend beyond the end of
§ 945.130 Reestablishment of districts and reapportionment of committee membership.

(a) Pursuant to §945.23: (1) The following new districts are established:
   (i) District No. 1, the counties of Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton;
   (ii) District No. 2, the counties of Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneide, and Power; and
   (iii) District No. 3, Malheur County, Oreg., and the remaining designated counties in Idaho included in the production area, and not included in District No. 1 or District No. 2.

(2) The membership of the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Potato Committee shall be apportioned among the districts of the production area so as to provide the following representation;
   (i) Three producer members and one handler member from District No. 1;
   (ii) One producer member and one handler member from District No. 2; and
   (iii) One producer member and one handler member from District No. 3.

The respective alternates shall be selected on the same basis of representation as the members.

(b) The new districts are hereby established in the current fiscal year only for the purpose of making nominations of committee members for the coming fiscal year. The new districts are to be established as operating entities beginning on June 1, 1972.

(c) Terms used in this section have the same meaning as when used in said marketing agreement and this part.

[37 FR 5007, Mar. 9, 1972]

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 945.249 Assessment rate.

On and after August 1, 1996, an assessment rate of $0.0026 per hundredweight is established for Idaho-Eastern Oregon potatoes.

[61 FR 39271, July 29, 1996]
shall report to the committee the name and address of the producer of such potatoes, and each such shipment shall be handled as an identifiable entity.

(c) Pack and marking. (1) When 50-pound containers (except master containers) of potatoes are marked with a count, size or similar designation, they must meet the count, average count and weight ranges for the count designation listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Average weight (lbs)</th>
<th>Weight (lbs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Larger than 50</td>
<td>45-55</td>
<td>12-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>54-66</td>
<td>16-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>63-77</td>
<td>16-24</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>72-88</td>
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<td>121-141</td>
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<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>132-152</td>
<td>45-55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>153-174</td>
<td>50-60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Applicable to lots.
2 10 percent over or under.
3 5 percent over or under.
4 15 ounces or larger.

The following tolerances by weight are provided for potatoes in any lot which fail to meet the weight range for the designated count:

(i) Not to exceed 5 percent for undersize; and
(ii) Not to exceed 10 percent for oversize.

(2) Potatoes packed in cartons (except when used as a master container) shall be U.S. No. 1 grade or better. However, potatoes of U.S. Extra No. 1 Grade shall be no smaller that 110 size nor larger than 60 size.

(3) Size shall be conspicuously marked on all cartons (except when used as a master container) consistent with §51.1545 of the United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes (7 CFR 51.1540-51.1566).

(d) Inspection. Except when relieved of such requirement pursuant to paragraphs (e) and (f), or (g) of this section:

(1) No handler shall handle potatoes unless such potatoes are inspected by either the Idaho Federal-State Inspection Service or Oregon Federal-State Inspection Service and are covered and accompanied by a valid inspection certificate, numbered notesheet, or shipping clearance report: Provided, That a valid inspection certificate, numbered notesheet, or shipping clearance report is not required to accompany positive lot identified potatoes.

(2) Each lot shipped shall be accompanied by a copy of a valid inspection certificate, a numbered notesheet, shipping clearance report, or the lot must meet PLI requirements established by the Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

(3) Inspection certificates, numbered notesheets or shipping clearance reports for potatoes to be shipped must be issued within four days of such shipment. Otherwise, such potatoes, including lots that are positive lot identified, can only be shipped if a new inspection is performed to verify that the potatoes meet the requirements specified in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section. If the subsequent inspection verifies that the lot meets the requirements of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section, a new certificate, a new numbered notesheet, or a new shipping clearance report shall be issued and, if positive lot identified, shall reference the original PLI number, and a new PLI number need not be applied to the lot. However, if upon subsequent inspection, the lot does not meet the requirements specified in either paragraphs (a), (b), or (c) of this section, the lot shall be reconditioned in the presence of an authorized representative of the Idaho Federal-State Inspection Service or Oregon Federal-State Inspection Service prior to the close of the business day. If the lot is reconditioned prior to the close of the business day, a new certificate, a new numbered notesheet, or a new shipping clearance report must be issued, and either a new PLI number must be applied to the lot or the original PLI number must be modified. If the PLI numbered lot is not reconditioned prior to the close of the business day, all PLI numbers must be obliterated. Any inspection certificate, numbered notesheet, or shipping clearance report issued upon a subsequent inspection, including when a lot is reconditioned, must be issued within four days of shipment of the potatoes.

(4) Handlers shall provide the Committee with the destination zip codes.
§ 945.341

of all potatoes handled by permitting the Idaho Federal-State Inspection Service or Oregon Federal-State Inspection Service to review the bills of lading upon inspection to determine the destination zip codes. The destination zip codes shall be included on the inspection certificates. The destination zip codes and the quantity shall be provided by the handler to the Committee on lots which are positive lot identified, either orally or in writing. Whenever potatoes are diverted to a different destination, the handler shall notify the Committee of the new destination zip code and quantity orally or in writing as soon as practicable.

(e) Special purpose shipments. (1) The minimum grade, size, cleanliness, maturity, and pack requirements set forth in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section shall not be applicable to shipments of prepeeled potatoes as defined in paragraph (h) of this section or potatoes for any of the following purposes:
(ii) Upon request by the committee, furnish reports of each shipment pursuant to the applicable Certificate of Privilege;
(iii) At the time of applying to the committee for a Certificate of Privilege, or promptly thereafter, furnish the committee with a receiver's or buyer's certification that the potatoes so handled are to be used only for the purpose stated in the application and that such receiver will complete and return to the committee such periodic receiver's reports that the committee may require.
(iv) Mail to the office of the committee a copy of the bill of lading for each Certificate of Privilege shipment promptly after the date of shipment, unless other arrangements are made with the committee office;
(v) Bill each shipment directly to the applicable receiver.

(f) Safeguards. (1) Each handler making shipments of potatoes for charity, experimentation, or export pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section shall:
(i) First apply to the committee for and obtain a Certificate of Privilege to make shipments for each purpose;
(ii) Upon request by the committee, furnish reports of each shipment pursuant to the applicable Certificate of Privilege;
(iii) At the time of applying to the committee for a Certificate of Privilege, or promptly thereafter, furnish the committee with a receiver's or buyer's certification that the potatoes so handled are to be used only for the purpose stated in the application and that such receiver will complete and return to the committee such periodic receiver's reports that the committee may require.
(iv) Mail to the office of the committee a copy of the bill of lading for each Certificate of Privilege shipment promptly after the date of shipment, unless other arrangements are made with the committee office;
(v) Bill each shipment directly to the applicable receiver.

(2) Each handler making shipments of potatoes for canning, freezing, or "other processing" pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section shall:
(i) First apply to the committee for and obtain a Certificate of Privilege to make shipments for processing;
(ii) Make shipments only to those firms whose names appear on the committee's current list of manufacturers of potato products;
(iii) Upon request by the committee, furnish reports of each shipment pursuant to the applicable Certificate of Privilege;
(iv) Mail to the committee's office a copy of the bill of lading for each Certificate of Privilege shipment promptly after the date of shipment, unless other arrangements are made with the committee office;
(v) Bill each shipment directly to the applicable processor.

(3) Each receiver of potatoes for processing pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section shall:
(i) Complete and return an application form for listing as a manufacturer of potato products;
(ii) Certify to the committee and to the Secretary that potatoes received from the production area for processing will be used for such purposes and will not be placed in fresh market channels;
(iii) Report on shipments received as the committee may require and the Secretary approve.

(4) Each handler making shipments of certified seed potatoes pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section shall furnish, at the request of the committee, reports on the total volume of seed potatoes handled.

(g) Minimum quantity exemption. Each handler may ship up to, but not to exceed, five hundredweight of potatoes, except yellow fleshed Finnish-type potatoes, any day without regard to the inspection and assessment requirements of this part, but this exception shall not apply to any shipment that exceeds five hundredweight of potatoes. Handlers of potatoes commonly known as yellow fleshed Finnish potatoes may handle up to 200 hundredweight of such potatoes any day without regard to the inspection and assessment requirements of this part.

(h) Definitions. The terms U.S. Extra No. 1, U.S. No. 1, U.S. No. 2, Size B, fairly clean, moderately skinned, and slightly skinned shall have the same meaning as when used in the United States Standards for Potatoes (7 CFR 51.1540-51.1566), including the tolerances set forth therein. The term prepeeling means the commercial preparation in a prepeeling plant of clean, sound, fresh potatoes by washing, peeling, or otherwise removing the outer skin, trimming, sorting, and properly treating to prevent discoloration preparatory to sale in one or more of the styles of peeled potatoes described in §52.2422 of the United States Standards for Peeled Potatoes (7 CFR 52.2421-52.2433). The term other processing has the same meaning as the term appearing in the act and includes, but is not restricted to, potatoes for dehydration, chips, shoestrings, starch, and flour. It includes only that preparation of potatoes for market which involves the application of heat or cold to such an extent that the natural form or stability of the commodity undergoes a substantial change. The act of peeling, cooling, slicing, dicing, or applying material to prevent oxidation does not constitute "other processing." The terms Idaho Utility grade and Oregon Utility grade shall have the same meaning as when used in the standards for potatoes for the respective State. Other terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as when used in Marketing Agreement No. 98 and Order No. 945, both as amended. 

(Secs. 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601-674)


Editorial Note: After January 1, 1979, "Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment" regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .299) and "Handling" regulations (e.g. sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the "List of CFR Sections Affected" in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

PART 946—IRISH POTATOES GROWN IN WASHINGTON

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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or between the production area and any point outside thereof, or from any point in the adjoining States of Oregon and Idaho to any other point: Provided, That, the definition of "handle" shall not include the transportation of ungraded potatoes within the production area for the purpose of having such potatoes prepared for market, or stored, except that the committee may impose safeguards pursuant to §946.55 with respect to such potatoes.

§946.8 Producer.
Producer means any person engaged in the production of potatoes for market.

§946.9 Fiscal period.
Fiscal period means the period beginning on July 1 of each year and ending June 30 of the following year, or such other period as the Secretary may establish pursuant to recommendation of the committee.

§946.10 Committee.
Committee means the administrative committee, called the State of Washington Potato Committee, established pursuant to §946.22.

§946.11 Varieties.
Varieties means and includes all classifications or subdivisions of Irish potatoes according to those definitive characteristics now or hereafter recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture.

§946.12 Seed potatoes.
Seed potatoes means and includes all potatoes officially certified and tagged, marked or otherwise appropriately identified under the supervision of the official seed potato certifying agency of the State of Washington or other seed certification agencies which the Secretary may recognize.

§946.13 Grade and size.
Grade means any one of the officially established grades of potatoes, and size means any one of the officially established sizes of potatoes as defined and set forth in:

(a) The U.S. Standards for Potatoes issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (§§51.1540 to 51.1566 of this title), or amendments thereto or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon;
(b) U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes for Processing as issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (§§51.3410 to 51.3424 of this title), or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon;
(c) U.S. Standards for Grades of Peeled Potatoes (§§52.2421 to 52.2433 of this title), or amendments thereto or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon; and
(d) State of Washington Standards for Potatoes issued by the State of Washington Director of Agriculture, or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon.

§946.14 Grading.
Grading is synonymous with preparing for market which means the sorting or separating of potatoes into grades and sizes for market purposes.

§946.15 Export.
Export means shipment of potatoes beyond the boundaries of the 48 contiguous States of the United States, or the District of Columbia.

§946.16 District.
District means each one of the geographical divisions of the production area established pursuant to §946.31.

Administrative Committee

§946.22 Establishment and membership.
The State of Washington Potato Committee consisting of fifteen members, of whom ten shall be producers and five shall be handlers, is hereby established. For each member of the committee there shall be an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member.
§ 946.23 Alternate members.
An alternate member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom he is an alternate, during such member’s absence. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor of such member is selected and has qualified.

§ 946.24 Procedure.
(a) Nine members of the committee shall be necessary to constitute a quorum and nine concurring votes will be required to pass any motion or approve any committee action.
(b) The committee may provide for meetings by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication and any vote cast at such a meeting shall be confirmed promptly in writing; Provided, That if any assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.

§ 946.25 Selection.
(a) Persons selected as committee members or alternates to represent producers shall be individuals who are producers in the respective district for which selected, or officers or employees of a corporate producer in such district.
(b) Persons selected as committee members or alternates to represent handlers shall be individuals who are handlers in the State of Washington, or officers or employees of a corporate handler in the aforesaid State, and such persons shall be residents of the State of Washington.
(c) The Secretary shall select committee membership so that, during each fiscal period, each district, as designated in § 946.31, will be represented by two producer members and one handler member, with their respective alternates. Provided, That one producer member of the committee from District No. 5, with his respective alternate, shall be a certified seed producer.

§ 946.26 Acceptance.
Any person selected by the Secretary as a committee member or as an alternate shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary within ten days after being notified of such selection.

§ 946.27 Term of office.
(a) The term of office of committee members and alternates shall be for 3 years beginning on the 1st day of July and continuing until their successors are selected and have qualified; Provided, however, That the terms of office of the initial committee under the amended order shall be determined by the Secretary so that the terms of office of one-third of the initial members and alternates shall be for 1 year, one-third for 2 years, and one-third for 3 years.
(b) Committee members and alternates shall serve during the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified, or during that portion thereof beginning on the date on which they qualify during the term of office and continuing until the end thereof, and until their successors are selected and have qualified.

§ 946.28 Powers.
The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the provisions of this subpart in accordance with its terms;
(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;
(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this subpart; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 946.29 Duties.
It shall be the duty of the committee:
(a) At the beginning of each fiscal year, to meet and organize, to select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, to select subcommittees of committee members, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;

(b) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;

(c) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as he may request;

(d) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person;

(e) To investigate, from time to time, and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping, and marketing conditions with respect to potatoes, and to engage in such research and service activities which relate to the handling or marketing of potatoes as may be approved by the Secretary;

(f) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and such minutes, books, and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or his authorized agent or representative;

(g) To make available to producers and handlers the committee voting record on recommended regulations and on other matters of policy;

(h) At the beginning of each fiscal year, to submit to the Secretary a budget of its expenses for such fiscal year, together with a report thereon;

(i) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal year, and at such other time as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request. The report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this subpart; a copy of each such report shall be furnished to the Secretary and a copy of each such report shall be made available at the principal office of the committee for inspection by producers and handlers; and

(j) To consult, cooperate, and exchange information with the other potato marketing committees and other individuals or agencies in connection with all proper committee activities and objectives under this subpart.

§ 946.30 Expenses and compensation.

Committee members and their respective alternates when acting on committee business shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties and in the exercise of their powers under this subpart. In addition, they may receive reasonable compensation at a rate recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

[37 FR 10916, June 1, 1972]

§ 946.31 Districts.

(a) For the purpose of determining the basis for selecting committee members, the following districts of the production area are hereby initially established:

District No. 1. The counties of Chelan, Okanogan, Grant, Douglas, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Lincoln, and Adams;

District No. 2. Kittitas County;

District No. 3. The counties of Yakima and Klickitat;

District No. 4. The counties of Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin, and Whitman; and

District No. 5. All of the remaining counties in the State of Washington, not included in Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this paragraph.

(b) The Secretary, upon the recommendation of the committee, may reestablish districts within the production area and may reapportion committee membership among the various districts. Provided, That in recommending any such changes in districts or representation, the committee shall give consideration to: (1) The relative importance of new areas of production; (2) changes in the relative position, with respect to production of existing districts; (3) the geographic location of production areas as it would affect the efficiency of administering the marketing agreement and order; and (4) other relevant factors. Provided further, That there shall be no change in the total number of committee members or in the total number of districts.
§ 946.32 Nomination.

The Secretary may select the members of the State of Washington Potato Committee and their respective alternates from nominations which may be made in the following manner, or from among such other qualified persons:

(a) A meeting or meetings of producers or handlers shall be held by the committee in each district for which nominees are to be selected not later than May 1 of each year to designate nominees for members and alternates to the committee; or the committee may conduct nominations by mail in a manner recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary; and, in arranging for such meetings, the committee may, if it deems desirable, utilize the services and facilities of other existing organizations;

(b) At least one nominee shall be designated for each position as member and for each position as alternate member on the committee which is vacant, or which is to become vacant the following July 1;

(c) The names of nominees shall be supplied to the Secretary in such manner and form as he may prescribe, not later than June 1 of each year, or by such other date as may be specified by the Secretary;

(d) Only producers may participate in designating producer nominees, and only handlers may participate in designating handler nominees. Any person who operates in more than one district or is engaged in producing and handling potatoes, shall elect the classification (i.e., producer or handler), and the district within which he desires to participate in designating nominees;

(e) Regardless of the number of districts in which a person produces or handles potatoes, each such person is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of himself, his agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and representatives in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. An eligible voter's privilege of casting only one vote as aforesaid shall be construed to permit a voter to cast one vote for each position to be filled in the district in which he elects to vote; and

(f) If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner specified in this section, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the committee members and alternates on the basis of the representation provided for in this subpart.

[37 FR 10916, June 1, 1972]

§ 946.33 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a committee member or as an alternate to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any qualified member or alternate, a successor for his unexpired term may be selected by the Secretary from nominations made in the manner specified in §946.32, or the Secretary may select such committee member or alternate from previously unselected nominees on the current nominee list from the district involved. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within 30 days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of the representation provided for in this subpart.


EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 946.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it during each fiscal period for its maintenance and functioning, and for such other purposes as the Secretary, pursuant to this subpart, determines to be appropriate. The committee shall submit to the Secretary a budget for each fiscal period, including an explanation of the items appearing therein, and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such fiscal period.

[37 FR 10917, June 1, 1972]

§ 946.41 Assessments.

Each handler shall pay to the committee upon demand, his pro rata share of the expenses authorized by the Secretary for each fiscal period. Each handler's pro rata share shall be the rate
of assessment per hundredweight fixed by the Secretary times the quantity of potatoes which he handles as the first handler thereof. At any time during or after a fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment as necessary to cover authorized expenses. Such increase shall be applicable to all potatoes handled during the given fiscal period. The payment of expenses for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required during periods when no regulations are in effect. If a handler does not pay his assessment within the time prescribed by the committee, the assessment may be increased by a late payment charge or an interest charge, or both, at rates prescribed by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

§ 946.42 Accounting.
(a) Excess funds. At the end of a fiscal period, funds in excess of the year’s expenses shall be placed in an operating reserve not to exceed approximately two fiscal periods’ operational expenses or such lower limits as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish. Funds in such reserve shall be available for use by the committee for expenses authorized pursuant to § 946.40. Funds in excess of those placed in the operating reserve shall be refunded to handlers. Each handler’s share of such excess shall be the amount of assessments he paid in excess of his pro rata share of the actual expenses of the committee and the addition, if any, to the operating reserve.
(b) Accounting of funds upon termination of order. Any money collected as assessments pursuant to this subpart and remaining unexpended in the possession of the committee after termination of this part shall be distributed in such manner as the Secretary may direct: Provided, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

§ 946.43 Funds.
All funds received by the committee pursuant to any provisions of this subpart shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this subpart and shall be accounted for in the following manner:
(a) The Secretary may at any time require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements; and
(b) Whenever any person ceases to be a committee member or alternate, he shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds in his hands, together with all books and records in his possession, to his successor in office or to such person as the Secretary may designate, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor or in such designated person the right to all the property, funds, or claims vested in such member or alternate.

§ 946.50 Marketing policy.
(a) Prior to each marketing season, the committee shall consider and prepare a policy statement for the marketing of potatoes. In developing its marketing policy, the committee shall investigate relevant supply and demand conditions for potatoes. In such investigations, the committee shall give appropriate considerations to the following:
(1) Market prices of potatoes, including prices by grade, size, quality, and maturity in different packs of fresh potatoes and of the various forms of processed potatoes;
(2) Supplies of potatoes by grade, size, quality, and maturity in the production area and in other production areas, of fresh potatoes, and the supplies of various forms of processed potatoes;
(3) The trend and level of consumer income;
(4) Establishing and maintaining orderly marketing conditions for potatoes;
(5) Orderly marketing of potatoes as will be in the public interest; and
(6) Other relevant factors.
(b) In the event it becomes advisable to deviate from such marketing policy because of changed supply and demand

[37 FR 10917, June 1, 1972]
§ 946.51 Recommendation for regulations.

The committee shall recommend to the Secretary regulations, or amendments, modifications, suspension, or termination thereof, whenever it finds that such regulations as provided in §946.52 are in accordance with the marketing policy established pursuant to §946.50 and that such regulations will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

[37 FR 10917, June 1, 1972]

§ 946.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall limit the shipment of potatoes as set forth in this subpart whenever he finds from the recommendation and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that it would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act:

(1) To regulate, in any or all portions of the production area the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities or maturity of any or all varieties of potatoes during any period;

(2) To regulate the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities or maturities of any or all varieties of potatoes, or for any combination of the foregoing during any period in the States of Oregon and Idaho which have been shipped from the production area to specified locations therein for grading or storage pursuant to §946.54;

(3) To regulate the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities or maturities of any or all varieties differently for: Different portions of the production area, different uses or outlets, different packs or for any combination of the foregoing, during any period;

(4) To regulate the handling of potatoes by establishing in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity.

(b) The Secretary may amend any regulation issued under this subpart whenever he finds that such amendment would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. The Secretary may also terminate or suspend any regulation whenever he finds that such regulation obstructs or no longer tends to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall notify the committee of any such regulation issued pursuant to this section and the committee shall give reasonable notice thereof to handlers.

[37 FR 10917, June 1, 1972]

§ 946.53 Minimum quantities.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish, for any or all portions of the production area, minimum quantities below which shipments will be free from regulations issued pursuant to this part.

[37 FR 10918, June 1, 1972]

§ 946.54 Shipments for specified purposes.

(a) Whenever the Secretary finds, upon the basis of the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that it will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall modify, suspend, or terminate any or all regulations issued pursuant to this part in order to facilitate shipments of potatoes for the following purposes:

(1) Livestock feed;

(2) Charity;

(3) Export;

(4) Seed;

(5) Prepeeling;

(6) Such other purposes as may be specified by the committee with the approval of the Secretary; and

(7) Grading or storing between the districts within the production area or to and within specified locations in the adjoining States of Idaho and Oregon.
(b) The Secretary shall give prompt notice to the committee of any modification, suspension, or termination of regulations pursuant to this section, or of any approval issued by him under the provisions of this section.

§ 946.55 Safeguards.

(a) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe adequate safeguards to prevent shipments pursuant to §946.54 from entering channels of trade and other outlets for other than the specific purposes authorized therefor, and the transportation of potatoes for grading and storing to points outside the production area.

(b) Safeguards provided by this section may include, but shall not be limited to, requirements that handlers:

1. Shall obtain the inspection required by §946.60 or pay the assessment provided by §946.41, or both, in connection with the potato shipments effected in accordance with §946.54.

2. Shall obtain a special purpose certificate from the committee for shipments of potatoes affected or to be affected under provisions of §946.54.

(c) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe rules governing the issuance and the contents of the special purpose certificate.

(d) The committee may rescind, or deny to any handler the special purpose certificate if proof satisfactory to the committee is obtained that potatoes shipped by him for the purpose stated in §946.54 were handled contrary to the provisions of this section.

(e) The committee shall make reports to the Secretary, as requested, showing the number of applications for such certificates, the quantity of potatoes covered by such applications for such certificates, the number of such applications denied, and certificates granted, the quantity of potatoes shipped under duly issued certificates, and such other information as may be requested by the Secretary.

§ 946.60 Inspection and certification.

(a) During any period in which the Secretary regulates the shipment of potatoes pursuant to the provisions of this subpart, each handler who first ships potatoes shall, prior to making shipment, cause each shipment to be inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal-State inspection service or such other inspection service as the Secretary shall designate. The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe rules and regulations modifying the inspection requirements of this section in circumstances under which such requirements would create an undue hardship on growers or shippers. Provided, That all such shipments shall comply with all regulations in effect: Provided further, That proper safeguards to assure compliance are adopted.

(b) Each such handler shall make arrangements with the inspecting agency to forward promptly to the committee a copy of such inspection certificate:

Provided, however, That (1) each handler making shipments of potatoes during such period shall prior to making such shipment, determine if such shipment has been inspected and if such shipment has not been so inspected and is not covered by an inspection certificate, each handler making such determinations shall have such potatoes inspected and shall arrange for a copy of the inspection certificate to be forwarded to the committee as aforesaid, and (2) each handler who first ships potatoes after such potatoes are regraded, resorted, or repacked, or in any other way further prepared for market shall have each shipment of such potatoes inspected as provided in this section.

§ 946.62 Effective time.

The provisions of this subpart shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature attached to this subpart, and shall
§ 946.63 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may, at any time, terminate the provisions of this subpart by giving at least one day's notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary may terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this subpart whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any fiscal year whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of producers who, during the preceding fiscal year, have been engaged in the production for market of potatoes. Provided, That such majority has during such year, produced for market more than fifty percent of the volume of such potatoes produced for market; but such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before May 31 of the then current fiscal year.

(d) The provisions of this subpart shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 946.64 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart, the then functioning members of the committee shall continue as trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, of all the funds and property then in the possession of or under control of the committee, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trustees shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.

(b) The said trustee shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall upon request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant thereto.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered by the committee or its members, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the committee and upon the said trustees.

§ 946.65 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendments to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provisions of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulation issued under this subpart, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violation.

Miscellaneous Provisions

§ 946.70 Reports and records.

(a) Upon the request of the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, every handler shall furnish to the committee in such manner and at such time as may be prescribed, such information as will enable the committee to exercise its duties under this subpart.

(b) Each handler shall establish and maintain for at least 2 succeeding years such records and documents with respect to potatoes received and potatoes disposed of by him as will substantiate the required reports.

(c) For the purpose of assuring compliance with the recordkeeping requirements and verifying reports filed by handlers, the Secretary and the committee through its duly authorized employees, shall have access to such records.
(d) All reports and records furnished or submitted by handlers to, or obtained by the employees of, the committee which contain data for information constituting a trade secret or disclosing the trade position, financial condition, or business operations of the particular handler from whom received, shall be treated as confidential, and the reports and all information obtained from records shall at all times be kept in the custody and under the control of one or more employees of the committee who shall disclose such information to no person other than the Secretary, or his authorized agents. Compilations of general reports from data and information submitted by handlers is authorized subject to the prohibition of disclosure of individual handlers' identity or operations.

[37 FR 10918, June 1, 1972]

§ 946.71 Compliance.

Except as provided in this subpart, no handler shall ship potatoes, the shipment of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with provisions of this subpart, and no handler shall ship potatoes except in conformity to the provisions of this subpart.

§ 946.72 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the committee, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every order, regulation, decision, determination or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval the disapproved action of the said committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 946.73 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except, with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 946.74 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the Government or name any bureau or division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this subpart.

§ 946.75 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 946.76 Personal liability.

No member or alternate of the committee, nor any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, or employee, except for acts of dishonesty.

§ 946.77 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart, or the applicability thereof, to any other person, circumstance, or thing, shall not be affected thereby.
§ 946.78 Amendments.
Amendments to this subpart may be proposed, from time to time, by the committee or by the Secretary.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

DEFINITIONS

§ 946.100 Order.
Order means Order No. 946 (§§ 946.1 to 946.78), as amended, regulating the handling of Irish potatoes grown in the State of Washington.
[39 FR 1971, Jan. 16, 1974]

§ 946.101 Marketing agreement.
Marketing agreement means Marketing Agreement No. 113, as amended.
[39 FR 1972, Jan. 16, 1974]

§ 946.102 Terms.
Terms used in this subpart shall have the same meaning as set forth in said marketing agreement and order.

§ 946.103 Reestablishment of districts.
(a) Pursuant to § 946.31, on and after July 1, 1975, the following new districts are established:
(1) District No. 1—the counties of Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Whitman, and Lincoln, plus the East Irrigation District of the Columbia Basin Project, plus the area of Grant County not included in either the Quincy or South Irrigation Districts which lies east of township vertical line R.27E, plus the area of Adams County not included in either of the South or Quincy Irrigation Districts.
(2) District No. 2—the counties of Kittitas, Douglas, Chelan, and Okanogan, plus the Quincy Irrigation District of the Columbia Basin Project, plus the area of Grant County not included in the East or South Irrigation Districts which lies west of township line R.28E.
(3) District No. 3—the counties of Benton, Klickitat, and Yakima.
(4) District No. 4—the counties of Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin, plus the South Irrigation District of the Columbia Basin Project, plus the area of Franklin County not included in the South District.
(5) District No. 5—all of the remaining counties in the State of Washington, not included in Districts No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this paragraph.
(b) The new districts are established in the current fiscal period only for the purpose of making nominations of committee members for the coming fiscal period. The new districts are to be established as operating entities beginning on July 1, 1975.
[40 FR 12988, Mar. 24, 1975]

§ 946.104 Reapportionment of committee membership.
(a) Pursuant to § 946.25(c), membership representation of the State of Washington Potato Committee shall be reapportioned among the districts of the production area so as to provide the following members and their respective alternates:
(1) District No. 1—Three producer members and one handler member;
(2) District No. 2—Two producer members and one handler member;
(3) District No. 3—Two producer members and one handler member;
(4) District No. 4—Two producer members and one handler member;
(5) District No. 5—One producer member and one handler member.
[40 FR 12988, Mar. 24, 1975, as amended at 43 FR 52199, Nov. 9, 1978; 52 FR 13070, Apr. 21, 1987]

CERTIFICATES OF PRIVILEGE

§ 946.120 Application.
(a) Whenever shipments for special purposes pursuant to § 946.54 are relieved in whole or in part from regulations issued under § 946.52, each handler desiring to make shipments of potatoes for the following purposes shall obtain from the committee, prior to initiating such shipments, a special purpose certificate permitting such shipments:
(1) Charity;
(2) Export;
(3) Prepeeling outside the district where grown; and
(4) Grading or storing at any specified location in Morrow or Umatilla Counties in the State of Oregon.
(b) Applications for special purpose shipment certificates shall be made on
§ 946.133 Cancellation.

Whenever the committee finds that shipments of potatoes pursuant to an as determined by the committee. Any handler who has been denied a special purpose certificate or who has had a special purpose certificate rescinded may appeal to the committee for reconsideration. Such appeal shall be in writing.

[39 FR 1972, J an. 16, 1974]
§ 946.140 Handling potatoes for commercial processing into products.

Pursuant to §946.54(a)(6), shipments of potatoes for commercial processing into products may be made only in accordance with paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section.

(a) Shipments may be made to persons whose names are on the State of Washington Potato Committee’s list of manufacturers of potato products. Such list may consist of firms actively engaged in the business of canning, freezing, or “other processing” as defined in the Act.

(1) Persons desiring to have their name placed on the committee’s list shall apply to the committee. Such application shall contain the following:

(i) Name and address of applicant;

(ii) Location and description of facilities for commercial processing into products;

(iii) Expected source of potatoes for commercial processing into products;

(iv) Such other information as the committee, with approval of the Secretary, may deem necessary.

(2) Upon receipt of an application for such listing, the State of Washington Potato Committee shall make such investigation as it deems necessary, and if it appears that the applicant may reasonably be expected to use potatoes covered by the application in accordance with the requirements of this section, it shall place the applicant’s name on the State of Washington Potato Committee’s list of manufacturers of potato products.

(b) For each shipment to a person whose name is not on the committee’s list, the handler must provide evidence to the committee prior to shipment that the potatoes will be used only for processing into products. Further, he shall submit reports as prescribed by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

[39 FR 1972, Jan. 16, 1974]

§ 946.141 Late payment and interest charge.

The Committee shall impose an interest charge on any handler who fails to pay his or her assessment within thirty (30) days of the billing date shown on the handler’s assessment statement received from the Committee. The interest charge shall, after 30 days, be one percent of the unpaid assessment balance. In the event the handler fails to pay the delinquent assessment, the one percent interest charge shall be applied monthly thereafter to the unpaid balance, including any accumulated unpaid interest. Any amount paid by a handler as an assessment, including any charges imposed pursuant to this paragraph, shall be credited when the payment is received in the Committee office.

[39 FR 1972, Jan. 16, 1974]

§ 946.142 Operating reserve.

(a) The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carry over excess funds into subsequent fiscal periods as an operating reserve: Provided, That funds in the operating reserve may not exceed approximately two fiscal periods’ expenses.

(b) The funds in said operating reserve may be used (1) to defray expenses incurred during any fiscal period prior to the time assessment income is sufficient to cover such expenses, (2) to cover deficits incurred during any fiscal period when assessment income is less than expenses, (3) to defray expenses incurred during any period when assessments are suspended or are inoperative and (4) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part.

(c) Upon termination of this part any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate. To the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the handlers from whom they were collected.

(d) Terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as when used in
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 946.248 Assessment rate.

On and after July 1, 1997, an assessment rate of $0.002 per hundredweight is established for Washington potatoes.

§ 946.336 Handling regulation.

No person shall handle any lot of potatoes unless such potatoes meet the requirements of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (g) of this section or unless such potatoes are handled in accordance with paragraphs (d) and (e), or (f) of this section, except that shipments of the blue or purple flesh varieties of potatoes shall be exempt from both this handling regulation and the assessment requirements specified in § 946.41.

(a) Minimum quality requirements—(1) Grade: All varieties—U.S. No. 2 or better grade.

(ii) Size: (i) At least 1½ inches in diameter, except that all red, yellow fleshed, and white types may be 1 inch (25.4 mm) minimum diameter, if they otherwise meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1.

(ii) All Russet types, 2 inches (54.0 mm) minimum diameter, or 4 ounces minimum weight.

(iii) Any type of any size may be packed in a 3-pound or less container if the potatoes otherwise meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1.

(iv) Tolerances—The tolerance for size contained in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes shall apply.

(b) Cleanliness: All varieties and grades—as required in the United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes. For example: U.S. No. 2—“not seriously damaged by dirt,” and U.S. No. 1—“fairly clean.”

(c) Minimum maturity requirements—(1) Red, yellow fleshed and white types: Not more than “moderately skinned.”

(2) Russet types: Not more than “slightly skinned.”

(3) Pack:—(1) Domestic: Potatoes packed in cartons shall be U.S. No. 1 grade or better, except that potatoes which fail to meet the U.S. No. 1 grade only because of internal defects may be shipped provided the lot contains not more than 10 percent damage by any internal defect or combination of internal defects but not more than 5 percent serious damage by any internal defect or combination of internal defects.

(2) Export: Potatoes packed in cartons shall be U.S. No. 1 grade or better.

(d) Special purpose shipments. The minimum grade, size, cleanliness, maturity, and pack requirements set forth in paragraphs (a), (b), (c) of this section shall not be applicable to shipments of potatoes for any of the following purposes:

(1) Livestock feed;

(2) Charity;

(3) Seed;

(4) Prepeeling;

(5) Canning, freezing, and “other processing” as hereinafter defined;

(6) Grading or storing at any specified location in Morrow or Umatilla Counties in the State of Oregon, in District 5, or in Spokane County in District 1; or

(7) Export, except to Alaska and Hawaii and except as provided in (c)(2) of this paragraph.

Shipments of potatoes for the purpose specified in paragraphs (d)(1) through (7) of this section shall be exempt from inspection requirements specified in paragraph (g) of this section except shipments pursuant to paragraph (d)(6) of this section shall comply with inspection requirements of paragraph (e)(2) of this section. Shipments specified in paragraphs (d)(1), (2), (3), and (5) of this section shall be exempt from assessment requirements specified in § 946.41.

(e) Safeguards. (1) Handlers desiring to make shipments of potatoes for prepeeling shall:

(i) Notify the committee of intent to ship potatoes by applying on forms furnished by the committee for a certificate applicable to such special purpose shipments;

(ii) Prepare on forms furnished by the committee a special purpose shipment report on each such shipment, a copy of which must also accompany each
shipment. The handler shall forward copies of each such special purpose shipment report to the committee office and to the receiver with instructions to the receiver to sign and return a copy to the committee office. Failure of the handler or receiver to report such shipments by promptly signing and returning the applicable special purpose shipment report to the committee office shall be cause for cancellation of such handler’s certificate applicable to such special purpose shipments and/or the receiver’s eligibility to receive further shipments pursuant to such certificate. Failure of the handler or receiver to report such shipments by promptly signing and returning the applicable special purpose shipment report to the committee office shall be cause for cancellation of such handler’s certificate applicable to such special purpose shipments and/or the receiver’s eligibility to receive further shipments pursuant to such certificate. Upon cancellation of such certificate, the handler may appeal to the committee for reconsideration; such appeal shall be in writing;

(iii) Before diverting any such special purpose shipment from the receiver of record as previously furnished to the committee by the handler such handler shall submit to the committee a revised special purpose shipment report.

(2) Handlers desiring to ship potatoes for grading or storing to any specified location in Morrow or Umatilla Counties in the State of Oregon, to District No. 5, or to Spokane County in District No. 1 shall:

(i) Notify the committee of intent to so ship potatoes by applying on forms furnished by the committee for a certificate applicable to such special purpose shipment. Upon receiving such application, the committee shall supply to the handler the appropriate certificate after it has determined that adequate facilities exist to accommodate such shipments and that such potatoes will be used only for authorized purposes;

(ii) If reshipment is for any purpose other than as specified in paragraph (d) of this section, each handler desiring to make reshipment of potatoes which have been graded or stored shall, prior to reshipment, cause each such shipment to be inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service. Such shipments must comply with the minimum grade, size, cleanness, maturity, and pack requirements specified in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section;

(iii) If reshipment is for any of the purposes specified in paragraph (d) of this section, each handler making reshipment of potatoes which have been graded or stored shall do so in accordance with the applicable safeguard requirements specified in paragraph (e) of this section.

(3) Each handler making shipments of potatoes for canning, freezing, or “other processing” pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section shall:

(i) First apply to the committee for and obtain a Certificate of Privilege to make shipments for processing;

(ii) Make shipments only to those firms whose names appear on the committee’s list of canners, freezers, or other processors of potato products maintained by the committee, or to persons not on the list provided the handler furnishes the committee, prior to such shipment, evidence that the receiver may reasonably be expected to use the potatoes only for canning, freezing, or other processing;

(iii) Upon request by the committee, furnish reports of each shipment pursuant to the applicable Certificate of Privilege;

(iv) Mail to the office of the committee a copy of the bill of lading for each Certificate of Privilege shipment promptly after the date of shipment unless other arrangements are made;

(v) Bill each shipment directly to the applicable processor.

(4) Each receiver of potatoes for processing pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section shall:

(i) Complete and return an application form for consideration of approval as a canner, freezer, or other processor of potato products;

(ii) Certify to the committee and to the Secretary that potatoes received from the production area for processing will be used for such purpose and will not be placed in fresh market channels;

(iii) Report on shipments received as the committee may require and the Secretary approve.

(5) Each handler desiring to make shipments of potatoes for export shall:

(i) Notify the committee of intent to so ship potatoes by applying on forms furnished by the committee for a certificate applicable to such special purpose shipment. Such information shall include the quantity of potatoes to be shipped and the name and address of the exporter;
(ii) After the certificate is approved and the shipment is made, furnish the committee with a copy of the on-board bill of lading applicable to such shipment unless other arrangements are made;

(iii) Before diverting any such special purpose shipment from the receiver of record as previously furnished to the committee by the handler such handler shall submit to the committee a revised special purpose shipment report.

(f) Minimum quantity exemption. Each handler may ship up to, but not to exceed 5 hundredweight of potatoes per day without regard to the inspection and assessment requirements of this part, but this exception shall not apply to any shipment over 5 hundredweight of potatoes.

(g) Inspection. (1) Except when relieved by paragraphs (d) or (f) of this section, no person may handle any potatoes unless a Federal-State Inspection Notesheet or certificate covering them has been issued by an authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service and the document is valid at the time of shipment. Further, any bulk load shipments of potatoes not relieved in paragraphs (d) or (f) of this section must also be accompanied by a Shipping Clearance Report issued by the Federal-State Inspection Service and valid at the time of shipment.

(2) U.S. No. 1 grade or better potatoes in the State of Washington which are resorted or repacked within 72 hours of being inspected and certified are exempt from reinspection.

(h) Definitions. The terms U.S. No. 1, U.S. No. 2, not seriously damaged by dirt, fairly clean, slightly skinned, and moderately skinned shall have the same meaning as when used in the United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes (7 CFR 51.1540-51.1566), including the tolerances set forth in it. The term prepeeling means the commercial preparation in the prepeeling plant of clean, sound, fresh tubers by washing, peeling or otherwise removing the outer skin, trimming, sorting, and properly treating to prevent discoloration preparatory to sale in one or more of the styles of peeled potatoes described in § 52.2422 United States Standards for Grades of Peeled Potatoes (7 CFR 52.2421-52.2433). The term other processing has the same meaning as the term appearing in the Act and includes, but is not restricted to, potatoes for dehydration, chips, shoestrings, starch, and flour. It includes the application of heat or cold to such an extent that the natural form or stability of the commodity undergoes a substantial change. The act of peeling, cooling, slicing, dicing, or applying material to prevent oxidation does not constitute “other processing.” Other terms used in this section have the same meaning as when used in the marketing agreement, as amended, and this part.


EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g. sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

PART 947—IRISH POTATOES GROWN IN MODOC AND SISKIYOU COUNTIES, CALIF., AND IN ALL COUNTIES IN OREGON, EXCEPT MALHEUR COUNTY

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

DEFINITIONS

Sec. 947.1 Secretary.
947.2 Act.
947.3 Person.
947.4 Production area.
947.5 Potatoes.
947.6 Handler.
947.7 Handle.
947.8 Producer.
947.9 Fiscal period.
947.10 Committee.
947.11 Varieties.
947.12 Seed potatoes.
947.13 Pack.
947.14 Grade and size.
947.15 Grade.
947.16 Grading.
947.17 Export.
947.18 District.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

947.25 Establishment and membership.
§ 947.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States or any officer or employee of the United States Department of Agriculture to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 947.2 Act.


§ 947.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any organized group or business unit.
§ 947.4 Production area.
Production area means and includes Modoc and Siskiyou Counties in the State of California, and all counties, except Malheur, in the State of Oregon.

§ 947.5 Potatoes.
Potatoes means all varieties of Irish potatoes grown within the aforesaid production area.

§ 947.6 Handler.
Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier of potatoes owned by another person) who ships potatoes or causes potatoes to be shipped.

§ 947.7 Handle.
Handle is synonymous with ship and means to sell, transport, or in any other way to place potatoes, or cause potatoes to be placed in the current of the commerce within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof, or from any point in the adjoining States of Idaho and Washington and Malheur County, Oreg., to any other point: Provided, That the definition of “handle” shall not include the transportation of ungraded potatoes within the district where they were grown for the purpose of having such potatoes prepared for market, or stored, except that the committee may impose safeguards, pursuant to § 947.55 with respect to such potatoes.

§ 947.8 Producer.
Producer is synonymous with grower and means any person engaged in a proprietary capacity in the production of potatoes for market.

§ 947.9 Fiscal period.
Fiscal period means the period beginning and ending on the dates approved by the Secretary pursuant to recommendations by the committee.

§ 947.10 Committee.
Committee means the administrative committee, called the Oregon-California Potato Committee, established pursuant to § 947.25.

§ 947.11 Varieties.
Varieties means and includes all classifications or subdivisions of Irish potatoes according to those definitive characteristics now or hereafter recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture.

§ 947.12 Seed potatoes.
Seed potatoes means and includes all potatoes officially certified and tagged, marked or otherwise appropriately identified under the supervision of the official seed potato certifying agency of the State from which the potatoes are shipped, or other seed certification agencies which the Secretary may recognize.

§ 947.14 Pack.
Pack means a unit of potatoes in any type of container and which falls within specific weight limits or within specific grade limits recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 947.15 Grade and size.
Grade means any one of the officially established grades of potatoes, and size means any one of the officially established sizes of potatoes, as defined and set forth in:
(a) The U.S. Standards for Potatoes issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (§§ 51.1540 to 51.1556 of this title), or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon;
(b) U.S. Consumer Standards for Potatoes as issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (§§ 51.1575 to 51.1587 of this title), or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon;
(c) U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes for Processing as issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (§§ 51.3410 to 51.3424 of this title), or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon;
(d) U.S. Standards for Grades of Peeled Potatoes (§§ 52.2421 to 52.2433 of this title), or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon; and
§ 947.16 Standards for potatoes issued by the State of Oregon or California, or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon.

[35 FR 10741, July 2, 1970]

§ 947.16 Grading.

Grading is synonymous with preparing for market which means the sorting or separating of potatoes into grades and sizes for market purposes.

§ 947.17 Export.

Export means shipment of potatoes beyond the boundaries of continental United States.

§ 947.18 District.

District means each one of the geographical divisions of the production area established pursuant to §947.32.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

§ 947.25 Establishment and membership.

(a) The Oregon-California Potato Committee consisting of 14 members, of whom nine shall be producers and five shall be handlers, is hereby established. For each member of the committee there shall be an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member.

(b) An alternate member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom he is an alternate during such member’s absence. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member his alternate shall act for him until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified.


§ 947.26 Procedure.

(a) Nine members of the committee shall be necessary to constitute a quorum and nine concurring votes shall be required to pass any motion or approve any committee action.

(b) The committee may provide for meeting by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication and any vote cast at such meeting shall be confirmed promptly in writing. Provided, that if any assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.


§ 947.27 Selection.

(a) Persons selected as committee members or alternates to represent producers or handlers shall be producers or handlers, respectively, or officers or employees of a corporate producer or handler, respectively, in the district for which selected and shall be residents of such district.

(b) The Secretary shall select three producer members of the committee, with their respective alternates, from District No. 1; two producer members, with their respective alternates, from each of Districts No. 2 and No. 4; and one producer member, with his respective alternate, from each of Districts No. 3 and No. 5. The Secretary shall also select one handler member of the committee with his respective alternate, from each of Districts Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

(c) Any person selected by the Secretary as a committee member or as an alternate shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary within ten days after being notified of such selection.


§ 947.28 Term of office.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the term of office of committee members and alternates shall be 2 years beginning June 1 and ending May 31. The terms of office of members and alternates shall be so determined that approximately one-half of the total producer committee membership and approximately one-half of the total handler committee membership shall terminate each May 31.

(b) Committee members and alternates shall serve during the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified, or during that portion thereof beginning on the date on which they qualify during the current term of office and continuing until the end thereof, and until their successors are selected and have qualified.
(c) The initial producer member and his alternate for District No. 5 shall be selected for a period of 2 years beginning with the committee selected for the term of office beginning June 1, 1970, through May 31, 1972. The initial handler member and his alternate for District No. 5 shall be selected for a 1-year term of office beginning June 1, 1970, through May 31, 1971, and thereafter each term of office shall be for 2 years.


§ 947.29 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer the provisions of this subpart in accordance with its terms;

(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;

(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this subpart; and

(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 947.30 Duties.

It shall be the duty of the committee:

(a) At the beginning of each fiscal period, to meet and organize, to select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, to select subcommittees of committee members, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;

(b) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;

(c) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as he may request;

(d) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person;

(e) To investigate, from time to time, and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping, and marketing conditions with respect to potatoes;

(f) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and such minutes, books, and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or his authorized agent or representative;

(g) To make available to producers and handlers the committee voting record on recommended regulations and on other matters of policy;

(h) At the beginning of each fiscal period, to submit to the Secretary a budget of its expenses for such fiscal period, together with a report thereon;

(i) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal period, and at such other time as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request, and the report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this subpart; and, a copy of each such report shall be made available at the principal office of the committee for inspection by producers and handlers;

(j) To consult, cooperate, and exchange information with other potato marketing committees and other individuals or agencies in connection with all proper committee activities and objectives under this subpart; and

(k) To establish, and pay the expenses of, advisory subcommittees for the purpose of consulting with Federal, State, and other appropriate agencies with respect to the establishment of marketing research and development projects pursuant to § 947.47.

§ 947.31 Expenses and compensation.

Committee members and their respective alternates when acting on committee business shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties and in the exercise of their powers under this subpart. In addition, they may receive reasonable compensation at a rate recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

[35 FR 10742, July 2, 1970]

§ 947.32 Districts.

(a) The following districts of the production area are hereby established as follows:
§ 947.33 Nominations.

The Secretary may select the members of the Oregon-California Potato Committee and their respective alternates from nominations which may be made in the following manner:

(a) A meeting or meetings of producers and handlers shall be held by the committee in each district for which nominees are to be selected, not later than April 1 of each year, to designate nominees for members and alternates to the committee;

(b) At least one nominee shall be designated for each position as member and for each position as alternate member on the committee which is vacant, or which is to become vacant the following June 1;

(c) The names of nominees shall be supplied to the Secretary in such manner and form as he may prescribe, not later than May 1 of each year, or by such other date as may be specified by the Secretary;

(d) Only producers may participate in designating producer nominees and only handlers may participate in designating handler nominees. Any person who operates in more than one district or is engaged in producing and handling potatoes, shall elect the classification (i.e., producer or handler), and the district within which he desires to participate in designating nominees;

(e) Regardless of the number of districts in which a person produces or handles potatoes, each such person is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of himself, his agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and representatives in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. An eligible voter’s privilege of casting only one vote as aforesaid shall be construed to permit a voter to cast one vote for each position to be filled in the district in which he elects to vote; and

(f) If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner specified in this section, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the committee members and alternates on the basis of the representation provided for in this subpart.

[35 FR 10742, July 2, 1970]

§ 947.34 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a committee member or as an alternate to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any qualified member or alternate, a successor for his unexpired term may be selected by the Secretary from nominations made in the manner specified in §947.33, or the Secretary may select such committee member or alternate from previously unselected nominees on the current nominee list from the district involved. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within 30 days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made...
§ 947.35 Annual report.

The committee shall prepare and submit to the Secretary, within 2 months following the last day of each fiscal period, an annual report covering such fiscal period, and make a copy available to each handler and producer who requests it. This annual report shall contain at least:

(a) A complete review of the regulatory operations during the fiscal period;
(b) An appraisal of the effect of such regulatory operations upon the potato industry within the production area; and
(c) Any recommendations for changes.

[35 FR 10742, July 2, 1970]

§ 947.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it during each fiscal period for such purposes as the Secretary may, pursuant to the provisions of this subpart, determine to be appropriate and for the maintenance and functioning of the committee. The committee shall submit to the Secretary a budget for each fiscal period, including an explanation of the items appearing therein, and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such fiscal period.

[35 FR 10742, July 2, 1970]

§ 947.41 Assessments.

(a) Each handler shall pay to the committee upon demand his pro rata share of the expenses authorized by the Secretary for each fiscal period. Each handler’s pro rata share shall be the rate of assessment per hundredweight fixed by the Secretary times the quantity of potatoes which he handles as the first handler thereof. At any time during or after a fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment as necessary to cover authorized expenses. The payment of expenses for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required during periods when no regulations are in effect. If a handler does not pay his assessment within the time prescribed by the committee, the assessment may be increased by a late payment charge or an interest charge, at rates prescribed by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(b) Excess funds. At the end of a fiscal period, funds in excess of the year’s expenses shall be placed in an operating reserve not to exceed approximately one fiscal period’s operational expenses or such lower limits as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish. Funds in such reserve shall be available for use by the committee for expenses authorized pursuant to §947.40. Funds in excess of those placed in the operating reserve shall be refunded to handlers. Each handler’s share of such excess shall be the amount of assessments he paid in excess of his pro rata share of the actual expenses of the committee and the addition, if any, to the operating reserve.

(c) Accounting of funds upon termination of order. Any money collected as assessments pursuant to this subpart and remaining unexpended in the possession of the committee after termination of this part shall be distributed in such manner as the Secretary may direct: Provided, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

[35 FR 10742, July 2, 1970]

§ 947.47 Research and development.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may provide for the establishment of marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption of potatoes.
the marketing of potatoes. In developing its marketing policy, the committee shall investigate relevant supply and demand conditions for potatoes. In such investigations, the committee shall give appropriate consideration to the following:

1. Market prices for potatoes, including prices by grade, size, quality, and maturity in different packs, or any other shipping unit;
2. Supply of potatoes by grade, size, quality, and maturity in the production area and in other production areas;
3. The trend and level of consumer income;
4. Establishing and maintaining orderly marketing conditions for potatoes;
5. Orderly marketing of potatoes as will be in the public interest; and
6. Other relevant factors.

(b) Reports. (1) The committee shall submit a report to the Secretary setting forth the aforesaid marketing policy and it shall notify producers and handlers of the contents of such report.

(2) In the event it becomes advisable to shift from such marketing policy because of changed supply and demand conditions, the committee shall prepare a new marketing policy in accordance with the manner previously outlined. The committee shall submit a report thereon to the Secretary and notify producers and handlers of the contents of such report on the revised or amended marketing policy.

§ 947.51 Recommendations for regulations.

The committee shall recommend to the Secretary grade, size, quality, and maturity regulations, or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, whenever it finds that such regulations as provided in § 947.52 will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. The committee also may recommend modification, suspension, or termination of any regulation, or amendments thereto, in order to facilitate the handling of potatoes for the purposes authorized in § 947.54. The committee may also recommend amendment, termination, or suspension of any regulation issued under this part.

§ 947.52 Issue of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall limit the shipment of potatoes as set forth in this subpart whenever he finds from the recommendation and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that it would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(1) To regulate, in any or all portions of the production area, the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities, or maturities of any or all varieties of potatoes, or any combination of the foregoing, during any period;

(2) To regulate the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities, or maturities of any or all varieties of potatoes, or any combination of the foregoing during any period, in the States of Idaho and Washington and Malheur County in Oregon which had been shipped from the production area to specified locations therein for grading or storage pursuant to § 947.54.

(3) To regulate the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities, or maturities of any or all varieties of potatoes, or any combination of the foregoing during any period, in the States of Idaho and Washington and Malheur County in Oregon which had been shipped from the production area to specified locations therein for grading or storage pursuant to § 947.54.

(4) To regulate the shipment of potatoes by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity.

(b) The Secretary may amend any regulation issued under this subpart whenever he finds that such amendment would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. The Secretary may also terminate or suspend any regulation whenever he finds that such regulation obstructs or no longer tends to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(1) To regulate, in any or all portions of the production area, the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities, or maturities of any or all varieties of potatoes, or any combination of the foregoing, during any period;

(2) To regulate the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities, or maturities of any or all varieties of potatoes, or any combination of the foregoing during any period.

(c) The Secretary shall notify the committee of any such regulation issued pursuant to this section and the committee shall give reasonable notice thereof to handlers.

[35 F.R. 10742, July 2, 1970]

§ 947.53 Minimum quantities.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish, for any
or all portions of the production area, minimum quantities below which shipments will be free from regulations issued pursuant to this part.

[35 FR 10743, July 2, 1970]

§ 947.54 Shipments for specified purposes.

(a) Whenever the Secretary finds, upon the basis of the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that it will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall modify, suspend, or terminate any or all regulations issued pursuant to this part, in order to facilitate shipments of potatoes for the following purposes:

(1) Livestock feed;
(2) Charity;
(3) Export;
(4) Seed;
(5) Prepeeling;
(6) Canning and freezing;
(7) Processing into other products, including “other processing,” pursuant to Public Law 91-196, 91st Cong., second session (Feb. 20, 1970);
(8) Such other purposes as may be specified by the committee, with the approval of the Secretary; and
(9) Grading or storing between the districts within the production area or to and within specified locations in the adjoining States of Idaho and Washington and Malheur County in the State of Oregon.

(b) The Secretary shall give prompt notice to the committee of any modification, suspension, or termination of regulations pursuant to this section, or of any approval issued by him under the provisions of this section.

[35 FR 10743, July 2, 1970]

§ 947.55 Safeguards.

(a) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe adequate safeguards to prevent shipments pursuant to §947.54 from entering channels of trade and other outlets for other than the specific purpose authorized therefor.

(b) Safeguards provided by this section may include, but shall not be limited to, requirements that handlers:

(1) Shall obtain the inspection required by §947.60 or pay the assessment provided by §947.41 or both, in connection with the potato shipments effected in accordance with §947.54, and
(2) Shall obtain a Special Purpose Certificate from the committee for shipments of potatoes effected or to be effected under provisions of §947.54.

(c) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe rules governing the issuance and the contents of Special Purpose Certificates.

(d) The committee may rescind, or deny to any handler, the Special Purpose Certificate if proof satisfactory to the committee is obtained that potatoes shipped by him for the purpose stated in the certificate were handled contrary to the provisions of the certificate and this section.

(e) The committee shall make reports to the Secretary, as requested, showing the number of applications for such certificates, the quantity of potatoes covered by such applications for such certificates, the number of such applications denied, and certificates granted, the quantity of potatoes shipped under duly issued certificates, and such other information as may be requested by the Secretary.

[35 FR 10743, July 2, 1970]

§ 947.60 Inspection and certification.

(a) During any period in which the handling of potatoes is regulated pursuant to §947.42, §947.52, or §947.54, or any combination thereof, no handler shall handle potatoes unless such potatoes are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service, or such other inspection service as the Secretary shall designate, and are covered by a valid inspection certificate, except when relieved from such requirements pursuant to §947.53 or §947.54 or both.

(b) Regrading, resorting, or repacking any lot of potatoes shall invalidate any prior inspection certificates, and insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned. No handler shall handle potatoes after they have been regraded, resorted, repacked, or in any other way further prepared for market, unless such potatoes are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service, or such other
inspection service as the Secretary shall designate. Provided, That such inspection requirements on regraded, resorted, or repacked potatoes may be modified, suspended, or terminated under rules and regulations recommended by the committee, and approved by the Secretary.

(c) Insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned, the length of time for which an inspection certificate is valid may be established by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(d) When potatoes are inspected in accordance with the requirements of this section, a copy of each inspection certificate issued shall be made available to the committee by the inspection service.

Exemptions

§ 947.65 Procedure.

The committee may adopt, subject to approval of the Secretary, the procedures pursuant to which certificates of exemption will be issued to producers or handlers.

§ 947.66 Granting exemptions.

(a) The committee may issue certificates of exemption to any producer who applies for such exemption and furnishes adequate evidence to the committee: (1) That by reason of a regulation issued pursuant to §947.52 he will be prevented from handling as large a proportion of his production as the average proportion of production handled by all producers in said applicant’s immediate production area; and (2) that the grade, size, or quality of the applicant’s potatoes have been adversely affected by acts beyond the applicant’s control and by acts beyond reasonable expectation. Each certificate shall permit the producer to handle the amount of potatoes specified thereon. Such certificate shall be transferred with such potatoes at time of shipment.

(c) The committee shall be permitted at any time to make a thorough investigation of any producer’s or handler’s claim pertaining to exemptions.

§ 947.67 Appeal.

If any applicant for exemption certificates is dissatisfied with the determination by the committee with respect to his application, said applicant may file an appeal with the committee. Such an appeal must be taken promptly after the determination by the committee from which the appeal is taken. Any applicant filing an appeal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the committee for a determination on the appeal. The committee shall thereupon reconsider the application, examine all available evidence, and make a final determination concerning the application. The committee shall notify the appellant of the final determination and shall furnish the Secretary with a copy of the appeal and a statement of considerations involved in making the final determination.

§ 947.68 Review, records, and reports of exemptions.

(a) The Secretary shall have the right to modify, change, alter, or rescind any procedure and any exemptions granted pursuant to §§947.65, 947.66, 947.67, or any combination thereof.

(b) The committee shall maintain a record of all applications submitted for exemption certificates, a record of all exemption certificates issued and denied and the quantity of potatoes covered by such exemption certificates, a
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record of the amount of potatoes handled under exemption certificates, a record of appeals for reconsideration of applications, and such information as may be requested by the Secretary. Periodic reports on such records shall be compiled and issued by the committee upon request of the Secretary.

**Effective Time and Termination**

§ 947.70 Effective time.

(a) The provisions of this subpart shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature attached to this subpart, and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in this subpart.

(b) All rules and regulations issued by the Secretary pursuant to this part (Order No. 947, as amended), which are in effect immediately prior to the date of this amendment shall continue in effect under this subpart as originally issued, or subsequently modified, until such rules and regulations are changed, modified, or suspended in accordance with this subpart.

§ 947.71 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this subpart by giving at least one day's notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary may terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this subpart whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any fiscal period whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of producers who, during the preceding fiscal period, have been engaged in the production for market of potatoes; Provided, That such majority has, during such period, produced for market more than fifty percent of the volume of such potatoes produced for market; but such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before June 30 of the then current fiscal period.

(d) The provisions of this subpart shall in any event terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 947.72 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart, the then functioning members of the committee shall continue as trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, of all the funds and property then in possession of or under control of the committee, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trusteeship shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.

(b) The said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary: shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall, upon request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant to this subpart.

§ 947.73 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendments to either thereof, shall not: (a) Affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart; (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulation issued...
§ 947.80 Reports.

(a) Upon the request of the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to authorized employees of the committee, in such manner, on such forms and at such time as the committee may prescribe, such reports and other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part. The Secretary shall have the right to modify, change, or rescind any requests for reports pursuant to this section.

(b) Such reports may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: (1) The quantities of potatoes received by a handler; (2) the quantities disposed of by him segregated as to the respective quantities subject to regulation and not subject to regulation; (3) the date of each such disposition and the identification of the carrier transporting such potatoes; and (4) identification of the inspection certificates relating to the potatoes which are handled pursuant to §947.52 or §947.54, or both.

(c) All such reports shall be kept in the custody and under the control of one or more employees of the committee so that the information contained therein, may adversely affect the competitive position of any handler in relation to other handlers will not be disclosed. Compilations of general reports from data submitted by handlers is authorized, subject to the prohibition of disclosure of individual handlers' identities or operations.

(d) Each handler shall maintain and make available on request for at least 2 succeeding years, following his handling of potatoes, such records and documents on potatoes received and potatoes disposed of by him as may be necessary to verify reports required to be submitted to the committee pursuant to this section.

[35 FR 10743, July 2, 1970]
§ 947.86 Personal liability.
No member or alternate of the committee, nor any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever to any handler or any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, or employee, except for acts of dishonesty.

§ 947.87 Separability.
If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart, or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing, shall not be affected thereby.

§ 947.88 Amendments.
Amendments to this subpart may be proposed from time to time, by the committee or by the Secretary.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations


GENERAL

§ 947.100 Communications.
Unless otherwise provided in the marketing agreement and order (§§ 947.1 to 947.88), or by specific direction of the committee, all reports, applications, submittals, requests, and communications in connection therewith shall be addressed to the committee at its principal office.

DEFINITIONS

§ 947.110 Order.
Order means Order No. 947, as amended (§§ 947.1 to 947.88), regulating the handling of Irish potatoes grown in Modoc and Siskiyou Counties in California and in all Counties in Oregon, except Malheur County.

§ 947.111 Marketing agreement.
Marketing agreement means Marketing Agreement No. 114, as amended.

§ 947.112 Terms.
Terms used in this subpart shall have the same meaning as when used in said marketing agreement and order.

§ 947.113 Area determinations.
Immediate production area, and immediate shipping area, respectively, are each synonymous with district.

§ 947.114 Fiscal period.
The fiscal period shall begin July 1 of each year and end June 30 of the following year, both dates inclusive.


EXEMPTIONS

§ 947.120 Hardship exemption.
Handlers seeking an exemption pursuant to the provisions of §§ 947.65-947.67 shall make application to the committee on forms furnished by it. All information and conditions relative to the application will be considered promptly. The decision of the committee shall be final subject to the appeal procedures prescribed in §947.67.

[39 FR 2270, Jan. 18, 1974]

§ 947.123 Reports and records.
Any person handling potatoes under §947.120 shall record and report shipments in such frequency as the committee may prescribe.

[39 FR 2270, Jan. 18, 1974]

SAFEGUARDS

§ 947.130 Special Purpose Certificates—application and issuance.
Each person handling potatoes for special purposes under safeguard requirements imposed pursuant to this part shall apply to the committee for a Special Purpose Certificate. The committee shall make available, on request, the forms for such application as well as such report forms at it may require under §947.132.

[39 FR 2270, Jan. 18, 1974]

§ 947.132 Reports.
(a) Immature potatoes. The applicant shall identify the producer and the dates on which such potatoes will be
§ 947.133

handled in his application for a Special Purpose Certificate.

(b) Certified seed. A special purpose shipment report shall be required for each load of certified seed when shipped outside the district (§ 947.18) where grown. The shipper of such certified seed potatoes shall return the completed form to the committee within the time period prescribed on such forms.

(c) Livestock feed. (1) The committee may require the applicant to furnish information specifying the location where the potatoes are to be consumed, the anticipated quantity of potatoes to be so handled, the total acreage from which the feed will be derived and the approximate starting and ending dates for such shipments.

(2) Any person handling potatoes for this purpose shall record and report the volume handled at such intervals as the committee may prescribe.


§ 947.134 Establishment of list of manufacturers of potato products.

(a) The committee shall establish and maintain in its office a list of firms who are manufacturers of potato products handled pursuant to § 947.14(a)(5)-(7) inclusive. Such list may consist of firms actively engaged in the business of canning, freezing, or “other processing” as defined in the act; or prepeeling as described in § 52.2422 United States Standards for Grades of Peeled Potatoes (§§ 52.2421-52.2433 of this title).

(b) Persons who wish to be placed on the committee's list of manufacturers of potato products may apply to the committee and shall supply the following information:

(1) Name and address of applicant;

(2) Location and description of facilities for commercial processing of potatoes into products;

(3) Expected source of potatoes for commercial processing into products;

(4) Certification to the Secretary that potatoes received for processing will not be diverted to the fresh market;

(5) Such other information as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may deem necessary.

Upon receipt of an application for such listing, the Oregon-California Potato Committee shall make such investigation as it deems necessary, and if it appears that the applicant may reasonably be expected to use potatoes covered by the application in accordance with and to comply with the requirements of this section, it shall place the person’s name on the Oregon-California Potato Committee’s list of manufacturers of potato products.

(c) If shipment is to a person whose name is not on the committee's list of manufacturers, the handler must provide evidence to the committee prior to shipment that the potatoes will be used only for processing into products. Further, he shall submit reports as prescribed by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

(d) The committee may remove from the list of manufacturers of potato products the name of any person who fails to comply with the safeguard requirements of this part.


§ 947.141 Late payment and interest charges.

The committee shall impose a late payment charge on any handler who fails to pay his or her assessment within thirty (30) days of the billing date.
shown on the handler’s assessment statement received from the committee. The late payment charge shall, after 30 days, be five percent of the unpaid assessment balance. In the event the handler fails to pay the delinquent assessment amount, plus the late payment charge, within 60 days following the billing date, an additional one percent interest charge shall be applied monthly thereafter to the unpaid balance, including any accumulated interest. Any amount paid by a handler as an assessment, including any charges imposed pursuant to this paragraph, shall be credited when the payment is received in the committee office.

[59 FR 48784, Sept. 23, 1994]

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 947.247 Assessment rate.

On and after July 1, 1997, an assessment rate of $0.004 per hundredweight is established for Oregon-California potatoes.


Subpart—Handling Regulations

§ 947.340 Handling regulation.

No person shall handle any variety of potatoes grown in the production area, except for non-white fleshed varieties of potatoes, unless such potatoes meet the requirements specified in paragraphs (a) through (f) of this section, or unless such potatoes are handled in accordance with paragraphs (g) and (h), or (i) of this section.

(a) Grade requirements. Such potatoes grade at least U.S. No. 2.

(b) Size requirements.

(1) Such potatoes shipped to points within the continental United States shall be at least 2 inches in diameter or weigh at least 4 ounces, and such potatoes shipped to export destinations shall be at least 1 1/2 inches in diameter.

(2) Red-skinned varieties of potatoes may be shipped without regard to any minimum size requirement, if they otherwise grade at least U.S. No. 1.

(3) All non-red-skinned varieties of potatoes that measure 1 3/4 inches in diameter or less may be shipped if such potatoes otherwise grade at least U.S. No. 1.

(c) Cleanness requirements. All varieties and grades—As required in the United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes, except that U.S. Commercial may be no more than “slightly dirty.”

(d) Maturity (skinning) requirements.

(1) Round and White Rose varieties: not more than “moderately skinned.”

(2) Other Long Varieties (including but not limited to Russet Burbank and Norgold): not more than “slightly skinned.”

(3) Not to exceed a total of 100 hundredweight of potatoes may be handled during any seven day period without meeting these maturity requirements.

Prior to shipment of potatoes exempt from the above maturity requirements,
the handler shall obtain from the committee a Certificate of Privilege.

(e) Pack. Potatoes packed in cartons shall be either: (1) U.S. No. 1 grade or better, except that potatoes that fail to meet the U.S. No. 1 grade only because of hollow heart and/or internal discoloration may be shipped provided the lot contains not more than 10 percent damage by hollow heart and/or internal discoloration, or not more than 5 percent serious damage by internal defects; or (2) U.S. No. 2 potatoes weighing at least 10 ounces.

(f) Inspection. (1) Except when relieved by paragraphs (g) and (h), or (i) of this section and paragraph (f)(2) of this section, no person shall handle potatoes without first obtaining inspection from an authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service.

(2) Handlers making shipments from facilities located in an area where inspection costs would otherwise exceed one and one-half times the current per-hundredweight inspection fee, are exempt from on-site inspection provided such handler has made application to the committee for inspection exemption on forms supplied by the committee, and provided further that such handler signs an agreement with the committee to report each shipment on a daily basis and pay the committee a sum equal to the current inspection fee.

(3) For the purpose of operation under this part each required inspection certificate is hereby determined, pursuant to §947.60(c) to be valid for a period of not to exceed 14 days following completion of inspection as shown on the certificate. The validity period of an inspection certificate covering inspected and certified potatoes that are stored in mechanically refrigerated storage within 14 days of the inspection shall be 14 days plus the number of days that the potatoes were held in refrigerated storage.

(4) Any lot of potatoes previously inspected pursuant to §947.60 and certified as meeting the requirements of this part is not required to have additional inspection under §947.60(b) after regrading, resorting, or repacking such potatoes, if the inspection certificate is valid at the time of regrading, resorting, or repacking of the potatoes.

(g) Special purpose shipments. The minimum grade, size, cleaness, maturity, pack and inspection requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) through (f) of this section shall not be applicable to shipments of potatoes for any of the following purposes:

(1) Certified seed, subject to applicable safeguard requirements of paragraph (h) of this section.

(2) Livestock feed: However, potatoes may not be handled for such purposes if destined to points outside of the production area, except that shipments to the counties of Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla in the State of Washington and to Malheur County, Oregon, may be made, subject to the safeguard provisions of paragraph (h) of this section.

(3) Planting in the district where grown: Further, potatoes for this purpose grown in District No. 2 or District No. 4 may be shipped between those two districts.

(4) Between districts within the production area for grading or storing. In addition, potatoes grown in District No. 5 may be shipped for grading and storing to points in the counties of Adams, Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla in the State of Washington, or to Malheur County, Oregon, without regard to the safeguard provisions of paragraph (h) of this section.

(5) Charity: Except that shipments for charity may not be resold if they do not meet the requirements of the marketing order, and that shipments in excess of 5 hundredweight per charitable organization shall be subject to the safeguard provisions of paragraph (h) of this section.

(6) Starch manufacture.

(7) Canning, freezing, prepeeling, and “other processing” (except starch manufacturing) as hereinafter defined (including storage for such purposes).

(h) Safeguards (1) Each handler making shipments of certified seed outside the district where grown pursuant to paragraph (g) of this section shall obtain from the committee a Certificate of Privilege, and shall furnish a report of shipments to the committee on Special Purpose Shipment Report forms.

(2) Each handler making shipments of potatoes pursuant to paragraphs
(g)(2) and (g)(5) of this section shall obtain a Certificate of Privilege from the committee, and shall report shipments on Special Purpose Shipment Report forms at such intervals as the committee may prescribe in its administrative rules.

(3) Each handler making shipments pursuant to paragraph (g)(7) of this section may ship such potatoes only to persons or firms designated as manufacturers of potato products by the committee pursuant to §947.134. Further, each handler making such shipments shall obtain a Certificate of Privilege from the committee and shall promptly report each shipment to the committee on Special Purpose Shipment Report forms.

(i) Minimum quantity exemption. Any person may handle not more than 19 hundredweight of potatoes on any day without regard to the inspection requirements of §947.60 and to the assessment requirements of §947.41 of this part except no potatoes may be handled pursuant to this exemption which do not meet the requirements of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of this section. This exemption shall not apply to any part of a shipment which exceeds 19 hundredweight.

(j) Definitions. (1) The terms U.S. No. 1, U.S. Commercial, U.S. No. 2, Size B, moderately skinned and slightly skinned shall have the same meaning as when used in the United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes (7 CFR 51.1540-51.1566) including the tolerances set forth therein.

(2) The term slightly dirty means potatoes that are not damaged by dirt.

(3) The term prepeeling means the commercial preparation in a prepeeling plant of clean, sound, fresh potatoes by washing, peeling or otherwise removing the outer skin, trimming, sorting, and properly treating to prevent discoloration preparatory to sale in one or more of the styles of peeled potatoes described in §52.2422, United States Standards for Grades of Peeled Potatoes (7 CFR 52.2421-52.2433).

(4) The term other processing has the same meaning as the term appearing in the act and includes, but is not restricted to, potatoes for dehydration, chips, shoestrings, or starch, and flour. It includes only that preparation of potatoes for market which involves the application of heat or cold to such an extent that the natural form or stability of the commodity undergoes a substantial change. The act of peeling, cooling, slicing, dicing, or applying material to prevent oxidation does not constitute "other processing."

(5) The term non-white fleshed potatoes means all colored fleshed varieties of potatoes other than white-fleshed varieties of potatoes.

(6) Other terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as when used in Marketing Agreement No. 114, as amended, and this part.


EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, "Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment" regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .299) and "Handling" regulations (e.g. sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the "List of CFR Sections Affected" in the Finding Aids section of this volume.
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Definitions

§ 948.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority hereafter may be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 948.2 Act.

Act means Public Act No. 10 73d Congress, as amended and as reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended.
§ 948.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, legal representative, or any organized group or business unit of individuals.

§ 948.4 Area.

Area means any of the subdivisions of the State of Colorado as set forth in this section or as reestablished pursuant to § 948.53.

(a) Area No. 1, commonly known as the Western Slope, includes and consists of the counties of Routt, Eagle, Pitkin, Gunnison, Hinsdale, La Plata, in the State of Colorado, and all counties in said State west of the aforesaid counties.

(b) Area No. 2, commonly known as the San Luis Valley, includes and consists of the counties of Saguache, Huerfano, Las Animas, Mineral, Archuleta, in the State of Colorado, and all counties in said State, south of the counties enumerated in this definition of Area No. 2.

(c) Area No. 3 includes and consists of all the remaining counties in the State of Colorado which are not included in Area No. 1 or Area No. 2.

§ 948.5 Potatoes.

Potatoes means and includes all varieties of Irish potatoes grown within any of the aforesaid areas.

§ 948.6 Seed potatoes.

Seed potatoes or seed means any potatoes which have been certified by the official seed certification agency of the State of Colorado and bear the official tags, seals, or other appropriate identification indicating such certification.

§ 948.7 Handler.

Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person, except a common or contract carrier of potatoes owned by another person, who handles potatoes.

§ 948.8 Handle or ship.

Handle or ship means to transport, sell, or in any way to place potatoes in the current of the commerce between the State of Colorado and any point outside thereof.

§ 948.9 Producer.

Producer means any person engaged in the production of potatoes for market.

§ 948.10 Fiscal period.

Fiscal period means the period beginning and ending on the dates approved by the Secretary pursuant to recommendations by an area committee.

§ 948.11 Grade, size and maturity.

Grade, means any of the officially established grades of potatoes, Size means any of the officially established sizes of potatoes, and Maturity means any of the stages of development or condition of the outer skin (epidermis) of potatoes, as defined in the United States Standards for Potatoes issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (§§ 51.1540 to 51.1556, inclusive of this title) or Colorado grades established by the Commissioner, or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based on any of the foregoing.

§ 948.12 Varieties.

Varieties means all classifications or subdivisions of Irish potatoes according to those definitive characteristics now or hereafter recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture.

§ 948.13 Pack.

Pack means a quantity of potatoes in any type of container, which falls within specific weight limits, numerical limits, grade limits, or any combination of these recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 948.14 Container.

Container means a sack, bag, crate, box, basket, barrel, or bulk load or any other receptacle used in the packaging, transportation, or sale of potatoes.

§ 948.15 Culls.

Culls means potatoes which do not meet the requirements set forth in § 948.20.
§ 948.16 Committee.

Committee means any of the area committees established pursuant to § 948.50 or the Colorado Potato Committee established pursuant to § 948.51.

§ 948.17 Export.

Export means the shipment of potatoes to any destination which is not within the 48 contiguous States, or the District of Columbia, of the United States.

§ 948.20 Marketing policy.

(a) General cull regulation. (1) It shall be the marketing policy for the production area to maintain a general cull regulation in effect prohibiting the handling of potatoes for fresh market, except as otherwise provided in this subpart, which do not meet the requirements of the U.S. No. 2, or better, grade, 1½ inches minimum diameter and larger.

(2) Upon recommendation of the Colorado Potato Committee, or on other available information, the general cull regulation may be suspended or modified by the Secretary during a specified period with respect to any or all varieties of potatoes.

(b) Area marketing policies. Each season prior to or at the same time as initial recommendations are made pursuant to § 948.21, each area committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth the marketing policy it deems desirable for the industry to follow in handling the respective area's potatoes during the ensuing season. Additional reports shall be submitted from time to time if it is deemed advisable by an area committee to adopt a new marketing policy because of changes in the demand and supply situation with respect to potatoes. The committee shall publicly announce the submission of each such marketing policy report and copies thereof shall be available at the committee's office for inspection by any producer or any handler. In determining each such marketing policy the committee shall give due consideration to the following:

(1) Supply of potatoes by grade, size, quality, and maturity in the respective area, in the production area, and in other areas;

(2) Market prices for fresh potatoes, including grower, shipping point, and terminal market prices by grade, size, and quality in different packs or in different containers;

(3) Market prices for potatoes in other outlets, including growers' and other market price levels by grade, size, and quality;

(4) The trend and level of consumer income;

(5) Establishing and maintaining such orderly marketing conditions for potatoes as will be in the public interest; and

(6) Other relevant factors.

§ 948.21 Recommendations for regulations.

An area committee upon complying with the requirements of § 948.20 may recommend regulations, or modifications, suspension or termination thereof, to the Secretary whenever it finds that such regulations as provided for in this subpart will tend to effectuate the declared policies of the act.

§ 948.22 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall limit by regulation the handling of potatoes whenever he finds from recommendations and information submitted by an area committee, or from other available information, that such regulation would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such regulation may:

(1) Limit the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities, or maturities of any or all varieties of potatoes, or any combination of the foregoing during any period.

(2) Limit the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities, or maturities of potatoes differently, for different varieties, for different containers, for different packs, for different portions of the production area, for different purposes under § 948.23, or for any combination of the foregoing, during any period.

(3) Provide a method through rules and regulations issued pursuant to this subpart for fixing the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, or pack of the container, or containers, which may be

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used in the packaging or handling of potatoes, or both.
(4) Establish in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity.
(b) Any regulation issued hereunder may be amended, modified, suspended, or terminated by the Secretary on recommendations by an area committee, or on other available information, to provide for
(1) Such changes in regulations found necessary by changes in supplies, demand, or prices;
(2) Minimum quantities which should be relieved of regulatory or administrative obligations; or
(3) Relief from regulations no longer tending to effectuate the declared policies of the Act.
(c) The Secretary shall notify each committee of each regulation recommended by it and issued pursuant to this section. The respective committee shall give reasonable notice thereof to handlers. No regulation, except when relieving limitations, shall become effective less than two days after issuance thereof.

§ 948.23 Handling for special purposes.

Upon the basis of recommendations and information submitted by an area committee, or other available information, the Secretary, whenever he finds that it will tend to effectuate the declared purposes of the Act, shall modify, suspend, or terminate requirements in effect pursuant to §§948.20 to 948.22, inclusive, or §§948.40 or 948.77, or any combination thereof, to facilitate handling of potatoes for
(a) Relief or charity;
(b) Livestock feed;
(c) Export;
(d) Seed;
(e) Potatoes, other than certified seed, sold to a producer exclusively for planting within specific geographic limits;
(f) Manufacture or conversion into specified products;
(g) Other purposes recommended by the committees and approved by the Secretary.

§ 948.24 Safeguards.

(a) Each area committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall prescribe adequate safeguards for potatoes handled pursuant to §948.23 from entering trade channels other than those authorized by regulations and by such rules as may be necessary and incidental thereto.
(b) Such safeguards may include requirements that handlers or processors desiring to handle potatoes pursuant to §948.23 shall:
(1) Apply for and obtain Certificates of Privilege from the area committee for handling potatoes affected or to be affected under the provisions of §948.23;
(2) Obtain inspection as required by §948.40, or pay the assessment levied pursuant to §948.77, or both, except as modified pursuant to §948.23 in connection with shipments made under any such certificate; and
(3) Furnish the committee such information, and execute or obtain execution of such documents, as the committee may require.
(c) An area committee may rescind or deny to any handler permission to handle potatoes pursuant to §948.23 of this subpart if proof satisfactory to the committee is obtained that potatoes handled by him for a purpose stated in §948.23 were handled contrary to the provisions of this subpart.
(d) The committee shall make reports to the Secretary, as requested, showing the number of applications for such certificates, the quantity of potatoes covered by such applications, the number of such applications denied and certificates granted, the quantity of potatoes handled under duly issued certificates, and such other information as may be requested.

Exemptions

§ 948.28 Policy.

Any producer whose potatoes have been adversely affected by acts beyond the control or reasonable expectation of a prudent grower and who, by reason of any regulation issued pursuant to this part, is or will be prevented from shipping or having shipped during the then current marketing season, or a specific portion thereof, as large a proportion of his potato crop as the average proportion shipped or to be shipped during comparable portions of the season by all producers in his immediate
§ 948.29 Procedure.

Rules and procedures for granting exemptions may be issued by the Secretary, upon recommendation of area committees. Such rules and procedures may provide for methods of determinations by area committees of average proportions of crops shipped or being shipped in respective areas or subdivisions thereof during any or all portions of a season, for processing applications for exemption, for issuing or denying certificates of exemption, for administrative compliance with certificates issued, for reports by handlers thereon, and for such other procedures as may be necessary to administration hereof.

§ 948.30 Granting exemptions.

An area committee may issue certificates of exemption to any qualified applicant who furnishes adequate evidence to such committee:

(a) That the grade, size, or quality of the applicant’s potatoes have been adversely affected by acts beyond his control or reasonable expectations;

(b) That by reason of regulations issued pursuant to § 948.20 or § 948.22, the applicant will be prevented as a producer from shipping or having shipped as large a proportion of his production as the average proportion of production shipped by all producers in said applicant’s immediate area of production during the season, or a specific portion thereof.

(c) Each such certificate issued shall permit the person identified therein to ship or have shipped the potatoes described thereon, and evidence of such certificates shall be made available to subsequent handlers thereof.

§ 948.31 Investigation.

An area committee shall be permitted at any time to make a thorough investigation of any applicant’s claim pertaining to exemptions.

§ 948.32 Appeal.

If any applicant for exemption certificates is dissatisfied with the determination by an area committee with respect to his application, he may file an appeal with the committee. Any applicant filing an appeal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the committee for a determination on the appeal.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

§ 948.35 Research and development.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may provide for the establishment of marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption of potatoes and may make available committee information and data to any person, or to any employee of an agency or its agent, authorized by the committee as its agent with the approval of the Secretary, to conduct such projects.

INSPECTION

§ 948.40 Inspection and certification.

(a) During any period in which the handling of potatoes is regulated pursuant to § 948.20 through § 948.24, inclusive, no handler shall handle potatoes unless such potatoes are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal or a Federal-State Inspection Service and are covered by a valid inspection certificate, except when relieved of such requirements by § 948.22(b), § 948.23, or § 948.40(b).

(b) Rules may be issued by the Secretary, upon recommendation of the Colorado Potato Committee requiring inspection on regraded, resorted or repacked lots, or providing for special inspection requirements or relief therefrom. Such rules may provide distinctions, insofar as practical, between handling at shipping point and handling in receiving markets within the production area.

(c) Upon recommendation of an area committee and approval by the Secretary, any or all potatoes so inspected and certified shall be identified by appropriate seals, stamps, or tags to be
affixed to the containers by the handler under the direction and supervision of a Federal or Federal-State Inspector or the committee. Master containers may bear the identification instead of the individual containers within said master container.

(d) Insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned, the length of time for which an inspection certificate is valid may be established by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(e) When potatoes are inspected in accordance with the requirements of this section, a copy of each inspection certificate issued shall be made available to the committee by the inspection service.

(f) Area committees with the approval of the Colorado Potato Committee may recommend and the Secretary may require that no handler shall transport or cause the transportation of potatoes by motor vehicle or by other means unless such shipment is accompanied by a copy of the inspection certificate issued thereon, or other document authorized by the committee to indicate that such inspection has been performed. Such certificate or document shall be surrendered to such authority as may be designated.

COMMITTEES

§ 948.50 Area committees.

A committee is hereby established as an administrative agency for each area. Each area committee shall be comprised of members and alternates as set forth in this section or as reestablished by §948.53.

(a) Area No. 1 (Western Slope): Four producers and three handlers selected as follows:

Two (2) producers and one (1) handler from the counties of Eagle, Garfield, Pitkin, Moffat, and Routt, in the State of Colorado;

Two (2) producers and one (1) handler from the remaining counties of Area No. 1;

One (1) handler representing all producers’ cooperative marketing associations in Area No. 1.

(b) Area No. 2 (San Luis Valley): Seven producers and five handlers selected as follows:

Three (3) producers from Rio Grande County;

One (1) producer from Saguache County;

One (1) producer from Conejos County;

One (1) producer from Alamosa County;

One (1) producer from all other counties in Area No. 2.

Two (2) handlers representing all producers’ cooperative marketing associations in Area No. 2;

Three (3) handlers representing handlers in Area No. 2 other than producers’ cooperative marketing associations.

(c) Area No. 3: Five Producers and four handlers selected as follows:

Three (3) producers from Weld County;

One (1) producer from Morgan County;

One (1) producer from all other counties in Area No. 3;

Four (4) handlers from Area No. 3.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 57 FR 61774, Dec. 29, 1992, in §948.50, paragraph (a) was suspended indefinitely.

§ 948.51 Colorado Potato Committee.

The Colorado Potato Committee is hereby established consisting of six members, with alternates. Two members and alternates shall be selected from each area committee. Committee members shall be selected by the Secretary from nominations of area committee members or alternates.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 57 FR 61774, Dec. 29, 1992, §948.51 was amended by suspending indefinitely the second sentence.

§ 948.52 Alternates.

(a) For each committee member there shall be an alternate who shall have the same qualifications. During a member’s absence, or when called upon to do so in accordance with the terms hereof, or in the event of a member’s death, removal, resignation, or disqualification, an alternate shall act in his place and stead until the member’s successor is selected and has qualified.

(b) Area committees, with the Secretary’s approval, may provide through rules for members or for alternates to recommend regulations for early crop potatoes or for late crop potatoes and to specify the particular crop for which each group shall be responsible.

§ 948.53 Reestablishment.

Areas, subdivisions of areas, the distribution of representation among the subdivision of areas, or among marketing organizations within respective
§ 948.54 Eligibility.

Area committee members and alternates shall be individuals who shall be residents of, and producers or handlers, as the case may be, in the respective area. Also, each member or alternate to qualify as a representative (a) for producers shall be a producer, or an officer or employee of a producer; (b) for producer’s cooperative marketing associations shall be members or employees of such associations; or (c) for handlers other than cooperative marketing associations shall be a handler, or an officer or employee of a handler.

§ 948.55 Term of office.

The term of office of each area committee member and alternate shall be for two years. The term of office for Colorado Potato Committee members and alternates shall be for one year. The dates on which terms of office for each committee shall begin and end shall be established by the Secretary pursuant to respective committee recommendations. Terms of office of area committee members shall be arranged so that approximately one-half shall terminate each year. Determination of which initial members and alternates shall serve for one year or two years shall be by lot.

§ 948.56 Nomination and selection.

(a) Each area committee shall hold or cause to be held, not less than 15 days prior to the expiration date of respective terms of office, meetings of producers and handlers for each subdivision in which terms expire or in which vacancies otherwise occur. (b) At each such meeting one or more nominees shall be designated for each impending vacancy as member or alternate. Such designation may be by ballot or by motion at the option of those present in voting capacity.

(c) Only producers may participate in designating producer nominees; only handlers may participate in designating handler nominees; and only duly authorized representatives of producers’ cooperative marketing associations may participate in designating nominees to represent such associations. If no separate representation is provided for producers’ cooperative marketing associations, duly authorized representatives of such associations may participate in designating handler nominees.

(d) Each producers’ cooperative marketing association shall be entitled to cast only one vote in designating nominees to represent such associations. Each producer and each handler shall be entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of himself, his agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and representatives.

(e) If a producer, handler, or producers’ cooperative marketing association is engaged in producing or handling potatoes in more than one area, or in more than one subdivision of an area, such producer, handler, or producers’ cooperative marketing association shall elect the area or subdivision in which he may participate in designating nominees. In no event shall there be participation in more than one area or subdivision.

§ 948.57 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made pursuant to the provisions of §948.56 by the date provided therein, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select members and alternates on the basis of the representation provided for in this part.

§ 948.58 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member or alternate, a successor for his unexpired term may be selected by the Secretary from nominations made
pursuant to §948.56, from previously unselected nominees on the current nominee list, or from other eligible persons.

§ 948.59 Qualification.
Each person selected as a member or as an alternate shall qualify by promptly filing a written acceptance with the Secretary.

§ 948.60 Compensation and expenses.
(a) Members of each area committee and their alternates shall serve without salary, but may be compensated at a rate not in excess of $10 per day while engaged on committee business, and may be reimbursed for necessary expenses actually incurred while so engaged. At the discretion of an area committee, alternates may be requested to attend any or all committee meetings and receive compensation and expenses therefor regardless of attendance by the respective members.

(b) The compensation and expenses of members and alternates of the Colorado Potato Committee shall be paid by the respective area committee they represent.

(c) Such other expenses as may be incurred by the Colorado Potato Committee pursuant to a budget of expenses approved by the Secretary shall be allotted to, and paid by, one or more of the area committees, as may be specified in an order issued by the Secretary pursuant to the provisions of this subpart.

§ 948.61 Procedure.
(a) A majority of all members of a committee shall be necessary to constitute a quorum or to pass and motion or approve any committee action.

(b) Each committee may provide for the members thereof, including the alternate members when acting as members, to vote by mail, telegraph, telephone, or other means of communication, provided that any such vote cast orally shall be confirmed promptly in writing. If any assembled meeting is held all votes shall be cast in person.

§ 948.62 Powers.
Each committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer the provisions of this subpart as specified herein;
(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;
(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 948.63 Duties.
(a) Each committee shall:

(1) Meet and organize as soon as practical after the beginning of each term of office, select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, select subcommittees and adopt such rules and procedures for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;

(2) Act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;

(3) Appoint such employees, agents and representatives as it may deem necessary and define the duties of each;

(4) Keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all its acts and transactions. Such minutes, books and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary;

(5) Furnish promptly notices of meetings, copies of the minutes of each committee meeting, and such other reports or information as may be requested by the Secretary, including annual reports of each area committee’s operations for the preceding marketing season or fiscal period;

(6) Make available to producers, and to other area committees and the Colorado Potato Committee the committee’s voting record on recommended regulations and other matters of policy;

(7) Meet jointly with other area committees when requested to do so by the Colorado Potato Committee;

(8) Consult, cooperate, and exchange information with other area committees, with other marketing agreement committees and other agencies or individuals in connection with proper committee activities and objectives;

(9) Take any proper action necessary to carry out the provisions of this subpart; and
§ 948.75 Expenses.

Each area committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary may find are reasonable and likely to be incurred during each fiscal period for its maintenance and functioning, and for purposes determined to be appropriate for administration of this part. Handlers shall share expenses upon the basis of a fiscal period. Each handler’s share of such expenses shall be proportionate to the ratio between the total quantity of potatoes handled by him as the first handler thereof during a fiscal period and the total quantity of potatoes handled by all handlers as first handlers thereof during such fiscal period.

§ 948.76 Budget.

As soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period and as may be necessary thereafter, each area committee shall prepare an estimated budget of income and expenditures necessary for its administration of this part. Each area committee may recommend a rate of assessment calculated to provide adequate funds to defray its proposed expenditures. Each area committee shall present such budget to the Secretary with an accompanying report showing the basis for its calculations.

§ 948.77 Assessments.

(a) The funds to cover each area committee’s expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments upon handlers as provided in this subpart. Each handler who first handles potatoes under this part, shall pay assessments to his respective area committee upon demand, which assessments shall be in payment of such handler’s pro rata share of the area committee’s expenses.

(b) Assessments shall be levied upon handlers at rates established by the Secretary. Such rates may be established upon the basis of each area committee’s budget, recommendations, and other available information. Such rates may be applied to specified containers used in the production area.

(c) At any time during, or subsequent to, a given fiscal period each area committee may recommend the approval of an amended budget and an increase in the rate of assessment. Upon the basis of such recommendations, or other available information, the Secretary may approve an amended budget and increase the rate of assessment. Such increase shall be applicable to all potatoes grown within the particular area where an area committee recommends such increase and which were handled by the first handler thereof during such fiscal period.

(d) The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of each area committee may be required throughout the period it is in effect irrespective to whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(e) In order to provide funds to enable each area committee to perform its functions under this part, handlers may make advance payment of assessments.

§ 948.78 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall
be accounted for in accordance with one of the following:

(1) If such excess is not retained in a reserve, as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, it shall be refunded proportionately to the persons from whom it was collected.

(2) An area committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carry over such excess into subsequent fiscal periods as a reserve: Provided, That funds already in the reserve are less than approximately two fiscal period's expenses. Such reserve funds may be used (i) to defray expenses, during any fiscal period, prior to the time assessment income is sufficient to cover such expenses; (ii) to cover deficits incurred during any fiscal period when assessment income is less than expenses; (iii) to defray expenses incurred during any period when any or all provisions of this subpart are suspended or are inoperative; (iv) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this subpart. Upon such termination, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate. To the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) All funds received by an area committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purposes specified herein. The Secretary may at any time require an area committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

(c) Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of an area committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds in his possession to such committee, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such committee, full title to all of the property funds and claims vested in such member pursuant to this part.

(d) Each area committee may make recommendations to the Secretary for one or more of the members thereof, or any other person, to act as a trustee for handling records, funds, or any other committee property during periods of suspension of this subpart, or during any period or periods when regulations are not in effect and if the Secretary determines such action appropriate, he may direct that such person or persons shall act as trustee or trustees for such committee.

REPORTS

§ 948.80 Reports.

Upon request of an area committee or of the Colorado Potato Committee through an area committee, each handler within the respective area of such area committee shall furnish to the area committee in such manner and at such time as it may prescribe, reports and other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part.

(a) Such reports may include, but are not necessarily limited to the following examples:

(1) The quantities of potatoes received by a handler during any or all periods of a season;

(2) The quantities disposed of by him, segregated as to quantities subject to regulation, and where necessary segregated as to types of outlets and special or modified regulations applicable to alternative outlets, and including quantities not subject to grade, inspection, assessment, or other similar regulations;

(3) The date of each such disposition and the identification of the carrier transporting such potatoes;

(4) Information essential to identification of any or all specific quantities, lots, and disposition of potatoes handled under §§ 948.23 to 948.30, inclusive, which may include identification of inspection certificates, exemption certificates, certificates of privilege, or other appropriate identification, including the destination of each special shipment, where necessary.

(b) All such reports shall be held under appropriate protective classification and custody by the committee, or duly appointed employees thereof, so that the information contained therein which may adversely affect the competitive position of any handler in relation to other handlers will not be disclosed. Compilations of general reports
§ 948.81

from data submitted by handlers is authorized, subject to prohibition of disclosure of individual handlers’ identities or operations.

(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least two succeeding years such records of the potatoes received and disposed of by such handler as may be necessary to verify the reports he submits to the committee pursuant to this section.

COMPLIANCE

§ 948.81 Compliance.

Except as provided in this subpart, no handler shall handle potatoes, the handling of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with provisions of this subpart, and no handler shall handle potatoes except in conformity to the provisions of this subpart.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 948.82 Right of the Secretary.

The members of each area committee (including successors and alternates) and any agent or employee appointed or employed by any committee shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every order, regulation, decision, determination or other act of each committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the said committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 948.83 Effective time.

The provisions of this subpart or any amendments thereto shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in this subpart.


§ 948.84 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate any or all provisions of this subpart by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary may at any time terminate or suspend the operations of any or all of the provisions of this subpart whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any fiscal period whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of producers, who during a representative period, as determined by the Secretary have been engaged in the production of potatoes for market: Provided, That such majority has, during such representative period, produced for market more than fifty percent of the volume of such potatoes produced for market.

(d) The provisions of this subpart shall in any event terminate whenever the provisions of the Act authorizing them cease to be in effect.


§ 948.85 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart the then functioning members of each area committee shall continue as joint trustees for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of their respective area committee of all funds and property then in the possession of or under control of the committee, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trusteeship shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.

(b) The said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall from time to time account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of said committees and of the trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property.
§ 948.102 Personal liability.

No member or alternate of any committee or any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, agent, or employee, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct or gross negligence.

§ 948.86 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart or the issuance of any amendments to either thereof, shall not (a) effect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart; or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulations issued under this subpart; or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violations.

§ 948.87 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 948.88 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the United States or name any agency in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this subpart.

§ 948.89 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the Act or otherwise, or in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.
§ 948.103 Fiscal period.

Pursuant to § 948.10, the fiscal periods for each area shall be as follows:

(a) Area No. 1 and Area No. 3 shall begin July 1 and end June 30, of the following year, both dates inclusive;

(b) Area No. 2 shall begin September 1 and end August 31, of the following year, both dates inclusive. The 1986-87 fiscal period which began July 1, 1986, will be extended two months to August 31, 1987.

[52 FR 12515, Apr. 17, 1987]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 57 FR 61774, Dec. 29, 1992, in § 948.103, in paragraph (a), the words "Area No. 1 and" were suspended indefinitely.

§ 948.104 Term of office.

(a) Pursuant to § 948.55, the two-year term of office for area committee members and alternates shall be as follows:

(1) Area No. 1 and Area No. 2 shall begin June 1 and end May 31 of the second year following;

(2) Area No. 3 shall begin May 1 and end April 30 of the second year following.

(b) The one-year term of office of Colorado Potato Committee members shall begin as of June 1 of each year.

[52 FR 12515, Apr. 17, 1987]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 57 FR 61774, Dec. 29, 1992, in § 948.104, in paragraph (a)(1), the words ‘Area No. 1 and’ were suspended indefinitely.

Safeguards

SOURCE: Sections 948.120 through 948.126 appear at 26 FR 10792, Nov. 18, 1961, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961.

§ 948.120 General.

Whenever shipments of potatoes for special purposes under § 948.23 are relieved in whole or in part from grade and size regulations issued under § 948.22 the committee shall require information and evidence as to the manner, methods, and timing of such shipments as safeguards against the entry of any such potatoes into trade channels other than those for which intended. Such information and evidence shall include the requirements set forth below with respect to Certificates of Privilege.

§ 948.121 Qualification.

Before handling potatoes for special purposes which do not meet regulations issued under § 948.22 a handler must qualify with the committee to handle shipments for special purposes. To qualify he must (a) apply for and receive a Certificate of Privilege indicating his intent to so handle potatoes; (b) agree to comply with reporting and other requirements set forth in §§ 948.121 to 948.125, inclusive, with respect to such shipments; and (c) receive approval of the committee to so handle potatoes. Such approval will be based upon evidence furnished in his application for a Certificate of Privilege, and other information available to the committee.

§ 948.122 Application.

(a) Application for Certificate of Privilege shall be made in person, by telephone, or on forms furnished by the committee. Each application may contain, but need not be limited to, the name and address of the handler; the quantity by grade, size, quality and variety of the potatoes to be shipped; the mode of transportation; the consignee; the destination; the purpose for which the potatoes are to be used; a certification to the United States Department of Agriculture and to the committee as to the truthfulness of the information shown thereon; and any other appropriate information or documents deemed necessary by the committee for the purposes stated in § 948.120.

§ 948.123 Approval.

The committee or its duly authorized agents shall give prompt consideration to each application for a Certificate of Privilege. Approval of an application based upon a determination as to whether the information contained therein and other information available to the committee supports approval, shall be evidenced by the issuance of a Certificate of Privilege to the applicant. Each certificate shall cover a specified period, and specified qualities and quantities of potatoes to
be sold or transported to the designated consignee for the purposes declared.

§ 948.124 Reports.

Each handler of potatoes shipping under Certificates of Privilege shall supply the committee with reports as requested by the committee or its duly authorized agents showing the name and address of the shipper; the car or truck identification; the loading point; destination; consignee; the inspection certificate number when inspection is required; and any other information deemed necessary by the committee.

§ 948.125 Disqualification.

The committee from time to time may conduct surveys of handling of potatoes for special purposes requiring Certificates of Privilege to determine whether handlers are complying with the requirements and regulations applicable to such certificates. Whenever the committee finds that a handler or consignee is failing to comply with requirements and regulations applicable to handling of potatoes in special outlets, and requiring such certificates, a Certificate or Certificates of Privilege issued such handler may be rescinded and further certificates denied. Such disqualification shall apply to, and not exceed, a reasonable period of time as determined by the committee but in no event shall it extend beyond the end of the succeeding fiscal period. Any handler who has a certificate rescinded or denied may appeal to the committee in writing for reconsideration of his disqualification.

§ 948.126 General cull regulation.

(a) No handler shall handle potatoes grown in the State of Colorado which do not meet the requirements of U.S. No. 2 or better grade, or are less than 1½ inches in diameter.

(b) This General Cull Regulation shall remain in effect until suspended or modified pursuant to §948.20(a)(2).

(c) The term U.S. No. 2 grade has the same meaning as when used in the U.S. Standards for Potatoes (§§51.1540 to 51.1556 of this title), or amendments thereto or modifications thereof.

(d) Applicability to imports: Pursuant to section 608e–1 of the act and §900.1 Import Regulations; Irish potatoes (part 980 of this chapter), in the absence of more restrictive regulations in effect for potatoes grown in Areas Nos. 2 and 3 in Colorado, this cull regulation shall be used in a basis for import regulations for the red skinned, round type and for other round type potatoes, during the periods specified and as designated in said §980.1 of this chapter.

[35 FR 11988, July 25, 1970]

§ 948.130 Application for exemption certificates.

Any producer applying for exemption from any grade and size regulation issued under §948.22 shall make application to the respective area committee for the area in which the applicant’s potatoes were grown or are stored, on forms to be furnished by the area committee. The application shall include:

(a) The name and address of the applicant;

(b) The location, or locations, of the potatoes with respect to which exemption is requested;

(c) The total estimated quantity of potatoes (excluding culls) produced by the applicant during the current season, stated in hundredweights, by varieties, grades, and sizes;

(d) The estimated percentage of the applicant’s potato crop (excluding culls) which cannot be shipped because of grade and size regulations then in effect and the acts beyond his control or reasonable expectation adversely affecting his potatoes;

(e) The quantity of potatoes of each variety (excluding culls) which has already been sold or otherwise shipped during the current season;

(f) The signature of the applicant and certification that the statements given in the application are true and correct; and

(g) Such additional information as the area committee may find necessary in making a determination regarding

EXEMPTIONS

§ 948.131 Federal-State inspection reports.

Each application for exemption shall be accompanied by a written report of a Federal-State Inspector, which shall contain the following:

(a) A statement by the inspector that he personally inspected the potatoes with respect to which exemption is requested, and that he took a representative sample of such potatoes;

(b) A statement of the percentage of the potatoes (excluding culls) which fail to meet the requirements of the grade and size regulations then in effect;

(c) A statement of the defects or damage causing the potatoes to fail to meet grade and size requirements then in effect.

In the event that more than one variety of potatoes is being regulated the above percentage shall be determined separately for each variety of the applicant's potatoes. The cost of Federal-State inspection and report shall be borne by the applicant for exemption.

§ 948.132 Issuance of exemption certificates.

(a) The respective area committee receiving an application for exemption shall give prompt consideration there to and determine on the basis of the statements and facts therein contained and the factors set forth in § 948.30 whether the application may be approved. The determination, if favorable, shall be evidenced by the issuance of a certificate of exemption pursuant to §§ 948.28 through 948.32. If the applicant's request for exemption is denied, he shall be so notified in writing.

(b) Each certificate of exemption issued as provided in this subpart, shall contain the name and address of the applicant, the location of his farm or ranch, the location, or locations, of all potatoes remaining to be shipped, the total quantity of potatoes which may be shipped under the certificate of exemption, and such other information as the area committee may deem desirable.

(c) The committee may furnish each applicant receiving a certificate of exemption with appropriate subcertificates of exemption to identify each lot of exempted potatoes and a subcertificate shall be transferable with the lot of potatoes to which it applies. Each applicant receiving a certificate of exemption shall report each shipment of potatoes made under such certificate to the respective area committee issuing the certificate. The report shall state the name and address of the person to whom the potatoes were sold, the quantity sold, the date of transfer, and such other information as the committee may request.

MODIFICATION OF INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

§ 948.140 Application.

Any handler whose packing facilities are located in an area where inspection is not readily available or the actual cost for inspection would otherwise exceed 3½ times the current per hundredweight inspection fee, may apply to the respective area committee for a waiver from the reinspection requirements. Applications shall be made on forms furnished by the respective area committee and shall contain such information as the respective area committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may find necessary in making a determination regarding the issuance of such waiver.

[55 FR 41181, Oct. 10, 1990]

§ 948.141 Issuance.

Each respective area committee shall give prompt consideration to each application for a waiver from reinspection. In granting a waiver, the handler shall agree to comply with all marketing order requirements. Approval of an application shall be evidenced by the issuance of an applicable waiver by the respective area committee to the handler.

[55 FR 41181, Oct. 10, 1990]

§ 948.142 Reports.

Each handler shipping potatoes pursuant to a waiver from reinspection shall report periodically as specified by the respective area committee on forms furnished by the respective committee the following information on...
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 948.143 Cancellation.

Whenever the respective area committee finds that shipments of potatoes pursuant to a reinspection waiver are not in accordance with the established application and safeguard provisions, such waiver may be cancelled.

[55 FR 41181, Oct. 10, 1990]

§ 948.150 Reestablishment of committee membership.

Pursuant to §948.53, membership on each area committee shall be reestablished as follows:

(a) Area No. 2 (San Luis Valley): Seven producers and five handlers selected as follows:
   Two (2) producers from Rio Grande County;
   One (1) producer from Chaffee County and Saguache County;
   One (1) producer from Conejos County;
   Two (2) producers from Alamosa County;
   One (1) producer from all other counties in Area No. 2;
   Two (2) handlers representing bulk handlers in Area No. 2;
   Three (3) handlers representing handlers in Area No. 2 other than bulk handlers.

(b) Area No. 3: Five producers and four handlers selected as follows:
   Three (3) producers from Weld County;
   Two (2) producers from all other counties in Area No. 3;
   Two (2) handlers from Weld County;
   Two (2) handlers from all other counties in Area No. 3.


§ 948.151 Colorado Potato Committee membership.

The Colorado Potato Committee shall be comprised of six members and alternates selected by the Secretary. Three members and three alternates shall be selected from nominations of Area 2 committee members or alternates, and three members and three alternates shall be selected from nominations of Area 3 committee members or alternates.

[57 FR 61774, Dec. 29, 1992]

§ 948.153 Reestablishment of area.

Pursuant to §948.53, Area No. 2 is reestablished as follows:

Area No. 2 (San Luis Valley) includes and consists of the counties of Chaffee, Saguache, Huerfano, Las Animas, Mineral, Archuleta, Rio Grande, Conejos, Costilla, and Alamosa, in the State of Colorado.

[60 FR 16566, Mar. 31, 1995]

Subpart—Accounting and Collections

§ 948.200 Accounting and collections.

(a) Each handler’s assessment account with Area No. 2 (San Luis Valley) Committee shall become due and payable upon presentation of a statement thereof to such handler.

(b) If settlement of such an assessment account is not completed on or before the 20th day following presentation of a statement of such account, each handler failing to so complete settlement of his account may be declared delinquent by said area committee.

(c) The name of each person who is declared delinquent may be forwarded to the Secretary and, in addition, the names of persons declared delinquent pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section may be publicized by said area committee.

(d) Terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as when used in Marketing Agreement No. 97 and Order No. 948 (§§ 948.1 to 948.92).


§ 948.215 Assessment rate.

On and after July 1, 1996, an assessment rate of $0.01 per hundredweight is established for Colorado Area III potatoes.

[61 FR 29636, June 12, 1996]
§ 948.216 Assessment rate.

On and after September 1, 1996, an assessment rate of $0.0030 per hundredweight is established for Colorado Area II potatoes.

[61 FR 36814, July 15, 1996]

Subpart—Handling Regulations

§ 948.386 Handling regulation.

On or after March 24, 1988, no person shall handle any lot of potatoes grown in Area No. 2 unless such potatoes meet the requirements of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section, or unless such potatoes are handled in accordance with paragraphs (d) and (e), or (f) of this section.

(a) Minimum grade and size requirements—(1) Round varieties, U.S. No. 2, or better grade, 2 inches minimum diameter.

(2) Long varieties. U.S. No. 2, or better grade, 1 7/8 inches minimum diameter.

(3) All varieties. Size B, if U.S. No. 1.

(4) All varieties. 1-inch minimum diameter to 1 3/4 inches maximum diameter, if at least U.S. No. 1 grade.

(5) None of the above categories of potatoes identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(5) of this section may be commingled in the same bag or other container.

(b) Maturity (skinning) requirements.

From August 25 through October 31 minimum maturity requirements shall be:

(1) For U.S. No. 2 grade. Not more than “moderately skinned.”

(2) All other grades. Not more than “slightly skinned.”

(c) Inspection. (1) No handler shall handle any potatoes for which inspection is required unless an appropriate inspection certificate has been issued with respect thereto and the certificate is valid at the time of shipment. For purposes of operation under this part it is hereby determined pursuant to §948.40(d) that each inspection certificate shall be valid for a period not to exceed five days following the date of inspection as shown on the inspection certificate.

(2) No handler may transport or cause the transportation by motor vehicle of any shipment of potatoes for which an inspection certificate is required unless each shipment is accompanied by a copy of the inspection certificate applicable thereto and the copy is made available for examination at any time upon request.

(3) Each handler who handles potatoes after such potatoes are regraded, resorted, or repacked shall have such potatoes reinspected, unless such handler has received a waiver from reinspection pursuant to rules established by the Secretary upon the recommendation of the committee.

(d) Special purpose shipments. (1) The grade, size, maturity, and inspection requirements of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section and the assessment requirements of this part shall not be applicable to shipments of potatoes for:

(i) Livestock feed;

(ii) Relief or charity; or

(iii) Canning, freezing, and “other processing” as hereinafter defined.

(2) The grade, size, maturity and inspection requirements of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section shall not be applicable to shipments of seed pursuant to §948.6 but such shipments shall be subject to assessments.

(e) Safeguards. Each handler of potatoes which do not meet the grade, size, and maturity requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section and which are handled pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section for any of the special purposes set forth therein shall:

(1) Prior to handling, apply for and obtain a Certificate of Privilege from the committee.

(2) Furnish the committee such reports and documents as requested, including certification by the buyer or receiver as to the use of such potatoes; and

(3) Bill each shipment directly to the applicable processor or receiver.

(f) Minimum quantity. For purposes of regulation under this part, each person may handle up to but not to exceed 1,000 pounds of potatoes without regard to the requirements of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section, but this exception shall not apply to any shipment which exceeds 1,000 pounds of potatoes.

(g) Definitions. The terms U.S. No. 1, U.S. Commercial, U.S. No. 2, Size B, slightly skinned, and moderately skinned...
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 948.387 Handling regulation.

On and after August 1, 1982, no person shall handle any lot of potatoes grown in Area No. 3 unless such potatoes meet the requirements of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section, or unless such potatoes are handled in accordance with paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section.

(a) Grade and size requirements—All varieties. U.S. No. 2 or better grade, 1% inches minimum diameter or 4 ounces minimum weight. However, Size B may be handled if U.S. No. 1 grade.

(b) Maturity (skinning) requirements—All Varieties. During the period beginning July 1 and ending December 31 each season for U.S. No. 2 grade, not more than “moderately skinned,” and for all other grades, not more than “slightly skinned”; thereafter no maturity requirements.

(c) Inspection. (1) No handler shall handle any potatoes for which inspection is required unless an appropriate inspection certificate has been issued with respect thereto and the certificate is valid at the time of shipment. For purpose of operation under this part it is hereby determined pursuant to paragraph (d) of §948.40, that each inspection certificate shall be valid for a period not to exceed five days following the date of inspection as shown on the inspection certificate.

(2) No handler may transport or cause the transportation by motor vehicle of any shipment of potatoes for which an inspection certificate is required unless each shipment is accompanied by a copy of the inspection certificate applicable thereto and the copy is made available for examination at any time upon request.

(3) Each handler who handles potatoes after such potatoes are regraded, resorted, or repacked shall have such potatoes reinspected, unless such handler has received a waiver from reinspec- tion pursuant to rules established by the Secretary upon the recommendation of the committee.

(d) Special purpose shipments. (1) The grade, size, maturity and inspection requirements of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section shall not be applicable to shipments of potatoes for:

(i) Livestock feed;

(ii) Charity;

(iii) Canning, freezing, and “other processing” as hereinafter defined; and

(iv) Certified seed potatoes (§948.6).

(2) The maturity requirements set forth in paragraph (b) of this section shall not be applicable to shipments of potatoes for prepeeling.

(e) Safeguards. Each handler making shipments of potatoes pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section shall:

(1) Prior to shipment, apply for and obtain a Certificate of Privilege from the committee;

(2) Furnish the committee such reports and documents as required, including certification by the buyer or receiver on the use of such potatoes; and

(3) Bill each shipment directly to the applicable buyer or receiver.

(f) Minimum quantity. For purpose of regulation under this part, each person may handle up to but not to exceed 1,000 pounds of potatoes per shipment without regard to the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, but this exception shall not apply to
any shipment of over 1,000 pounds of potatoes.

(g) Definitions. The terms U.S. No. 1, U.S. No. 2, Size B, moderately skinned and slightly skinned shall have the same meaning as when used in the United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes (7 CFR 51.1540-51.1566) including the tolerances set forth therein. The term prepeeling means the commercial preparation in a prepeeling plant of clean, sound, fresh potatoes by washing, peeling or otherwise removing the outer skin, trimming, sorting, and properly treating to prevent discoloration preparatory to sale in one or more of the styles of peeled potatoes described in §52.2422 United States Standards for Grades of Peeled Potatoes (7 CFR 52.2421-52.2433). The term other processing has the same meaning as the term appearing in the act and includes, but is not restricted to, potatoes for dehydration, chips, shoestrings, starch, and flour. It includes only that preparation of potatoes for market which involves the application of heat or cold to such an extent that the natural form or stability of the commodity undergoes a substantial change. The act of peeling, cooling, slicing, dicing, or applying material to prevent oxidation does not constitute “other processing.” All other terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as when used in Marketing Agreement No. 97, as amended, and this part.

(h) Applicability to imports. Pursuant to section 8e of the act and §980.1, “Import regulations” (7 CFR 980.1), round white varieties of Irish potatoes, except certified seed potatoes, imported into the United States during the period beginning August 1 and ending June 4 each season, shall meet the minimum grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

(Secs. 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601-674)
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 953.11

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

953.75 Reports and records.
953.76 Compliance.
953.77 Right of the Secretary.
953.78 Duration of immunities.
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Subpart—Rules and Regulations

GENERAL

953.100 General.

CHANGE IN DATE FOR COMPLETING NOMINATIONS, TERM OF OFFICE, AND FISCAL PERIOD

953.120 Nomination date.
953.121 Term of office.
953.122 Fiscal period.
953.123 Reestablishment of districts and reapportionment of committee membership.

Subpart—Assessment Rates

953.253 Assessment rate.

Subpart—Handling Regulations

953.322 Handling regulation.


Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

DEFINITIONS

§ 953.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any other officer or member of the United States Department of Agriculture who is or may hereafter be authorized to exercise the powers and to perform the duties of the Secretary of Agriculture.

§ 953.2 Act.

Act means Public Act No. 10, 73d Congress, as amended and as re-enacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

§ 953.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, legal representative, or any organized group or business unit of individuals.

§ 953.4 Production area.

Production area means and includes the counties of Accomack, Northampton, Nansemond, James City, the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach in the State of Virginia and the counties of Northampton, Halifax, Nash, Edgecombe, Pitt, Lenoir, Jones, and Onslow and all counties east thereof in the State of North Carolina.

[33 FR 8503, June 8, 1968]

§ 953.5 Potatoes.

Potatoes means all varieties of Irish potatoes grown in the production area.

§ 953.6 Handler.

Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier of potatoes owned by another person) who ships potatoes in fresh form, whether or not of his own production.

§ 953.7 Ship.

Ship is synonymous with handle and means to transport, sell, or in any manner place potatoes in the current of interstate commerce or so as directly to burden, obstruct, or affect such commerce.

[33 FR 8503, June 8, 1968]

§ 953.8 Producer.

Producer means any person engaged in the production of potatoes for market.

§ 953.9 Fiscal period.

Fiscal period means the period beginning and ending on the dates approved by the Secretary pursuant to recommendations by the committee.

[33 FR 8503, June 8, 1968]

§ 953.10 Committee.

Committee means the Administrative Committee, called the Southeastern Potato Committee, established pursuant to § 953.15.

§ 953.11 District.

District means, describes, and refers to each of the geographic divisions of
§ 953.12 Reapportionment and redistricting.

The committee may recommend, and pursuant thereto, the Secretary may approve, the reapportionment of members among districts, and the reestablishment of districts within the production area. With respect to any such changes, the committee and the Secretary shall give consideration to:

(a) Shifts in potato acreage within the districts and within the production area during recent years;
(b) The importance of new production in its relation to existing districts;
(c) The equitable relationship of committee membership and districts;
(d) Economies to result for producers in promoting efficient administration due to redistricting or reapportionment of members within districts; and
(e) Other relevant factors.

§ 953.16 Term of office.

(a) The term of office for committee members and alternates shall, except as otherwise specified, be for 1 year. The dates on which such term of office shall begin and end shall be established by the Secretary pursuant to the committee's recommendations, and the term of office may be extended or shortened, including that of the then current membership, to accord therewith.

(b) Committee members and alternates shall serve during the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified, or during that portion thereof, beginning on the date on which they qualify during such term of office, and until their successors are selected and have qualified.

§ 953.18 Nominations.

The Secretary may select members of the committee and alternates from nominations which may be made in the following manner:

(a) A meeting or meetings of producers and handlers shall be held by the committee for each district to designate nominees for members and alternates to the committee;
(b) At least one nominee shall be designated for each position as member and for each position as alternate member on the committee;
(c) The names of nominees shall be supplied to the Secretary in such manner and form as he may prescribe, not later than September 15 of each year, or by such other date as may be specified by the Secretary;
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 953.24

(d) Only producers may participate in designating producer nominees and only handlers may participate in designating handler nominees. Any person who operates in more than one district or is engaged in producing and handling potatoes, shall elect the classification (i.e., producer or handler), and the district within which he desires to participate in designating nominees;

(e) Regardless of the number of districts in which a person produces or handles potatoes, each such person is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of himself, his agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and representatives in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. An eligible voter’s privilege of casting only one vote as aforesaid shall be construed to permit a voter to cast one vote for each position to be filled in the district in which he elects to vote.

[33 FR 8503, June 8, 1968]

§ 953.19 Selection.

(a) The Secretary shall select one producer member in and for each of Districts 1, 2, and 3, and two producer members in and for each of Districts 4 and 5 from nominees submitted pursuant to § 953.18 or from other eligible persons. In addition, he shall similarly select one handler member from each district. The respective alternates shall be selected on the same basis of representation as the members.

(b) The term of office of the committee members and alternates for District No. 6 shall be terminated upon deletion of such district from the production area.

(c) For the 1968-69 term of office the second producer member and his alternate for each of Districts No. 4 and 5 shall be selected as soon as practicable after deletion of District No. 6 from the production area. Nomination meetings shall be held for these positions pursuant to § 953.18 and the selections shall be made pursuant to this section for the remainder of the 1968-69 term of office.

[33 FR 8504, June 8, 1968]

§ 953.20 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner specified by the Secretary pursuant to § 953.18, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the members and alternate members of the committee, which selection shall be on the basis of the representation provided for in § 953.19.

§ 953.21 Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the committee shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary within the time specified by the Secretary.

[33 FR 8504, June 8, 1968]

§ 953.22 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any qualified member or alternate member, a successor for his unexpired term may be selected by the Secretary from nominations made in the manner specified in § 953.18, or the Secretary may select such member or alternate member from previously unselected nominees on the current nominee list from the district involved. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within 30 days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of the representation provided for in § 953.19.

§ 953.23 Alternate members.

An alternate member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom he is alternate during such member’s absence. In the event of death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor for the unexpired term of such member is selected and has qualified.

§ 953.24 Procedure.

(a) Nine members shall constitute a quorum of the committee and any action of the committee shall require nine concurring votes.
§ 953.25 Expenses and compensation.

Committee members and alternates when acting on committee business shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties and in the exercise of committee powers under this subpart. In addition, they may receive reasonable compensation at a rate recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

[33 FR 8504, June 8, 1968]

§ 953.26 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer the provisions of this subpart in accordance with its terms;

(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;

(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this subpart; and

(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 953.27 Duties.

It shall be the duty of the committee:

(a) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;

(b) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and such minutes, books, and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or his authorized agent or representative;

(c) To investi-gate, from time to time, and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping, and marketing conditions with respect to potatoes, and to engage in such research and service activities which relate to the handling or marketing of potatoes as may be approved by the Secretary;

(d) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as he may request;

(e) To select subcommittees of committee members, a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, and to adopt such rules and regulations for conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;

(f) At the beginning of each fiscal year, to submit to the Secretary a budget of its expenses for such fiscal year, together with a report thereon;

(g) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such other time as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request. The report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this part; a copy of each such report shall be furnished to the Secretary and a copy of each such report shall be made available at the principal office of the committee for inspection by producers and handlers;

(h) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person; and

(i) To consult, cooperate and exchange information with other potato marketing committees and other individuals or agencies in connection with all proper committee activities and objectives under this subpart.

§ 953.28 Obligations.

Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds, together with all books and records, in his possession, to his successor in office or to a trustee designated by the Secretary and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor or trustee full title to all the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this section: Provided, That the provisions of this subpart shall apply to alternate members in possession of funds, property, books or records, or participate in the receipt or disbursement of funds.
§ 953.29 District committees.
Potato producers and handlers in each district, as defined in § 953.11, may establish and organize a District Committee of potato producers and handlers within each such district for the purpose of assisting in an advisory capacity the members of the Southeastern Potato Committee from their district. The size and composition of each such District Committee shall be determined by producers and handlers within each district. Reports on the size and composition of each District Committee shall be made available upon request to the Southeastern Potato Committee. The members of such District Committees shall not receive compensation from any funds dispersed by the Southeastern Potato Committee. Members of District Committees may be selected at meetings sponsored by the Southeastern Potato Committee. The terms of office of members of District Committees shall coincide with the terms of office of members of the Southeastern Potato Committee.

§ 953.33 Expenses.
The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds may be necessary to carry out the functions of the committee pursuant to the provisions of this subpart during each fiscal year. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by levying assessments as provided in § 953.34.

§ 953.34 Assessments.
(a) Each handler who first handles potatoes shall, with respect to the potatoes so handled by him, pay to the committee such handler’s pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds will be necessarily incurred by the committee for its maintenance and functioning during each fiscal year. Such handler’s pro rata share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the total quantity of potatoes handled by him as the first handler thereof, during the applicable fiscal year, and the total quantity of potatoes handled by all handlers as the first handlers thereof, during the same fiscal year. The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by such handlers: Provided, That the rate of assessment during each fiscal year shall not exceed 1 cent per hundred-weight.
(b) At any time during or after a fiscal year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment in order to secure sufficient funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses of the committee. Such increase shall be applicable to all potatoes handled during the given fiscal year. In order to provide funds to carry out the functions of the committee, handlers may make advance payment of assessments.

§ 953.35 Accounting.
(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for in accordance with one of the following:
(1) If such excess is not retained in a reserve, as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, it shall be refunded proportionately and to the extent practical to the persons from whom it was collected: Provided, That each handler may be credited with such refund, for the operations of the following fiscal period, unless he demands payment thereof, in which event such proportionate refund shall be paid to him.
(2) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish an operating monetary reserve, and may carry over into subsequent fiscal periods such excess in a reserve so established: Provided, That funds in the reserve shall not exceed approximately one fiscal period’s expenses. Such reserve funds may be used by the committee (i) to defray expenses authorized pursuant to § 953.33, (ii) to defray expenses during any fiscal period, prior to the time assessment income is sufficient to cover such expenses, (iii) to cover deficits incurred during any fiscal period when assessment income is less than expenses, (iv) to defray expenses incurred during any period when any or all provisions of this part are suspended or are inoperative, and (v) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. Upon such termination, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation and after reasonable effort by the committee it is
§ 953.36 Funds.

All funds received by the committee pursuant to any provision of this subpart shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this subpart and shall be accounted for in the following manner:

(a) The Secretary may, at any time, require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements; and

(b) Whenever any person ceases to be a member of the committee, he shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds in his hands, together with all books and records in his possession, to his successor in office or to such person as the Secretary may designate, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor or in such designated person the right to all the property, funds, or claims vested in such member.

§ 953.40 Marketing policy.

Prior to or at the same time initial recommendations in any fiscal period are made pursuant to §953.41, the committee shall prepare a marketing policy, and promptly submit a copy thereof to the Secretary, setting forth its proposed policy for the marketing of potatoes during such fiscal period. In the event it becomes advisable to deviate from such marketing policy, because of changed demand and supply conditions, or as the Secretary may request, the committee shall formulate a revised marketing policy and shall submit a report thereon to the Secretary. Notice of each such marketing policy and revision thereof shall be given to producers, handlers, and other interested parties by bulletins, newspapers, or other appropriate media, and copies thereof shall be available for examination at the committee office to all interested parties.

[33 FR 8504, June 8, 1968]

§ 953.41 Recommendations for regulations.

(a) It shall be the duty of the committee to investigate supply and demand conditions for grades, sizes, and qualities of all potatoes. Whenever the committee finds that such conditions make it advisable to regulate the shipment of particular grades, sizes, or qualities of potatoes during any period in any or all portions of the production area, it shall recommend to the Secretary the particular grades, sizes, and qualities, or any combination thereof, of such potatoes deemed advisable to be shipped during such period: Provided, That the committee shall not recommend to the Secretary any regulation limiting the shipment of U.S. No. 1 grade or better, as such grades are defined in United States Standards for Potatoes in effect at the time of recommendation.

(b) In determining the grades, sizes, and qualities of potatoes or any and all combinations thereof deemed advisable to be regulated in view of the prospective demand thereof, the committee shall give due consideration to the following factors:

(1) Market prices, including prices by grades and sizes, of potatoes for which regulation is recommended;

(2) Potatoes on hand in the market areas as manifested by supplies en route and on track at the principal markets;

(3) Available supply, quality, and condition of potatoes in the production area and other production areas;

(4) Supplies from competing areas and regions producing potatoes;

(5) The trend and level of consumer income; and
§ 953.42 Issuance of regulations.
Whenever the Secretary shall find, from the recommendations, information and evidence submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that to limit the shipment of potatoes to particular grades, sizes, and qualities thereof in any or all portions of the production area would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall so limit by appropriate regulations thereon the shipments of such potatoes during a specified period. The Secretary shall notify the committee of any such regulation and the committee shall give reasonable notice thereof to handlers: Provided, That no regulations shall be issued under this subpart limiting the shipment of U.S. No. 1 grade or better, as such grades are defined in United States Standards for Potatoes in effect at the time such regulations are issued.

§ 953.43 Minimum standards of quality.
(a) Recommendation. Whenever the committee deems it advisable to establish and maintain minimum standards of quality governing the shipment of potatoes, it shall recommend to the Secretary such minimum standards of quality in terms of grades, sizes, or both, below which shipments are to be prohibited. At the time of submitting each such recommendation, the committee shall submit to the Secretary the supporting data and information upon which it acted in making such recommendation. The committee shall submit in support of its recommendations such other data and information as may be requested by the Secretary, and shall promptly give adequate notice to all handlers and growers of each such recommendation.

(b) Establishment. Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that to prohibit the shipment of potatoes below certain specified minimum grades, or smaller than certain specified minimum sizes, or both, would be in the public interest and would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall so prohibit the shipment of such potatoes. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee of the issuance of each such regulation, and the committee shall promptly give adequate notice thereof to handlers and growers.

(c) Modification or suspension. (1) The committee may recommend to the Secretary the modification, suspension, or termination of orders relating to minimum standards provided for or established pursuant to this subpart. If the Secretary finds, upon the basis of such recommendation and information, or upon the basis of other available information, that to modify, suspend, or terminate such orders relating to minimum standards of quality will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall so modify or suspend such standards for (i) a specified period of time, or (ii) for an indefinite period of time.

(2) The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee and the committee shall promptly give notice to growers and handlers, of any order issued by the Secretary modifying, suspending, or terminating any orders relating to minimum standards of quality established pursuant to, or provided for, in this subpart.

§ 953.44 Limitation of regulations.
(a) Nothing contained in this subpart shall authorize any limitation of the shipment of potatoes for any of the following purposes:

(1) Potatoes shipped for consumption by charitable institutions or for distribution by relief agencies;

(2) Potatoes shipped for manufacturing or conversion into byproducts, except for manufacturing or conversion into specified products recommended by the committee for regulation and approved by the Secretary therefor; and

(3) Upon recommendation of the committee and approval of the Secretary, potatoes shipped for livestock feed, export, or for other specified purposes.

(b) The Secretary shall give prompt notice to the committee of any approval issued by him under the provisions of this section. The committee may prescribe adequate safeguards to prevent potatoes shipped for the purposes stated above from entering the...
current of interstate commerce or directly burdening, obstructing, or affecting such commerce contrary to the provisions of this subpart, which safeguards may include (1) a requirement by the committee that growers and handlers who ship potatoes pursuant to this section shall file applications to do so with the committee and (2) Federal-State inspection provided by §953.50 and the payment of a pro rata share of expenses provided by §953.34: Provided, That such inspection and payment of expenses may be required at different times than otherwise specified by the aforesaid sections. The committee may issue certificates of privilege for shipments of potatoes affected or to be affected under the provisions of this section and shall make a weekly report to the Secretary showing the number of certificates applied for, the number of bushels of potatoes covered by such applications, the number of certificates denied and granted, the number of bushels of potatoes shipped under duly issued certificates, and such other information as may be requested by the Secretary. The Secretary shall have the right to modify, change, alter, or rescind any safeguards prescribed and any certificates issued by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this section.

§ 953.45 Minimum quantities.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish, for any or all portions of the production area, quantities below which shipments shall be free from regulations issued pursuant to: §953.42, Regulations, §953.50, Inspection and certification, and §953.34, Assessments.

[33 FR 8504, June 8, 1968]

§ 953.50 Inspection and certification.

The Southeastern Potato Committee shall require, with approval of the Secretary, that whenever regulations are in effect pursuant to this subpart, each first handler shall, prior to making each shipment of potatoes cause each shipment to be inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service. Each handler shall make arrangements with the inspecting agency to forward promptly to the committee a copy of each inspection certificate, issued as aforesaid.

Effective Time and Termination

§ 953.65 Effective time.

The provisions of this subpart shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature attached to this subpart, and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in §953.66.

§ 953.66 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may, at any time, terminate the provisions of this subpart by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary may terminate or suspend the operations of any or all of the provisions of this subpart whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any fiscal year whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of producers who, during the preceding fiscal year have been engaged in the production for market of potatoes:

Provided, That such majority has, during such year, produced for market more than fifty percent of the volume of such potatoes produced for market; but such termination shall be effected only if announced on or before October 31, of the then current fiscal year.

(d) The provisions of this subpart shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them, cease to be in effect.

§ 953.67 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart, the then functioning members of the committee shall continue as trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, of all funds and the property then in the possession of, or under control of, the committee, including claims for any funds unpaid, or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trusteeship shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.
(b) The said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall, upon request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant to this subpart.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred, or delivered by the committee or its members, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the committee and upon the said trustees.

§ 953.68 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart, or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen, or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision, of this subpart, or any regulation issued under this subpart, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart, or of any regulation issued under this subpart, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary, or of any other person with respect to any such violation.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 953.75 Reports and records.

(a) Upon the request of the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, every handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such time as may be prescribed, such information as will enable the committee to exercise its duties under this subpart. The Secretary shall have the right to modify, change, or rescind requests for any reports pursuant to this section.

(b) Each handler shall establish and maintain for at least two succeeding years such records and documents with respect to potatoes received and potatoes disposed of by him as will substantiate the required reports.

(c) For the purpose of assuring compliance with the recordkeeping requirements and verifying reports filed by handlers, the Secretary, and the committee through its duly authorized employees, shall have access to such records.

(d) All reports and records furnished or submitted by handlers to, or obtained by the employees of, the committee which contain data or information constituting a trade secret or disclosing the trade position, financial condition, or business operations of the particular handler from whom received, shall be treated as confidential and the reports and all information obtained from records shall at all times be kept in the custody and under the control of one or more employees of the committee who shall disclose such information to no person other than the Secretary, or as authorized by the Secretary. Compilations of general reports from data and information submitted by handlers is authorized subject to the prohibition of disclosure of individual handlers’ identity or operations.

[33 FR 8504, June 8, 1968]

§ 953.76 Compliance.

Except as provided in this subpart, no handler shall ship potatoes, the shipment of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with provisions of this subpart, and no handler shall ship potatoes except in conformity to the provisions of this subpart.

§ 953.77 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the committee, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every order, regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee, shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the said committee shall be
§ 953.78 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 953.79 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the Government, or name any bureau or division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this subpart.

§ 953.80 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 953.81 Personal liability.

No member or alternate of the committee, nor any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever to any handler or to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, or employee, except for acts of dishonesty.

§ 953.82 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart, or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 953.83 Amendments.

Amendments to this subpart may be proposed from time to time by the committee or by the Secretary.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

GENERAL

§ 953.100 General.

(a) Marketing agreement means Marketing Agreement No. 104.
(b) Order means Order No. 953 (§§ 953.1 through 953.83).
(c) All other terms shall have the same meaning as when used in the marketing agreement and order.

CHANGE IN DATE FOR COMPLETING NOMINATIONS, TERM OF OFFICE, AND FISCAL PERIOD

§ 953.120 Nomination date.

The names of committee nominees shall be supplied to the Secretary in such manner and form as he may prescribe, pursuant to § 953.18, not later than January 31 of each year.

§ 953.121 Term of office.

The term of office, pursuant to § 953.16, which began November 1, 1968, shall end March 31, 1970. Thereafter, each term of office shall begin April 1 of each year and end March 31 of the following year, both dates inclusive.

§ 953.122 Fiscal period.

The fiscal period, pursuant to § 953.9, which began on April 1, 1976, shall end on May 31, 1977. Thereafter, each fiscal period shall begin on June 1 of each year and end on May 31 of the following year, both dates inclusive.

§ 953.123 Reestablishment of districts and reapportionment of committee membership.

(a) Pursuant to § 953.12: (1) The counties of James City and Nansemond and the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach (currently District No. 3) are reestablished as part of District No. 2; (2) the membership of the Southeastern
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 953.322

Potato Committee shall be apportioned among the districts of the production are so as to provide the following representation: Two producer members and one handler member from each of Districts No. 1, 4, and 5; one producer member and two handler members from District No. 2. The respective alternates shall be selected on the same basis of representation as the members.

(b) Terms used in this section have the same meaning as when used in the said marketing agreement and this part.

[37 FR 927, Jan. 21, 1972]

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 953.253 Assessment rate.

On and after June 1, 1996, an assessment rate of $0.0075 per hundredweight is established for Southeastern potatoes.

[61 FR 27249, May 31, 1996]

Subpart—Handling Regulations

§ 953.322 Handling regulation.

During the period beginning June 5 and ending July 31 each season, no person shall ship any lot of potatoes produced in the production area unless such potatoes meet the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section or unless such potatoes are handled in accordance with paragraphs (c) and (d) or (e) of this section.

(a) Minimum grade and size requirements. All round white varieties of potatoes shall be U.S. No. 2 or better grade, 1 1/2 inches (38.1 mm) minimum diameter.

(b) Inspection. Except as provided in paragraphs (c) and (e), no handler shall ship any round white potatoes unless an appropriate inspection certificate covering them has been issued by the Federal-State Inspection Service and the certificate is valid at the time of shipment.

(c) Special purpose shipments. The grade, size, and inspection requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section shall not apply to potatoes shipped for canning, freezing, "other processing," livestock feed or charity, or making shipments of round red, long white or Russet variety potatoes. However, the handler of any potatoes shipped for such special purposes shall comply with the safeguard requirements of paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) Safeguards. Each handler making shipments of potatoes for canning, freezing, "other processing," livestock feed or charity, or making shipments of round red, long white or Russet variety potatoes in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section shall:

(1) Notify the committee of the handler's intent to ship potatoes pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section by applying forms furnished by the committee for a Certificate of Privilege applicable to such special purpose shipments.

(2) Obtain an approved Certificate of Privilege;

(3) Prepare on forms furnished by the committee a special purpose shipment report for each such individual shipment; and

(4) Forward copies of such special purpose shipment report to the committee office and to the receiver with instructions to sign and return a copy to the committee's office. Failure of the handler or receiver to report such shipments by promptly signing and returning the applicable special purpose shipment report to the committee office shall be cause for suspension of such handler's Certificate of Privilege applicable to such special purpose shipments.

(e) Minimum quantity exemption. Each handler may ship up to, but not to exceed five hundredweight of potatoes any day without regard to the inspection and assessment requirements of this part, but this exception shall not apply to any portion of a shipment that exceeds five hundredweight of potatoes.

(f) Definitions. The term U.S. No. 2 shall have the same meaning as when used in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes as amended (7 CFR 2851.1540–2851.1566), including the tolerances set forth in it. The term other processing has the same meaning as the term appearing in the act and includes, but is not restricted to, potatoes for dehydration, chips, shoestrings, starch,
and flour. It includes only that preparation of potatoes for market which involves the application of heat or cold to such an extent that the natural form or stability of the commodity undergoes a substantial change. The act of peeling, cooling, slicing, dicing, or applying material to prevent oxidation does not constitute "other processing." All other terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as when used in Marketing Agreement No. 104 and this part, both as amended.

(g) Applicability to imports. Pursuant to section 8e of the act and § 980.1 "Import regulations" (7 CFR 980.1), Irish potatoes of the round white type imported during the effective period of this section shall meet the grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements specified in paragraph (a) of this section.


EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, "Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment" regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .209) and "Handling" regulations (e.g. sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting these regulations, see the "List of CFR Sections Affected" in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

PART 955—VIDALIA ONIONS GROWN IN GEORGIA

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SOURCE: 55 FR 717, Jan. 9, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

DEFINITIONS

§ 955.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture who has been delegated, or who may hereafter be delegated, the authority to act for the Secretary.

§ 955.2 Act.

Act means Public Act No. 10, 73d Congress (May 12, 1933), as amended and as reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (Sec. 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).
§ 955.3 Person.  
Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 955.4 Production area.  
Production area means that part of the State of Georgia enclosed by the following boundaries: Beginning at a point in Laurens County where U.S. Highway 441 intersects Highway 16; thence continue southerly along U.S. Highway 441 to a point where it intersects the southern boundary of Laurens County; thence southwesterly along the border of Laurens County to a point where it intersects the county road known as Jay Bird Springs Road; thence southeasterly along Jay Bird Springs Road to a point where it intersects U.S. Highway 23; thence easterly along U.S. Highway 23 intersects the western border of Telfair County; thence southwesterly following the western and southern border of Telfair County to a point where it intersects with Jeff Davis County; thence following the southern border of Jeff Davis County to a point where it intersects with the western border of Bacon County; thence southerly and easterly along the border of Bacon County to a point where it intersects Georgia State Road 32; thence easterly along Georgia State Road 32 to Seaboard Coastline Railroad; thence northeasterly along the tracks of Seaboard Coastline Railroad to a point where they intersect Long County and Liberty County; thence northeasterly and northerly along the southwestern border of Liberty County to a point where the border of Liberty County intersects the southern border of Evans County; thence northwesterly along the eastern border of Evans County to the intersection of the Bulloch County border; thence northeasterly along the Bulloch County border to a point where it intersects with the Ogeechee River; thence northerly along the main channel of the Ogeechee River to a point where it intersects with the southeastern border of Screven County; thence northeasterly along the southeastern border of Screven County to the main channel of the Savannah River; thence northerly along the main channel of the Savannah River to a point where the northwestern boundary of Hampton County, South Carolina intersects its Savannah River; thence due west to a point where State Road 24 intersects Brannen Bridge Road; thence westerly along Brannen Bridge Road to a point where it intersects with State Road 21; thence westerly along State Road 21 to the intersection of State Road 17; thence westerly along State Road 17 to the intersection of State Road 56 and southerly to the northern border of Emanuel County; thence westerly and southerly along the border of Emanuel County to a point where it intersects the Treutlen County border; thence southerly to a point where the Treutlen County border intersects Interstate Highway 16; thence westerly to the point of beginning in Laurens County.

§ 955.5 Vidalia onion.  
Vidalia onion means all varieties of Allium cepa of the hybrid yellow granex, granex parentage or any other similar variety recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary, that are grown in the production area.

§ 955.6 Handler.  
Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier of Vidalia onions owned by another person) who handles Vidalia onions, or causes Vidalia onions to be handled.

§ 955.7 Handle.  
Handle or ship means to package, load, sell, transport, or in any other way to place Vidalia onions, or cause Vidalia onions to be placed, in the current of commerce within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof. Such term shall not include the transportation, sale, or delivery of field-run Vidalia onions to a person within the production area for the purpose of having such Vidalia onions prepared for market.

§ 955.9 Producer.  
Producer is synonymous with grower and means any person engaged in a proprietary capacity in the production of Vidalia onions for market.
§ 955.10 Producer-handler.
Producer-Handler means a producer who handles Vidalia onions.

§ 955.12 Committee.
Committee means the Vidalia Onion Committee, established pursuant to § 955.20.

§ 955.13 Fiscal period.
Fiscal period means the 12-month period beginning on September 16 and ending on September 15 of the next year or such other period that may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 955.20 Establishment and membership.
(a) There is hereby established a Vidalia Onion Committee, consisting of nine members, to administer the terms and provisions of this part. Eight members shall be producers, and one shall be a public member. At least four of the producer members shall be producer-handlers. Each member shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member.

(b) Each member, other than the public member, shall be an individual who is, prior to selection and during such member’s term of office, a resident of the production area and a grower or an officer or employee of a grower.

(c) The public member shall be a resident of the production area and shall have no direct financial interest in the commercial production, financing, buying, packing or marketing of Vidalia onions, except as a consumer, nor shall such person be a director, officer or employee of any firm so engaged.

§ 955.21 Term of office.
(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the term of office of committee members and their respective alternates shall be for two years and shall begin as of September 16 or for such other period as the committee may recommend and the Secretary approve. The terms shall be determined so that approximately one-half of the total committee membership shall terminate each year. Members and alternates shall serve in such capacity during the term of office or portion thereof for which they are selected and until their respective successors are selected.

(b) The term of office of the initial members and alternates shall begin as soon as possible after effective date of this part. As determined by lot drawn at the initial nomination meeting, one-fourth of the initial grower members and alternates shall serve for a one-year term, one-fourth shall serve for a two-year term, one-fourth shall serve for a three-year term, and one-fourth shall serve for a four-year term. The term of office for the initial public member and alternate shall be for two years.

(c) The consecutive terms of office of members shall be limited to three 2-year terms.

§ 955.22 Nominations.
(a) Initial members. For nominations to the initial committee, a meeting of producers shall be held by the Secretary.

(b) Successor members. (1) The committee shall hold or cause to be held not later than August 1 of each year, or such other date as may be specified by the Secretary, a meeting or meetings of growers for the purpose of designating one nominee for each position as member and for each position as alternate member of the committee which is vacant, or which is about to become vacant.

(2) Nominations for members and alternates shall be supplied to the Secretary in such manner and form as the Secretary may prescribe, not later than August 15 of each year, or by such other date as may be specified by the Secretary.

(3) The Secretary may, upon recommendation of the committee, divide the production area into districts for the purpose of nominating committee members and their alternates.

(c) Only producers may participate in designating nominees to serve as committee members. Each producer is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of such producer and such producer’s agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and representatives in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. An eligible voter’s privilege of casting...
§ 955.23 Selection.
From the nominations made pursuant to §955.22 or from other qualified persons, the Secretary shall select members and alternate members of the committee.

§ 955.24 Acceptance.
Any person nominated to serve as a member or alternate member of the committee shall, prior to selection by the Secretary, qualify by filing a written acceptance indicating such person's willingness to serve in the position for which nominated.

§ 955.25 Alternates.
An alternate member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom such person is an alternate during such member's absence or when designated to do so by such member. In the event both a member of the committee and that member's alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the member, the alternate, or the committee, in that order, may designate another alternate from the same district (if applicable) and the same group (producer or producer-handler) to serve in such member's stead. Only the public member's alternate is authorized to serve in the place and stead of the public member. In the event of the death, removal, resignation or disqualification of a member, that member's alternate shall serve until a successor to such member is selected.

§ 955.26 Vacancies.
To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person nominated as a member or as an alternate to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member or alternate, a successor for the unexpired term may be selected by the Secretary from nominations made pursuant to §955.22, or from other eligible persons.

§ 955.27 Failure to nominate.
If nominations are not made within the time and manner prescribed in §955.22, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select members and alternates on the basis of the representation provided for in §955.20.

§ 955.28 Procedure.
(a) Five members of the committee shall constitute a quorum, and five concurring votes shall be required to pass any motion or approve any committee action.
(b) The committee may provide for meetings by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication, and any vote cast orally at such meetings shall be confirmed promptly in writing; Provided, That if an assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.

§ 955.29 Expenses.
Members and alternates shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for such expenses authorized by the committee and necessarily incurred by them in attending committee meetings and in the performance of their duties under this part.

§ 955.30 Powers.
The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;
(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part;
(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 955.31 Duties.
The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:
(a) As soon as practicable after the beginning of each term of office, to
meet and organize, to select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, to select subcommittees of committee members or alternates, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it deems necessary;

(b) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;

(c) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as may be requested;

(d) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary, to determine the compensation and define the duties of each such person, and to protect the handling of committee funds;

(e) To investigate from time to time and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping, and marketing conditions with respect to Vidalia onions;

(f) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee. Such minutes, books, and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or the Secretary’s authorized agent or representative. Minutes of each committee meeting shall be furnished promptly to the Secretary;

(g) Prior to the beginning of each fiscal period, to prepare and submit to the Secretary a budget of its projected income and expenses for such fiscal period, together with a report thereon and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such period;

(h) To cause its books to be audited by a Certified Public Accountant at least once each fiscal period, and at such other time as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request. The report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this part. A copy of each report shall be furnished to the Secretary. A copy shall also be made available at the principal office of the committee for inspection by producers and handlers and shall be removed;

(i) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee and its subcommittees as is given to its members.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 955.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary may find are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee for its maintenance and functioning, and to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this part. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired in the manner prescribed in §§ 955.42 and 955.45.

§ 955.41 Budget.

At least 60 days prior to each fiscal period, or such other date as may be specified by the Secretary, and as may be necessary thereafter, the committee shall prepare an estimated budget of income and expenditures necessary for the administration of this part. The committee may recommend a rate of assessment calculated to provide adequate funds to defray its proposed expenditures. The committee shall present such budget to the Secretary with an accompanying report showing the basis for its calculations.

§ 955.42 Assessments.

(a) The funds to cover the committee’s expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments upon handlers as provided in this subpart. Each person who first handles Vidalia onions shall pay assessments to the committee upon demand, which assessments shall be in payment of such handler’s pro rata share of the committee’s expenses.

(b) Assessments shall be levied upon handlers at rates established by the Secretary. Such rates may be established upon the basis of the committee’s recommendations or other available information.

(c) At any time during, or subsequent to, a given fiscal period the committee may recommend the approval of an amended budget and an increase in the rate of assessment. Upon the basis of such recommendations, or other available information, the Secretary may
approve an amended budget and increase the assessment rate. Such increase shall be applicable to all Vidalia onions which were handled during such fiscal period.

(d) The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions of this part are suspended or become inoperative.

(e) To provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part during the initial fiscal period or the first part of a fiscal period when neither sufficient operating reserve funds nor sufficient revenue from assessments on the current season's shipments are available, the committee may accept payment of assessments in advance or may borrow money for such purposes.

(f) The committee may impose a late payment charge or an interest charge or both, on any handler who fails to pay any assessment in a timely manner. Such time and the rates shall be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 955.44 Excess funds.

If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for as follows:

(a) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish an operating reserve and may carry over to subsequent fiscal periods excess funds in a reserve so established, except funds in the reserve shall not exceed the equivalent of approximately three fiscal periods' budgeted expenses. Such reserve funds may be used:

(1) To defray any expenses authorized under this part;
(2) To defray expenses during any fiscal period prior to the time assessment income is sufficient to cover such expenses;
(3) To cover deficits incurred during any fiscal period when assessment income is less than expenses;
(4) To defray expenses incurred during any period when any or all provisions of this part are suspended or are inoperative; and
(5) To cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part.

Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate except that to the extent practicable, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(b) If such excess is not retained in a reserve as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, each handler entitled to a proportionate refund of the excess assessments collected shall be credited at the end of a fiscal period with such refund against the operations of the following fiscal period unless such handler demands payment thereof, in
which event such proportionate refund shall be paid.

§ 955.45 Contributions.
The committee may accept voluntary contributions but these shall only be used to pay expenses incurred pursuant to §955.50. Such contributions shall be free from any encumbrances by the donor, and the committee shall retain complete control of their use.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

§ 955.50 Research and development.
(a) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production research, marketing research and development and marketing promotion projects, including paid advertising, designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, consumption, or efficient production of Vidalia onions. Any such project for the promotion and advertising of Vidalia onions may utilize an identifying mark which shall be made available for use by all handlers in accordance with such terms and conditions as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to §955.42 or §955.45.
(b) In recommending projects pursuant to this section, the committee shall give consideration to the following:
(1) The expected supply of Vidalia onions in relation to market requirements;
(2) The supply situation among competing areas and commodities;
(3) The anticipated benefits from such projects in relation to their costs;
(4) The need for marketing research with respect to any market development activity; and
(5) Other relevant factors.
(c) If the committee should conclude that a program of research and development should be undertaken, or continued, in any fiscal period, it shall submit the following for the approval of the Secretary:
(1) Its recommendations as to any research projects; and
(2) Its recommendation as to any research projects; and
(3) Its recommendations as to promotion activity and paid advertising.
(d) Upon conclusion of each activity, but at least annually, the committee shall summarize and report the results of such activity to the Secretary.
(e) All marketing promotion activity engaged in by the committee, including paid advertising, shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:
(1) No marketing promotion, including paid advertising, shall refer to any private brand, private trademark or private trade name;
(2) No promotion or advertising shall disparage the quality, use, value or sale of like or any other agricultural commodity or product, and no false or unwarranted claims shall be made in connection with the product; and
(3) No promotion or advertising shall be undertaken without reason to believe that returns to producers will be improved by such activity.

REPORTS AND RECORDKEEPING

§ 955.60 Reports and recordkeeping.
Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such time as it may prescribe, such reports and other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part.
(a) Such reports may include, but are not limited to, the following:
(1) The quantities of Vidalia onions received by a handler;
(2) The quantities disposed of by the handler;
(3) The date of each such disposition; and
(4) The identification of the carrier transporting such Vidalia onions.
(b) All such reports shall be held under appropriate protective classification and custody by duly appointed employees of the committee, so that the information contained therein which may adversely affect the competitive position of any handler in relation to other handlers will not be disclosed.
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§ 955.73 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendments to either thereof, shall not:

(a) Affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart; or

(b) Release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulations issued under this subpart; or

(c) Affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violations.
§ 955.80 Compliance.

No handler shall handle Vidalia onions except in conformity with the provisions of this part.

§ 955.81 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates) and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the committee shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every order, regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the committee shall be deemed null and void except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 955.82 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this part shall cease upon the termination of this part, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this part.

§ 955.83 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the Government, or name any agency in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as the Secretary’s agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

§ 955.84 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the Act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 955.85 Personal liability.

No member or alternate of the committee or any employee or agent thereof shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 955.86 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part, or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 955.87 Amendments.

Amendments to this part may be proposed, from time to time, by the committee or by the Secretary.

Marketing Agreement

§ 955.90 Counterparts.

This agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts and when one counterpart is signed by the Secretary, all such counterparts shall constitute, when taken together, one and the same instrument as if all signatures were contained in one original.

§ 955.91 Additional parties.

After the effective date thereof, any handler may become a party to this agreement if a counterpart is executed by such handler and delivered to the Secretary. This agreement shall take effect as to such new contracting party at the time such counterpart is delivered to the Secretary, and the benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred by this agreement shall then be effective as to such new contracting party.

§ 955.92 Order with marketing agreement.

Each signatory hereby requests the Secretary to issue, pursuant to the Act, an order providing for regulating the handling of Vidalia onions in the same manner as is provided for in this agreement.
Each handler, at the end of each month's operation, but not later than seven (7) days after the end of the month, shall report to the Committee, on a form provided to such handler by the Committee, the following information:
(a) Name of handler;
(b) Address of handler;
(c) Period covered;
(d) Total receipts of Vidalia onions;
(e) Total fresh market shipments of Vidalia onions.
[59 FR 1896, Jan. 13, 1994]

§ 955.142 Delinquent assessments.
Each handler shall pay interest of one percent per month on any unpaid assessments levied pursuant to § 955.42 and any accrued unpaid interest beginning 30 days after date of billing, until the delinquent handler's assessment plus applicable interest has been paid in full.
[59 FR 18941, Apr. 21, 1994]

ASSESSMENT RATES

§ 955.209 Assessment rate.
On and after September 15, 1996, an assessment rate of $0.10 per 50-pound bag or equivalent is established for Vidalia onions.
[61 FR 49954, Sept. 24, 1996]
§ 956.1 Definitions

§ 956.1 Secretary.
Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States or any officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture who has been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, the authority to act for the Secretary.

§ 956.2 Act.
Act means Public Act No. 10, 73d Congress (May 12, 1933), as amended and as reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (Sec. 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

§ 956.3 Person.
Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 956.4 Production area.
Production area means a tract of land in Umatilla County, Oregon, and Walla Walla County, Washington, based on surveyors’ maps, enclosed by the following boundaries: Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section 13, Township (Twp.) 5 North, Range (Rge.) 36 East, W.M.; thence Westerly along the South line of Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 in Twp. 5 North, Rge. 36 East, Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 in Twp. 5 North, Rge. 35 East, Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 in Twp. 5 North, Rge. 35 East, Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 in Twp. 5 North, Rge. 35 East, W.M., to the East right of way line of the Northern Pacific Railway, as it runs Northwesterly through Vansyckle Canyon; thence Northwesterly along said Easery right of way line to a point in the Northwest ¼ of Section 20, Twp. 7 North, Rge. 32 East, W.M., where said line intersects the South right of way of the Union Pacific Railway, said intersection being commonly known as Zanger Junction; thence Easery along said South right of way line of the Union Pacific Railway to a point in the Southwest ¼ of Section 23, Twp. 7 North, Rge. 32 East where said line intersects the South right of way line of Washington State Highway No. 12; thence Easterly along said South right of way line to the intersection with the West line of Section 34, Twp. 7 North, Rge. 33 East, W.M.; thence North, along the West line of Sections 34, 27, 22, 15, 10, and 3 in Twp. 7 North, Rge. 33 East, W.M., and the West line of Sections 34, 27, and 22 in Twp. 8 North, Rge. 33 East, W.M. to the Northwest corner of said Section 22; thence East along the North line of said Section 22 to the Northeast corner thereof; thence North along the West line of Sections 14, 11, and 2 in Twp. 8 North, Rge. 33 East, W.M. to the Northwest corner of said Section 2; thence East along North lines of Sections 2 and 1 in Twp. 8 North, Rge. 33 East, W.M. and the North line of Section 6, Twp. 8 North, Rge. 34 East, W.M. to the centerline of the Touchet River; thence northerly and Easterly along said centerline of the Touchet River as it runs through Twp. 9 North, Rge. 34 East, Twp. 9 North, Rge. 35 East, Twp. 10 North, Rge. 35 East, Twp. 10 North, Rge. 36 East, Twp. 9 North, Rge. 36 East, and Twp. 9 North, Rge. 37 East to a point on the East line of Section 11 in Twp. 9 North, Rge. 37 East, W.M., thence South along the East line of Sections 11, 14, 23, 26, and 35 in Twp. 9 North, Rge. 37 East, W.M., the East lines of Sections 2, 11, 14, 23, 26, and 35 in Twp. 7 North, Rge. 37 East, W.M., and the East lines of Sections 2, 11, and fractional Section 14 in Twp. 6 North, Rge. 37 East, W.M., to a point on the Washington-Oregon State line; thence West along said State Line to the closing corner on the West side of Section 18 in Twp. 6 North, Rge. 37 East, W.M.; thence South along the West line of Sections 18, 19, 30, and 31 in Twp. 6 North, Rge. 37 East, W.M. and the West line of Sections 6, 7, and 18 in Twp. 5 North, Rge. 37 East to the corner common to Sections 18 and 19 in Twp. 5 North, Rge. 37 East, W.M., the West line of Sections 6, 7, and 18 in Twp. 5 North, Rge. 37 East, W.M. to the West line of Sections 18, and 31 in Twp. 6 North, Rge. 37 East, W.M. and the West line of Sections 6, 7, and 18 in Twp. 5 North, Rge. 37 East to the corner common to Sections 18 and 19 in Twp. 5 North, Rge. 37 East, W.M., and the West line of Sections 6, 7, and 18 in Twp. 5 North, Rge. 37 East, W.M. to the True Point of Beginning of this Legal Description.

§ 956.5 Walla Walla Sweet Onions.
Walla Walla Sweet Onions means all varieties of Allium cepa grown within the production area, except Spanish hybrid varieties. The committee may,
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 956.21

with the approval of the Secretary, exempt individual varieties from any or all regulations issued under this part.

§ 956.6 Handler.

Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier of Walla Walla Sweet Onions owned by another person) who handles Walla Walla Sweet Onions or causes Walla Walla Sweet Onions to be handled.

§ 956.7 Registered handler.

Registered handler means any person with adequate facilities for preparing Walla Walla Sweet Onions for commercial market, who has requested such registration and is so recorded by the committee, or any person who has access to such facilities and has recorded with the committee the ability and willingness to assume customary obligations of preparing Walla Walla Sweet Onions for commercial market. The committee may recommend, for approval of the Secretary, procedures with respect to handler registration.

§ 956.8 Handle.

Handle is synonymous with ship and means to package, load, sell, transport, or in any way place Walla Walla Sweet Onions or cause Walla Walla Sweet Onions to be placed in the current of commerce within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof. Such term shall not include the transportation, sale, or delivery of harvested Walla Walla Sweet Onions to a handler within the production area for the purpose of having such Walla Walla Sweet Onions prepared for market.

§ 956.9 Container.

Container means a box, bag, crate, hamper, basket, package, or any other receptacle used in the packaging, transporting, sale, shipment, or other handling of Walla Walla Sweet Onions.

§ 956.10 Producer.

Producer is synonymous with grower and means any person engaged in a proprietary capacity in the production of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for market.

§ 956.11 Varieties.

Varieties means and includes all classifications, subdivisions, or types of Walla Walla Sweet Onions according to those definitive characteristics now or hereafter recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture or recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 956.12 Committee.

Committee means the Walla Walla Sweet Onion Committee established pursuant to § 956.20.

§ 956.13 Fiscal period.

Fiscal period means the period beginning on June 1 and ending on May 31 of each year, or other such period as may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

Administrative Committee

§ 956.20 Establishment and membership.

(a) The Walla Walla Sweet Onion Committee, consisting of ten members, is hereby established. The committee shall consist of six producer members, three handler members, and one public member. Each member shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member.

(b) A producer shall have three years of experience in producing onions in order to qualify for committee membership. At the time of selection, no more than two producer members may be affiliated with the same handler.

§ 956.21 Term of office.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the term of office of committee members and their respective alternates shall be for three fiscal periods beginning on June 1 or such other date as recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary. The terms shall be determined so that one-third of the grower membership and one-third of the handler membership shall terminate each year. Members and alternates shall serve during the term of office for which they are selected and have been qualified, or during that portion thereof of beginning on the date on which they qualify during such term of office and
§ 956.22 Nominations.

Nominations from which the Secretary may select the members of the committee and their respective alternates may be made in the following manner:

(a) The committee shall hold or cause to be held, within the production area and prior to April 1 of each year or by such other date as may be specified by the Secretary, one or more meetings of producers and handlers for the purpose of designating one nominee for each of the member and alternate member positions which are vacant or will be vacant at the end of the fiscal period;

(b) In arranging for such meetings the committee may, if it deems such desirable, cooperate with existing organizations and agencies;

(c) Nominations for committee members and alternate members shall be provided to the Secretary, in such manner and form as the Secretary may prescribe, not later than 30 days prior to the end of the fiscal period within which the current term of office expires;

(d) Only producers may participate in designating nominees for producer committee members and their alternates and only handlers may participate in designating nominees for handler committee members and their alternates;

(e) Each person who is both a handler and a producer may vote either as a handler or as a producer, but not both;

(f) Each person is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of him or herself, his or her partners, agents, subsidiaries, affiliates and representatives, in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. An eligible producer’s or handler’s privilege of casting only one vote, as aforesaid, shall be construed to permit such voter to cast one vote for each producer member and alternate member position to be filled or each handler member and alternate member position to be filled, but not both.

(g) Every three years, at the first meeting following selection, the committee shall nominate the public member and alternate for a three-year term of office.

(h) The committee shall prescribe such additional qualifications, administrative rules and procedures for selection and voting for each candidate as it deems necessary and as the Secretary approves.

§ 956.23 Selection.

The Secretary shall select members and alternate members of the committee from the nominations made pursuant to §956.22 or from other qualified persons.

§ 956.24 Qualification and acceptance.

Any person nominated to serve as a member or alternate member of the committee shall, prior to selection by the Secretary, qualify by filing a written background and acceptance statement indicating such person’s willingness to serve in the position for which nominated.

§ 956.25 Alternates.

An alternate member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom such person is an alternate, during such member’s absence. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, that member’s alternate shall serve until a successor to such member has qualified and is selected.

§ 956.26 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person nominated as a member or as an alternate to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal,
§ 956.31 Duties.

It shall be among the duties of the committee:

(a) At the beginning of each fiscal period, or as soon thereafter as practicable, to meet and organize, to select a chairperson and such other officers as may be necessary, to select subcommittees, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;

(b) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;

(c) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as the Secretary may request;

(d) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person;

(e) To investigate from time to time and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping, and marketing conditions with respect to Walla Walla Sweet Onions and to engage in such research and service activities which relate to the production, handling, or marketing of Walla Walla Sweet Onions as may be approved by the Secretary;

(f) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee. Such minutes, books, and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or the Secretary’s authorized agent or representative;

(g) To make available to producers and handlers the committee voting record on recommended regulations and on other matters of policy;

(h) Prior to each fiscal period, to submit to the Secretary a budget of its proposed expenses for such fiscal period, together with a report thereon, and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such period;

(i) To cause its books to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal period, and at such other time as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may require; the report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this part; a
copy of each such report shall be fur-
nished to the Secretary, and a copy of
each such report shall be made avail-
able at the principal office of the com-
mittee for inspection by producers and
handlers: Provided, that confidential in-
formation shall be removed from all
copies made available to the public; and
(j) To consult, cooperate, and ex-
change information with other onion
marketing committees and other indi-
viduals or agencies in connection with
all proper committee activities and ob-
jectives under this subpart.

§ 956.40 Expenses and Assessments

§ 956.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur
such expenses as the Secretary may
find are reasonable and likely to be in-
curred by the committee for its main-
tenance and functioning, and to enable
it to exercise its powers and perform
its duties in accordance with the provi-
sions of this part. The funds to cover
such expenses shall be acquired in the
manner prescribed in §§ 956.42 and
956.45.

§ 956.41 Budget.

Prior to each fiscal period and as
may be necessary thereafter, the com-
mittee shall prepare an estimated
budget of income and expenditures nec-
essary for the administration of this
part. The committee shall recommend
a rate of assessment calculated to pro-
vide adequate funds to defray its pro-
posed expenditures. The committee
shall present such budget to the Sec-
retary with an accompanying report
showing the basis for its calculations.

§ 956.42 Assessments.

(a) The funds to cover the commit-
tee's expenses shall be acquired by the
levying of assessments upon handlers
as provided in this subpart. Each per-
son who first handles Walla Walla
Sweet Onions shall pay assessments to
the committee upon demand, which as-
sessments shall be in payment of such
handler's pro rata share of the commit-
tee's expenses.
(b) Assessments shall be levied upon
handlers, at rates established by the
Secretary. Such rates may be estab-
lished upon the basis of the committee's recommendations or other avail-
able information.
(c) At any time during, or subsequent
to, a given fiscal period, the committee
may recommend the approval of an
amended budget and an increase in the
rate of assessment. Upon the basis of
such recommendations, or other avail-
able information, the Secretary may
approve an amended budget and in-
crease the assessment rate. Such in-
crease in the assessment rate shall be
applicable to all Walla Walla Sweet On-
ions which were handled by each han-
dler thereof during such fiscal period.
(d) The payment of assessments for
the maintenance and functioning of the
committee may be required under this
part throughout the period it is in ef-
fect, irrespective of whether particular
provisions of this part are suspended or
become inoperative.
(e) To provide funds for the adminis-
tration of the provisions of this part
during the initial fiscal period or the
first part of a fiscal period when nei-
ther sufficient operating reserve funds
nor sufficient revenue from assess-
ments on the current season's ship-
ments are available, the committee
may accept payment of assessments in
advance or may borrow money for such
purposes.
(f) The committee may impose a late
payment charge or an interest charge,
or both, on any handler who fails to
pay any assessment in a timely man-
ner. Such time and the rates shall be
recommended by the committee and
approved by the Secretary.

§ 956.43 Accounting.

(a) All funds received by the commit-
tee pursuant to the provisions of this
part shall be used solely for the pur-
poses specified in this part.
(b) The Secretary may at any time
require the committee, its members
and alternate members, employees,
agents, and all other such persons asso-
ciated with the committee to account
for all receipts, disbursements, funds,
property, or records for which they are
responsible. Whenever any person
cesses to be a member, alternate mem-
ber, employee, or agent of the commit-
tee, such person shall account for all
receipts, disbursements, funds, property, and records pertaining to the committee’s activities for which such person was responsible, deliver all property and funds in such person’s possession to the committee, and execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in the committee full title to all of the property, funds, and claims vested in such person pursuant to this part.

(c) The committee may make recommendations to the Secretary for one or more of the members thereof, or any other person, to act as a trustee for holding records, funds, or any other committee property during periods of suspension of this part, or during any period or periods when regulations are not in effect and, upon determining such action is appropriate, the Secretary may direct that such person or persons shall act as trustee or trustees for the committee.

§ 956.44 Excess funds.

If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for as follows:

(a) The committee, with approval of the Secretary, may establish an operating reserve and may carry over to subsequent fiscal periods excess funds in a reserve so established, except funds in the reserve shall not exceed the equivalent of approximately two fiscal period’s budgeted expenses. Such reserve funds may be used:

1. To defray any expenses authorized under this part;
2. To defray expenses during any fiscal period prior to the time assessment income is sufficient to cover such expenses;
3. To cover deficits incurred during any fiscal period when assessment income is less than expenses;
4. To defray expenses incurred during any period when any or all provisions of this part are suspended or are inoperative; and
5. To cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part.

(b) Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate except that to the extent practicable, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

(c) If such excess is not retained in a reserve as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, each handler entitled to a proportionate refund of the excess assessments collected shall be credited at the end of a fiscal period with such refund against the operations of the following fiscal period unless such handler demands payment thereof, in which event such proportionate refund shall be paid as soon as practicable.

§ 956.45 Contributions.

The committee may accept voluntary contributions but these shall be used only to pay expenses incurred pursuant to §956.50. Such contributions shall be free from any encumbrances by the donor, and the committee shall retain complete control of their use.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

§ 956.50 Research and development.

(a) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production research, marketing research and development, and marketing promotion projects, including paid advertising, designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, consumption, or efficient production of Walla Walla Sweet Onions. Any such project for the promotion and advertising of Walla Walla Sweet Onions may utilize an identifying mark, including but not limited to registered trademarks and logos, which shall be made available for use by all handlers in accordance with such terms and conditions as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe. The committee may register such logos with the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to §§956.42 and 956.45.

(b) In recommending projects pursuant to this section, the committee shall give consideration to the following:
§ 956.61 Recommendation for regulations.

The committee shall recommend regulations to the Secretary whenever it deems it advisable, as provided in §956.62. The committee also may recommend modification, suspension, or termination of any regulation, or amendments thereto, in order to facilitate the handling of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for the purposes authorized in §956.63. The committee may also recommend amendment, modification, termination, or suspension of any regulation issued under this part.

§ 956.62 Container markings.

The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, provide a method, through rules and regulations issued pursuant to this part, for fixing the marking of containers which may be used in the packaging or handling of Walla Walla Sweet Onions, including appropriate logo or other container markings to identify the contents thereof. Further, the committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, establish through rules and regulations such safeguards as may be necessary to ensure that such container marking requirements are in compliance with the rules and regulations.

§ 956.63 Handling for specified purposes.

Upon the basis of recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or other available information, the Secretary may issue special regulations, or modify, suspend, or terminate requirements in effect pursuant to §§956.42 and 956.62 or any combination thereof, in order to facilitate the handling of onions for the following purposes:

(a) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for relief or to charitable institutions;
(b) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for livestock feed;
(c) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for planting and for plants;
(d) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions as salad onions;
(e) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for all processing uses including, pickling, peeling, dehydration, juicing, or other processing;
(f) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for disposal;
(g) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for seed;
(h) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for packing or storing within the production area or outside the production area, but within specified locations in the States of Oregon and Washington; and
(i) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for other purposes which may be specified.

§ 956.64 Minimum quantities.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish minimum quantities below which Walla Walla Sweet Onion shipments will be free from the requirements in, or pursuant to, §§ 956.42, 956.62, and 956.63, or any combination thereof.

§ 956.65 Notification of regulations.

The Secretary shall notify the committee of each regulation issued and of each amendment, modification, suspension, or termination thereof. The committee shall give reasonable notice thereof to handlers.

§ 956.66 Safeguards.

(a) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe adequate safeguards to prevent Walla Walla Sweet Onions shipped, pursuant to §§ 956.63 and 956.64, from entering channels of trade for other than the purpose authorized therefor.

(b) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may also prescribe rules and regulations governing the issuance, and the contents, of Certificates of Privilege, if such certificates are prescribed as safeguards by the committee. Such safeguards may include requirements that:

1. Handlers shall first file applications with the committee to ship such Walla Walla Sweet Onions.

2. Handlers shall pay the pro rata share of expenses provided by § 956.42 in connection with such Walla Walla Sweet Onions.

3. Handlers shall obtain Certificates of Privilege from the committee prior to effecting the particular onion shipment.

(c) The committee may rescind any Certificate of Privilege, or refuse to issue any Certificate of Privilege, to any handler if proof is obtained that Walla Walla Sweet Onions shipped by the handler for the purposes stated in the Certificate of Privilege were handled contrary to the provisions of this part.

(d) The Secretary shall have the right to modify, change, alter, or rescind any safeguards prescribed and any certificates issued by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(e) The committee shall make reports to the Secretary as requested, showing the number of applications for such certificates, the quantity of Walla Walla Sweet Onions covered by such applications, the number of such applications denied and certificates granted, the quantity of Walla Walla Sweet Onions handled under duly issued certificates, and such other information as may be requested.

REPORTS

§ 956.80 Reports and recordkeeping.

Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such time as it may prescribe, such reports and other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part.

(a) Such reports may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

1. The acreage of Walla Walla Sweet Onions grown;

2. The quantities of Walla Walla Sweet Onions received by such handler;

3. The quantities of Walla Walla Sweet Onions disposed of by such handler;

4. The disposition date of such Walla Walla Sweet Onions;

5. The manner of disposition of such Walla Walla Sweet Onions; and

6. The identification of the carrier transporting such Walla Walla Sweet Onions.

(b) All such reports shall be held under appropriate protective classification and custody by the committee, or duly appointed employees thereof, so that any information contained therein which may adversely affect the competitive position of any handler in relation to other handlers will not be disclosed. Compilations of general reports from data submitted by handlers is authorized, subject to the prohibition of disclosure of individual handler's identity or operations.

(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least two succeeding years such
records of the Walla Walla Sweet Onions received and disposed of by such handler as may be necessary to verify reports submitted to the committee pursuant to this section.

Miscellaneous Provisions

§ 956.85 Termination or suspension.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this subpart by giving at least one day's notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which the Secretary may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operations of any or all of the provisions of this subpart whenever it is found that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any fiscal period whenever it is found that such termination is favored by a majority of producers who, during a representative period, have been engaged in the production of Walla Walla Sweet Onions: Provided, That such majority has, during such representative period, produced for market more than fifty percent of the volume of such Walla Walla Sweet Onions produced for market, but such termination shall be announced at least 90 days before the end of the current fiscal period.

(d) Within six years of the effective date of this subpart the Secretary shall conduct a continuance referendum to ascertain whether continuance of this subpart is favored by producers. Subsequent referenda to ascertain continuance shall be conducted every six years thereafter. The Secretary may terminate the provisions of this part at the end of any fiscal period in which the Secretary has found that continuance of this subpart is not favored by a majority of producers who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production for market of Walla Walla Sweet Onions in the production area. Such termination shall be announced on or before the end of the fiscal period.

(e) The provisions of this subpart shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the Act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 956.87 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart, the then functioning members of the committee shall continue as joint trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, of all funds and property then in the possession, or under control, of the committee, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trusteeship shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.

(b) The said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of said committee and of the trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in said committee or the trustees pursuant to this subpart.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered by the committee or its members pursuant to this section shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the committee and upon the said trustees.

§ 956.88 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendments to either thereof, shall not:

(a) Affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart;

(b) Release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulations issued under this subpart; and

(c) Affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any
other person with respect to any such violations.

§ 956.89 Compliance.

No handler shall handle Walla Walla Sweet Onions except in conformity to the provisions of this part.

§ 956.90 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee, including successors and alternates, and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the committee shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every order, regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the committee shall be deemed null and void except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 956.91 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 956.92 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the Government, or name any agency in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as the Secretary’s agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

§ 956.93 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the Act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 956.94 Personal liability.

No member or alternate of the committee or any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 956.95 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart, or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 956.96 Amendments.

Amendments to this subpart may be proposed, from time to time, by the committee or by the Secretary.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

Source: 61 FR 44151, Aug. 28, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 956.142 Interest charges.

The Committee shall impose an interest charge on any handler who fails to pay his or her annual assessments within thirty (30) days of the due date of September 1. The interest charge shall, after 30 days, be 1 1/2 percent of the unpaid assessment balance. In the event the handler fails to pay the delinquent assessment amount within 60 days following the due date, the 1 1/2 percent interest charge shall be applied monthly thereafter to the unpaid balance, including any accumulated interest. Any amount paid by a handler as an assessment, including any charges imposed pursuant to this paragraph, shall be credited when the payment is received in the Committee office.

§ 956.162 Container markings.

Effective April 15, 1997, no handler shall ship any container of Walla Walla Sweet Onions except in accordance with the following terms and provisions:
§ 956.163 Handling for specified purposes.

(a) Assessment and container marking requirements specified in this part shall not be applicable to shipments of onions for any of the following purposes:

(1) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for relief or to charitable institutions: Provided, That such shipments must be donated and not sold in order for this exemption to apply;

(2) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for livestock feed;

(3) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for planting and for plants;

(4) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions as salad onions;

(5) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for all processing uses including, pickling, peeling, dehydration, juicing, or other processing;

(6) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for disposal;

(7) Shipments of Walla Walla Sweet Onions for seed.

(b) [Reserved]


§ 956.180 Reports.

Each handler shall furnish to the Committee by September 1 of each year an annual report containing the following information, except that gift-box and roadside stand sales shall be exempt from paragraph (b):

(a) The number of 50 lb. equivalents of Walla Walla Sweet Onions shipped by each handler during each week of the shipping season and the total for the season;

(b) The geographical regions as defined by the Committee to which each shipment is made; and

(c) The name, address, and signature of each handler.

§ 956.202 Assessment rate.

On and after June 1, 1996, an assessment rate of $0.19 per 50 pound bag or equivalent is established for Walla Walla Sweet Onions.

[61 FR 20122, May 6, 1996]
EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 958.40 Expenses.
§ 958.41 Budget.
§ 958.42 Assessments.
§ 958.43 Accounting.
§ 958.44 Reserve fund.
§ 958.45 Accounting of funds upon termination of the order.
§ 958.46 Contributions.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

§ 958.47 Research and development.

REGULATION

§ 958.50 Marketing policy.
§ 958.51 Recommendations for regulations.
§ 958.52 Issuance of regulations.
§ 958.53 Handling for specified purposes.
§ 958.54 Minimum quantities.
§ 958.55 Notification of regulations.
§ 958.56 Safeguards.

INSPECTION

§ 958.60 Inspection and certification.

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§ 958.65 Reports.

EFFECTIVE TIME AND TERMINATION

§ 958.70 Effective time.
§ 958.71 Termination.
§ 958.72 Proceeding after termination.
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MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 958.81 Compliance.
§ 958.82 Right of the Secretary.
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§ 958.160 Reestablishment of Districts.

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

DEFINITIONS

§ 958.1 Secretary.
Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States or any officer or employee of the United States Department of Agriculture to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 958.2 Act.

§ 958.3 Person.
Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 958.4 Production area.
Production area means all territory included within the boundaries of the County of Malheur in Oregon, and all counties south and southeast of the southern boundary of Idaho County in the State of Idaho.

§ 958.5 Onions.
Onions means all varieties of Allium cepa, commonly known as onions, grown, or which may be grown in the production area.

[41 FR 36196, Aug. 27, 1976]

§ 958.6 Handler.
Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier of onions owned by another person) who handles onions.

§ 958.7 Handle.
Handle is synonymous with ship and means to sell or transport onions, or cause onions to be sold or transported, within the production area or between
§ 958.8 Grading.
Grading is synonymous with prepare for market and means the sorting or separation of onions into grades and sizes for market purposes.

§ 958.9 Grade and size.
Grade means any of the officially established grades of onions, and size means any of the officially established sizes of onions, as set forth in:
(a) The United States Standards for grades of onions (other than Bermuda-Granex and Creole Types) (§§ 51.2830 to 51.2850 of this title), or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon;
(b) Any other United States Standards, or State of Idaho or Oregon Standards for onions, or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon.

The term size also includes any of the sizes recognized by the onion trade in the production area.

§ 958.10 Producer.
Producer means any person engaged in the production of onions for market.

§ 958.11 Committee.
Committee means the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee established pursuant to § 958.20.

§ 958.12 Fiscal period.
Fiscal period means the period beginning and ending on the dates approved by the Secretary pursuant to recommendations by the committee.

§ 958.13 Variety or varieties.
Variety or varieties means and includes all classifications of onions according to those definitive characteristics now or hereafter recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture.

§ 958.14 Export.
Export means shipment of onions beyond the boundaries of continental United States.

§ 958.15 District.
District means each of the geographical divisions of the production area initially established or as reestablished pursuant to § 958.27.

§ 958.16 Pack.
Pack means a quantity of onions in any type of container and which falls within specific weight limits or within specific grade or size limits, or both, as may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 958.17 Container.
Container means a sack, box, bag, crate, hamper, basket, carton, package, or any other type of receptacle used in the packaging, transportation, sale, shipment or other handling of onions.

Administrative Committee

§ 958.20 Establishment and membership.
(a) The Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee, consisting of six producer members, four handler members, and one public member is hereby established. Each shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member.

(b) An alternate member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom he is an alternate, during such member’s absence or inability to act, and shall perform other duties as assigned. In the event of the death, removal, resignation or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor for such member is selected and has qualified.


§ 958.21 Procedure.
(a) Seven members of the committee shall be necessary to constitute a quorum and seven concurring votes
shall be required to pass any motion or approve any committee action.

(b) The committee may provide for voting by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication and any such vote shall be confirmed promptly in writing: Provided, That if an assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.

§ 958.22 Selection.

The Secretary shall select committee members and alternates from the nominee lists submitted pursuant to this part or from among other eligible persons.

(a) Each person selected as a committee member or alternate to represent producers shall be an individual who is a producer, or an officer or employee of a producer, in the district for which selected.

(b) Each person selected as a committee member or alternate to represent handlers shall be an individual who is a handler, or an officer or employee of a handler in the portion of the production area for which selected.

(c) The Secretary shall select one producer member of the committee, and alternate, from each of the districts established, or reestablished, pursuant to § 958.27. The Secretary shall also select one handler member of the committee, and his alternate, from the Idaho portion of the production area and one member and his alternate from Malheur County, Oregon, and two handler members, and their respective alternates, from the production area-at-large.

(d) Each person selected by the Secretary as a committee member or alternate shall qualify by filing a written acceptance promptly with the Secretary.

(e) The public member shall be a resident of the production area and have no direct financial interest in the commercial production, financing, buying, packing or marketing of onions except as a consumer nor be a director, officer or employee of any firm so engaged.

§ 958.26 Expenses.

Committee members and alternates when acting on committee business shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties and in the exercise of their powers under this part. However, at its discretion the committee may request the attendance of alternates at any or all meetings notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members.
[41 FR 36195, Aug. 27, 1976]

§ 958.27 Districts.

(a) For the purpose of selecting committee members, the following districts of the production area are hereby initially established:

District No. 1 (Emmett, Payette, Weiser Area): All territory within the boundaries of Washington, Payette and Gem Counties, in Idaho.

District No. 2 (Oregon Slope): All territory within a boundary following the Snake River northwesterly from its junction with the Malheur River, to the west line of Range 46E; thence south along said west line to the south line of Township 17S, and thence east along said south line to its junction with the Malheur River, and thence northeasterly along the Malheur River to the junction with the Snake River, the point of beginning.

District No. 3 (Ontario, Vale, Jamieson, Brogan): All territory within a boundary starting at the junction of the Malheur River with the Snake River and extending southwesterly along the Malheur River to its junction with the south line of Township 17S, E. W. M.; thence westward along this line to its junction with the west line of Range 46E; thence north along this line to its junction with the Snake River; thence northeasterly along the Snake River to its junction with the north boundary of Malheur County; thence west along the north boundary of Malheur County to the west boundary of the county; thence south along the west boundary of Malheur County to its intersection with the south line of Township 20S; thence east along this line to its junction with the Hyline Canal and Siphon; thence northeast along the Hyline Canal to its intersection with Highway 20; thence north along Highway 20 to Cairo Junction; thence east along Highway 20 to Cairo Junction; thence south 1/4 mile to the junction of Highway 20 to Oregon Avenue; thence east along Oregon Avenue to its termination at the Snake River; thence north along the Snake River to its junction with the Malheur River, the point of beginning.

District No. 4 (Nyssa-Adrian): All the area of Malheur County, Oregon, south of District No. 3.

District No. 5 (Parma, Wilder, Nampa, and Notus Area): Canyon County, Idaho.

District No. 6 (Homedale, Marsing, Meredian, Melba, Mountain Home, Glenns Ferry and Twin Falls Area): All counties in the Idaho portion of the production area not included within Districts Nos. 1 and 5.
(b) The Secretary, upon the recommendation of the committee, may reestablish districts within the production area and may reapportion committee membership among the various districts: Provided, That in recommending any such changes in districts or representation, the committee shall give consideration to: (1) The relative importance of new producing sections; (2) changes in the relative position of existing districts with respect to onion production; (3) the geographic location of committee members and the effect they would have on the efficiency of administering this part; (4) other relevant factors:

Provided, further, That there shall be no change in the total number of committee members or in the total number of districts.

§ 958.28 Nominations.

Nominations from which the Secretary may select the members of the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee and their respective alternates may be made in the following manner:

(a) The committee shall hold or cause to be held prior to April 1 of each year, after the effective date of this subpart, one or more meetings of producers and of handlers in each of the districts, or portions of the production area, in which the then current terms of office will expire the following May 31;

(b) In arranging for such meetings the committee may, if it deems desirable, cooperate with existing organizations and agencies and may combine its meetings with others;

(c) Nominations for committee members and alternate members shall be supplied to the Secretary in such manner and form as he may prescribe, not later than 30 days prior to the end of each fiscal period;

(d) Only producers may participate in designating nominees for producer committee members and their alternates and only handlers may participate in designating nominees for handler committee members and their alternates;

(e) Each person who is both a handler and a producer may vote either as a handler or as a producer and may select the group in which he will vote;

(f) Regardless of the number of districts in which a person produces or handles onions, each such person is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of himself, his partners, agents, subsidiaries, affiliates and representatives, in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. In the event a person is a producer engaged in producing onions in more than one district, such person shall select the district within which he may participate as aforesaid in designating nominees. Similarly, a person who is a handler both in Malheur County, Oregon, and in the Idaho portion of the production area, may select either Malheur County or the Idaho portion of the production area in which to cast his vote for the applicable committee handler member and alternate. Each such handler shall also be entitled to cast his vote for the committee member and alternate to represent the production area-at-large. An eligible voter's privilege of casting only one vote, as aforesaid, shall be construed to permit such voter to cast one vote for each member and alternate position to be filled in the respective district or portion of the production area, as the case may be, in which he elects to vote; and

(g) The producer and handler members of the committee shall nominate the public member and alternate. The committee shall prescribe such additional qualifications, administrative rules and procedures for selection and voting for each candidate as it deems necessary and as the Secretary approves.


§ 958.29 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner specified by the Secretary pursuant to § 958.28, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the committee members and alternates on the basis of the representation provided for in this subpart.

§ 958.30 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person, selected as a committee member or alternate, to...
§ 958.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary may find are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it during each fiscal period for its maintenance and functioning, and for such purposes as the Secretary, pursuant to this subpart, determines to be appropriate. Handlers shall share expenses upon the basis of a fiscal period. Each handler’s share of such expenses shall be proportionate to the ratio between the total quantity of such handler’s onion shipments inspected pursuant to this part that are handled by him as the first handler thereof during a fiscal period, and the total quantity of such onions handled by all handlers as first handlers thereof during the same period.

§ 958.41 Budget.

Prior to each fiscal period, and as may be necessary thereafter the committee shall prepare a budget of estimated income and expenditures necessary for the administration of this part. The committee shall recommend to the Secretary a rate of assessment calculated to provide adequate funds to defray its proposed expenditures. The committee shall present such budget promptly to the Secretary with an accompanying report thereon showing the basis for its calculations and recommended rate.


§ 958.42 Assessments.

(a) The funds to cover the committee’s expenses pursuant to §958.40 shall be acquired by the levy of assessments upon handlers as provided in this subpart. Each handler who handles onions as the first handler thereof which are inspected pursuant to this part shall pay assessments to the committee upon demand, which assessments shall be in payment of such handler’s pro rata share of such expenses.

(b) Assessments shall be levied upon handlers at rates established by the Secretary. Such rates may be established upon the basis of the committee’s recommendations or other available information.

(c) At any time during or subsequent to a given fiscal period, the committee may recommend the approval of an amended budget and an increase in the rate of assessment. Upon the basis of such recommendation, or other available information, the Secretary may approve an amended budget and increase the rate of assessment. Such increase shall be applicable to all onion shipments inspected pursuant to this part during such fiscal period.

§ 958.43 Accounting.

(a) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this part.

(b) The Secretary may at any time require the committee, its members and alternates, employees, agents, and all other persons to account for all receipts and disbursements, funds, property, or records for which they are responsible. Whenever any person ceases to be a member or alternate of the committee, he shall account for all receipts, disbursements, funds, and property (including, but not being limited to, books and other records) pertaining to the committee’s activities for which he is responsible, and deliver all such property and funds in his hands to such successor, agency, or person as may be designated by the Secretary, and shall
execute such assignments and other in-
struments as may be necessary or ap-
propriate to vest in each such succes-
sor, agency, or person as may be des-
ignated by the Secretary the right to
all of such property and funds and all
claims vested in such person.

(c) The committee may make rec-
ommendations to the Secretary for one
or more of the members thereof, or any
other person, to act as a trustee for
holding records, funds, and any other
committee property during periods of
suspension of this part, or during any
periods when regulations are not in ef-
fect; and, if the Secretary determines
such action appropriate, he may direct
that such person or persons shall so act
as trustee or trustees.

§ 958.44 Reserve fund.

At the end of each fiscal period, funds
in excess of the committee's expenses
may be placed in an operating reserve
not to exceed approximately 1 fiscal
year's operational expenses or such
lower limits as the committee, with
the approval of the Secretary, may es-

tablish. Also, the committee, with the
approval of the Secretary, may include
in its budget an item for such reserve.
Funds in the reserve shall be available
for use by the committee for expenses
authorized pursuant to § 958.40. Funds
in excess of those placed in the operat-
ing reserve shall be refunded to han-
dlers. Each handler's share of such ex-
cess shall be the amount he paid in ex-
cess of his pro rata share of the ex-
penses of the committee.

[32 FR 11261, Aug. 3, 1967]

§ 958.45 Accounting of funds upon ter-
mination of the order.

Any funds collected as assessments
pursuant to this subpart and remaining
unexpended in the possession of the
committee after termination of this
part shall be distributed in such man-
ner as the Secretary may direct: Pro-
vided, That to the extent practical,
such funds shall be returned pro rata to
the persons from whom such funds
were collected.

[32 FR 11262, Aug. 3, 1967]

§ 958.46 Contributions.

The committee may accept voluntary
contributions but these shall only be
used to pay expenses incurred pursuant
to § 958.47. Furthermore, such contribu-
tions shall be free from any encum-
brances by the donor and the commit-
tee shall retain complete control of
their use.

[41 FR 36196, Aug. 27, 1976]

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

§ 958.47 Research and development.

(a) The committee with the approval
of the Secretary, may establish or pro-
vide for the establishment of projects
involving production research, market-
ing research and development projects,
and marketing promotion including
paid advertising, designed to assist, im-
prove, or promote the marketing, dis-
tribution, consumption or efficient
production of onions. Any such project
for the promotion and advertising of
onions may utilize an identifying mark
which shall be made available for use
by all handlers in accordance with such
terms and conditions as the commit-
tee, with the approval of the Secretary,
may prescribe. The expenses of such
projects shall be paid from funds col-
lected pursuant to § 958.42 or § 958.46.

(b) In recommending projects pursu-
ant to this section the committee shall
give consideration to the following:
(1) The expected supply of onions in
relation to market requirements;

(2) The supply situation among com-
peting areas and commodities;

(3) The anticipated benefits from
such projects in relation to their costs;

(4) The need for marketing research
with respect to any market develop-
ment activity; and

(5) The need for a coordinated effort
with USDA's Food Marketing Alert or
other similar programs.

(c) If the committee should conclude
that a program of research or develop-
ment should be undertaken, or contin-
ued, in any crop year, it shall submit
the following for the approval of the
Secretary:
(1) Its recommendations as to the
funds to be obtained pursuant to § 958.42
or § 958.46;

(2) Its recommendation as to any re-
search projects; and
§ 958.50 Marketing policy.

(a) Preparation. Prior to each marketing season the committee shall consider and prepare a proposed policy for the marketing of onions. In developing its marketing policy the committee shall investigate relevant supply and demand conditions for onions. In such investigations the committee shall give appropriate consideration to the following:

(1) Market prices for onions, including prices by variety, grade, size, and quality, and by different packs;

(2) Supply of onions by grade, size, quality, and variety in the production area and in other onion producing sections;

(3) The trend and level of consumer income;

(4) Establishing and maintaining orderly marketing conditions for onions;

(5) Orderly marketing of onions as will be in the public interest; and

(6) Other relevant factors.

(b) Reports. (1) The committee shall submit a report to the Secretary setting forth the aforesaid marketing policy; and the committee shall notify producers and handlers of the contents of such report.

(2) In the event it becomes advisable to shift from such marketing policy because of changed supply and demand conditions, the committee shall prepare an amended or revised marketing policy in accordance with the manner previously outlined. The committee shall submit a report thereon to the Secretary and notify producers and handlers of the contents of such report on the revised or amended marketing policy.

§ 958.51 Recommendations for regulations.

The committee shall recommend regulations to the Secretary whenever it finds that such regulations as provided in §958.52 will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. The committee also may recommend modification, suspension, or termination of any regulation, or amendments thereto, in order to facilitate the handling of onions for the purposes authorized in §958.53. The committee may also recommend amendment, modification, termination, or suspension of any regulation issued under this part.

§ 958.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this part, the Secretary shall limit the shipment of onions by any one or more of the methods hereinafter set forth whenever he finds from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulation would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such limitation may:

(1) Regulate in any or all portions of the production area, the handling of particular grades, sizes, or qualities of any or all varieties of onions, or combinations thereof, during any period or periods;

(2) Regulate the handling of particular grades, sizes, or qualities of onions differently, for different varieties, for different portions of the production area, for different packs, or for any combination of the foregoing, during any period or periods;

(3) Provide a method, through rules and regulations issued pursuant to this part, for fixing the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, or pack of the container, or containers, which may be used in the packaging or handling of onions, including appropriate container markings to identify the contents thereof;

(4) Regulate the handling of onions by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity; or

(5) Limit the shipment of the total quantity of onions by prohibiting the handling thereof during a specified period or periods. No regulation issued pursuant to this subparagraph shall be effective for more than 96 consecutive hours: Provided, That not less than 72 consecutive hours shall elapse between
§ 958.56 Safeguards.

(a) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe adequate safeguards to prevent onions shipped,

(1) Pursuant to §§ 958.53 or § 958.54; or

(2) To commercial dehydrators for processing by such dehydrators into dehydrated onion products,

from entering channels of trade for other than the purpose authorized thereof.

(b) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may also prescribe rules and regulations governing the issuance, and the contents, of Certificates of Privilege if such certificates are prescribed as safeguards by the committee. Such safeguards may include requirements that:

(1) Handlers shall first file applications with the committee to ship such onions;

(2) Handlers shall obtain inspection provided by §§ 958.42, 958.52, 958.60, or pay the pro rata share of expenses provided by § 958.42, or both, in connection with such onions; and

(3) Handlers shall obtain Certificates of Privilege from the committee prior to effecting the particular onion shipment.

(c) The committee may rescind any Certificate of Privilege, or refuse to issue any Certificate of Privilege to any handler if proof is obtained that onions shipped by him for the purposes stated in the Certificate of Privilege
§ 958.60 Inspection and certification.

(a) During any period in which shipments of onions are regulated pursuant to this subpart, no handler shall handle onions unless such onions are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service, or such other inspection service as the Secretary shall designate and are covered by a valid inspection certificate, except when relieved from such requirements pursuant to §§ 958.53, 958.54, or both.

(b) Regarding, resorting, or repacking any lot of onions shall invalidate prior inspection certificates insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned. No handler shall ship onions after they have been regarded, resorted, repacked or in any other way further prepared for market, unless such onions are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service, or such other inspection service as the Secretary shall designate.

(c) Upon recommendation of the committee, and approval of the Secretary, all onions that are required to be inspected and certified in accordance with this section, shall be identified by appropriate seals, stamps, tags, or other identification to be furnished by the committee and affixed to the containers by the handler under the direction and supervision of the Federal-State, or Federal inspector, or the committee. Master containers may bear the identification instead of the individual containers within said master container.

(d) Insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned, the length of time for which an inspection certificate is valid may be established by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(e) When onions are inspected in accordance with the requirements of this section, a copy of each inspection certificate issued shall be made available to the committee by the inspection service.

§ 958.65 Reports.

Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such time as it may prescribe, such reports and other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part.

(a) Such reports may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: (1) The quantities of onions received by a handler; (2) the quantities disposed of by him, segregated as to the respective quantities subject to regulation and not subject to regulation; (3) the date of each such disposition and the identification of the carrier transporting such onions; and (4) identification of the inspection certificates relating to the onions which were handled pursuant to §§ 958.53 and 958.54.

(b) All such reports shall be held under appropriate protective classification and custody by the committee, or duly appointed employees thereof, so that the information contained therein which may adversely affect the competitive position of any handler in relation to other handlers will not be disclosed. Compilations of general reports from data submitted by handlers is authorized, subject to the prohibition of disclosure of individual handler’s identities or operations.

(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least two succeeding years such records of the onions received, and of onions disposed of, by such handler as may be necessary to verify the reports.
the committee pursuant to this section.

Effective Time and Termination

§ 958.70 Effective time.

The provisions of this subpart, or any amendment thereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in this subpart.

§ 958.71 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this subpart by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary may terminate or suspend the operations of any or all of the provisions of this subpart whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any fiscal period whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of producers who, during a representative period, have been engaged in the production for market of onions: Provided, That such majority has, during such representative period, produced for market more than fifty percent of the volume of such onions produced for market, but such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before May 31 of the then current fiscal period.

(d) The provisions of this subpart shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 958.72 Proceeding after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart, the then functioning members of the committee shall continue as joint trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, of all the funds and property then in the possession, or under control, of the committee, including claims for any funds unpaid and property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trustees shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.

(b) The said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall, upon request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant to this subpart.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered by the committee or its members pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the committee and upon the said trustees.

§ 958.73 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or of any regulations issued under this subpart; (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulations issued under this subpart; or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violations.

Miscellaneous Provisions

§ 958.81 Compliance.

No handler shall handle onions the handling of which has been prohibited or otherwise limited by the Secretary in accordance with provisions of this part; and no handler shall handle onions except in conformity to the provisions of this part.

§ 958.82 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates) and any agent or employee appointed or
§ 958.83 Duration of immunities.
The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 958.84 Agents.
The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the Government, or name any agency in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

§ 958.85 Derogation.
Nothing contained in this subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 958.86 Personal liability.
No member or alternate of the committee nor any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, wilful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 958.87 Separability.
If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart, or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing, shall not be affected thereby.

§ 958.88 Amendments.
Amendments to this subpart may be proposed, from time to time, by the committee or by the Secretary.

§ 958.89 Counterparts.
This agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts and when one counterpart is signed by the Secretary, all such counterparts shall constitute, when taken together, one and the same instrument as if all signatures were contained in one original.

§ 958.90 Additional parties.
After the effective date hereof, any handler may become a party to this agreement if a counterpart is executed by him and delivered to the Secretary. This agreement shall take effect as to such new contracting party at the time such counterpart is delivered to the Secretary, and the benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred by this agreement shall then be effective as to such new contracting party.

§ 958.91 Order with marketing agreement.
Each signatory handler requests the Secretary to issue, pursuant to the act, an order providing for regulating the handling of onions in the same manner as is provided for in this agreement.

The undersigned hereby authorizes the Director, or Acting Director, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, to correct any typographical errors which may have been made in this marketing agreement.

In witness whereof, the contracting parties, acting under the provisions of the act, for the purpose and subject to the limitations therein contained, and not otherwise,
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 958.328

If one of the contracting parties to this agreement is a corporation my signature constitutes certification that I have the power granted to me by the Board of Directors to bind this corporation to the marketing agreement.

have hereto set their respective signatures and seals.

(Firm name)

By: ____________________________

(Signature)¹

(Mailing address)

(Title)

(Corporate Seal; if none, so state)

(Date of execution)

[41 FR 29136, July 15, 1976]

§ 958.160 Reestablishment of Districts.

(a) Pursuant to § 958.27(b) the following districts are reestablished:

(1) District No. 5 (Parma-Wilder area): That portion of Canyon County lying west and north of a line commencing at the junction of the north boundary of Canyon County and Range 4, Township 12 east, thence south along this line to Soeck Road, thence west along Soeck Road one-fourth mile to Notus Road, thence south along Notus Road to Highway 19, thence west one mile along Highway 19 to Friends Road, thence south along Friends Road to Boundary Road, thence east one-half mile along Boundary Road to Plum Road, thence south along Plum Road to Homedale Road, thence west along Homedale Road to the western boundary of Canyon County.

(2) District No. 6 (Caldwell-Nampa-Homedale and southern Idaho area): That portion of Canyon County not included in District No. 5 plus all of the counties in the Idaho portion of the production area not included within District No. 1.

(b) Terms used in this section have the same meaning as when used in said marketing agreement and this part.

[39 FR 1601, Jan. 11, 1974]

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 958.240 Assessment rate.

On and after July 1, 1996, an assessment rate of $0.10 per hundredweight is established for Idaho-Eastern Oregon onions.

[61 FR 27251, May 31, 1996]

Subpart—Handling Regulations

§ 958.328 Handling regulation.

No person shall handle any lot of onions, except braided red onions, unless such onions are at least "moderately cured," as defined in paragraph (h) of this section, and meet the requirements of paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section, or unless such onions are handled in accordance with paragraphs (d), (e), and (f) or (g) of this section.

(a) Grade and size requirements—(1) White varieties. Shall be either:

(i) U.S. No. 2 or U.S. Commercial, 1 inch minimum to 2 inches maximum diameter; or

(ii) U.S. No. 2 or U.S. Commercial grade, at least 1½ inches minimum diameter but not more than 30 percent of the lot shall be comprised of onions of U.S. No. 1 quality when packed in containers weighing less than 60 pounds; or

(iii) U.S. No. 1, at least 1½ inches minimum diameter.

However, none of these three categories of onions may be commingled in the same bag or other container.

(2) Red varieties. U.S. No. 2 or better grade, at least 1½ inches minimum diameter.

(3) All other varieties. Shall be either:

(i) U.S. No. 2 or U.S. Commercial grade, at least 3 inches minimum diameter, but not more than 30 percent of the lot shall be comprised of onions of U.S. No. 1 quality when packed in containers weighing less than 60 pounds; or

(ii) U.S. No. 1, 1¼ inches minimum to 2¼ maximum diameter; or

(iii) U.S. No. 1, at least 2¼ inches minimum diameter.

However, none of these three categories of onions may be commingled in the same bag or other container.

(b) Pack. Onions packed as U.S. Commercial grade in containers weighing
§ 958.328

Inspection and handling of onions regulated hereunder shall be in accordance with the requirements of this section. Onions weighing less than 60 pounds shall have the grade marked permanently and conspicuously on the container.

(c) Inspection. No handler may handle any onions regulated hereunder unless such onions are inspected by the Federal-State Inspection Service and are covered by a valid applicable inspection certificate, except when relieved of such requirement pursuant to paragraph (d), (e) or (g) of this section.

(d) Onions for peeling, chopping or slicing. Onions that have been inspected and certified as meeting the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section and that are subsequently peeled, chopped, or sliced for fresh market within the production area may be handled without reinspection. Each handler making shipments of onions for such purposes shall provide the committee with a copy of the original inspection certificate verifying that minimum marketing order requirements have been met. Such handlers shall also document on forms provided by the committee, in quadruplicate, the intended use and destination of the onions, referencing the inspection certificate number. Two copies of such forms shall be sent on shipment to the handler altering the onions destined for fresh market, and one copy will be mailed to the committee. Upon receipt, the handler responsible for altering such onions will document the weight of the finished product and promptly return one signed copy to the committee. Failure of the handler or processor to report such shipments by promptly signing and returning the applicable report to the committee office may be cause for cancellation of such handler’s Certificate of Privilege and/or the processor’s eligibility to receive further shipments pursuant to such Certificate of Privilege. Upon cancellation of any such Certificate of Privilege the handler may appeal to the committee for reconsideration.

(e) Special purpose shipments. The minimum grade, size, maturity, assessment, and inspection requirements of this section shall not be applicable to shipments of onions for any of the following purposes: (1) planting, (2) livestock feed, (3) charity, (4) dehydration, (5) canning, (6) freezing, (7) extraction, and (8) pickling. In addition, the minimum grade, size, and maturity requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of this section shall not be applicable to shipments of pearl onions, but the maximum size requirements in paragraph (h) of this section and the assessment and inspection requirements shall be applicable to shipments of pearl onions.

(f) Safeguards. Each handler making shipments of onions for dehydration, planting, canning, freezing, extraction or pickling pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section shall:

1. First apply to the committee for and obtain a Certificate of Privilege to make such shipments;

2. Prepare, on forms furnished by the committee, a report in quadruplicate on each individual shipment to such outlets authorized in paragraph (c) of this section;

3. Bill or consign each shipment directly to the applicable processor; and

4. Forward one copy of such report to the committee office and two copies to the processor for signing and returning one copy to the committee office. Failure of the handler or processor to report such shipments by promptly signing and returning the applicable report to the committee office may be cause for cancellation of such handler’s Certificate of Privilege and/or the processor’s eligibility to receive further shipments pursuant to such Certificate of Privilege. Upon cancellation of any such Certificate of Privilege the handler may appeal to the committee for reconsideration.

(g) Minimum quantity exemption. Each handler may ship up to, but not to exceed, one ton of onions each day without regard to the inspection and assessment requirements of this part, if such onions meet minimum grade, size and maturity requirements of this section. This exception shall not apply to any portion of a shipment that exceeds one ton of onions.

(h) Definitions. The terms “U.S. No. 1,” “U.S. Commercial,” and “U.S. No. 2” have the same meaning as defined in the United States Standards for Grades of Onions (Other than Bermuda-Granex-Grano and Creole Types), as amended (7 CFR 51.2830 through .2854), or the United States Standards for Grades of Bermuda-Granex-Grano Type Onions (7 CFR 51.3195 through .3209), as amended, whichever is applicable to the particular variety, or variations thereof specified in this section. The term “braided red onions” means onions of red varieties with tops braided.
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(Interlaced). "Pearl onions" means onions produced using specific cultural practices that limit growth to the same general size as boilers and picklers, and that have been inspected and certified as measuring 13/4 inches in diameter or less. The term "moderately cured" means the onions are mature and are more nearly well cured than fairly well cured. Other terms used in this section have the same meaning as when used in Marketing Agreement No. 130 and this part.


Editorial Note: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g., sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

PART 959—ONIONS GROWN IN SOUTH TEXAS

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Definitions

§ 959.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may be hereafter delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 959.2 Act.


§ 959.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association or any other business unit.

§ 959.4 Production area.


§ 959.5 Onions.

Onions means all varieties of Allium cepa commonly known as onions grown within the production area and marketed dry.

§ 959.6 Handler.

Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier of onions owned by another person) who handles onions or causes onions to be handled.

§ 959.7 Handle.

Handle or ship means to package, load, sell, transport, or in any way to place onions in the current of the commerce within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof. Such term shall not include the transportation, sale, or delivery of field-run onions to a person in the production area who is a registered handler.

[27 FR 227, Mar. 9, 1962, as amended at 34 FR 6440, Apr. 12, 1969]

§ 959.8 Registered handler.

Registered handler means any person with adequate facilities within the production area for preparing onions for commercial market, who customarily does so, and who is so recorded by the committee, or any person who has access to such facilities within the production area, and has recorded with the committee his ability and willingness to assume customary obligations of preparing onions for commercial market.

§ 959.9 Producer.

Producer means any person engaged in a proprietary capacity in the production of onions for market.

§ 959.10 Grading.

Grading is synonymous with preparation for market and means the sorting or separation of onions into grades, sizes, and packs for market purposes.

§ 959.11 Grade and size.

Grade means any of the established grades of onions, and size means any of the established sizes of onions as defined and set forth in the United States Standards for Bermuda-Granex Type
Onions (§§ 51.3195 to 51.3209 of this title) or any other United States Standards for onions, or amendments thereto or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon, recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 959.12 Pack.
Pack means a quantity of onions specified by grade, size, weight, or count, or by type or condition of container, or any combination of these recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

[27 FR 2278, Mar. 9, 1962]

§ 959.13 Container.
Container means a box, bag, crate, hamper, basket, package, or any other receptacle used in the packaging, transportation, sale, shipment or other handling of onions.

§ 959.14 Varieties.
Varieties means and includes all classifications, subdivisions, or types of onions according to those definitive characteristics now or hereafter recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture or recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 959.15 Committee.
Committee means the South Texas Onion Committee, established pursuant to §959.22.

§ 959.16 Fiscal period.
Fiscal period means the annual period beginning and ending on such dates as may be approved by the Secretary pursuant to recommendations of the committee.

§ 959.17 District.
District means each of the geographic divisions of the production area initially established pursuant to §959.24 or as reestablished pursuant to §959.25.

§ 959.18 Export.
Export means to ship onions to any destination which is not within the 48 contiguous States, or the District of Columbia, of the United States.

§ 959.22 Establishment and membership.
The South Texas Onion Committee, consisting of seventeen members, ten of whom shall be producers and seven of whom shall be handlers, is hereby established. For each member of the committee there shall be an alternate. Producer members and alternates shall not have a proprietary interest in or be employees of a handler organization.

§ 959.23 Term of office.
(a) The term of office of committee members and their respective alternates shall be for two years and shall begin as of August 1 and end as of July 31. The terms shall be so determined that about one-half of the total committee membership shall terminate each year.
(b) Committee members and alternates shall serve during the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified, or during that portion thereof beginning on the date on which they qualify during such term of office and continuing until the end thereof, and until their successors are selected and have qualified.

§ 959.24 Districts.
To determine a basis for selecting committee members, the following districts of the production area are hereby initially established:
District No. 1: (Coastal Bend) The Counties of Victoria, Calhoun, Goliad, Refugio, Bee, Live Oak, San Patricio, Aransas, Jim Wells, Nueces, Kleberg, Brooks, Kenedy, Duval, and McMullen in the State of Texas.
District No. 2: (Laredo) The Counties of Zapata, Webb, and Jim Hogg in the State of Texas.
District No. 3: (Lower Valley) The Counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy in the State of Texas.
District No. 4: (Wilson-Karnes) The Counties of DeWitt, Wilson, Atascosa, and Karnes in the State of Texas.
District No. 5: (Winter Garden) The Counties of Val Verde, Frio, Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Maverick, Zavala, Dimmit, and La Salle in the State of Texas.

§ 959.25 Redistricting.
The committee may recommend, and pursuant thereto, the Secretary may
§ 959.26 Approval.

The committee shall not approve the reapportionment of members or the redistricting of districts within the production area. In recommending any such changes, the committee shall give consideration to:

(a) Shifts in onion acreage within the districts and within the production area during recent years;

(b) The importance of new production in its relation to existing districts;

(c) The equitable relationship of committee membership and districts;

(d) Economies to result for producers in promoting efficient administration due to redistricting or reapportionment of members within districts; and

(e) Other relevant factors. No change in districting or apportionment of members within districts may become effective less than 30 days prior to the date on which terms of office begin each year and no recommendations for such redistricting or reapportionment may be made less than six months prior to such date.

§ 959.26 Selection.

The Secretary shall select members and respective alternates from districts established pursuant to § 959.24 or § 959.25. Initial selections shall be as follows:

District No. 1—3 producer members and alternates; 1 handler member and alternate.

District No. 2—2 producer members and alternates; 1 handler member and alternate.

District No. 3—3 producer members and alternates; 2 handler member and alternates.

District No. 4—1 handler member and alternate.

District No. 5—2 producer members and alternates; 2 handler members and alternates.

§ 959.27 Nomination.

The Secretary may select the members of the committee and alternates from nominations which may be made in the following manner:

(a) A meeting or meetings of producers and handlers shall be held for each district to nominate members and alternates for the committee. For nominations to the initial committee, the meetings may be sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture or by any agency or group requested to do so by such department. For nominations for succeeding members and alternates on the committee, the committee shall hold such meetings or cause them to be held prior to June 15 of each year, after the effective date of this subpart, or by such other date as may be specified by the Secretary;

(b) At each such meeting at least one nominee shall be designated for each position as member and for each position as alternate member on the committee;

(c) Nominations for committee members and alternates shall be supplied to the Secretary in such manner and form as he may prescribe, not later than July 1 of each year, or by such other date as may be specified by the Secretary;

(d) Only producers may participate in designating producer nominees, and only handlers may participate in naming handler nominees. In the event a person is engaged in producing or handling onions in more than one district, such person shall elect the district within which he may participate as aforesaid in designating nominees;

(e) Regardless of the number of districts in which a person produces or handles onions, each such person is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of himself, his agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and representatives in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. An eligible voter's privilege of casting only one vote as aforesaid shall be construed to permit a voter to cast one vote for each position to be filled in the respective district in which he elects to vote.

§ 959.28 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner specified in § 959.27, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the committee members and alternates, which selection shall be on the basis of the representation provided for in §§ 959.22 through 959.26.

§ 959.29 Acceptance.

Any person selected as a committee member or alternate shall qualify by filing a written acceptance within ten

§ 959.26

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days after being notified of such selection.

§ 959.30 Vacancies.
To fill committee vacancies, the Secretary may select such members or alternates from unselected nominees on the current nominee list from the district involved, or from nominations made in the manner specified in §959.27. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within 30 days after such vacancy occurs, such vacancy may be filled without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of the representation provided for in §§959.24 to 959.26.

§ 959.31 Alternate members.
An alternate member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom he is an alternate, during such member’s absence or when designated to do so by the member for whom he is an alternate. In the event both a member of the committee and his alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the member or his alternate or the committee (in that order) may designate another alternate from the same district and the same group (handler or grower) to serve in such member’s place and stead. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor of such member is selected and has qualified. The committee may request the attendance of alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members.

[27 FR 2278, Mar. 9, 1962]

§ 959.32 Procedure.
(a) Eleven members of the committee shall be necessary to constitute a quorum. Nine concurring votes, or two-thirds of the votes cast, whichever is greater, shall be required to pass any motion or approve any committee action. At assembled meetings all votes shall be cast in person.
(b) The committee may meet by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication and any vote at such a meeting shall be promptly confirmed in writing. On such occasions unanimous vote of committee members voting will be required to approve any action.

§ 959.33 Expenses and compensation.
Committee members and alternates when acting on committee business shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties and in the exercise of their powers under this part. In addition they may receive compensation at a rate to be determined by the committee and approved by the Secretary, not to exceed $10 for each day, or portion thereof, spent in attending to committee business.

§ 959.34 Powers.
The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms and provisions;
(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part;
(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 959.35 Duties.
It shall be, among other things, the duty of the committee:
(a) As soon as practicable after the beginning of each term of office, to meet and organize, to select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, to select subcommittees of committee members and alternates, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;
(b) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;
(c) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as he may request;
(d) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person, and to protect the handling of committee funds through fidelity bonds for employees;
§ 959.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary may find are reasonable and likely to be incurred during each fiscal period for its maintenance and functioning, and for such purposes as the Secretary, pursuant to this subpart, determines to be appropriate. Handlers shall share expenses on the basis of a fiscal period. Each handler's share of such expenses shall be proportionate to the ratio between the total quantity of onions handled by him as the first handler thereof during a fiscal period and the quantity of onions handled by all handlers as first handlers thereof during such fiscal period.

§ 959.41 Budget.

As soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period and as may be necessary thereafter, the committee shall prepare an estimated budget of income and expenditures necessary for the administration of this part. The committee may recommend a rate of assessment calculated to provide adequate funds to defray its proposed expenditures. The committee shall present such budget to the Secretary with an accompanying report showing the basis for its calculations.

§ 959.42 Assessments.

(a) The funds to cover the committee's expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments upon handlers as provided in this subpart. Each handler who first handles onions, which are regulated under this part, shall pay assessments to the committee upon demand, which assessments shall be in payment of such handler's pro rata share of the committee's expenses.

(b) Assessments shall be levied upon handlers at rates established by the Secretary. Such rates may be established upon the basis of the committee's recommendations and other available information. Such rates may be applied to specified containers used in the production area.

(c) At any time during, or subsequent to, a given fiscal period the committee may recommend the approval of an amended budget and an increase in the rate of assessment. Upon the basis of such recommendations, or other available information, the Secretary may approve an amended budget and increase the rate of assessment. Such increase shall be applicable to all onions which were regulated under this part and which were handled by the first handlers thereof during such fiscal period.

(d) The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this...
part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

§ 959.43 Accounting.
(a) Assessments collected in excess of expenses incurred shall be accounted for in accordance with one of the following:
   (1) Excess funds not retained in a reserve, as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section shall be refunded proportionately to the persons from whom they were collected.
   (2) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may carry over excess funds into subsequent fiscal periods as reserves: Provided, That funds already in reserves do not equal approximately two fiscal periods' expenses. Such reserve funds may be used (i) to defray expenses during any fiscal period prior to the time assessment income is sufficient to cover such expenses, (ii) to cover deficits incurred during any fiscal period when assessment income is less than expenses, (iii) to defray expenses incurred during any period when any or all provisions of this part are suspended or are inoperative, (iv) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. Upon such termination, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate. To the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.
   (b) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purpose specified in this part and shall be accounted for in the manner provided for in this part. The Secretary may at any time require the committee and its members to account for all receipts and disbursements.
   (c) Upon the removal or expiration of the term of office of any member of the committee, such member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property and funds in his possession to the committee, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in the committee full title to all of the property, funds, and claims vested in such member pursuant to this part.
   (d) The committee may make recommendations to the Secretary for one or more of the members thereof, or any other person, to act as a trustee for holding records, funds, or any other committee property during periods of suspension of this subpart, or during any period or periods when regulations are not in effect and if the Secretary determines such action appropriate, he may direct that such person or persons shall act as trustee or trustees for the committee.


RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

§ 959.48 Research and development.
The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production research, marketing research, and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, consumption or efficient production of onions. The expenses of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to §959.42.

[38 FR 31516, Nov. 15, 1973]

REGULATIONS

§ 959.50 Marketing policy.
(a) At the beginning of each season, and as the Secretary may require, the committee shall prepare a marketing policy. Such policy shall indicate the data on onion supplies and demand on which the committee bases its judgments and recommendations. It shall indicate also the kind or types of regulations contemplated during the ensuing season, and, to the extent practical, shall include recommendations for specific regulations. Notice of such marketing policy shall be given to producers, handlers, and other interested parties by bulletins, newspapers, or other appropriate media, and copies thereof shall be submitted to the Secretary and shall be available generally.
(b) Marketing policy statements relating to recommendations for regulations shall give appropriate consideration to onion supplies for the season, with special consideration to:

1. Estimates of total supplies, including grade, size, and quality thereof, in the production area;
2. Estimates of supplies in the competing areas;
3. Market prices by grades, sizes, containers, and packs;
4. Estimates of supplies of competing commodities;
5. Anticipated marketing problems;
6. Level and trend of consumer income; and
7. Other relevant factors.

§ 959.51 Recommendations for regulations.

Upon complying with the requirements of §959.50 the committee may recommend regulations to the Secretary whenever it finds that such regulations as are provided for in this subpart will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

§ 959.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall limit the handling of onions by regulations specified in this section whenever he finds from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulations would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(b) Such regulations may:

1. Limit in any or all portions of the production area the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities or packs, or any combination thereof, of any or all varieties of onions during any period;
2. Limit the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities, or packs of onions differently for different varieties, for different containers, for different portions of the production area, or any combination of the foregoing, during any period;
3. Limit the handling of onions by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity;
4. Fix the size, capacity, weight, dimensions, or pack of the container or containers which may be used in the packaging, transportation, sale, preparation for market, shipment, or other handling of onions;
5. Establish holidays by prohibiting throughout the entire production area, the packaging or loading, or both, of onions on Sundays;
6. Prohibit the packaging or loading, or both, of onions except during specified consecutive hours of any calendar day or days: Provided, That, any handler may, upon such notice to the committee as it may prescribe with approval of the Secretary, package or load onions during a different period in such day consisting of the same number of consecutive hours: Provided further, That any handler who, due to conditions specified in regulations established by the committee with the approval of the Secretary as being beyond a handler's reasonable control, is prevented for more than one of such consecutive hours from so packaging or loading onions may, in accordance with such regulations, obtain permission from the committee to package or load onions, or both, during a comparable number of additional hours in the same day or a later day as specified by the committee.

(c) Regulations issued hereunder may be amended, modified, suspended, or terminated whenever it is determined:

1. That such action is warranted upon recommendation of the committee or other available information;
2. That such action is essential to provide relief from inspection, assessment, or regulations under paragraph (b) of this section for quantities less than customary commercial transactions; or
3. That regulations issued hereunder no longer tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(d) No handler may handle onions that were packaged or loaded or both during any period when such packaging or loading or both was prohibited by any regulation issued pursuant to paragraphs (b)(5) or (6) of this section, except such onions as were exempted thereunder.

§ 959.53 Handling for special purposes.

Regulations in effect pursuant to §§ 959.42, 959.52, or 959.60 may be modified, suspended, or terminated to facilitate handling of onions for:
(a) Relief or charity;
(b) Experimental purposes;
(c) Export; and
(d) Other purposes which may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 959.54 Safeguards.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish through rules such requirements as may be necessary to establish that shipments made pursuant to § 959.53 were handled and used for the purpose stated.

§ 959.55 Notification of regulation.

The Secretary shall promptly notify the committee of regulations issued or of any modification, suspension, or termination thereof. The committee shall give reasonable notice thereof to handlers.

Inspection

§ 959.60 Inspection and certification.

(a) Whenever the handling of onions is regulated pursuant to § 959.52, or at other times when recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary, no handlers shall handle onions unless they are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service and are covered by a valid inspection certificate, except when relieved from such requirements pursuant to § 959.52(c) or § 959.54, or paragraph (b) of this section.
(b) Regarding, resorting, or repacking any lot of onions shall invalidate any prior inspection certificate insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned. No handler shall handle onions after they have been regraded, resorted, or repacked unless such onions are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service. Such inspection requirements on regraded, resorted, or repacked onions may be modified, suspended, or terminated upon recommendation by the committee and approval of the Secretary.
(c) Upon recommendation of the committee and approval by the Secretary, any or all onions so inspected and certified shall be identified by appropriate seals, stamps, or tags to be affixed to the containers by the handler under the direction and supervision of a Federal or Federal-State Inspector or the Committee. Master containers may bear the identification instead of the individual containers within said master container.
(d) At any time this marketing order is inoperative, compulsory inspection is not required.
(e) Insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned, the length of time for which an inspection certificate is valid may be established by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.
(f) When onions are inspected in accordance with the requirements of this section, a copy of each inspection certificate issued shall be made available to the committee by the Inspection Service.
(g) The committee may recommend and the Secretary may require that no handler shall transport or cause the transportation of onions by motor vehicle or by other means unless such shipment is accompanied by a copy of the inspection certificate issued thereon, or other document authorized by the committee to indicate that such inspection has been performed. Such certificate or document shall be surrendered to such authority as may be designated.

Reports

§ 959.80 Reports.

Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee in such manner or form and at such time as it may prescribe, such reports and other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part.
(a) Such reports may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: (1) The quantities of onions received by a handler; (2) the quantities disposed of by him segregated as to the respective quantities subject to regulation and not subject to regulation; (3)
§ 959.81 Compliance.

Except as provided in this subpart, no handler shall handle onions, the handling of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with provisions of this subpart, or the rules and regulations thereunder, and no handler shall handle onions except in conformity to the provisions of this subpart.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 959.82 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the committee, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every order, regulation, decision, determination or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the said committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 959.83 Effective time.

The provisions of this subpart, or any amendment thereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in this subpart.

§ 959.84 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may, at any time, terminate the provisions of this subpart by giving at least one day's notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this subpart whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any fiscal period whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of producers who, during a representative period, have been engaged in the production of onions for market: Provided, That such majority has, during such representative period, produced for market more than fifty percent of the volume of such onions produced for market.

(d) The provisions of this subpart shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 959.85 Proceeding after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart the then functioning members of the committee shall continue as joint trustees for the purpose of settling the affairs of the committee by liquidating all of the funds and property then in the possession of or under control of the committee, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trusteeship shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.

(b) The said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall, from time to
time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall, upon request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such persons full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant to this subpart.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered by the committee or its members, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the committee and upon the said trustees.

§ 959.86 Effect of termination or amendments.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendments to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provisions of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulation issued under this subpart, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violation.

§ 959.87 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 959.88 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this subpart.

§ 959.89 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 959.90 Personal liability.

No member or alternate of the committee nor any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, agent, or employee, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 959.91 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart, or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing, shall not be affected thereby.

§ 959.92 Amendments.

Amendments to this subpart may be proposed, from time to time, by the committee or by the Secretary.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations


General

§ 959.100 Order.

Order means Order No. 959 (§§ 959.1 to 959.92; 26 F.R. 704) regulating the handling of onions grown in South Texas.

§ 959.101 Terms.

The terms used in this subpart shall have the same meaning as when used in the order.
§ 959.102 Communications.

Unless otherwise provided in the order, or by specific direction of the committee, all reports, applications, submittals, requests and communications in connection with the order shall be addressed to the South Texas Onion Committee, at its principal office.

§ 959.103 Registered handler.

For purposes of this part any person who operates an established packing house within the production area with commonly accepted adequate facilities for grading and packing onions for market, and who customarily buys onions from producers for grading, packing, and marketing shall be recorded by the committee as a registered handler. Any other person who wishes to be listed as a registered handler may make application for registration on forms furnished by the committee. If such applicant has facilities available to him that are determined by the committee to be adequate for grading and packing onions for market, and he assumes responsibility for inspection of onions handled by him, and for assessments thereon, he may be approved and recorded as a registered handler. If the committee determines from the available information that the applicant is not entitled to be registered with the committee, he shall be so informed by written notice stating the reason for denial of his application. Any registration of a handler pursuant to this section may be canceled by the committee under circumstances which would have justified denial of his application. Any handler whose registration has been canceled shall be so informed by written notice thereof stating the reason therefor. The committee shall also notify producers of each such cancellation of handler registration through committee bulletins or published notice in local newspapers of general distribution, or both.

§ 959.104 Fiscal period.

The fiscal period which extends from February 1, 1963, through January 31, 1964 (28 FR 3852), shall end July 31, 1963. Beginning August 1, 1963, and thereafter, the fiscal period shall begin August 1 of each year and end July 31 of the following year, both dates inclusive.

[29 FR 600, Jan. 24, 1964]

§ 959.110 Reestablishment of districts.

Pursuant to §959.25, the following districts are reestablished:

(a) District 1 (Coastal Bend-Lower Valley): The counties of Victoria, Calhoun, Goliad, Refugio, Bee, Live Oak, San Patricio, Aransas, Jim Wells, Nueces, Kleberg, Brooks, Kenedy, Duval, McMullen, Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy.


[55 FR 25961, June 26, 1990]

§ 959.111 Reapportionment of committee membership.

Pursuant to §959.25, committee membership is reapportioned among districts as follows:

(a) District 1 (Coastal Bend-Lower Valley): Six producer members and four handler members.

(b) District 2 (Laredo-Winter Garden): Four producer members and three handler members.

[55 FR 25962, June 26, 1990]

§ 959.115 Planting reports.

Each handler shall furnish every two weeks during the planting season to the committee on a form provided by the committee, the number of acres of onions planted by the handler or growers for whom the handler packs onions during such period and the location of such plantings.

[53 FR 7330, Mar. 8, 1988]

§ 959.120 Policy.

Whenever shipments of onions for special purposes pursuant to §959.53 are relieved in whole or in part from regulations issued under §959.52, the committee may require information and evidence on the manner, methods, and timing of such shipments as safeguards against the entry of any such onions in

SAFEGUARDS

§ 959.115 Planting reports.

Each handler shall furnish every two weeks during the planting season to the committee on a form provided by the committee, the number of acres of onions planted by the handler or growers for whom the handler packs onions during such period and the location of such plantings.

[53 FR 7330, Mar. 8, 1988]

SAFEGUARDS
trade channels other than those for which intended. Such information and evidence shall include requirements set forth below with respect to Certificates of Privilege.

§ 959.121 Qualification.
Before handling onions for special purposes which do not meet regulations issued pursuant to §959.52, a handler, when required by such regulations, must qualify with the committee to handle shipments for special purposes. To qualify he must (a) apply for and receive a Certificate of Privilege indicating his intent to so handle onions, (b) agree to comply with reporting and other requirements set forth in §§959.120 to 959.125, inclusive, with respect to such shipments, and (c) receive approval of the committee, or its duly authorized agents, to so handle onions. Such approval will be based upon evidence furnished in his application for Certificate of Privilege and other information available to the committee.

§ 959.122 Application.
(a) Applications for a Certificate of Privilege shall be made on forms furnished by the committee. Each application may contain, but need not be limited to, the name and address of the handler; the quantity by grade, size, and quality of the onions to be shipped; the mode of transportation; the consignee; the destination; the purpose for which the onions are to be used; and certification to the United States Department of Agriculture and to the committee as to the truthfulness of the information shown thereon, and any other appropriate information or documents deemed necessary by the committee or its duly authorized agents for the purposes stated in §959.120.

(b) The committee may require each handler making shipments of onions for export to include with his application a copy of the Department of Commerce Shippers’ Export Declaration Form No. 7525-V applicable to such shipment.

§ 959.123 Approval.
The committee or its duly authorized agents shall give prompt consideration to each application for a Certificate of Privilege. Approval of an application, based upon the determination as to whether the information contained therein and other information available to the committee supports approval, shall be evidenced by the issuance of a Certificate of Privilege to the applicant. Each certificate shall cover a specified period and specified qualities and quantities of onions to be sold or transported to a designated consignee for the purpose declared.

§ 959.124 Reports.
Each handler of onions shipping under Certificates of Privilege shall supply the committee with reports as requested by the committee, or its duly authorized agents, showing the name and address of the shipper; the car or truck identification; the loading point; destination; consignee; the inspection certificate number when inspection is required; and any other information deemed necessary by the committee.

§ 959.125 Disqualification.
The committee from time to time may conduct surveys of handling of onions for special purposes requiring Certificates of Privilege to determine whether handlers are complying with the requirements and regulations applicable to such certificates. Whenever the committee finds that the handler or consignee is failing to comply with requirements and regulations applicable to handling of onions in special outlets and requiring such certificates, a Certificate or Certificates of Privilege issued such handler may be rescinded and subsequent certificates denied. Such disqualification shall apply to, and not exceed, a reasonable period of time as determined by the committee, but in no event shall it extend beyond the date of the succeeding fiscal period. Any handler who has a Certificate rescinded or denied may appeal to the committee in writing for reconsideration of his disqualification.

§ 959.126 Handling of culls.
(a) The handling of culls, i.e., onions which fail to meet the grade, size and quality requirements established under §959.52(b) of this part, is prohibited, unless such onions are:
§ 959.237

(1) Mechanically mutilated at the packing shed rendering them unsuitable for fresh market;
(2) Handled for special purpose outlets approved under § 959.53 of this part; or
(3) Handled for canning or freezing.
(b) As a safeguard against culls entering fresh market channels each handler of culls under paragraphs (a) (2) or (3) of this section shall apply for and obtain a certificate from the committee which shall require the handler to furnish such reports or other information as the committee may request.

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 959.237 Assessment rate.

On and after August 1, 1997, an assessment rate of $0.05 per 50-pound container or equivalent is established for South Texas onions.

Subpart—Handling Regulations

§ 959.322 Handling regulation.

During the period beginning March 1 and ending June 4, no handler shall handle any onions unless they comply with paragraphs (a) through (d) or (e) or (f) of this section. In addition, no handler may package or load onions on Sunday during the period March 1 through May 20, except during the period April 20, 1997, through May 20, 1997.
(a) Grade requirements. Not to exceed 20 percent defects of U.S. No. 1 grade. In percentage grade lots, tolerances for serious damage shall not exceed 10 percent including not more than 2 percent decay. Double the lot tolerance shall be permitted in individual packages in percentage grade lots. Application of tolerances in U.S. onion standards shall apply to in-grade lots.
(b) Size requirements. (1) “Small”—1 to 2 1/4 inches in diameter, and limited to whites only;
(2) “Repacker”—1 3/4 to 3 inches in diameter, with 60 percent or more 2 inches in diameter or larger;
(3) “Medium”—2 to 3 1/2 inches in diameter; or
(4) “Jumbo” or “Large”—3 inches or larger in diameter; or
(5) “Colossal”—3 3/4 inches or larger in diameter.
(c) Container requirements. Except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section, only the following containers shall be used:

(1) 25-pound bags, with an average net weight in any lot of not more than 27 1/2 pounds per bag, and with inside dimensions not larger than 29 inches by 31 inches; or
(2) 50-pound bags, with an average net weight in any lot of not more than 55 pounds per bag, and with inside dimensions not larger than 33 inches by 39 1/2 inches.
(3) 2-pound, 3-pound, 5-pound and 10-pound bags. The average gross weight per lot of onions packed in master container shall not exceed 115 percent of the designated net contents.
(4) 20-pound cartons with approximate dimensions of 22 1/4 inches (length) x 11 inches (width) x 4 1/2 inches (height); or
(5) 25-pound cartons with approximate dimensions of 19 1/4 inches (length) x 11 1/2 inches (width) x 7 inches (height); or
(6) 40-pound cartons, with an average net weight in any lot of not more than 45 pounds per carton; or
(7) 50-pound cartons, with an average net weight in any lot of not more than 55 pounds per carton.
(8) These container requirements shall not be applicable to onions sold to Federal agencies or for export.
(d) Inspection. (1) No handler may handle any onions regulated hereunder, except pursuant to paragraphs (e), (f)(1), or (f)(3)(ii) of this section unless an inspection certificate has been issued by the Texas-Federal Inspection Service covering them and the certificate is valid at the time of shipment. City destinations shall be listed on inspection certificates and release forms.
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(2) No handler may transport by motor vehicle or cause such transportation of any shipment of onions for which an inspection certificate is required unless each such shipment is accompanied by a copy of the inspection certificate applicable thereto or the shipment release form furnished by the inspection service identifying truck lots to which a valid inspection certificate is applicable. A copy of such inspection certificate or shipment release form shall be surrendered upon request to Texas Department of Agriculture personnel designated by the committee.

(3) For purposes of operation under this part, each inspection certificate, shipment release form, or committee form required as evidence of inspection is hereby determined to be valid for a period not to exceed 72 hours following completion of inspection as shown on the certificate.

(4) Handlers shall pay assessment on all assessable onions according to the provisions of § 959.42.

(e) Minimum quantity exemption. Any handler may handle, other than for resale, up to, but not to exceed 110 pounds of onions per day without regard to the requirements of this section, but this exemption shall not apply to any shipment or any portion thereof of over 110 pounds of onions.

(f) Special purpose shipments. (1) The minimum grade, size, quality, container, and inspection requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section shall not be applicable to shipments of onions for charity, relief and processing if handled in accordance with paragraph (g) of this section.

(2) Gift packages. The handling to any person of gift packages of onions not exceeding 25 pounds per package, individually addressed to such person and not for resale is exempt from the container requirements of paragraph (c) of this section, but shall conform to all assessment requirements of § 959.42 and inspection requirements of paragraph (d) of this section, if such onions were not previously handled by a first handler. All such onions shall meet the grade and size requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

(3) Peeling, chopping, and slicing. (i) Upon approval of the committee, onions for peeling, chopping, and slicing may be shipped in bulk bins with inside dimensions of 47 inches x 37½ inches x 36 inches deep and having a volume of 63,450 cubic inches, or containers deemed similar by the committee. Such shipments shall be exempt from the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section, but shall be handled in accordance with the safeguard provisions of § 959.54 and shall meet the requirements of paragraphs (a), (b), (d), and (g) of this section.

(ii) Upon approval of the committee, onions may be shipped for experimental purposes exempt from regulations issued pursuant to §§ 959.42, 959.52, and 959.60, provided they are handled in accordance with the safeguard provisions of §§ 959.42 and paragraph (g) of this section.

(iii) Export shipments. (i) Upon approval of the committee, the prohibition against packaging or loading onions on any Sunday may be modified or suspended to permit the handling of onions for export provided that such handling complies with the procedures and safeguards specified by the committee.

(ii) Following approval, if the handler grades, packages, and ships onions for export on any Sunday, such handler shall on the first weekday following shipment, cease all grading, packaging, and shipping operations for the same length of time as the handler operated on Sunday. Upon completion of such shipments, the handler shall report thereon as prescribed by the committee.

(iii) Export shipments shall also be exempt from all container requirements of this section.

(6) Onions failing to meet requirements. Onions failing to meet the grade, size, and container requirements of this section, and not exempt under paragraphs (e) or (f) of this section, may be handled only pursuant to § 959.126. Such onions not handled in accordance with paragraph (g) of this section shall be
mechanically mutilated at the packing shed rendering them unsuitable for fresh market.

(g) Safeguards. Each handler making shipments of onions for relief, charity, processing, experimental purposes, or peeling, chopping and slicing shall:

(1) Apply to the committee for and obtain a Certificate of Privilege to make such shipments;

(2) Furnish reports of each shipment made under the applicable Certificate of Privilege;

(3) Such reports, in accordance with §959.80, shall be furnished to the committee in such manner, on such forms and at such times as it may prescribe. Each handler shall maintain records of such shipments pursuant to §959.80(c), and the records shall be subject to review and audit by the committee to verify reports thereon.

(4) In addition to provisions in the preceding paragraphs, each handler making shipments for processing and peeling, chopping, and slicing shall:

(i) Weigh or cause to be weighed each shipment prior to, or upon arrival at, the processor.

(ii) Attach a copy of the weight ticket to a completed copy of the Report of Special Purpose Onion Shipment and return both promptly to the committee office.

(iii) Make each shipment directly to the processor or the processor’s subcontractor and attach a copy of the Report of Special Purpose Onion Shipment.

(iv) Each processor or processor’s subcontractor who receives cull onions shall weigh the onions upon receipt, complete the Report of Special Purpose Shipment which accompanies each load and mail it immediately to the committee office.

(v) Each processor who receives cull onions shall make available at its business office at any reasonable time during business hours, copies of all applicable purchase orders, sales contracts, or disposition documents for examination by the Department or by the committee, together with any other information which the committee or the Department may deem necessary to enable it to determine the disposition of the onions.

(vi) If a processor employs a subcontractor for any stage of processing, such processor shall be responsible for ensuring that the subcontractor accounts for all quantities of onions received and processed or otherwise disposed of, and that the subcontractor reports to the committee in the same manner and frequently as the processor.

(h) Definitions. U.S. onion standards means the United States Standards for Grades of Bermuda-Granex-Grano Type Onions (7 CFR 51.3195-51.3209), or the United States Standards for Grades of Onions (Other Than Bermuda-Granex-Grano and Creole Types) (7 CFR 51.2830-51.2854), whichever is applicable to the particular variety, or variations thereof specified in this section. The term U.S. No. 1 shall have the same meaning as set forth in these standards. Processing means cooking or freezing the onions in such a way, or with such other food components, that the consistency of the product is changed. Canning and freezing shall be considered forms of processing. All other terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as when used in Marketing Agreement No. 143, as amended, and this part.


Editorial Note: After January 1, 1979 "Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment" regulations (e.g., sections .200 through .299 and "Handling" regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the "List of CFR Sections Affected" in the Finding Aids section of this volume.
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§ 966.1 Secretary.
Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 966.2 Act.

§ 966.3 Person.
Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 966.4 Production area and regulated area.
(a) Production area means the counties of Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Osceola, and Brevard in the State of Florida, and all the counties of that State situated south of such counties.
(b) Regulated area means that portion of the State of Florida which is bounded by the Suwannee River, the Georgia border, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico.

§ 966.5 Tomatoes.
Tomatoes means all varieties of the edible fruit (Lycopersicon esculentum) commonly known as tomatoes and grown within the production area.

§ 966.6 Handler.
Handler is synonymous with shipper and means any person (except a common or contract carrier transporting tomatoes for another person) who, as owner, agent, or otherwise, handles fresh tomatoes or causes fresh tomatoes to be handled.

§ 966.7 Handle.
Handle or ship means to sell, transport, deliver, or in any other way to place fresh tomatoes, produced in the production area, in the current of commerce within the regulated area or between any point in the regulated area and any point outside thereof. Such term shall not include the transportation, sale or delivery of field-run tomatoes within the production area by the producer thereof to a registered handler for the purpose of having such tomatoes prepared for market. A registered handler is a handler who has adequate facilities in the production area for grading and packing tomatoes and who is registered with the committee pursuant to rules established with the approval of the Secretary.

§ 966.8 Producer.
Producer means any person engaged in a proprietary capacity in the production of tomatoes for market.

§ 966.9 Grading.
Grading is synonymous with preparation for market and means the sorting or separation of tomatoes into grades, sizes, maturities, and packs for market purposes.

§ 966.10 Grade and size.
Grade means any one of the established grades of tomatoes and size means any one of the established sizes of tomatoes as defined and set forth in U.S. Standards for Fresh Tomatoes (§§ 51.1855 to 51.1877 of this title or U.S. Consumer Standards for Fresh Tomatoes (§§ 51.1900 to 51.1913 of this title),
both issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 966.11 Pack.
Pack means any of the packs of tomatoes as defined and set forth in the United States Standards for Fresh Tomatoes issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (§§ 51.1855 to 51.1877 of this title), or any pack of tomatoes recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 966.12 Maturity.
Maturity means any of the various degrees of ripeness of tomatoes as established by the committee with approval of the Secretary as determined at the time of the inspection, pursuant to § 966.60(a).

§ 966.13 Container.
Container means a box, bag, crate, hamper, basket, package, tube, bulk load or any other type of unit used in the packaging, transportation, sale, shipment, or handling of tomatoes.

§ 966.14 Varieties.
Varieties means and includes all classifications or subdivisions of tomatoes according to those definitive characteristics now or hereafter recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture.

§ 966.15 Committee.
Committee means the Florida Tomato Committee, established pursuant to § 966.22.

§ 966.16 Fiscal period.
Fiscal period means the period beginning August 1 and ending July 31 following.

§ 966.17 District.
District means each one of the geographic divisions of the production area initially established pursuant to § 966.24, or as reestablished pursuant to § 966.25.

§ 966.18 Export.
Export means shipment of tomatoes beyond the boundaries of the 48 contiguous States (including the District of Columbia) of the United States.

§ 966.22 Establishment and membership.
(a) The Florida Tomato Committee, consisting of 12 producer members, is hereby established. For each member of the committee there shall be an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member.
(b) Each person selected as a committee member or alternate shall be an individual who is a producer, or an officer or an employee of a corporate producer, in the district for which selected and a resident of the production area.

§ 966.23 Term of office.
(a) The term of office of committee members, and their respective alternates, shall be for 1 year and shall begin as of August 1 and end as of July 31.
(b) Committee members and alternates shall serve during the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified, or during that portion thereof beginning on the date on which they qualify during such term of office and continuing until the end thereof, and until their successors are selected and have qualified.

§ 966.24 Districts.
For the purpose of determining the basis for selecting committee members the following districts of the production area are hereby initially established.

District No. 1. The counties of Broward and Dade in the State of Florida;
District No. 2. The counties of Brevard, Glades, Indian River, Martin, Osceola, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie in the State of Florida;
District No. 3. The counties of Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Lee, and Monroe in the State of Florida; and
District No. 4. The counties of De Soto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee,
§ 966.25 Redistricting.

The committee may recommend, and pursuant thereto, the Secretary may approve, the reapportionment of members among districts, and the reestablishment of districts within the production area. In recommending any such changes, the committee shall give consideration to: (a) Shifts in tomato acreage within districts and within the production area during recent years; (b) the importance of new production in its relation to existing districts; (c) the equitable relationship of committee membership and districts; (d) economies to result for producers in promoting efficient administration due to redistricting or reapportionment of members within districts; and (e) other relevant factors. No change in districting or in apportionment of members within districts may become effective within less than 30 days prior to the date on which terms of office begin each year and no recommendations for such redistricting or reapportionment may be made less than six months prior to such date.

§ 966.26 Selection.

The Secretary shall select initially 3 members of the committee with their respective alternates, from each district.

§ 966.27 Nomination.

The Secretary may select the members of the committee and alternates from nominations which may be made in the following manner:

(a) A meeting or meetings of producers shall be held in each district to nominate members and alternates for the committee. The committee shall hold such meetings or cause them to be held prior to June 15 of each year or by such other date as may be approved by the Secretary pursuant to recommendation of the committee.

(b) At each such meeting at least one nominee shall be designated for each position as member and for each position as alternate on the committee.

(c) Nominations for committee members and alternates shall be supplied to the Secretary in such manner and form as he may prescribe, not later than July 15 of each year, or by such other date as may be approved by the Secretary pursuant to recommendation of the committee.

(d) Only producers may participate in designating nominees for members and alternates on the committee. In the event a person is engaged in producing tomatoes in more than one district, such person shall elect the district within which he may participate as aforesaid in designating nominees; and

(e) Regardless of the number of districts in which a person produces tomatoes, each such person is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of himself, his agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and representatives in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. An eligible voter's privilege of casting only one vote as aforesaid shall be construed to permit a voter to cast one vote for each position to be filled in the respective district in which he elects to vote.

§ 966.28 Failure to nominate.

If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner specified in § 966.27, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the committee members and alternates, which selection shall be on the basis of the representation provided for in §§ 966.24 through 966.26 inclusive.

§ 966.29 Acceptance.

Any person selected as a committee member or alternate shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary within ten days after being notified of such selection.

§ 966.30 Vacancies.

To fill committee vacancies, the Secretary may select such members or alternates from unselected nominees on the current nominee list from the district involved, or from nominations made in the manner specified in § 966.27. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within 30 days,
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after such vacancy occurs, such vacancy may be filled without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of the representation provided for in §§ 966.24 through 966.26 inclusive.

§ 966.31 Alternate members.

An alternate member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom he is an alternate, during such member’s absence. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor of such member is selected and has qualified.

§ 966.32 Procedure.

(a) Eight members of the committee shall be necessary to constitute a quorum and the same number of concurring votes shall be required to pass any motion or approve any committee action.

(b) If both a member and respective alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the committee may designate any other alternate present from the same district to serve in place of the absent member.

(c) The committee may provide for meeting by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication, and any vote cast at such a meeting shall be promptly confirmed in writing: Provided, That if any assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.

§ 966.33 Expenses and compensation.

Committee members and alternates may be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of duties and in the exercise of powers under this part.

§ 966.34 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;

(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part;

(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this part; and

(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 966.35 Duties.

It shall be, among other things, the duty of the committee:

(a) At the beginning of each term of office, to meet and organize, to select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, to select subcommittees of committee members, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;

(b) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;

(c) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as he may request;

(d) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person;

(e) To investigate from time to time and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping, and marketing conditions with respect to tomatoes;

(f) To prepare a marketing policy;

(g) To recommend marketing regulations to the Secretary;

(h) To recommend rules and procedures for, and to make determinations in connection with, issuance of certificates of privilege or exemptions, or both;

(i) To investigate an applicant’s claim for exemptions;

(j) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and such minutes, books and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or his authorized agent or representative. Minutes of each committee meeting shall be reported promptly to the Secretary;

(k) At the beginning of each fiscal period, to prepare a budget of its expenses for such fiscal period, together with a report thereon;

(l) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal period, and at such other time as the
§ 966.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary may find are reasonable and likely to be incurred during each fiscal period for its maintenance and functioning, and for such purposes as the Secretary, pursuant to this subpart, determines to be appropriate. Handlers shall share expenses upon the basis of a fiscal period. Each handler's share of such expense shall be proportionate to the ratio between the total quantity of tomatoes handled by him as the first handler thereof during a fiscal period and the total quantity of tomatoes handled by all handlers as first handlers thereof during such fiscal period.

§ 966.41 Budget.

At the beginning of each fiscal period and as may be necessary thereafter, the committee shall prepare an estimated budget of income and expenditures necessary for the administration of this part. The committee may recommend a rate of assessment calculated to provide adequate funds to defray its proposed expenditures. The committee shall present such budget to the Secretary with an accompanying report showing the basis for its calculations.

§ 966.42 Assessments.

(a) The funds to cover the committee's expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments upon handlers as provided in this subpart. Each handler who first handles tomatoes shall pay assessments to the committee upon demand, which assessments shall be in payment of such handler's pro rata share of the committee's expenses.

(b) Assessments shall be levied upon handlers at rates established by the Secretary. Such rates may be established upon the basis of the committee's recommendations and other available information. Such rates may be applied to specified containers used in the production area.

(c) At any time during, or subsequent to, a given fiscal period the committee may recommend the approval of an amended budget and an increase in the rate of assessment. Upon the basis of such recommendations, or other available information, the Secretary may approve an amended budget and increase the rate of assessment. Such increase shall be applicable to all tomatoes which were regulated under this part and which were shipped by the first handler thereof during such fiscal period.

(d) The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(e) In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part, the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance, or may borrow money on a short-term basis not to exceed one full-year coinciding with the existing committee's term of office. The authority of the committee to borrow money may be used only to meet financial obligations as they occur and to allow the committee a season to adjust its reserve funds to meet any additional obligations.


§ 966.43 Accounting.

(a) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this subpart shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this part.

(b) The Secretary may at any time require the committee, its members and alternates, employees, agents and
all other persons to account for all receipts and disbursements, funds, property, or records for which they are responsible. Whenever any person ceases to be a member of the committee or alternate, he shall account to his successor, the committee, or to the person designated by the Secretary, for all receipts, disbursements, funds and property (including but not being limited to books and other records) pertaining to the committee's activities for which he is responsible, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor, committee, or designated person, the right to all of such property and funds and all claims vested in such person.

(c) The committee may make recommendations to the Secretary for one or more of the members thereof, or any other person, to act as a trustee for holding records, funds, or any other committee property during periods of suspension of this subpart, or during any period or periods when regulations are not in effect and, if the Secretary determines such action appropriate, he may direct that such person or persons shall act as trustee or trustees for the committee.

§ 966.44 Excess funds.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period, the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, such excess shall be accounted for in accordance with one of the following:

(1) If such excess is not retained in a reserve, as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, to the extent practical it shall be refunded proportionately to the persons from whom it was collected.

(2) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish an operating monetary reserve and may carry over to subsequent fiscal periods excess funds in a reserve so established: Provided, that funds in the reserve shall not exceed approximately one fiscal period's expenses. Such reserve funds may be used (i) to defray expenses authorized under this part, (ii) to defray expenses during any fiscal period prior to the time assessment income is sufficient to cover such expenses, (iii) to cover deficits incurred during any fiscal period when assessment income is less than expenses, (iv) to defray expenses incurred during any period when any or all provisions of this part are suspended or are inoperative, and (v) to cover necessary expenses of liquidation in the event of termination of this part. Upon such termination any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation, and after reasonable effort by the committee it is found impracticable to return such remaining funds to handlers, such funds shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate.

[33 FR 8586, June 12, 1968]

§ 966.45 Contributions.

The committee may accept voluntary contributions but these shall only be used for production research, market research and development and marketing and promotion including paid advertising pursuant to § 966.48. Furthermore, such contributions shall be free from any encumbrances by the donor and the committee shall retain complete control of their use. The committee is prohibited from accepting contributions from handlers subject to the order, or any person whose contributions would constitute a conflict of interest.

[51 FR 30474, Aug. 27, 1986]

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

§ 966.48 Research and promotion.

The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, establish, or provide for the establishment of projects including production research, marketing research and development projects, and marketing promotion including paid advertising pursuant to § 966.48. Upon conclusion of each project, but at least annually, the committee shall summarize the program status and accomplishments, to its members and the Secretary. A similar report to the committee shall be required of any contracting party on any
§ 966.50 Marketing policy.

Prior to or at the same time as initial recommendations are made pursuant to § 966.51, the committee shall submit to the Secretary a report setting forth the marketing policy it deems desirable for the industry to follow in shipping tomatoes from the production area during the ensuring season. Additional reports shall be submitted from time to time if it is deemed advisable by the committee to adopt a new or modified marketing policy because of changes in the demand and supply situation with respect to tomatoes. The committee shall publicly announce the submission of each such marketing policy report and copies thereof shall be available at the committee’s office for inspection by any producer or any handler. In determining each such marketing policy the committee shall give due consideration to the following:

(a) Market prices of tomatoes, including prices by grades, sizes, and quality in different packs, and such prices by foreign competing areas;
(b) Supply of tomatoes, by grade, size, and quality in the production area, and in other production areas, including foreign competing production areas;
(c) Trend and level of consumer income;
(d) Marketing conditions affecting tomato prices; and
(e) Other relevant factors.

§ 966.51 Recommendations for regulations.

The committee, upon complying with the requirements of § 966.50, may recommend regulations to the Secretary whenever it finds that such regulations, as are provided for in this subpart, will tend to effectuate the declared policies of the act.

§ 966.52 Issuance of regulations.

The Secretary shall limit the handling of tomatoes whenever he finds from the recommendation and information submitted by the Committee, or from other available information, that such regulation would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such regulation may:

(a) Limit, in any or all portions of the production area, the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities (including maturity as a factor of grade or quality), or packs of any or all varieties of tomatoes, during any period; or
(b) Limit the handling of particular grades, sizes, qualities, or packs of tomatoes differently, from different varieties, for different stages of maturity, for different portions of the production area, for different containers, for different markets, for different purposes specified in § 966.54, or any combination of the foregoing, during any period; or
(c) Limit the handling of tomatoes by establishing, in terms of grades, sizes, or both, minimum standards of quality and maturity; or
(d) Fix the size, weight, capacity, dimensions, markings (including labels and stamps), or pack of the container or containers which may be used in the packaging, transportation, sale, shipment, or other handling of tomatoes.

§ 966.53 Minimum quantities.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish, for any or all portions of the production area, minimum quantities below which handling will be free from regulations issued or effective pursuant to §§ 966.42, 966.52, 966.54, 966.60, or any combination thereof.

§ 966.54 Shipments for special purposes.

Upon the basis of recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or other available information, the Secretary, whenever he finds that it will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, shall modify, suspend, or terminate regulations issued pursuant to §§ 966.42, 966.52, 966.53,
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 966.60, or any combination thereof, in order to facilitate handling of tomatoes for the following purposes:

(a) For export;
(b) For relief or for charity;
(c) For processing; or
(d) For other purposes which may be specified by the committee, with the approval of the Secretary.

§ 966.55 Notification of regulation.

The Secretary shall notify the committee of any regulations issued or of any modification, suspension, or termination thereof. The committee shall give reasonable notice thereof to handlers.

§ 966.56 Safeguards.

(a) The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe adequate safeguards to prevent handling of tomatoes pursuant to § 966.53 or § 966.54 from entering channels of trade for other than the specific purpose authorized therefor, and rules governing the issuance and the contents of Certificates of Privilege if such certificates are prescribed as safeguards by the committee. Such safeguards may include requirements that:

(1) Handlers shall file applications with the committee to ship tomatoes pursuant to §§ 966.53 and 966.54; or
(2) Handlers shall obtain inspection provided by § 966.60, or pay the assessment levied pursuant to § 966.42, or both, in connection with shipments made under § 966.54; or
(3) Handlers shall obtain Certificates of Privilege from the committee to handle tomatoes effected or to be effected under the provisions of §§ 966.53 and 966.54.

(b) The committee may rescind or deny Certificates of Privilege to any handler if proof is obtained that tomatoes handled by him for the purposes stated in §§ 966.53 and 966.54 were handled contrary to the provisions of this part.

(c) The Secretary shall have the right to modify, change, alter, or rescind any safeguards prescribed and any certificates issued by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(d) The committee shall make reports to the Secretary, as requested, showing the number of applications for such certificates, the quantity of tomatoes covered by such applications, the number of such applications denied and certificates granted, the quantity of tomatoes handled under duly issued certificates, and such other information as may be requested.

§ 966.70 Procedure.

The committee may adopt, with approval of the Secretary, the procedures pursuant to which certificates of exemption will be issued to producers or handlers.

§ 966.71 Granting exemptions.

The committee shall issue certificates of exemption to any producer who applies for such exemption and furnishes adequate evidence to the committee, that by reason of a regulation issued pursuant to § 966.52 he will be prevented from handling as large a proportion of his production as the average proportion of production handled.
§ 966.72 Investigation.

The committee shall be permitted at any time to make a thorough investigation of any producer’s or handler’s claim pertaining to exemptions.

§ 966.73 Appeal.

If any applicant for exemption certificates is dissatisfied with the determination by the committee with respect to his application, said applicant may file an appeal with the committee. Such an appeal must be taken promptly after the determination by the committee from which the appeal is taken. Any applicant filing an appeal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the committee for a determination on the appeal. The committee shall thereupon reconsider the application, examine all available evidence, and make a final determination concerning the application. The committee shall notify the appellant of the final determination, and shall furnish the Secretary with a copy of the appeal and a statement of considerations involved in making the final determination.

§ 966.74 Records.

(a) The committee shall maintain a record of all applications submitted for exemption certificates, a record of all exemption certificates issued and denied, the quantity of tomatoes covered by such exemption certificates, a record of the amount of tomatoes handled under exemption certificates, a record of appeals for reconsideration of applications, and such information as may be requested by the Secretary. Periodic reports on such records shall be compiled and issued by the committee upon request of the Secretary.

(b) The Secretary shall have the right, to modify, change, alter, or rescind any procedure and any exemptions granted pursuant to §§ 966.70, 966.71, 966.72, 966.73, or any combination thereof.

§ 966.80 Reports.

Upon request of the committee, made with approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such time as it may direct, such reports and other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part.

(a) Such reports may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: (1) The quantities of tomatoes received by a handler; (2) the quantities disposed of by him, segregated as to the respective quantities subject to regulation and not subject to regulation; (3) the date of each such disposition and the identification of the carrier transporting such tomatoes; and (4) identification of the inspection certificates and the exemption certificates, if any, pursuant to which the tomatoes were handled, together with the destination of each exempted disposition, and of all tomatoes handled pursuant to §§ 966.53 and 966.54.

(b) All such reports shall be held under appropriate protective classification and custody by the committee, or duly appointed employees thereof, so that the information contained therein which may adversely affect the competitive position of any handler in relation to other handlers will not be disclosed. Compilations of general reports from data submitted by handlers is authorized, subject to prohibition of disclosure of individual handlers identities or operations.

(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least two succeeding years such records of the tomatoes received and disposed of by such handler as may be necessary to verify the reports he submits to the committee pursuant to this section.
§ 966.81 Compliance.
Except as provided in this subpart, no handler shall handle tomatoes, the handling of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with provisions of this subpart, and no handler shall handle tomatoes except in conformity to the provisions of this subpart.

§ 966.82 Right of the Secretary.
The members of the committee (including successors and alternates), and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the committee, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every order, regulation, decision, determination or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the said committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 966.83 Effective time.
The provisions of this subpart, or any amendment thereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in this subpart.

§ 966.84 Termination.
(a) The Secretary may, at any time, terminate the provisions of this subpart by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine.
(b) The Secretary may terminate or suspend the operations of any or all of the provisions of this subpart whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.
(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any fiscal period whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of producers, who during a representative period, have been engaged in the production for market of tomatoes: Provided, That such majority has, during such representative period, produced for market more than fifty percent of the volume of such tomatoes produced for market.
(d) The provisions of this subpart shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 966.85 Proceedings after termination.
(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart the then functioning members of the committee shall continue as joint trustees for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee of all the funds and property then in the possession of or under control of the committee, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trustees shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.
(b) The said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall, upon request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant to this subpart.
(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered by the committee or its members pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the committee and upon the said trustees.

§ 966.86 Effect of termination or amendment.
Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendments to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any
§ 966.87 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 966.88 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the United States, or name any agency in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this subpart.

§ 966.89 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 966.90 Personal liability.

No member or alternate of the committee nor any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, agent, or employee except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§ 966.91 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart, or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing, shall not be affected thereby.

§ 966.92 Amendments.

Amendments to this subpart may be proposed, from time to time, by the committee or by the Secretary.
§ 966.120 Application for Certificate of Privilege.

(a) Whenever handling is regulated pursuant to §966.54, each handler desiring to make shipments of tomatoes for any of the following purposes shall, prior thereto, apply to the committee for and obtain a Certificate of Privilege permitting such shipment:

(1) For pickling, or
(2) For processing, or
(3) For experimental purposes, or
(4) For relief or charity, or
(5) For export, or
(6) For other purposes which may be specified by the committee, with the approval of the Secretary.

(b) Applications for Certificates of Privilege shall be made on forms furnished by the committee. Each application shall contain the name and address of the handler, and such other information as such committee may require, such as, but not limited to, the handler's grade, size and container requirements, pays applicable assessments on a timely basis, submits reports required by the committee, and agrees to comply with other regulatory requirements on the handling of tomatoes grown in the production area.

(a) Based on the criteria specified in this section, the committee shall determine eligibility for certification as a registered handler. The committee or its authorized agent shall inspect a handler's facilities to determine if the facilities are adequate for preparing tomatoes for market. In order to be adequate for such purposes, the facilities must be permanent, nonportable buildings located in the production area with equipment that is nonportable for the proper washing, grading, sizing and packing of tomatoes grown in the production area.

(b) Application for certification shall be executed by the handler and filed with the committee on a form, prescribed by and available at the principal office of the committee, containing the following information:

(1) Business name,
(2) Address of handling facilities (including telephone and facsimile number),
(3) Mailing address (if different from handling facility),
(4) Number of years in tomato business in Florida,
(5) Type of business, and
(6) Names of senior officers, partners, or principal owners with financial interest in the business.

(c) If the committee determines from available information that an applicant meets the criteria specified in this section, such applicant shall be informed by written notice from the committee that said handler has been certified as a registered handler. Any person who is not certified as a registered handler may receive inspection on tomatoes from the Federal-State Inspection Service. Such inspection certificate shall state "Fails to meet the requirements of Marketing Order No. 966 because the handler is not a registered handler."

[59 FR 51090, Oct. 7, 1994]

Safeguards

§ 966.120 Application for Certificate of Privilege.

(a) Whenever handling is regulated pursuant to §966.54, each handler desiring to make shipments of tomatoes for any of the following purposes shall, prior thereto, apply to the committee for and obtain a Certificate of Privilege permitting such shipment:

(1) For pickling, or
(2) For processing, or
(3) For experimental purposes, or
(4) For relief or charity, or
(5) For export, or
(6) For other purposes which may be specified by the committee, with the approval of the Secretary.

(b) Applications for Certificates of Privilege shall be made on forms furnished by the committee. Each application shall contain the name and address of the handler, and such other information as such committee may require, such as, but not limited to, the handler's grade, size and container requirements, pays applicable assessments on a timely basis, submits reports required by the committee, and agrees to comply with other regulatory requirements on the handling of tomatoes grown in the production area.

(a) Based on the criteria specified in this section, the committee shall determine eligibility for certification as a registered handler. The committee or its authorized agent shall inspect a handler's facilities to determine if the facilities are adequate for preparing tomatoes for market. In order to be adequate for such purposes, the facilities must be permanent, nonportable buildings located in the production area with equipment that is nonportable for the proper washing, grading, sizing and packing of tomatoes grown in the production area.

(b) Application for certification shall be executed by the handler and filed with the committee on a form, prescribed by and available at the principal office of the committee, containing the following information:

(1) Business name,
(2) Address of handling facilities (including telephone and facsimile number),
(3) Mailing address (if different from handling facility),
(4) Number of years in tomato business in Florida,
(5) Type of business, and
(6) Names of senior officers, partners, or principal owners with financial interest in the business.

(c) If the committee determines from available information that an applicant meets the criteria specified in this section, such applicant shall be informed by written notice from the committee that said handler has been certified as a registered handler. Any person who is not certified as a registered handler may receive inspection on tomatoes from the Federal-State Inspection Service. Such inspection certificate shall state "Fails to meet the requirements of Marketing Order No. 966 because the handler is not a registered handler."

[59 FR 51090, Oct. 7, 1994]
§ 966.121 Issuance.

The committee, or its duly authorized agents, shall give prompt consideration to each application for a Certificate of Privilege and shall determine whether the application is approved. Approval of an application shall be evidenced by the issuance of a Certificate of Privilege authorizing the applicant named therein to ship tomatoes for a specified purpose for a specified period of time.

§ 966.122 Reports.

Each handler handling tomatoes under and pursuant to a Certificate of Privilege shall supply the committee with a report thereon within the time specified on the application for such certificate showing the name and address of the shipper, car or truck identification, loading point, destination, consignee, and, when inspection is required, the Federal-State Inspection Certificate number.

§ 966.123 Denial and appeal.

The committee may rescind a Certificate of Privilege issued to a handler, or deny a Certificate of Privilege to a handler, upon proof satisfactory to such committee, that such handler has shipped tomatoes contrary to the provisions of this part. Such committee action denying a Certificate of Privilege shall apply to and not exceed a reasonable period of time as determined by such committee. Any handler who has been denied a Certificate of Privilege, or who has had a Certificate of Privilege rescinded, may appeal to the committee for reconsideration. Such appeal shall be in writing.

§ 966.130 Application.

Any person applying for exemption from regulations issued pursuant to §966.52 shall file such application with the committee, or its duly authorized agent for such purpose, on forms to be furnished by such committee. Each application shall state the name and address of the applicant, the grade, size, and quality regulations from which exemption is requested; and facts demonstrating that the tomatoes, for which exemption is requested, were adversely affected by acts beyond his control or by acts beyond the applicant's reasonable expectation. Applications shall set forth such additional information as the committee may find necessary in making determinations with respect thereto, including, without limitation thereto, the information required on producers' applications by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

(a) The location and acreage of the farm on which tomatoes for which exemption is requested, the location where such tomatoes are to be prepared for market, and the loading point from which such tomatoes are to be shipped if exemption is granted;

(b) Quantity (by grade, size, quality, and variety) of tomatoes harvested during the current season or any specific portion thereof prior to the date of application and to be harvested, subsequent to such date, during the remainder of the season or any specific portion thereof (as may be determined pursuant to this part); an estimate of the portion of such tomatoes which can be handled under regulation issued pursuant to §966.52, during the remainder of the season; and the reasons why all of such tomatoes cannot be handled under such regulations.

§ 966.131 Investigations.

The committee may authorize investigations of applications by its employees, and such other persons as may be
necessary to procure adequate information to pass upon the merits of such applications.


§ 966.132 Issuance.

(a) The committee, or its duly authorized agents, shall give prompt consideration to all statements and facts relating to each application for exemption, and, pursuant to applicable provisions of this part, a determination shall be made as to whether or not the application is approved. The determination, if approving the application, shall be evidenced by the issuance of a certificate of exemption pursuant to §966.71: Provided, That a separate certificate may be issued, at the request of an applicant, for each affected field.

(b) The applicant shall be notified in writing if his request for exemption is denied.

(c) Each exemption certificate issued pursuant to this subpart shall be on a form duly approved by the committee and signed by an authorized representative of such committee. At least one copy of each exemption certificate issued shall be retained in the committee records. Each such certificate shall contain the name and address of the recipient, the location of all tomatoes authorized to be shipped thereunder, the quantity (by grade, size, quality and variety) of tomatoes which will be permitted in the exempted shipments and such other information as may be deemed necessary by the committee to provide such committee, the recipient, or both, with adequate and specific information regarding such exempted tomatoes.


§ 966.133 Disposition of certificates.

(a) Each lot of tomatoes handled under an exemption certificate shall be accompanied by such certificate, or such appropriate identifying information with respect to such certificate, as the committee may require, to facilitate the administration of regulatory provisions applicable thereto.

(b) Each shipment of a lot or portion thereof, of tomatoes covered by an exemption certificate shall be accompanied by a Federal-State Inspection Certificate which shall show the exemption certificate number covering the lot.


§ 966.134 Reports.

Persons handling tomatoes under exemption certificates shall, at such times as may be specified in such certificates, report thereon to the committee the names and addresses of the receivers of such tomatoes, the quantity shipped (by grade, size, quality, and variety), the inspection certificates issued with respect thereto, the dates of such shipments, and such other information as may be requested by such committee in order to administer the regulatory provisions applicable thereto.


§ 966.135 Appeals.

If any applicant is dissatisfied with the determination of the committee regarding an application for an exemption certificate, or any duly issued exemption certificate an appeal by such applicant may be taken to such committee in accordance with §966.73.


INSPECTION

§ 966.140 Truck shipments.

In case of the transportation by truck outside of the production area of any tomatoes which are required to be inspected and certified as complying with any applicable requirements under this part, such tomatoes shall be accompanied by, and made available for examination at any time upon request, a copy of the appropriate inspection certificate or a copy of the appropriate transfer clearance receipt (Form FV-418) issued by the Federal-State Inspection Service, the official inspection agency for this program, showing that such tomatoes have been so inspected and certified.

§ 966.150 Meaning of "producer".

The term "producer" is defined in § 966.8 as being any person engaged in a proprietary capacity in the production of tomatoes for market. Under the definition of "tomatoes" in § 966.5, such production must have been in the production area. Section 966.22 provides that each person selected as a committee member or alternate must be a producer, or an officer or an employee of a corporate producer. Section 966.27 provides that producers may vote for nominees for members and alternates on the Florida Tomato Committee, the administrative agency established pursuant to said marketing agreement and order. Section 966.3 defines a person as an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other business unit. The term "person" is construed to mean the business unit which produces the tomatoes for market.

(a) The prevailing principle which shall apply to the determination of "producer" is who or which interest as a unit, whether an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other business unit, has the authority to pass title to the tomatoes grown and made a part of the marketable supply of tomatoes. In other words, the terms shall be limited to those who have an ownership in tomatoes produced in the production area.

(b) Producer means any person, as defined in this section: (1) Who or which owns and farms land resulting in his or its ownership of the tomatoes produced thereon; (2) who or which rents or farms land, resulting in his or its ownership of all or a portion of the tomatoes produced thereon; or (3) who or which owns land which he or it does not farm and, as rental for such land, obtains the ownership of a portion of the tomatoes produced thereon.

(c) The term "partnership" shall be deemed to include a husband and wife with respect to land, the title to which, or leasehold interest in which, is vested in them as tenants in common, joint tenants, tenants by entirety, or, under community property laws, as community property. The term "partnership" shall also be deemed to include individuals, partnerships or corporations which join together by agreement, informal or otherwise, for the purpose of growing tomatoes and which, as a unit, have authority to transfer title to such tomatoes at the time they are harvested or subsequent thereto. The term "partnership" shall also include so-called "joint ventures," wherein one or more parties to the arrangement contributes capital and others contribute labor, management, equipment, or other services, or any variation of such contributions by two or more parties, so that it results in the growing of tomatoes and the authority to transfer title to the tomatoes so produced from that business unit to some other parties in the marketing chain.

(d) Each legal entity, whether an individual, a partnership, a "joint venture," or a corporation, so engaged in the production of tomatoes for market shall have one vote for each position which is to be filled for the district for which he or it is eligible to vote. In the case of a partnership or a "joint venture," such vote shall not be accepted in the absence of unanimous agreement of the respective members. In the case of a corporation, such vote shall be cast pursuant to the authorization of its board of directors. In the case of a person who owns land which he or it does not farm but, as rental for such land, obtains the ownership of a portion of the tomatoes produced thereon, such person shall be regarded as the producer of that portion and entitled to one vote, and the tenant on such land shall be regarded as the producer of the remaining portion produced on such land and also entitled to one vote.

(e) A producer eligible to vote is a person who produced tomatoes for market in a proprietary capacity in the production area during the then current fiscal period, i.e., between August 1, of the previous year and July 31 of the then current year. If a person who would otherwise qualify as a producer in a proprietary capacity in the production area planted tomatoes for market as fresh tomatoes during the current fiscal period, but (1) did not market any tomatoes in the fresh market during the current fiscal period due to adverse weather conditions, or (2) has
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§ 966.323 Handling regulation.

From October 10 through June 15 of each season, except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (d) of this section, no person shall handle any lot of tomatoes in the production area for shipment outside the regulated area unless it meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section.

(a) Grade, size, container and inspection requirements. (1) Grade. Tomatoes shall be graded and meet the requirements specified for U.S. No. 1, U.S. Combination, U.S. No. 2, or U.S. No. 3, of the U.S. Standards for Fresh Tomatoes, except that all shipments of Medium size tomatoes must grade U.S. No. 2 or better. When not more than 15 percent of the tomatoes in any lot fail to meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade and not more than one-third of this 15 percent (or 5 percent) are comprised of defects causing very serious damage including not more than 1 percent of tomatoes which are soft or affected by decay, such tomatoes may be shipped and designated as at least 85 percent U.S. No. 1 grade.

(2) Size. (i) All tomatoes packed by a registered handler shall be at least 2 8\% inches in diameter and shall be sized with proper equipment in one or more of the following ranges of diameters. Tomatoes shipped outside the regulated area shall also be sized with proper equipment in one or more of the following ranges of diameters. Measurements of diameters shall be in accordance with the methods prescribed in §51.1859 of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Fresh Tomatoes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size classification</th>
<th>Minimum diameter</th>
<th>Maximum diameter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>2 8%</td>
<td>2 17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>2 16%</td>
<td>2 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Large</td>
<td>2 24%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(ii) Tomatoes of designated sizes may not be commingled, and each container or lid shall be marked to indicate the designated size.

(iii) Only Medium, Large, Extra Large or the specified abbreviations of same (Med., Lg., or Ex/Lg) may be used to indicate the above listed size designations on containers of tomatoes.

(iv) To allow for variations incident to proper sizing, not more than a total of ten (10) percent, by count, of the tomatoes in any lot may be smaller than
(3) Containers. (i) All tomatoes packed by a registered handler shall be packed in containers of 10, 20, and 25 pounds designated net weights. The net weight of the contents shall not be less than the designated net weight and shall not exceed the designated net weight by more than two pounds. Section 51.1863 of the U.S. Tomato Standards shall apply to all containers.

(ii) Each container or lid shall be marked to indicate the designated net weight and must show the name and address of the registered handler (as defined in §966.7) in letters at least one-fourth (1/4) inch high, and such containers must be packed at the registered handler's facilities.

(iii) The container in which the tomatoes are packed must be clean and bright in appearance without marks, stains, or other evidence of previous use.

(4) Inspection. Tomatoes shall be inspected and certified pursuant to the provisions of §966.60. Each handler who applies for inspection shall register with the committee pursuant to §966.113. Persons not certified by the committee as a registered handler shall be issued inspection certificates on shipments handled by such persons stating "Fails to meet the requirements of Marketing Order No. 966 because the handler is not a registered handler." Evidence of inspection must accompany truck shipments.

(b) Special purpose shipments. The requirements of paragraph (a) of this section shall not be applicable to shipments of tomatoes for pickling, processing, experimental purposes, relief, charity, export, or other outlets recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary, if the handler thereof complies with the safeguard requirements of paragraph (c) of this section. Shipments for processing are also exempt from the assessment requirements of this part.

(c) Safeguards. Each handler making shipments of tomatoes for pickling, canning, experimental purposes, relief, charity, or export in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section shall:

(1) Apply to the committee and obtain a Certificate of Privilege to make such shipments.

(2) Prepare on forms furnished by the committee a report in quadruplicate on such shipments authorized in paragraph (b) of this section.

(3) Bill or consign each shipment directly to the designated applicable receiver.

(4) Forward one copy of such report to the committee office and two copies to the receiver for signing and returning one copy to the committee office. Failure of the handler or receiver to report such shipments by signing and returning the applicable report to the committee office within ten days after shipment may be cause for cancellation of such handler's certificate and/or receiver's eligibility to receive further shipments pursuant to such certificate. Upon cancellation of any such certificate, the handler may appeal to the committee for reconsideration.

(d) Exemption. (1) For types. The following types of tomatoes are exempt from the regulations in this part: Elongated types commonly referred to as pear shaped or paste tomatoes and including but not limited to San Marzano, Red Top, and Roma varieties; cerasiform type tomatoes commonly referred to as cherry tomatoes; hydroponic tomatoes; and greenhouse tomatoes. Specialty packed red ripe tomatoes, yellow meated tomatoes, and single layer and two layer place packed tomatoes are exempt from the container net weight requirements specified in paragraph (a)(3)(i) of this section, but must meet the other requirements of this section.

(2) For minimum quantity. For purposes of this regulation each person subject thereto may handle up to but not to exceed 50 pounds of tomatoes per day without regard to the requirements of this regulation, but this exemption shall not apply to any shipment or any portion thereof of over 50 pounds of tomatoes.

(3) For special packed tomatoes. Tomatoes which met the inspection requirements of paragraph (a)(4) of this section which are resorted, regraded, and repacked by a handler who has been designated as a "Certified Tomato Re-packer" by the committee are exempt.
from (i) the tomato grade classifications of paragraph (a)(1) of this section, (ii) the size classifications of paragraph (a)(2) of this section except that the tomatoes shall be at least 2 1/2 inches in diameter, and (iii) the container weight requirements of paragraph (a)(3) of this section.

(4) For varieties. Upon recommendation of the committee, varieties of tomatoes that are elongated or otherwise misshapen due to adverse growing conditions may be exempted by the Secretary from the provisions of paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(e) Report of packouts. Each registered handler shall, at the end of each day during which handling activities have been conducted, or the following morning as the committee may prescribe, provide to the committee or its designated agent a complete and accurate accounting of the number of containers of tomatoes packed that day. The report shall include an accounting of the grade, size, maturity, and net weight of the containers packed in each such category. The total packout report shall be provided to the committee or its authorized agent in a timely fashion that allows the committee to compile a daily, industry-wide packout report.

(f) Assessments. Handlers shall pay assessments as provided in § 966.42. Assessment will be based on inspection certificates supplied to the committee by the Federal-State Inspection Service.

(g) Definitions. Hydroponic tomatoes means tomatoes grown in solution without soil; greenhouse tomatoes means tomatoes grown indoors; and specialty packed red ripe tomatoes means tomatoes which at the time of inspection are #5 or #6 color (according to color classification requirements in the U.S. tomato standards) with their calyx ends and stems attached and cell packed in a single layer container. A Certified Tomato Repacker is a repacker of tomatoes in the regulated area who has the facilities for handling, regrading, resorting, and repacking tomatoes into consumer sized packages and has been certified as such by the committee. Processing as used in §§ 966.120 and 966.323 means the manufacture of any tomato product which has been converted into juice, or preserved by any commercial process, including canning, dehydrating, drying, and the addition of chemical substances. U.S. tomato standards means the revised United States Standards for Fresh Tomatoes (7 CFR 51.1855 through 51.1877), effective October 1, 1991, as amended, or variations thereof specified in this section. Other terms in this section shall have the same meaning as when used in Marketing Agreement No. 125, as amended, and this part, and the U.S. tomato standards.


EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g., sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

PART 967—CELERY GROWN IN FLORIDA

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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#### Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

**SOURCE:** 30 FR 14266, Nov. 13, 1965, unless otherwise noted.

**Definitions**

### § 967.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

### § 967.2 Act.


### § 967.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

### § 967.4 Celery.

Celery means all varieties and types of celery, *Apium graveolens*, grown in the production area.

### § 967.5 Production area.

Production area means all territory in the State of Florida.

### § 967.6 Producer.

Producer means any person engaged in a proprietary capacity in the production of celery.
§ 967.7 Handler.

Handler means any person (except a common or contract carrier of celery owned by another person) who handles harvested celery on behalf of a producer or on his own behalf.

§ 967.8 Handle.

Handle means to purchase harvested celery from a producer or to sell or transport harvested celery within the production area or between the production area and any point outside thereof.

§ 967.9 Marketing year, fiscal year or season.

Marketing year, fiscal year or season means the 12 months from August 1 to the following July 31 inclusive, or such other period which the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish.

§ 967.10 Committee.

Committee means the Florida Celery Committee established pursuant to § 967.25 of this part.

§ 967.11 Crate.

Crate means celery crate No. 3601 or its equivalent.

§ 967.12 Base Quantity.

Base Quantity means the number of crates of harvested celery determined by the committee pursuant to § 967.37 for a producer.

§ 967.13 Marketable Quantity.

Marketable Quantity means the total amount of celery which should be handled in a current season.

§ 967.14 Marketable Allotment.

Marketable Allotment means with respect to each producer the amount of harvested celery which may be purchased from, or handled on behalf of, such producer.

§ 967.15 Uniform percentage.

Uniform percentage means the percentage for any given season resulting from dividing the Marketable Quantity by the total Base Quantities registered by producers as provided in § 967.38.

[42 FR 32763, June 28, 1977]

§ 967.16 Grade and size.

Grade means any of the established grades of celery and size means any of the established sizes of celery stalks per crate as defined and set forth in the U.S. Standards for Celery (§§ 51.560 to 51.588, inclusive of this title) or U.S. Consumer Standards for Celery Stalks (§§ 51.595 to 51.613, inclusive of this title), issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or amendments thereto, or modifications thereof, or variations based thereon, recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

[33 FR 17846, Nov. 30, 1968]

§ 967.17 Farm operation.

Farm operation means the production of celery for one or more holders of a Marketable Allotment by a single farming entity under contract or other arrangement.

[33 FR 17846, Nov. 30, 1968]

§ 967.18 Flow-to-Market period.

Flow-to-Market period means any period or periods of one or more days which the committee may establish with the approval of the Secretary for the purposes of Flow-to-Market regulations.

[33 FR 17846, Nov. 30, 1968]

Florida Celery Committee

§ 967.25 Establishment and membership.

(a) There is hereby established a Florida Celery Committee consisting of 16 members, including 15 producer or handler members and one public member to administer the terms and provisions of this part. Each shall have a respective alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member.

(b) The Secretary, upon the recommendation of the committee, may reestablish the number of producer or handler members on the committee. In recommending any such change, the committee shall give consideration to the total number of growers and handlers in the production area during the current or previous season, and other relevant factors. A change in the number of committee members can become
§ 967.26 Eligibility.

Each member and alternate of the committee, except for the public member and alternate, shall be at the time of his selection and during his term of office, a producer or handler, or an officer or employee of a producer or handler in the group for which selected. The public member shall be neither a producer nor handler and shall have no direct financial interest in the production or marketing, except as a consumer, of agricultural products.

§ 967.27 Nominations.

Nominations for committee members and alternates may be made in the following manner:

(a) Growers in each group, as established in paragraph (d) or as reestablished pursuant to paragraph (g) of this section, may nominate persons for each member and alternate position in their respective group.

(b) A meeting of producers shall be held in the production area to nominate members and alternates to the committee. The incumbent committee shall hold such meeting or cause it to be held prior to July 1 of each year. Nominations thereat shall be certified to by the committee and submitted to the Secretary by July 1 of each year together with information deemed pertinent by the committee or as requested by the Secretary. If such nominations are not made in the manner specified by July 1, the Secretary may select representatives for such positions without nominations.

(c) At each such meeting, the eligibility of each producer, and each handler shall be recorded for purposes of determining participation in respective groupings.

(d) Five groups shall be established from which nominations and committee selections shall be made, as follows:

Group 1—South Florida District: Martin, Dade, Broward, Collier, Monroe, Lee, Charlotte, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Highlands, Indian River, Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach Counties—five (5) members and their alternates.

Group 2—Central Florida District: Orange, Seminole, Lake, Polk, Osceola, Brevard, and Volusia Counties—three (3) members and their alternates.

Group 3—West Coast-North Florida District: All the counties not embraced in Groups 1 and 2—two (2) members and their alternates.

Group 4—The producer or producers whose celery was handled by the handler who handled in the previous or current season, whichever is applicable, the second largest volume of celery—two (2) members and their alternates.

Group 5—The producer or producers whose celery was handled by the handler who handled in the previous or current season, whichever is applicable, the largest volume of celery—three (3) members and their alternates.

(e) Each producer is entitled to cast only one vote for each position in the group wherein he produced celery for market in the current season and possesses a Base Quantity. If a producer has so qualified in more than one group, he may elect the group in which he shall vote but he can vote for nominees in only one group. Any producer in Group 4 or Group 5 shall not be entitled to vote for nominees in other groups.

(f) The members of the committee selected by the Secretary pursuant to §967.32 shall nominate a public member and alternate member of the committee. The committee shall recommend rules for receiving names of persons to be considered for nomination to the public member and alternate positions. The persons nominated for the public member and alternate positions shall be submitted by the incumbent committee to the Secretary by the July 1 of each year together with information deemed pertinent by the committee or as requested by the Secretary.

(g) The Secretary, upon recommendation of the committee, may reestablish groups and may reapportion committee membership among the various groups. In recommending such changes, the committee shall give consideration to:

(1) Changes in the relative positions of
existing groups with respect to celery production and shipments; (2) changes in the numbers of producers and handlers in each group; and (3) other relevant factors. A change in the establishment of groups or in apportionment of members among groups can become effective at any time, provided, the effective date is more than 30 days prior to the date on which nominations are held.

§ 967.28 Alternate members.
An alternate for a member shall act in the place of such member (a) in his absence, or (b) in the event of his death, removal, resignation, or disqualification, until a successor for his unexpired term has been selected and has qualified.

§ 967.29 Procedure.
(a) At an assembled meeting, all votes shall be cast in person, and a simple majority of committee members (including alternates acting for absent members) shall constitute a quorum. Decisions of the committee shall require the concurring vote of a majority of the members and alternates in attendance and entitled to vote.
(b) If both a member and his alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the committee may designate any other alternate present from the same group to serve in the place of the member.
(c) The committee may provide for meeting by telephone, telegraph, or any other means of communication. All votes shall be recorded in the minutes of each meeting so as to reflect how each member or alternate voted.

§ 967.30 Powers.
The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer this subpart in accordance with its terms and provisions;
(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;
(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of this part;
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 967.31 Duties.
The committees shall have, among others, the following duties:
(a) To select from among its members and alternates such officers and subcommittees, and to adopt such rules or bylaws for the conduct of its business as it deems necessary;
(b) To employ necessary personnel, including professional and technical services, fix their compensation and terms of employment;
(c) To keep minutes, books and records which will reflect all the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;
(d) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to producers and handlers for examination at the offices of the committee;
(e) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a certified public accountant at least once each marketing year and at such other times as the committee may deem necessary, or as the Secretary may request; to submit two copies of each such audit report to the Secretary, and to make available a copy which does not contain confidential data for inspection at the offices of the committee by producers and handlers;
(f) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;
(g) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to celery;
(h) To submit to the Secretary such available information as he may request or the committee may deem desirable and pertinent;
(i) To notify producers and handlers of all meetings of the committee to consider recommendations for regulations and of all regulatory actions taken affecting producers and handlers;
(j) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee
and its subcommittees as is given to its members;

(k) To investigate compliance and use means available to prevent violations of the provisions of this part; and

(l) To consult, cooperate, and exchange information with other marketing agreement committees and other individuals or agencies in connection with all proper committee activities and objectives under this part.

(m) To secure suitable candidates for the public member and alternate positions, and to nominate persons for such positions on the committee.


§ 967.32 Selection and term of office.

(a) Selection. The committee shall be selected by the Secretary from nominees submitted by the committee, or from among other eligible persons. Each person so selected shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary prior to assuming the duties of the position.

(b) Term of office. The term of office of each committee member and alternate shall be for a period of one year beginning August 1 and ending the following July 31. Committee members and alternates shall serve for the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified.

§ 967.33 Vacancy.

Any vacancy occasioned by the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any committee member or alternate shall be recognized by the committee by certifying to the Secretary a successor for the unexpired term unless a selection is deemed unnecessary by the Secretary.

§ 967.34 Expenses.

Members and alternates of the committee shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in attending committee and subcommittee meetings and in the performance of their duties under this part.

§ 967.35 Marketing policy.

(a) The committee shall meet, consider and adopt a marketing policy for each season. Committee considerations shall include probable celery production within the production area and in competing areas, the grade, size, quality, and quantity of celery which should be made available to market during such season to meet market requirements and establish orderly marketing conditions, and other pertinent information. On the basis of these considerations the committee shall adopt a marketing policy for such season as follows:

(1) Annual Marketable Quantity—A meeting to adopt a policy regarding the annual Marketable Quantity of celery to be marketed shall be held not later than June 15 of each year. Prior to November 1 of each year, the committee shall review such marketing policy and as changes are indicated, the committee may adopt appropriate revision.

(2) Other regulations—Prior to or at the same time initial recommendations in any season are made pursuant to §967.40(a) the committee shall prepare a marketing policy statement concerning the necessity for such regulations.

(b) Notice of and recommendations from, the initial marketing policy for a marketing season or any later changes shall be submitted promptly to the Secretary and notice of such marketing policy shall be given to handlers, producers and other interested parties by bulletins or other appropriate media.

[33 FR 17846, Nov. 30, 1968]

§ 967.36 Marketable Quantity.

(a) Whenever the committee recommends and the Secretary finds on the basis of such recommendations or other information, that limiting the total quantity of celery to be handled during a marketing season, or revising a Marketable Quantity previously established, would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall establish the Marketable Quantity which handlers may handle as first handlers for such season, or revise a previously established Marketable Quantity.
§ 967.37  Base Quantities.

(a)(1) Base Quantities for producers with a history of production and order participation for the period 1965-66 through 1976-77 shall be Base Quantities in effect for the 1976-77 season, as recorded by the Florida Celery Committee on December 15, 1976, subject to modifications relating to current production and marketing experience specified in (b) through (e) of this section, or to transfers pursuant to § 967.39.

(2) Base Quantities for other producers shall be established pursuant to Base Quantity reserve as specified in paragraph (d) of this section, subject to modifications relating to current production and marketing experience specified in (b) through (e) of this section, or to transfers pursuant to § 967.39.

(b) Periodically, but at least once each five years, the committee shall review Base Quantities and recommend any changed in the formula, to be prescribed by the Secretary, for determining Base Quantities which may be deemed appropriate.

(c) The committee may recommend rules pertaining to producers who wish to obtain, hold, or transfer Base Quantities or Marketable Allotments. Such rules shall be subject to approval of the Secretary and may require producers to file reports and information with respect thereto, including but not limited to quantities marketed in the representative period, their qualifications as producers, as well as particulars on sale and handling of celery as a result of any Base Quantities or Marketable Allotments that may be issued to them.

(d)(1) Beginning with the 1978-79 season, a reserve in the amount of six percent of the total Base Quantities shall be established annually. Such reserve shall be used for the issuance of Base Quantities to new producers and adjustments in Base Quantities for producers with existing Base Quantities, with 50 percent being made available for new producers and 50 percent available for adjustments for producers with existing Base Quantities.

(2) Base Quantities issued to new producers shall be permanent, subject to requirements of § 967.37(e). Base Quantities issued to new producers shall not be transferable within three years after issuance. Any adjustments in Base Quantities issued to producers with existing Base Quantities shall be effective for one season only and a new request by such producers for adjustment in Base Quantity shall be submitted each season.

(e) A condition for the continuing validity of a Base Quantity is production of celery thereunder. If no bona fide effort is made to produce and sell celery thereunder for two consecutive seasons commencing with the 1977-78 season, the Base Quantity may be declared invalid due to lack of use and cancelled.
§ 967.38 Marketable Allotments.

(a) When the Secretary establishes a season's Marketable Quantity, a percentage shall be determined by dividing the amount fixed as the season's Marketable Quantity by the total Base Quantities of producers who have registered with the committee pursuant to § 967.37(f).

(b) The Marketable Allotment for each producer shall be established by the committee by multiplying his Base Quantity by the appropriate Uniform Percentage. The resulting amount shall be his Marketable Allotment for a season. The committee shall notify each producer of his allotment.

(c) After a producer has been notified of his Marketable Allotment, he shall, in turn, notify the committee, on forms furnished by it, the handler or handlers who will first handle all or a portion of his Marketable Allotment for the ensuing season, as well as the number of crates each such handler will so handle. This information shall be sent by the committee to the respective handlers.

(d) If the committee recommends and the Secretary approves, that no season's Marketable Quantity be established, the Marketable Allotment of each producer shall be unlimited.

(e) When the Marketable Quantity is equal to or smaller than total Base Quantities, the first 37,500 crates of each producer's Base Quantity shall be subtracted from both the Marketable Quantity and total Base Quantities when the Uniform Percentage is calculated in this section (§ 967.38(a)), and the Uniform Percentage for the first 37,500 crates will be 100 percent. In the event the Marketable Quantity exceeds total Base Quantities, there shall be no exemption for the first 37,500 crates and the Uniform Percentage shall be applied to each producer's total Base Quantity.

(f) Marketable allotments shall be issued only to producers who have registered by May 1, or such other date prescribed by the Secretary, and indicated firm and substantial commitments for the production of celery for the forthcoming season.


§ 967.39 Transfers.

(a) Producers' Base Quantities or Marketable Allotments, or both, may be transferred upon appropriate requests therefor, pursuant to § 967.37 and upon approval of the committee.

(b) Any producer with a Base Quantity may request a transfer of all or a portion of his Base Quantity for a specified period of time.

(c) Any producer with a Marketable Allotment may request a transfer of all or a portion of his Marketable Allotment during a current season.

(d) Producers must advise the committee, prior to final approval of a transfer, that a different amount will be handled by a handler or handlers due to any transfer authorized in paragraph (c) of this section. The committee, upon receipt of such notification, shall advise the handler or handlers involved of the adjustments in the amount they may handle as first handlers thereof for the current season,
based upon the number of crates involved in the transfer, as well as issue revised Marketable Allotments to the producers involved.

OTHER REGULATIONS

§ 967.40 Issuance of other regulations.

(a) The Secretary may limit the handling of celery whenever he finds from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulations would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

(b) Such regulations may:

(i) Establish specific Flow-to-Market periods and limit the total quantity of celery which may be handled therein;

(ii) The committee may recommend and the Secretary may issue such rules as are necessary to effectuate the Flow-to-Market procedures and regulations.

(iii) In making its recommendations, the committee shall give due consideration to the following factors:

(a) Market prices for celery; (b) supply of celery on hand at shipping point, on track at, and en route to, the principal markets; (c) supply, maturity, and condition of celery in the production area; (d) market prices and supplies of celery from competitive producing areas, and supplies of other competitive vegetables; (e) trend and level in consumer income; and (f) other relevant factors as specified by the committee in its recommendation.

(iv) At any time during a Flow-to-Market period for which the Secretary has fixed the quantity of celery which may be handled, the committee may recommend to the Secretary that such quantity be increased for such period. Each such recommendation, together with the committee’s reason for such recommendation, shall be submitted promptly to the Secretary.

(v) Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that to limit the quantity of celery which may be handled during a specified Flow-to-Market period will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act, he shall fix such quantity. The quantity so fixed for any such period may be increased by the Secretary at any time during such period. The Secretary may upon the recommendation of the committee, or upon other available information, terminate or suspend any regulation at any time.

(vi) (a) At the times specified by the committee, each handler of celery shall submit to the committee, on forms to be supplied by the committee, a report setting forth the number of crates each producer or farm operation will make available to him for handling during the applicable period; and in the case of a farm operation, shall specify the number of total crates available which are to be attributed to each holder of a Marketable Allotment who is involved in the farm operation so that each holder of a Marketable Allotment is treated as an individual producer for the purposes of the Flow-to-Market regulation.

(b) Such written request and report shall be submitted at such time and in such manner and contain such other information as the committee may recommend and the Secretary approve.

(c) The committee shall determine the accuracy of the information submitted pursuant to this section. Whenever the committee finds that there is an error, omission, or inaccuracy in any such information, it shall correct the same and shall give the person who submitted the information a reasonable opportunity to discuss with the committee the factors considered in making the correction.

(vii) (a) Whenever the Secretary has fixed the total quantity of celery that may be handled during a regulated Flow-to-Market period, the committee shall compute under a uniform rule, for each producer entitled thereto, the quantity of celery which may be handled for or purchased from him by handlers during such period. The amount to be handled under these regulations will be in addition to that quantity of harvested celery a handler has on hand at the commencement of the specified...
§ 967.41 Handling for special purposes.

Regulations in effect pursuant to § 967.38 or § 967.40 may be modified, suspended, or terminated to facilitate handling of celery for:

(a) Exports;
(b) Relief or charity;
(c) Experimental purposes; and
(d) Other purposes which may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

[33 FR 17847, Nov. 30, 1968]
§ 967.42 Safeguards.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish through rules such requirements as may be necessary to insure that shipments made pursuant to § 967.41 were handled and used for the purpose stated.

[33 FR 17847, Nov. 30, 1968]

§ 967.43 Inspection and certification.

(a) Whenever the handling of celery is regulated pursuant to § 967.40(b)(3) through (5), or at other times when recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary, no handler shall handle celery unless such celery is inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service and is covered by a valid inspection certificate, except when relieved from such requirements pursuant to § 967.40(c) or paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) Regrading, resorting, or repacking any lot of celery shall invalidate any prior inspection certificate insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned. No handler shall handle celery after it has been regraded, resorted, repacked or in any way additionally prepared for market, unless such celery is inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service. Such inspection requirements on regraded, resorted, or repacked celery may be modified, suspended, or terminated upon recommendation by the committee, and approval of the Secretary.

(c) Upon recommendation of the committee and approval by the Secretary, any or all celery so inspected and certified shall be identified by appropriate seals, stamps, or tags to be affixed to the containers by the handler under the direction and supervision of a Federal or Federal-State Inspector or the committee.

(d) Insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned, the length of time for which an inspection certificate is valid may be established by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(e) When celery is inspected in accordance with the requirements of this section, a copy of each inspection certificate issued shall be made available to the committee by the inspection service.

(f) The committee may recommend and the Secretary may require that no handler shall transport or cause the transportation of celery by motor vehicle or by other means unless such shipment is accompanied by a copy of the inspection certificate issued thereon, or other document authorized by the committee to indicate that such inspection has been performed. Such certificate or document shall be surrendered to such authority as may be designated by the committee.

[33 FR 17847, Nov. 30, 1968]

§ 967.44 Research and development.

The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, establish or provide for the establishment of projects involving production research, marketing research and development projects, and marketing promotion including paid advertising, designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption or efficient production of celery. The expenses of such projects shall be paid by funds collected pursuant to § 967.61 or § 967.63. Upon conclusion of each program, but at least annually, the committee shall summarize and report on the program status and accomplishments to its members and the Secretary. A similar report to the committee shall be required of any contracting party on any paid advertising or major program. Also, for each advertising or major program the contracting party shall be required to maintain records of money received and expenditures and such shall be available to the committee and the Secretary. The committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary, establish criteria which will serve as a guide for it to determine what constitutes a major program.

[33 FR 17847, Nov. 30, 1968, as amended at 42 FR 32764, June 28, 1977]
§ 967.60 Expenses and Assessments

§ 967.60 Expenses.

The committee may incur such expenses as the Secretary finds reasonable and likely to be incurred by it during each fiscal year for its maintenance and functioning, and for such other purposes as the Secretary determines appropriate under this part. To assist the Secretary, the committee shall submit a budget of expenses and prospective revenue to him for each season, with explanations therefor, and recommendations as to the rate of assessment for such fiscal year.


§ 967.61 Assessment and requirements for payment.

Each first handler shall pay to the committee upon demand, his pro rata share of the expenses authorized by the Secretary for each marketing year. Each handler’s pro rata share shall be the rate of assessment per unit fixed by the Secretary times the total assessable units of celery which he handles. At any time during or after a marketing year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment as necessary to cover authorized expenses. The payment of expenses and assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required during periods when no regulations are in effect.


§ 967.62 Accounting.

At the end of a fiscal year, funds in excess of such year’s expenses may be placed in an operating reserve not to exceed approximately one marketing year’s operational expenses or such lower limits as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish. Funds in such reserve shall be available for use by the committee for expenses authorized pursuant to § 967.40. Funds in excess of those necessary to pay expenses and those placed in the operating reserve shall be refunded pro rata to handlers from whom such funds were collected.


§ 967.63 Contributions.

The committee may accept voluntary contributions but these shall only be used to pay expenses incurred pursuant to § 967.44. Furthermore, such contributions shall be free from any encumbrances by the donor and the committee shall retain complete control of their use.

[42 FR 32764, June 28, 1977]

§ 967.70 Reports.

Upon request of the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, each producer and handler shall furnish to the committee such reports and information as may be necessary to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties under this part. Such reports may include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

(a) Reports by any or all handlers on the number of crates of harvested celery purchased from or handled on behalf of any or all producers during any prior or current season;

(b) Reports by any or all producers on the number of crates of harvested celery sold by such producers during any prior or current season or the current quantities available for sale by such producers;

(c) Reports by any or all producers on the number of crates of harvested celery sold to or through any or all handlers during any prior or current period.


§ 967.71 Records.

Each producer and handler shall maintain and make available upon request, such records pertaining to celery handled by him as will substantiate the reports required by the committee. All such records shall be maintained for not less than one year after the termination of the marketing season to which such records relate.

§ 967.72 Verification of reports and records.

For the purpose of assuring compliance with record keeping requirements and verifying reports of producers and handlers, the Secretary and the committee, through its duly authorized employees, shall have access to any premises where applicable records are maintained, where celery is handled, and at any time during reasonable business hours shall be permitted to inspect such producer and handler premises and any and all records of such persons with respect to matters within the purview of this part.


§ 967.73 Confidential information.

All reports, data, or information obtained by the committee constituting a trade secret or disclosing the trade position, financial condition, or business operations of particular producers or handlers shall be kept in the custody and under the control of one or more committee employees and shall be treated as confidential. Compilations of general reports from data submitted by producers or handlers are authorized, subject to prohibition of disclosure of individual producers’ or handlers’ identities or operations.


MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 967.80 Compliance.

No person may handle celery except in conformity with the provisions of this part.


§ 967.81 Right of the Secretary.

The members and alternates of the committee and any agents, employees or representatives thereof, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary at any time. Each and every regulation, decision, determination or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.


§ 967.82 Derogation.

Nothing in this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary, or of the United States (a) To exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or (b) in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.


§ 967.83 Agents.

The Secretary may by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the Government, or name any agency or division in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.


§ 967.84 Effective time.

The provisions of this part shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature to this part, and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways specified in § 967.55.


§ 967.85 Termination.

(a) The Secretary may at any time terminate the provisions of this part by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this part at the end of any fiscal year whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of producers who, during the preceding fiscal year, have been engaged in the production of celery for market; provided, that such majority have, during such period produced for market...
§ 967.86 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this part, the then functioning members of the committee shall continue as joint trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the same committee, of all the funds and property then in possession of, or under control of such committee, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination.

(b) The said trustees (1) shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; (2) shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements, or deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the joint trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and (3) shall, upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary and appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee, or the joint trustees pursuant to this part.

(c) Any funds collected pursuant to §967.41 over and above the amounts necessary to meet outstanding obligations and expenses necessarily incurred during the operation of this part and during the liquidation period, shall be returned to handlers as soon as practicable after the termination of this part. The refund to each handler shall be represented by the excess of the amount paid by him over and above his pro rata share of the expenses.

(d) Any person to whom funds or claims have been transferred or delivered by the committee, or its members, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of said committee and upon the said joint trustees.


§ 967.87 Effect of termination or amendments.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this part or of any regulation issued pursuant to this part, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this part or any regulation issued hereunder, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this part or any regulation issued hereunder, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or any other person with respect to any such violation.


§ 967.88 Personal liability.

No member or alternate of the committee, nor any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler, or to any other person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission as such member, alternate, employee, or agent except for acts of dishonesty.


§ 967.89 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this part shall cease upon its termination, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this part.


§ 967.90 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the
§ 967.136 Reapportionment of committee membership.

Pursuant to § 967.27(g), industry membership on the Florida Celery Committee shall be reapportioned among groups as follows:

(a) Group 1—Two members and their alternates.
(b) Group 2—Two members and their alternates.
§ 967.140 Eligibility requirements.

(a) Public members shall be neither producers nor handlers of celery and shall have no direct financial interest in the production or marketing of celery except as consumers of agricultural products.

(b) Public members should be able to devote sufficient time and express a willingness to attend committee activities regularly and to familiarize themselves with the background and economics of the industry.

(c) Public members must be residents of Florida.

(d) Public members shall be nominated by the Florida Celery Committee and shall serve a one-year term which coincides with the term of office of producer or handler members of the committee.

§ 967.141 Nomination procedures.

(a) Names of candidates together with evidence of qualification for public membership on the Florida Celery Committee shall be submitted to the Committee at its business office, 4401 East Colonial Drive, or P.O. Box 140067, Orlando, Fla. 32814, no later than April 15.

(b) Questionnaires may be sent by the committee to those persons submitted as candidates, to determine their eligibility and interest in becoming a public member.

(c) The names of persons nominated for the public member and alternate positions shall be submitted by the incumbent committee to the Secretary by July 1 with such information as deemed pertinent by the committee or as requested by the Secretary.

(d) Nomination of the initial public member may be made later than July 1 but as soon as practical thereafter.

Such member’s term shall end July 31, 1978.


ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

§ 967.150 Marketable Allotments.

(a) Producers holding Base Quantities shall register with the committee no later than May 1 of each year, on committee forms, to indicate their intentions and commitments to produce and market celery during the forthcoming season.

(b) As provided in § 967.38(f), Marketable Allotments shall be issued only to producers who have registered by May 1.

(c) Pursuant to § 967.36(b) no handler may handle any harvested celery when a Marketable Quantity is in effect, unless it is within the Marketable Allotment of a producer who has a Base Quantity pursuant to § 967.37 and such producer authorized the first handler thereof to purchase or otherwise handle it. By October 1 of each season, each producer shall notify the committee, by certification to it on committee forms, the number of crates of harvested celery to be handled by each such handler; and if there are subsequent changes in arrangements, the committee shall similarly be notified.

[43 FR 15609, Apr. 14, 1978]

§ 967.151 Base Quantities.

(a) Pursuant to § 967.37(d)(1) a reserve of Base Quantities shall be established annually beginning with the 1978-79 season. Each annual reserve shall amount to 6 percent of the total of Base Quantities in effect for the previous season.

(1) Applicants for Base Quantities must apply to the committee for a portion of the reserve not later than April 15 each year on such forms as may be prescribed by the committee. Such forms may include, but not necessarily be limited to, details on:

(i) Individual or firm name and address.

(ii) Location and size of farming operation.
(iii) Evidence of any firm and substantial arrangements or commitments, such as contractual arrangements with credit agencies, handlers, fertilizer dealers, management agencies and others for the production and marketing of celery, including reference to land, equipment, occupation, crops produced, and past experience in farming. Applicants for increases in Base Quantity also should provide substantial evidence of a capability to produce and market additional celery including specific references to celery sales relative to Marketable Allotments, production facilities and marketing facilities.

(b) Upon receipt of the completed application forms the committee shall consider and make determinations of the allocation of annual reserve Base Quantities among eligible applicants. Up to 50 percent of the total reserve shall be allocated among new producers. Such producers shall be those applicants who have no Base Quantity under the order, and any reserve Base Quantity distributed to such applicants shall be for the purpose of establishing new production and marketing of celery. Up to 50 percent of the total reserve shall be allocated among new producers. In the event total applications in either category (new producers or producers with existing bases) exceed the amount of reserve Base Quantity authorized, the reserve in each category shall be apportioned among eligible applicants on a uniform basis. Any balance of the reserve which has not been allocated during a season shall not carry forward into the following season.

(c) As provided in §967.37, the committee may provide for informal review in open meeting of the committee, or subcommittee thereof, of applicants' request for increases in Base Quantities or for Base Quantities. Such meeting shall be so conducted that an accurate record shall be made of relevant evidence presented. The record of such informal review, with references to relevant data and information presented, shall be retained by the committee and shall be subject to review by the Secretary.

(d) Each completed application form submitted to the committee shall be considered and determinations shall be made thereon. The committee shall notify each individual in writing of the action taken on the applications submitted. If the committee has not advised an individual of its decision by July 15, the individual may appeal to the Secretary for appropriate consideration thereof.

(e) To administer this part in accordance with its terms and provisions, a record of each Base Quantity and each Marketable Allotment shall be maintained by the committee.

(1) Whenever any Base Quantity or any Marketable Allotment is established for a producer, the committee shall so record and advise such producer on forms designated by it.

(2) No producer may transfer any Base Quantity or Marketable Allotment or obtain the same without first submitting a report containing all the details of the proposed transfer to the committee for record keeping and verification. Such reports shall be on forms prescribed by the committee and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, and as applicable, Base Quantity or Marketable Allotment held, number of crates to be transferred and the specific period of time the transfer will be in effect, name and address of the producer to whom such Base Quantity or Marketable Allotment is being transferred, number of crates marketed in the representative period, qualifications as a producer and particulars on the sale and handling of the celery referable to the transferred Base Quantity or Marketable Allotment. The committee will only give consideration to requests for transfers of Base Quantity prior to the time the Marketable Quantity is recommended to the Secretary for a particular season, after which time requests for transfers of Marketable Allotments may be made to, and considered by the committee: Provided, That, (i) pursuant to §967.36(b), transfers of Marketable Allotment may only be made to holders of Base Quantity; and (ii) requests for transfers of Base Quantities for any future season may be made at any time, except, pursuant to §967.37, no Base Quantity or portion thereof issued to a new producer may be transferred within 3 years of the date of issuance.
(3) No handler may purchase harvested celery from, or handle harvested celery on behalf of, any producer, under a Base Quantity or Marketable Allotment transferred from one producer to another producer, unless such transfer was approved by the committee and recorded by it, or appropriate subcommittee, and the transferee has been so notified by the committee.

(4) No transfer of all or a portion of a Base Quantity that was originally issued by the committee to a producer in an amount greater than 37,500 crates shall (i) cause the elimination of such Base Quantity from the Marketable Quantity or from the total Base Quantities when the Uniform Percentage is calculated pursuant to §967.38(a), nor (ii) change the applicability of such Uniform Percentage in establishing the Marketable Allotment with respect to the portion of his Base Quantity that was not transferred, regardless of whether or not such remainder exceeds 37,500 crates. The same Uniform Percentage shall also be applicable to the transferee-producer with respect to all or the portion of the transferred Base Quantity, regardless of whether or not the transferred Base Quantity or portion thereof is 37,500 crates or less, or, when added to the Base Quantity originally issued to such transferee-producer, does not aggregate more than 37,500 crates.

(f) Base Quantities not used for two consecutive seasons shall be declared invalid and cancelled if no bona fide effort is made to produce and sell celery thereunder. In determining what constitutes a “bona fide effort,” the committee should require evidence of:

(1) Commitment of all resources necessary for the production and marketing of a celery crop.

(2) Registration with the committee annually, pursuant to §967.37(f), to indicate intentions and commitments to produce and market celery.

(3) Production and sale of at least 50 percent of the producer’s seasonal allotment of celery in which he has a proprietary interest, unless prevented from doing so by acts of God or other circumstances beyond his control.

[43 FR 15609, Apr. 14, 1978]
§ 967.155 Revised Base Quantity formula.

As soon as practicable following the May 1, 1979, registration deadline, Base Quantities for all producers of record with the Florida Celery Committee as of December 15, 1976, shall be revised to be effective for the 1979-80 season as follows and in the order enumerated:

(a) Application of the provisions of §§ 967.37(e) and 967.39 as it pertains to permanent transfers.

(b) Selection of the highest number of crates of celery produced and shipped by or for each producer during any one of the five seasons, 1974-75 through 1978-79, or his Base Quantity for the 1978-79 season, whichever is greater. Provided however, no producer who produced and shipped celery during each of the five seasons, 1974-75 through 1978-79, shall lose all or any portion of his Base Quantity by the application of § 967.39 pertaining to specified period of time transfers, which were approved by the committee prior to the commencement of the 1974-75 season: And provided further, any new producer who is issued a Base Quantity by the committee under § 967.37(d) or by transfer after December 15, 1976, shall retain his present Base Quantity.

(c) Any producer who transferred, with approval of the committee, all or a portion of his Base Quantity for a specified period of time prior to the commencement of the 1974-75 season shall have the transferred Base Quantity reissued to him upon the expiration date of such transfer.

[43 FR 57240, Dec. 7, 1978]

REPORTS AND RECORDS

§ 967.165 Reports.

(a) Pursuant to § 967.45, the following reports shall be furnished by each handler to the committee at such time and on such forms as it may request:

(1) A report of daily celery handlings broken down by number of crates, sizes, and each producer thereof.

(2) A weekly report of assessments due the committee.

(b) Pursuant to § 967.37(c), the following reports shall be furnished by producers as a condition for obtaining, holding, or transferring Base Quantities or Marketable Allotments:

(1) A weekly celery report showing acreage planted and harvested, and the number of crates harvested each day.

(2) A weekly report by each producer who marketed celery verifying the number of crates marketed and the balance of such producer’s Marketable Allotment.

(3) Anticipated planting and harvesting schedule by each producer for the ensuing season, including total acres to be planted, beginning and ending dates of planting and harvesting, total production, for whom grown, and handler or handlers thereof.

(4) A report by each producer of production when done under contract giving such information as location, total acres to be planted, beginning and ending dates of planting and harvesting, handler, breakdown of proprietary interest by blocks and percent of ownership of other producers who have an interest.

(5) Pursuant to § 967.37, the committee shall be notified within a reasonable length of time by the executor, attorney, or receiver as applicable, following the death of a producer, or upon dissolution of any partnership, corporation or company which is a producer, who or which is a holder of a Base Quantity, of (i) the current status of the Base Quantity, and (ii) the final status or disposition of the Base Quantity.

[31 FR 4276, Mar. 11, 1966, as amended by Amdt. 1, 33 FR 7442, May 18, 1968]

§ 967.166 Records.

Pursuant to §§ 967.46 and 967.47, any and all applicable records and accounts of producers and handlers shall be maintained and shall be made available to a certified public accountant, as agent of the committee, for audit, if requested by the committee or its manager.

[31 FR 4276, Mar. 15, 1966]

EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .399) and “Handling” regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried
PART 979—MELONS GROWN IN SOUTH TEXAS

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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or to whom authority may hereafter be
deleagated, to act in his stead.

§ 979.2 Act.
Act means Public Act No. 10, 73d Con-
gress (May 12, 1933), as amended and as
reenacted and amended by the Agricul-
tural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937,
as amended (sections 1-19, 48 Stat. 31,

§ 979.3 Person.
Person means an individual, partner-
ship, corporation, association, or any
other business unit.

§ 979.4 Production area.
Production area means the counties of
Bee, Brooks, Cameron, Duval, Hidalgo,
Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg,
La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Nueces,
Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Webb,
Willacy, and Zapata in the State of
Texas.

§ 979.5 Melons.
Melons means all varieties of Cucumis
melo, commonly called muskmelons
and including but not limited to vari-
ties reticulatus and inodorus, grown in
the production area. Such varieties in-
clude cantaloupes, honeydew and
honey ball melons. Watermelons
(Citrullus lanatus) are not included in
the foregoing definition.

§ 979.6 Handler.
Handler is synonymous with shipper
and means any person (except a com-
mon or contract carrier of melons
owned by another person) who handles
melons or causes melons to be handled.

§ 979.7 Handle.
Handle or ship means to harvest,
grade, package, sell, transport, or in
any other way to place melons grown
in the production area, or cause such
melons to be placed, in the current of
commerce within the production area
or between the production area and
any point outside thereof. Such term
shall not include the transportation,
sale, or delivery within the production
area of field-run melons to a person for
the purpose of having such melons pre-
pared for market.

§ 979.8 Grower.
Grower is synonymous with producer
and means any person engaged in a
proprietary capacity in the production
of melons for market.

§ 979.9 Committee.
Committee means the South Texas
Melon Committee established pursuant
to §979.22.

§ 979.10 Fiscal period.
Fiscal period means the annual period
beginning and ending on such dates as
may be approved by the Secretary pur-
suant to recommendations of the com-
mittee.

§ 979.11 Grade, size, and maturity.
Grade, size, and maturity mean, re-
spectively, any of the officially estab-
lished grade, size, or maturity defini-
tions as set forth in the U.S. Standards
for Grades of Cantaloupes (§§ 2851.475
through 2851.494(c) of this title) or U.S.
Standards for Grades of Honey Dew and
Honey Ball Type Melons (§§ 2851.3740-
2851.3749 of this title), including amend-
ments, modifications, or variations
thereof, or, such other grades, sizes,
and maturities as may be rec-
ommended by the committee and ap-
proved by the Secretary.

§ 979.12 Grading.
Grading is synonymous with prepar-
ing melons for commercial market and
means sorting or separation of melons
into grades, sizes, maturities, or packs
or any combination thereof, for han-
dling.

§ 979.13 Pack.
Pack means a quantity of melons
specified by grade, size, weight, or
count, or by type or conditions of con-
tainer, or any combination of these
recommended by the committee and
approved by the Secretary.

§ 979.14 Container.
Container means any carton, crate,
box, bag, hamper, pallet bin, package,
basket, bulk load, or any other type of
receptacle used in handling melons.
§ 979.15 Varieties.
Varieties means and includes all classifications, subdivisions, or types or melons according to those definitive characteristics now and hereinafter recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or recommended by the committee, and approved by the Secretary.

§ 979.16 Export.
Export means shipment of melons to any destination which is not within the 48 contiguous States, or the District of Columbia, of the United States.

§ 979.17 District.
District means each of the geographic divisions of the production area initially established pursuant to §979.24 or as reestablished pursuant to §979.25.

§ 979.18 Part and subpart.
Part means the Order Regulating the handling of Melons Grown in South Texas and all rules and regulations and supplementary orders issued thereunder. The aforesaid Order Regulating the Handling of Melons Grown in South Texas shall be a subpart of such part.

COMMITTEE

§ 979.22 Establishment and membership.
(a) There is hereby established a South Texas Melon Committee, consisting of ten (10) members, to administer the terms and provisions of this part. Six members shall be growers, three members shall be handlers, and one shall be a public member. Each shall have an alternate who shall have the same qualifications as the member.
(b) Each member, other than the public member, shall be an individual who is, prior to his selection and during his term of office (1) a resident of the production area, and (2) a grower or handler, or an officer or employee of a grower or handler, or of growers' cooperative marketing organization.
(c) Five members shall be growers from District No. 1 and one member shall be a grower from District No. 2. No person, if he handles melons, shall be eligible for selection as a grower member on the committee unless all of the melons handled by him during the fiscal period immediately preceding his proposed selection to the committee were his own production or unless such person is an officer or employee of a growers' cooperative marketing association. Three members shall be handlers from District No. 1.
(d) The public member and alternate shall be a resident of the production area and be neither a grower nor a handler and shall have no direct financial interest in the commercial production, financing, buying, packing or marketing of melons, except as a consumer, nor shall such person be a director, officer or employee of any firm so engaged.

§ 979.23 Term of office.
(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the term of office of committee members and their respective alternates shall be for two years and shall begin as of March 1 and end the last day of February or for such other two year period as the committee may recommend and the Secretary approve. The terms shall be so determined that approximately one-half of the total committee membership shall terminate each year. Members and alternates shall serve in such capacity for the portion of the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified, and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified;
(b) The term of office of the initial members and alternates shall begin on the effective date of this subpart. Approximately one-half the initial committee members and alternates shall serve for a 1 year term.

§ 979.24 Districts.
To determine a basis for selecting committee members, the following districts of the production area are hereby initially established:
District No. 1: (Valley) the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Brooks, Kleberg, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, and Willacy in the State of Texas.
District No. 2: (Laredo-Coastal Bend) the counties of Zapata, Webb, Duval, Jim Wells, Nueces, San Patricio, La Salle, McMullen, Live Oak, Bee, and Refugio in the State of Texas.
§ 979.25 Redistricting.

The committee may recommend, and the Secretary may approve, the reapportionment of members among districts, and the reestablishment of districts within the production area. In recommending any such changes, the committee shall give consideration to:

(a) Shifts in melon acreage within the districts and within the production area during recent years;
(b) The importance of new production in its relation to existing districts;
(c) The equitable relationship of committee membership and districts, and other relevant factors. No change in districting or in apportionment of members within districts may become effective less than 30 days prior to the date on which terms of office begin each year and no recommendations for such redistricting or reapportionment may be made less than 6 months prior to such date.

§ 979.26 Nominations.

(a) Initial members. For nominations to the initial committee, the meeting or meetings may be sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or by any agency or group requested to do so by the Department. The nominations, resulting from these meetings, for each of the six initial grower and three initial handler members of the committee, together with nomination for the initial alternate members for each position shall be submitted to the Secretary prior to the effective date of this subpart.

(b) Successor members. (1) The committee shall hold or cause to be held not later than January 15 of each year, or such other date as may be specified by the Secretary, a meeting or meetings of growers and handlers in each district for the purpose of designating at least one nominee for each position as member and for each position as alternate member of the committee which is vacant, or which is about to become vacant;
(2) The names of nominees shall be supplied to the Secretary at such time and in such manner and form as he may prescribe;
(3) Only growers may participate in designating grower nominees and only handlers may participate in designat-
§ 979.29 Acceptance.

Any person selected by the Secretary as member or as an alternate member of the committee shall, prior to serving as such, qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary within the time period specified by the Secretary.

§ 979.30 Vacancies.

To fill committee vacancies, the Secretary may select members or alternates from nominees on the latest nomination reports or from nominations made in the manner specified in §979.26 or from other eligible persons. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within 30 days after such vacancy occurs, the vacancy may be filled without regard to nomination, but such selection shall be made on the basis of representation provided for in §979.22.

§ 979.31 Alternate member.

An alternate member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom he is an alternate, during such member's absence or when designated to do so by such member. In the event both a member of the committee and his alternate are unable to attend a committee meeting, the member or his alternate or the committee, in that order, may designate another alternate from the same district and the same group (handler or grower) to serve in such member's stead. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his alternate shall act for him until a successor of such member is selected and has qualified. The committee may request the attendance of alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members and may pay expenses as aforesaid.

§ 979.32 Procedure.

(a) Seven members of the committee shall be necessary to constitute a quorum, and the same number of concurring votes shall be required to pass any motion or approve any committee actions.

(b) In assembled meetings all votes shall be cast in person. However, the committee may provide for meetings by telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication and any vote cast at such meetings shall be promptly confirmed in writing and recorded in the minutes of each meeting so as to reflect how each member voted.

§ 979.33 Expenses.

Members and alternates, when serving as members of the committee, shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for such expenses authorized by the committee and necessarily incurred by them in attending committee meetings and in the performance of their duties under this part: Provided, That the committee, at its discretion may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members and may pay expenses as aforesaid.

§ 979.34 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;

(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part;

(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violation of the provisions of this part; and

(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 979.35 Duties.

The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:

(a) As soon as practicable after the beginning of each term of office, to meet and organize, to select a chairman and such other officers as may be necessary, to select subcommittees, and to adopt such rules, regulations, and bylaws for the conduct of its business as it deems necessary, and to recommend nominees for the public member and alternate;

(b) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;
(c) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as he may request;
(d) To appoint such employees, agents, and representatives as it may deem necessary, to determine the compensation and define the duties of each such person, and to protect the handling of committee funds through fidelity bonds;
(e) To investigate from time to time and to assemble data on the growing, harvesting, shipping, and marketing conditions with respect to melons;
(f) To recommend research projects to the Secretary in accordance with this part;
(g) To notify handlers of each meeting of the committee to consider recommendations for regulations and of all regulatory actions taken which might affect growers or handlers and to provide such notification to producers through appropriate news releases or such other means as may be available to the committee;
(h) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee and its subcommittee as is given to its members;
(i) To prepare a marketing policy;
(j) To recommend marketing regulations to the Secretary;
(k) To recommend rules and procedures for, and to make determination in connection with appropriate safeguards;
(l) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and such minutes, books, and records shall be subject to examination at any time by the Secretary or his authorized agent or representative. Minutes of each committee meeting shall be reported promptly to the Secretary;
(m) Prior to or at the beginning of each fiscal period, to prepare a budget of anticipated expenses for such fiscal period, together with a report thereon;
(n) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to producers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;
(o) To prepare and forward to the Secretary, prior to the last day of each fiscal period, an annual report, and make a copy available to each handler and grower who requests it. This annual report shall contain at least:
1. A complete review of the regulatory operations during the fiscal period;
2. An appraisal of the effect of such regulatory operations upon the melon industry; and
3. Any recommendations for changes in the program.
(p) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal period and at such other times as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request. The report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this part. Two copies of such report shall be furnished to the Secretary and a copy of each such report shall be made available at the principal office of the committee for inspection by growers and handlers; and
(q) To consult, cooperate, and exchange information with other marketing order committees and other individuals or agencies in connection with all proper activities and objectives under this part.

**Expenses and Assessments**

§ 979.40 Expenses.
The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred during each fiscal period by the committee for its maintenance and functioning, and for such purposes as the Secretary, pursuant to this subpart, determines to be appropriate. Each first handler’s pro rata share of such expenses shall be proportionate to the ratio between the total quantity of melons handled by him as the first handler thereof during a fiscal period and the total quantity of melons so handled by all handlers as first handlers thereof during such fiscal period.

§ 979.41 Budget.

Prior to or at the beginning of each fiscal period and as may be necessary thereafter, the committee shall prepare an estimated budget of income.
§ 979.42 Assessments.

(a) The funds to cover the committee's expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments upon handlers as provided for in this subpart. Each handler who first handles melons shall pay assessments to the committee upon demand, which assessments shall be in payment of such handler’s pro rata share of the committee’s expenses;

(b) Assessments shall be levied during each fiscal period upon handlers at a rate per unit established by the Secretary. Such rates may be established upon the basis of the committee’s recommendations and other available information;

(c) At any time during or after a given fiscal period the committee may recommend the approval of an amended budget and an increase in the rate of assessment in conformance with §979.41. Upon the basis of such recommendations, or other available information, the Secretary may approve an amended budget and increase the assessment rate. Such increase shall be applicable to all melons which were handled by each first handler thereof during such fiscal period;

(d) The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required irrespective of whether particular provisions of this part are suspended or become inoperative;

(e) To provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part the committee may accept the payment of assessments in advance;

(f) If a handler does not pay his assessment within the time prescribed by the committee, the assessment may be increased by a late payment charge or an interest charge at rates prescribed by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

§ 979.43 Accounting.

(a) All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this part. At the end of the fiscal period an annual financial audit shall be conducted by a competent accountant and two copies sent to the Secretary;

(b) The Secretary may at any time require the committee, its members and alternates, employees, agents, and all other persons to account for all receipts and disbursements, funds, property, or records for which they are responsible. Whenever any person ceases to be a member of the committee or alternate, he shall account to his successor, the committee, or to the person designated by the Secretary, for all receipts, disbursements, funds and property (including but not limited to books and other records) pertaining to the committee's activities for which he is responsible, and shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in the successor, the committee, or person designated by the Secretary, the right to all such property and funds and all claims vested in such person;

(c) The committee may make recommendations to the Secretary for one or more of the members thereof, or any other person to act as a trustee for holding records, funds, or any other committee property during periods of suspension of this part, or during any period or periods when regulations under this part are not in effect, and, if the Secretary determines such action appropriate, he may direct that such person or persons may act as such trustee or trustees.

§ 979.44 Excess funds.

(a) If, at the end of a fiscal period the assessments collected are in excess of expenses incurred, each handler entitled to a proportionate refund of any such assessments which represent payments by the handler in excess of his pro rata share, shall be credited with such refund against his operations of the following fiscal period or such excess shall be accounted for in accordance with one of the following:
§ 979.52 Issuance of regulations.

(a) The Secretary shall limit by regulation the handling of melons when he finds from the recommendations and information submitted by the committee, or from other available information, that such regulations would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(b) Such regulations may:
§ 979.54 Handling for special purposes.

Regulations in effect pursuant to §§ 979.42, 979.52, or 979.60 may be modified, suspended, or terminated by the Secretary, upon recommendation of the committee, to facilitate handling of melons for: (a) Relief or charity, (b) experimental purposes, (c) exports, and (d) other special purposes, which may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

§ 979.55 Safeguards.

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish through rules and regulations, the requirements with respect to proof that shipments made pursuant to § 979.54 were handled and used for the purpose stated.

§ 979.56 Notification of regulations.

The Secretary shall promptly notify the committee of regulations issued and of any modification, suspension, or termination thereof. The committee shall give notice thereof to all handlers of melons in the production area. In addition, the committee shall make the information available to growers through appropriate news releases or such other means as may be available.

§ 979.60 Inspection and certification.

(a) Whenever the handling of melons is regulated pursuant to § 979.52 or at other times when recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary, no handler shall handle melons unless they are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal-State Inspection Service and are covered by a valid inspection certificate, except when relieved from such requirements pursuant to § 979.52(c), or § 979.54, or paragraph (b) of this section. The cost of such inspection shall be borne by the applicant.

(b) Regrading, resorting, repacking any lot of melons, or breaking any lot (without continuing identification of applicable inspection or subcertification thereof) shall invalidate any applicable inspection certificate insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned. No handler shall handle melons after a lot has been broken, regraded, repacked, or resorted, or in any other way additionally prepared for market, unless such melons are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service. Such inspection requirements on regraded, resorted, repacked, or broken lots of melons may be modified, suspended or terminated upon recommendation by the committee, and approval of the Secretary.

(c) Insofar as the requirements of this section are concerned, the length of time for which an inspection certificate is valid may be established by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(d) When melons are inspected in accordance with the requirements of this section, a copy of each inspection certificate issued shall be made available to the committee by the Inspection Service.
(e) The committee may recommend and the Secretary may require that no handler shall transport or cause the transportation of melons by motor vehicle or by other means unless such shipment is accompanied by a copy of the inspection certificate issued thereon, or such other documents as may be required by the committee. Such certificates or documents shall be surrendered to proper authorities at such time and in such manner as may be designated by the committee, with the approval of the Secretary.

REPORTS

§ 979.80 Reports.

Upon request of the committee, made with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and form and at such time as it may prescribe, such reports and other information as may be necessary for the committee to perform its duties under this part.

(a) Such reports may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

(1) The number of acres of melons and the approximate dates planted, for all melons which will be handled by each handler;

(2) The quantities of melons received by a handler;

(3) Identification of the inspection certificates relating to the melons which were handled pursuant to § 979.52 or § 979.54 or both.

(b) All such reports shall be held under appropriate protective classification and custody by the committee, or duly appointed employees thereof, so that the information contained therein which may adversely affect the competitive position of any handler in relation to other handlers will not be disclosed. Compilations of general reports from data submitted by handlers is authorized, subject to the prohibition of disclosure of individual handlers’ identities or operations.

(c) Each handler shall maintain for at least 2 succeeding years such records and documents on melons received by him as may be necessary to verify reports submitted to the committee pursuant to this section.

(d) For the purpose of assuring compliance with recordkeeping requirements and certifying reports of handlers, the Secretary and the committee, through their duly authorized employees or agents, shall have access to any premises where applicable records are located, and where melons are handled, and at any time during reasonable business hours shall be permitted to inspect such handler’s premises and examine any and all records of such persons with respect to matters within the purview of this part.

(e) Any person filing a report, record, or application that is willfully misrepresented shall be subject to the legal penalties for such misrepresentation of Government reports.

COMPLIANCE

§ 979.81 Compliance.

Except as provided in this subpart, no handler shall handle melons, the handling of which has been prohibited by the Secretary in accordance with provisions of this subpart, or the rules and regulations thereunder, and no handler shall handle melons except in conformity with the provisions of this part.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 979.82 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors and alternates) and any agents or employees appointed or employed by the committee shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary, at any time. Each and every order, regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of said committee shall be deemed null and void, except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith prior to such disapproval by the Secretary.

§ 979.83 Effective time.

The provisions of this subpart or any amendment thereto shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare and shall continue in force.
§ 979.84 Termination.
(a) The Secretary shall, whenever he finds that any or all provisions of this subpart obstruct or do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of this act, terminate or suspend the operation of this subpart or such provision thereof.
(b) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of the then current fiscal period whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of the growers who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have engaged in the production for market of melons within the production area. Provided, That such majority has during such representative period, produced for market more than 50 percent of the volume of such melons produced for market.
(c) The provisions for this subpart shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the Act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 979.85 Proceedings after termination.
(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart, the then functioning members of the committee shall continue as joint trustees for the purpose of settling the affairs of the committee by liquidating all funds and property then in the possession of or under control of the committee, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trusteeship shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.
(b) The said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and of the trustees, to such persons as the Secretary may direct; and shall upon request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such persons full title and right to all of the funds, property and claims vested in the committee or the trustees pursuant to this subpart.
(c) Any person to whom funds, property or claims have been transferred or delivered by the committee or its members, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the committee and upon the said trustees.

§ 979.86 Effect of termination or amendments.
Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendments to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violation.

§ 979.87 Duration of immunities.
The benefits, privileges and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 979.88 Agents.
The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this subpart.

§ 979.89 Derogation.
Nothing contained in this subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 979.90 Personal liability.
No member or alternate member of the committee nor any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally
§ 979.122 Eligibility requirements for public members.

(a) A public member shall represent a nonagricultural point of view, and responsible, either individually or jointly with others in any way whatever, to any handler or to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, agent or employee, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct or gross negligence.

§ 979.91 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart, or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing, shall not be affected thereby.

§ 979.92 Amendments.

Amendments to this subpart may be proposed from time to time, by the committee or by the Secretary.

§ 979.93 Counterparts.

This agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts and when one counterpart is signed by the Secretary, all such counterparts shall constitute, when taken together, one and the same instrument as if all signatures were contained in one original.

§ 979.94 Additional parties.

After the effective date hereof, any handler may become a party to this agreement if a counterpart is executed by him and delivered to the Secretary. This agreement shall take effect as to such new contracting party at the time such counterpart is delivered to the Secretary, and the benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred by this agreement shall then be effective as to such new contracting party.

§ 979.95 Order with marketing agreement.

Each signatory handler hereby requests the Secretary to issue, pursuant to the act, an order providing for regulating the handling of melons in the same manner as is provided for in this agreement.
§ 979.126 Nomination procedures for public members.

(a) Names of candidates together with evidence of qualification for public membership on the South Texas Melon Committee shall be submitted to the committee at its business office.

(b) Questionnaires may be sent by the committee to those persons submitted as candidates, to determine their eligibility and interest in becoming a public member.

(c) The names of persons nominated for the public member and alternate positions shall be submitted by the incumbent committee to the Secretary by January 15 with such information as deemed pertinent by the committee or as requested by the Secretary.

(d) Nomination of the initial public member shall be made as soon as possible but not later than 90 days after the first meeting of the committee.

[44 FR 28781, May 17, 1979]

§ 979.127 Procedure.

The committee shall be authorized to meet by telephone or other means of communication. Any vote at such a meeting shall be promptly confirmed in writing by each voter. On such occasions seven affirmative votes shall be necessary to approve any action. Telephone meetings shall be called only by the Committee chairman or vice-chairman acting in his stead.

[44 FR 28781, May 17, 1979]

§ 979.126 Handling of culls.

(a) The handling of culls, i.e., melons which fail to meet the grade, size, quality or other requirements established under §979.52(b) of this part is prohibited unless such melons are:

(1) Mechanically spiked or mutilated at the packing shed rendering them unsuitable for fresh market; or

(2) Handled for special purpose outlets approved under §979.54 of this part.

(b) As a safeguard against culls entering fresh market channels each handler under paragraph (a)(2) of this section shall apply for and obtain a certificate from the committee which shall require the handler to furnish such reports or other information as the committee may request.

[44 FR 28781, May 17, 1979]

§ 979.155 Safeguards.

(a) Policy. Whenever shipments of melons for special purposes pursuant to §979.54 are relieved in whole or in part from regulations issued under §979.52, the committee may require information and evidence on the manner, methods, and timing of such shipments as safeguards against the entry of any such melons in trade channels other than those for which intended. Such information and evidence shall include requirements set forth below with respect to Certificates of Privilege.

(b) Qualification. Before handling melons for special purposes which do not meet regulations issued pursuant to §979.52, a handler, when required by such regulations, must qualify with the committee to handle shipments for special purposes. To qualify one must:

(1) apply for and receive a Certificate of Privilege indicating the intent to so handle melons,

(2) agree to comply with reporting and other requirements set forth in §979.155 with respect to such shipments, and

(3) receive approval of the committee, or its duly authorized agents, to so handle melons.

Such approval will be based upon evidence furnished in the application for Certificate of Privilege and other information available to the committee.

(c) Application. (1) Applications for a Certificate of Privilege shall be made on forms furnished by the committee. Each application may contain, but

[44 FR 28781, May 17, 1979]
need not be limited to, the name and address of the handler; the quantity by grade, size, quality and container of the melons to be shipped; the mode of transportation; the consignee; the destination; the purpose for which the melons are to be used; and certification to the United States Department of Agriculture and to the committee as to the truthfulness of the information shown thereon, and any other appropriate information or documents deemed necessary by the committee or its duly authorized agents for the purposes stated in §979.155.

(2) The committee may require each handler making shipments of melons for export to include with his application a copy of the Department of Commerce Shippers Export Declaration Form No. 7525-V applicable to such shipment.

(d) Approval. The committee or its duly authorized agents shall give prompt consideration to each application for a Certificate of Privilege. Approval of an application, based upon the determination as to whether the information contained therein and other information available to the committee supports approval, shall be evidenced by the issuance of a Certificate of Privilege to the applicant. Each certificate shall cover a specified period and specified qualities and quantities of melons to be sold or transported to a designated consignee for the purpose declared.

(e) Reports. Each handler of melons shipping under Certificates of Privilege shall supply the committee with reports as requested by the committee, or its duly authorized agents, showing the name and address of the shipper; the car or truck identification; the loading point; destination; consignee; the inspection certificate number when inspection is required; and any other information deemed necessary by the committee.

(f) Disqualification. The committee from time to time may conduct surveys of handling of melons for special purposes requiring Certificates of Privilege to determine whether handlers are complying with the requirements and regulations applicable to such certificates. Whenever the committee finds that the handler or consignee is failing to comply with requirements and regulations applicable to handling of melons in special outlets and requiring such certificates, a Certificate or Certificates of Privilege issued such handler may be rescinded and subsequent certificates denied. Such disqualification shall apply to, and not exceed, a reasonable period of time as determined by the committee, but in no event shall it extend beyond the date of the succeeding fiscal period. Any handler who has a certificate rescinded or denied may appeal to the committee in writing for reconsideration of his disqualification.

[44 FR 28781, May 17, 1979]

§979.180 Reports.
Each handler shall furnish every two weeks during the planting season to the committee on a form provided by the committee the number of acres of cantaloups and honey dew melons planted by the handler or growers for whom the handler packs melons during such period and the location of such plantings. However, during the first season of operation under the order each handler need only report the number of acres each of cantaloups and honey dew melons planted together with the location of all such plantings.

[44 FR 28781, May 17, 1979]

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§979.219 Assessment rate.
On and after October 1, 1996, an assessment rate of $0.07 per carton is established for South Texas melons.


Subpart—Handling Regulations

§979.304 Handling regulation.
During the period beginning May 1 and ending on June 20 of each season no person shall handle cantaloup or honey dew melons unless they meet the requirements of paragraphs (a) through (c), (d) or (e) and (f) of this section.

(a) Grade requirements. (1) Cantaloups shall be U.S. Commercial grade or better, except that not more than 8 percent serious damage including not
more than 5 percent decay shall be permitted.

(2) At least 50 percent of the honeydew melons in any lot shall meet the requirements of U.S. Commercial grade except that not more than 20 percent serious damage shall be allowed including not more than 10 percent for melons affected by decay. In addition, the combined juice from the edible portion of a sample of honeydew melons selected at random shall contain not less than 8 percent soluble solids as determined by an approved hand refractometer. Individual cartons shall contain not less than 25 percent U.S. Commercial or better quality.

(3) Individual packages may contain not more than double the specified lot tolerance.

(b) Container requirements. (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (b)(4), (d) or (e) and (f) of this section all cantaloupes shall be packed in fiberboard cartons with inside dimensions of not more than 17 ¼ inches wide and not more than 12 ¾ inches in length, not more than 13 nor less than 12 ¼ inches in width, and not more than 11 ¾ nor less than 9 ¾ inches in depth. All honeydew melons shall be packed in fiberboard cartons with inside dimensions of 17 inches long by 15¼ inches wide by 7½ inches deep. A tolerance of ¼ inch for each dimension shall be permitted.

(2) Each carton shall be marked to indicate the count; the name, address, and zip code of the shipper; the name of the product; and the words “Produce of U.S.A.” or “Product of U.S.A.”

(3) If the carton in which the melons are packed is not clean and bright in appearance without marks, stains, or other evidence of previous use, the carton shall be conspicuously marked with the words “USED BOX” in letters not less than three-fourths (¾) inch high.

(4) Honeydew melons may be packed in bulk containers of 48 inches long by 40 inches wide by 24 inches deep or similar dimensions.

(5) These container requirements shall not be applicable to melons sold to Federal agencies.

(c) Inspection. (1) No handler may handle any melons regulated hereunder, except pursuant to paragraphs (d) or (e) and (f) of this section, unless an inspection certificate has been issued covering them and the certificate is valid at the time of shipment. City and State destinations shall be listed on inspection certificates and release forms.

(2) No handler may transport by motor vehicle or cause such transportation of any shipment of melons for which an inspection certificate is required unless each such shipment is accompanied by a copy of the inspection certificate applicable thereto or the shipment release form furnished by the inspection service identifying truck lots to which a valid inspection certificate is applicable. A copy of such inspection certificate or shipment release form shall be surrendered upon request to Texas Department of Agriculture personnel designated by the committee.

(3) For purposes of operation under this part, each inspection certificate, shipment release form, or committee form required as evidence of inspection is hereby determined to be valid for a period not to exceed 72 hours following completion of inspection as shown on the certificate.

(4) Designated inspection stations will be located at the Texas Federal Inspection Service office, 1301 W. Expressway, Alamo (Phone (210) 787-4091 or 6881) and the Matt Dietz Packing Co., 4700 N. Santa Maria, Laredo (Phone (210) 723-9178 or 9170), to be available for handlers who do not have permanent packing facilities recognized by the committee.

(5) Handlers shall pay assessments on all assessable melons according to the provisions of §979.42.

(d) Minimum quantity exemption. Any handler may handle, other than for resale, up to, but not to exceed 120 pounds net weight of melons per day without regard to the provisions of §§979.42, 979.52, 979.60, and 979.80, but this exemption shall not apply to any shipment or any portion thereof of over 120 pounds of melons.

(e) Special purpose shipments. (1) The requirements of paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section shall not apply to shipments for charity, relief, canning and freezing if a handler presents a Certificate of Privilege for such melons
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prior to handling them in accordance with §979.155.

(2) Melons failing to meet the requirements of paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section and not exempt under paragraphs (d) or (e), and all melons discarded from the grading table shall either be mechanically spiked or mutilated or handled for special purpose outlets in accordance with §979.152.

(3) Upon approval of the committee, shipments of honeydew melons may be made in pony cartons having dimensions of 17 inches long by 14½ inches wide by 5⅛ inches deep. Container requirements of paragraph (b) of this section shall not apply, but such shipments shall meet all other applicable requirements of this section.

(4) Shipments of cantaloups may be made for experimental purposes in cartons having dimensions of 15¾ inches in length by 12¾ inches in width by 10 inches in depth. Such shipments shall be subject to the grade, inspection and reporting requirements set forth in paragraphs (a), (c) and (f) of this section.

(5) The handling to any person of gift packages of melons not exceeding 25 pounds per package, individually addressed to such person and not for resale, is exempt from the container requirements of paragraph (b) of this section, but shall meet all assessment requirements set forth in paragraphs (a), (c) and (f) of this section.

(6) Safeguards. Each handler making shipments of melons for relief, charity, canning, freezing, or experimental purposes under paragraph (e) of this section shall:

(1) Notify the committee of the intent to ship melons under paragraph (e) of this section by applying on forms furnished by the committee a Certificate of Privilege applicable to such special purpose shipments.

(2) Obtain an approved Certificate of Privilege.

(3) Prepare on forms furnished by the committee a special purpose shipment report for each individual shipment.

(4) Forward copies of the special purpose shipment report to the committee office and to the receiver with instructions to the receiver to sign and return a copy to the committee's office. Failure of the handler or receiver to report such shipments by promptly signing and returning the applicable special purpose shipment report to the committee office shall cause the committee to suspend the handler's Certificate of Privilege applicable to such shipments.

(g) Definitions. U.S. melon standards mean the United States Standards for Grades of Cantaloupes (7 CFR 2851.475 through 2851.494), or the United States Standards for Grades of Honey Dew and Honey Ball Type Melons (7 CFR 2851.3740 through 2851.3749), whichever is applicable, or variations thereof specified in this section. The term U.S. Commercial shall have the same meaning as set forth in these standards. All other terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as when used in Marketing Agreement No. 156 and this part.


EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g., sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

PART 980—VEGETABLES; IMPORT REGULATIONS

Sec. 980.1 Import regulations; Irish potatoes.
980.117 Import regulations; onions.
980.212 Import regulations; tomatoes.
980.501 Safeguard procedures for potatoes, onions, and tomatoes exempt from grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements.


§980.1 Import regulations; Irish potatoes.

(a) Findings and determinations with respect to imports of Irish potatoes. (1)
Pursuant to section 8e of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), it is hereby found that:

(i) Grade, size, quality, and maturity regulations have been issued from time to time pursuant to the following marketing orders: No. 949 (part 949 of this chapter), No. 945 (part 945 of this chapter), No. 948 (part 948 of this chapter), No. 947 (part 947 of this chapter), No. 950 (part 950 of this chapter), No. 946 (part 946 of this chapter), and No. 953 (part 953 of this chapter);

(ii) During the past several years, grade, size, quality, and maturity regulations have been in effect pursuant to two or more of such orders during each month of the year;

(iii) The marketing of Irish potatoes can be reasonably distinguished by the several seasonal categories, i.e., winter, early spring, late spring, early summer, late summer, and fall. The bulk of the fall crop is harvested and placed in storage in the fall and marketed over a period of several months extending into the following summer. But potatoes harvested from the other seasonal crops are generally marketed as the potatoes are harvested. The marketing seasons for these crops overlap.

(iv) Concurrent grade, size, quality, and maturity regulations under two or more of the aforesaid marketing orders are expected in the ensuing and future seasons, as in the past.

(2) Therefore it is hereby determined that:

(i) Imports of red-skinned, round type potatoes during the months of October through the following June are in most direct competition with the marketing of the same type potatoes produced in Area 2, Colorado (San Luis Valley) covered by Order No. 948, as amended (part 948 of this chapter); and from July 1 through September 30 of the following year they are in most direct competition with all other round type potatoes produced in the Southeastern States covered by Order No. 953 (part 953 of this chapter); and during the period August 1 through June 4 of the following year they are in most direct competition with all other round type potatoes produced in Area No. 3, Colorado (Northern Colorado) covered by Marketing Order No. 948, as amended (part 948 of this chapter): Provided, That for the period March 6 through June 14, 1968, imports of all other round type potatoes are in most direct competition with the marketing of the same type potatoes produced in the State of Maine covered by Order No. 950 (part 950 of this chapter): Provided further, That for the period June 1 through June 4, 1970, imports of all other round type potatoes are in most direct competition with the marketing of the same type potatoes produced in the Southeastern States covered by Order No. 953 (part 953 of this chapter): Provided further, That for the period June 1 through June 4, 1971, imports of all other round type potatoes are in most direct competition with the marketing of the same type potatoes produced in the Southeastern States covered by Order No. 953 (part 953 of this chapter).

(ii) Imports of long type potatoes during each month of the marketing year are in most direct competition with potatoes of the same type produced in the area covered by Order No. 945 (part 945 of this chapter).

(b) Grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements. On and after the effective date hereof importation of Irish potatoes, except certified seed potatoes, shall be prohibited unless they comply with the following requirements.

(1) For the period October 1 through the following June of each marketing year, the grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements of Area No. 2, Colorado (San Luis Valley) covered by Marketing Order No. 948, as amended (part 948 of this chapter) applicable to potatoes of the red-skinned round type; and from July 1 through September 30 of each marketing year the grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements of Marketing Order No. 946 (part 946 of this chapter) shall be the respective grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements for imported red-skinned round type potatoes, except there shall
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be no size requirements for imported red-skinned round type of potatoes that are imported in containers containing a net weight of 3 pounds or less, if the potatoes are U.S. No.1 grade or better.

(2) During the period June 5 through July 31 of each marketing year, the grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements of Marketing Order No. 953 (part 953 of this chapter) applicable to potatoes of the round type shall be the respective grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements for imports of other round type potatoes; and during the period August 1 through the following June 4 of each year the grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements of Area No. 3, Colorado (northern Colorado) covered by Marketing Order No. 948, as amended (part 948 of this chapter) shall be the respective grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements for imports of all other round type potatoes: Provided, That for the period March 6 through June 14, 1968, the grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements of Marketing Order No. 950, as amended (part 950 of this chapter) applicable to potatoes of the round type shall be the respective grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements for imports of other round type potatoes: Provided further, That for the period June 1 through June 4, 1970, the grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements of Marketing Order No. 953, as amended (part 953 of this chapter) applicable to potatoes of the round types shall be the respective grade, size, quality, and maturity for imports of other round type potatoes: Provided further, That for the period June 1 through June 4, 1971, the grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements of Marketing Order No. 953, as amended (part 953 of this chapter) applicable to potatoes of the round types shall be the respective grade, size, quality, and maturity for imports of other round type potatoes.

(3) Through the entire year the grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements of Marketing Order 945, as amended (part 945 of this chapter) applicable to potatoes of all long types shall be the respective grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements for imported potatoes of all long types.

(4) The grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements as provided for in this paragraph shall apply to imports of similar types of potatoes, unless otherwise ordered, on and after the effective date of the applicable domestic regulation or amendment thereto, as provided in this paragraph or 3 days following publication of such regulation or amendment in the Federal Register, whichever is later.

(c) Minimum quantities. Any importation which, in the aggregate, does not exceed 500 pounds may be imported without regard to the provisions of this section.

(2) Plant quarantine. No provisions of this section shall supersede the restrictions or prohibitions of potatoes under the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912.

(e) Certified seed. Certified seed potatoes shall include only those potatoes which are officially certified and tagged as seed potatoes by the Plant Health Directorate, Food Production and Inspection Branch, Agriculture Canada, and which are subsequently used as seed.

(f) Designation of governmental inspection services. The Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Fruit and Vegetable Division, Production and Marketing Branch, Canada Department of Agriculture, are hereby designated as governmental inspection services for the purpose of certifying the grade, size, quality, and maturity of Irish potatoes that are imported, or to be imported, into the United States under the provisions of section 8e of the Act.

(g) Inspection and official inspection certificates. An official inspection certificate certifying the potatoes meet the United States import requirements for Irish potatoes under section 8e (7 U.S.C. 608e) issued by a designated governmental inspection service applicable to a particular shipment of potatoes is required on all imports of potatoes other than certified seed.

(i) Inspection and certification by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service will be available and performed in accordance with the rules and regulations governing certification of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other
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products (part 51 of this title), and each lot shall be made available and accessible for inspection as provided therein. Cost of inspection and certification shall be borne by the applicant.

(ii) Since inspectors may not be stationed in the immediate vicinity of a port, or point of entry, an importer of uninspected and uncertified Irish potatoes should make advance arrangements for inspection. Each importer should give at least the specified advance notice to one of the following applicable inspection offices prior to the time the Irish potatoes would be imported.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ports and points</th>
<th>Inspection office</th>
<th>Advance notice (days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Maine ports and points.</td>
<td>Officer-In-Charge, Post Office Box 688, Caribou, Maine 04736 (Telephone—496-8511).</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port of Boston, Mass</td>
<td>Officer-In-Charge, Room 725, 408 Atlantic Ave., Boston, Mass. 02210 (Telephone—223-7753).</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port of New York, N.Y.</td>
<td>Officer-In-Charge, Room 28A, Hunts Point Market, Bronx, N.Y. 10474 (Telephone—991-7669 and 7668).</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port of Philadelphia, Pa.</td>
<td>Officer-In-Charge, Room 239, Produce Bldg., 3301 South Galloway St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19148 (Telephone—Dewey 6-0845).</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port of New Orleans, La.</td>
<td>Officer-In-Charge, Room 5027, Federal Office Bldg., 701 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, La. 70113 (Telephone—527-6741 and 6742).</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other ports and points.</td>
<td>Chief, Fresh Products Standardization and Inspection Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 (Telephone—447-5870).</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3) Inspection certificates shall cover only the quantity of potatoes that is being imported at a particular port of entry by particular importers.

(4) Each inspection certificate issued with respect to any Irish potatoes to be imported into the United States shall set forth, among other things:

(i) The date and place of inspection;
(ii) The name of the shipper, or applicant;
(iii) The commodity inspected;
(iv) The quantity of the commodity covered by the Certificate;
(v) The principal identifying marks of the containers;
(vi) The railroad car initials and number, the truck and trailer number, the name of the vessel, or other identification of the shipment; and
(vii) The following statement if the facts warrant: Meets U.S. Import requirements under section 8e of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937.

(h) Reconditioning prior to importation.

Nothing contained in this part shall be deemed to preclude any importer from reconditioning prior to importation any shipment of Irish potatoes for the purpose of making it eligible for importation under the Act.

(1) Definitions. (i) For the purpose of this part potatoes meeting the requirements of Canada No. 1 grade and Canada No. 2 grade shall be deemed to comply with the requirements of the U.S. No. 1 grade and U.S. No. 2 grade, respectively, and the tolerances for size, as set forth in the U.S. Standards for Potatoes (§§ 51.1540 to 51.1556, inclusive of this title) may be used.

(ii) Importation means release from custody of the U.S. Bureau of Customs.

(i) Exemptions. The grade, size, quality and maturity requirements of this section shall not be applicable to potatoes imported for canning, freezing, other processing, livestock feed, charity, or relief, but such potatoes shall be subject to the safeguard provisions contained in §980.501. Processing includes canning, freezing, dehydration, chips, shoestrings, starch and flour. Processing does not include potatoes that are only peeled, or cooled, sliced,
§ 980.117 Import regulations; onions.

(a) Findings and determinations with respect to onions. (1) Under section 8e of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), it is hereby found that:
   (i) Grade, size, quality, and maturity regulations have been issued regularly under Marketing Orders No. 958 and 959, both as amended;
   (ii) Since December 9, 1985, grade, size, quality, and maturity regulations have been in effect pursuant to these orders during the period August through July;
   (iii) The marketing of onions can be reasonably distinguished by the seasonal categories, i.e., late summer and early spring. The bulk of the late summer crop is harvested and placed in storage in late summer and early fall and marketed over a period of several months extending into the following spring. But the onions harvested from the early spring crop are generally marketed as soon as the onions are harvested. The marketing seasons for these crops overlap;
   (iv) Concurrent grade, size, quality, and maturity regulations under the two marketing orders are expected in future seasons, as in the past.

(2) Therefore, it is hereby determined that: Imports of onions during the June 5 through March 9 period are in most direct competition with the marketing of onions produced in designated counties in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, covered by Marketing Order No. 958, during the March 10 through June 4 period the marketing of imported onions shall comply with the grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements imposed under that order.

(b) Grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements.

On and after the effective date hereof no person may import onions as defined herein unless they are inspected and meet the following requirements:

(1) During the period June 5 through March 9 of each marketing year, whenever onions grown in designated counties in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, are regulated under Marketing Order No. 958, imported onions shall comply with the grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements imposed under that order.

(2) During the period March 10 through June 4 of each marketing year, whenever onions grown in designated counties in South Texas are regulated under Marketing Order No. 959, imported onions shall comply with the grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements imposed under that order.

(c) Minimum quantity exemption. Any importation which in the aggregate does not exceed 110 pounds (50 kilograms) may be imported without regard to the provisions of this section.

(d) Plant quarantine. Provisions of this section shall not supersede the restrictions or prohibitions on onions under the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912.

(e) Designation of governmental inspection service. The Federal or the Federal-State Inspection Service, Food Safety and Quality Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Fruit and Vegetable Division, Production and Marketing Branch, Canada Department of Agriculture, are designated as governmental inspection services for certifying the grade, size, quality, and maturity of onions that are imported into the United States under the provisions of section 8e of the act.

(f) Inspection and official inspection certificates. (1) An official inspection certificate certifying the onions meet the U.S. import requirements for onions under section 8e (7 U.S.C. 608e-1), issued by a designated governmental inspection service and applicable to a specified lot is required on all imports of onions.

(2) Inspection and certification by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service will be available and performed in accordance with the rules and regulations governing certification of fresh fruits, vegetables and other products (7 CFR part 2851). Each lot shall be made available and accessible for inspection as provided therein. Cost
of inspection and certification shall be borne by the applicant.

(3) Since inspectors may not be stationed in the immediate vicinity of some smaller ports of entry, importers should make advance arrangements for inspection by ascertaining whether or not there is an inspector located at their particular port of entry. For all ports of entry where an inspection office is not located, each importer must give the specified advance notice to the applicable office listed below prior to the time the onions will be imported.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ports</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Advance notice (days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Texas points ........</td>
<td>Officer-in-charge, 1301 West Expressway, Alamo, Tex. 78516. Phone 512–787–4091 or 512–787–6881.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Arizona points .....</td>
<td>Officer-in-charge, P.O. Box 1614, Nogales, Ariz. 85621. Phone 602–287–4793.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All California points ...</td>
<td>Officer-in-charge, 784 South Central Ave., room 266, Los Angeles, Calif. 90021. Phone 213–688–2489.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Hawaii points ....</td>
<td>Officer-in-charge, P.O. Box 22159, Pauaa Substation, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822. Phone 808–941–3071.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Puerto Rico points .....</td>
<td>Officer-in-charge, P.O. Box 9112, Santurce, P.R. 00908. Phone 809–783–2230 or 809–783–4116.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami, Fla ..................</td>
<td>Officer-in-charge, 1350 Northwest 12th Ave., room 530, Miami, Fla. 33136. Phone 305–324–6116 or 305–324–6117.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other Florida points.</td>
<td>Officer-in-charge, P.O. Box 1232, Winter Haven, Fla. 33880. Phone 813–294–3511, extension 33.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other points ............</td>
<td>Chief, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Quality Division, Food Safety and Quality Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone 202–447–5870.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(4) Inspection certificates shall cover only the quantity of onions that is being imported at a particular port of entry by a particular importer.

(5) Each inspection certificate issued with respect to any onions to be imported into the United States shall set forth, among other things:

(ii) The date and place of inspection;

(iii) The commodity inspected;

(iv) The quantity of the commodity covered by the certificate;

(v) The principal identifying marks on the containers;

(vi) The railroad car initials and number, the truck and trailer license number, the name of the vessel, or other identification of the shipment; and

(vii) The following statement, if the facts warrant: Meets import requirements of 7 U.S.C. 608e–1.

(g) Reconditioning prior to importation.

Nothing contained in this part shall be deemed to preclude any importer from reconditioning prior to importation any shipment of onions for the purpose of making it eligible for importation.

(h) Definitions. For the purpose of this section, Onions means all varieties of Allium cepa marketed dry, except dehydrated, canned, or frozen onions, pickling onions in brine, onion sets, green onions or braided red onions. The term U.S. No. 2 shall have the same meaning as set forth in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Bermuda-Granex-Grano Type Onions (7 CFR 2851.3195 through 2851.3209), U.S. Standards for Grades of Creole Onions (7 CFR 2851.3955 through 2851.3970), or in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Onions Other Than Bermuda-Granex-Grano and Creole Types (7 CFR 2851.2830 through 2851.2854), whichever is applicable to the particular variety, and variations thereof specified in this section. The term moderately cured means the onions are mature and are more nearly well cured than fairly well cured. Importation means release from custody of the U.S. Bureau of Customs. The term pearl onions means onions produced using specific cultural practices that limit growth to 1½ inches in diameter or less.
(i) Exemptions. The grade, size, quality and maturity requirements of this section shall not be applicable to onions imported for processing, livestock feed, charity, or relief, and pearl onions not larger than 1 3/4 inches in diameter, onion sets (plantings), braided red onions, and minimum quantity shipments of 110 pounds, but such onions shall be subject to the safeguard provisions in §980.501. Processing includes canning, freezing, dehydration, extraction (juice) and pickling in brine. Processing does not include fresh chop, fresh cut, convenience food or other pre-packaged salad operations. Pearl onions must be inspected for size prior to entry into the United States.


§980.212 Import regulations; tomatoes.

(a) Findings and determinations with respect to fresh tomatoes. (1) Under Section 8c of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), it is hereby found that:
   (i) Grade, size, quality and maturity regulations have been issued from time to time under Marketing Order No. 966, as amended;
   (ii) The marketing of fresh tomatoes from Florida covered by Marketing Order No. 966, as amended, can reasonably be expected to occur during the months of October through June;

(2) Therefore, it is hereby determined that imports of fresh tomatoes during the months of October through June are in most direct competition with the marketing of fresh tomatoes produced in Florida covered by Marketing Order No. 966, as amended.

(b) Grade, size, quality and maturity requirements. On and after the effective date hereof no person may import fresh tomatoes except pear shaped, cherry, hydroponic and greenhouse tomatoes as defined herein, or tomatoes to be used in noncommercial outlets for experimental purposes, unless they are inspected and meet the following requirements:

(1) From October 10 through June 15 of each season, tomatoes offered for importation shall be at least 2-8/32 inches in diameter. Not more than 10 percent, by count, in any lot may be smaller than the minimum specified diameter. All lots with a minimum diameter of 2-17/32 inches and larger shall be at least U.S. No. 3 grade. Any lot with more than 10 percent of its tomatoes less than 2-17/32 inches in diameter shall grade at least U.S. No. 2.

(2) Prior to importation of tomatoes to be used in noncommercial outlets for experimental purposes, the importer shall apply for and obtain from the Vegetable Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, an approved Certificate for Special Purpose Shipment, complete Part I and comply with all procedures specified thereon. A separate certificate is required for each shipment. Three copies of the certificate shall accompany shipment, of which one copy shall be surrendered to the Federal or Federal-State Inspector of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at the port of entry.

(3) Upon completion of shipment receiver making final disposition of the tomatoes shall complete Part II of the Certificate. Importer shall be responsible for the return, within 10 days, of a signed copy of the certificate to the Chief, Vegetable Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, certifying that the tomatoes were used for the purpose specified thereon.

(c) Minimum quantity exemption. Any importation which in the aggregate does not exceed 60 pounds may be imported without regard to the provisions of this section.

(d) Plant quarantine. Provisions of this section shall not supersede the restrictions or prohibitions on tomatoes under the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912.

(e) Designation of Governmental inspection service. The Federal or the Federal-State Inspection Service, Food Safety and Quality Service, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Fruit and Vegetable Division, Production and Marketing Branch, Canada Department of Agriculture, are designated as governmental inspection services for certifying the grade, size, quality and
maturity of tomatoes that are imported into the United States under the provisions of Section 8e of the act.

(f) Inspection and official inspection certificates. (1) An official inspection certificate certifying the tomatoes meet the United States import requirements for tomatoes under Section 8e (7 U.S.C. 608e-1), issued by a designated governmental inspection service and applicable to a specified lot is required on all imports of fresh tomatoes.

(2) Inspection and certification by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service will be available and performed in accordance with the rules and regulations governing certification of fresh fruits, vegetables and other products (7 CFR part 2851). Each lot shall be made available and accessible for inspection as provided therein. Cost of inspection and certification shall be borne by the applicant.

(3) Since the inspectors may not be stationed in the immediate vicinity of some smaller ports of entry, importers should make advance arrangements for inspection by ascertaining whether or not there is an inspector located at their particular port of entry. For all ports of entry where an inspection office is not located, each importer must give the specified advance notice to the applicable office listed below prior to the time the tomatoes will be imported.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ports Office</th>
<th>Advance notice (days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York, N.Y</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Orleans, La</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami, Fla</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other Florida points</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other points</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(4) Inspection certificates shall cover only the quantity of tomatoes that is being imported at a particular port of entry by a particular importer.

(5) Each inspection certificate issued with respect to any tomatoes to be imported into the United States shall set forth, among other things:

(i) The date and place of inspection;
(ii) The name of the shipper, or applicant;
(iii) The commodity inspected;
(iv) The quantity of the commodity covered by the certificate;
(v) The principal identifying marks on the containers;
(vi) The railroad car initial and number, the truck and trailer license number, the name of the vessel, or other identification of the shipment; and
(vii) The following statement, if the facts warrant: Meets import requirements of 7 U.S.C. 608e-1.

(g) Reconditioning prior to importation. Nothing contained in this part shall be deemed to preclude any importer from reconditioning prior to importation any shipment of tomatoes for the purpose of making it eligible for importation.

(h) Definitions. For the purpose of this section, importation means release

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from custody of the United States Bureau of Customs. Cherry tomatoes means cerasiform types commonly referred to as “cherry tomatoes.” Pear shaped tomatoes means elongated types, commonly referred to as pear shaped or paste tomatoes and include San Marzano, Red Top and Roma varieties. Hydroponic tomatoes means tomatoes grown in solution without soil. Greenhouse tomatoes means tomatoes grown indoors. The terms relating to grade and size, as used herein, shall have the same meaning as when used in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Fresh Tomatoes (7 CFR 2851.1855 to 2851.1877; title 7, chapter I, part 51 was redesignated title 7, chapter 28, part 2851 on June 27, 1977).

(i) Exemptions. The grade, size, quality and maturity requirements of this section shall not apply to tomatoes for charity, relief, canning or pickling, but such tomatoes shall be subject to the safeguard provisions contained in §980.501. Processing includes canning and pickling.

§980.501 Safeguard procedures for potatoes, onions, and tomatoes exempt from grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements.

(a) Each person who imports:

(1) Potatoes, onions or tomatoes for consumption by charitable institutions or distribution by relief agencies;

(2) Potatoes, onions, or tomatoes for processing;

(3) Potatoes or onions for livestock feed; or

(4) Pearl onions, shall obtain an “Importer’s Exempt Commodity Form” (FV-6) from the Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, and shall show the completed “Importer’s Exempt Commodity Form” to the U.S. Customs Service Regional Director or District Director, as applicable, at the port at which the customs entry is filed. One copy shall be mailed to the Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA with a postmark no later than two days after the date of importation and a third copy shall accompany the lot to the exempt outlet specified on the form. Any lot offered for inspection and, all or a portion thereof, subsequently imported as exempt under this provision shall be reported on an “Importer’s Exempt Commodity Form” and such form, accompanied by a copy of the applicable inspection certificate, shall be mailed to the Marketing Order Administration Branch.

(b) Each person who receives an exempt commodity for the purposes specified in paragraph (a) of this section shall also receive a copy of the same numbered Importer’s Exempt Commodity Form filed by the importer or customs broker and shall certify, by completing and signing Section II of the form and mailing the form to the Marketing Order Administration Branch within two days of receipt of the exempt lot, that such lot has been received and will be utilized in the exempt outlet.

(c) It is the responsibility of the importer to notify the Marketing Order Administration Branch of any lot of exempt commodity rejected by a receiver, shipped to an alternative exempt receiver, returned to the country of origin, or otherwise disposed of. In such cases, a second “Importer’s Exempt Commodity Form” must be filed by the importer providing sufficient information to determine ultimate disposition of the exempt lot and such disposition shall be so certified by the final receiver.

(d) All FV-6 forms and other correspondence regarding entry of 8e commodities must be mailed or faxed to the Marketing Order Administration Branch, USDA, AMS, P.O. Box 96456, room 2525-S, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, telephone (202) 720-4637. FV-6 forms submitted by fax must be followed by a mailed, original copy of the FV-6. Fax transmissions may be sent to the MOAB at (202) 720-5698.

[61 FR 13060, Mar. 26, 1996]

PART 981—ALMONDS GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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Source: 36 FR 11372, July 16, 1970, unless otherwise noted.
§ 981.1 Secretary.
Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any other officer or employee of the United States Department of Agriculture who is, or who may be, authorized to perform the duties under this part of the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States.

§ 981.2 Act.

§ 981.3 Person.
Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 981.4 Almonds.
Almonds means (unless otherwise specified) all varieties of almonds (except bitter almonds), either shelled or unshelled, grown in the State of California, and for the purposes of research includes almond shells and hulls.
[41 FR 26852, June 30, 1976]

§ 981.5 Unshelled almonds.
Unshelled almonds means almonds the kernels of which are contained in the shell.

§ 981.6 Shelled almonds.
Shelled almonds mean raw or roasted almonds after the shells are removed and includes blanched, diced, sliced, slivered, cut, halved, or broken almonds, or any combination thereof. Additional almond products may be included by the Secretary from time to time upon consideration of a recommendation from the Board or other pertinent information.

§ 981.7 Edible kernel.
Edible kernel means a kernel, piece, or particle of almond kernel that is not inedible.
[41 FR 26852, June 30, 1976]

§ 981.8 Inedible kernel.
Inedible kernel means a kernel, piece, or particle of almond kernel with any defect scored as serious damage, or damage due to mold, gum, shrivel, or brown spot, as defined in the United States Standards for Shelled Almonds, or which has embedded dirt not easily removed by washing. This definition may be modified by the Board with the approval of the Secretary: Provided, That the Board shall submit any recommendation for modification to the Secretary not later than August 1.
[41 FR 26852, June 30, 1976]

§ 981.9 Kernel weight.
Kernel weight means the weight of kernels, including pieces and particles, regardless of whether edible or inedible, contained in any lot of almonds, unshelled or shelled.

§ 981.10 Almonds received for his own account.
Almonds received for his own account means all almonds which are received by a handler (including all almonds of his own production), except those which are received by him for storage or processing for the account of any other person and with respect to which such handler performs no handling function.

§ 981.11 Area of production.
Area of production means the State of California.

§ 981.12 Grower.
Grower is synonymous with producer and means any person engaging, in a proprietary capacity, in the commercial production of almonds.

§ 981.13 Handler.
Handler means any person handling almonds during any crop year, except that such term shall not include either a grower who sells only almonds of his own production at retail at a roadside
§ 981.14 Stand operated by him, or a person receiving almonds from growers and other persons and delivering these almonds to a handler.
[41 FR 26852, June 30, 1976]

§ 981.15 Cooperative handler.
Cooperative handler means any handler as defined in §981.13 of this subpart which qualifies for treatment as a non-profit cooperative association as defined in Section 54001, et seq. of the California Food and Agricultural Code. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may modify this definition, if necessary.
[61 FR 32920, June 26, 1996]

§ 981.16 Almond product.
Almond product means any edible preparation other than those included under the definition of "shelled almonds," manufactured entirely or partially from raw shelled almonds, and nut mixtures containing shelled or unshelled almonds.

§ 981.17 To handle.
To handle means to use almonds commercially of own production or to sell, consign, transport, ship (except as a common carrier of almonds owned by another) or in any other way to put almonds grown in the area of production into any channel of trade for human consumption worldwide, either within the area of production or by transfer from the area of production to points outside or by receipt as first receiver at any point of entry in the United States or Puerto Rico of almonds grown in the area of production, exported therefrom and submitted for reentry or which are reentered free of duty. However, sales or deliveries by a grower to handlers, hullers or other processors within the area of production shall not, in itself, be considered as handling by a grower.
[61 FR 32920, June 26, 1996]

§ 981.18 Settlement weight.
Settlement weight means the actual gross weight of any lot of almonds received for his own account by any handler, less adjustments as follows:
(a) For weight of containers,
(b) For excess moisture,
(c) For trash or other foreign material of any kind, and
(d) For inedible kernels as defined in §981.8.

§ 981.19 Crop year.
Crop year means the twelve month period from August 1 to the following July 31, inclusive. Any new crop almonds harvested or received prior to August 1 will be applied to the next crop year for marketing order purposes. The first crop year after the implementation of this amendment shall be a 13-month period.
[61 FR 32920, June 26, 1996]

§ 981.20 Handler carryover.
Handler carryover as of any given date means all almonds, wherever located, then held by handlers for their own accounts (whether or not sold) but not including any almond products.
[41 FR 26852, June 30, 1976]

§ 981.21 Trade demand.
Trade demand means the quantity of almonds (kernelweight basis) which commercial distributors and users such as the wholesale, chain store, confectionery, bakery, ice cream, and nut salting trades will acquire from all handlers during a crop year for distribution worldwide.
[61 FR 32920, June 26, 1996]

§ 981.21a Salable almonds.
Salable almonds means those almonds which are free to be handled pursuant to any salable percentage established by the Secretary pursuant to §981.47 or §981.48 and, in the absence of a reserve percentage being established for a crop year, all almonds received by handlers for their own accounts during that crop year.
§ 981.21b Reserve almonds.
Reserve almonds means those almonds which must be withheld from handling in satisfaction of a reserve obligation arising from application of a reserve percentage established by the Secretary pursuant to § 981.47 or § 981.48.

§ 981.22 Board.
Board means the Almond Board of California which is the administrative agency established by this subpart.

[41 FR 26852, June 30, 1976]

§ 981.23 Part and subpart.
Part means the order regulating the handling of almonds grown in the State of California, and all rules, regulations, and supplementary orders issued thereunder, and the aforesaid order shall be a subpart of such part.

ALMOND BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

§ 981.30 Establishment.
A Board of ten members, with an alternate member for each such member, is hereby established.

§ 981.31 Membership representation.
Membership of the Board will be determined in the following manner:
(a) Two members and an alternate for each member shall be selected from nominees submitted by each of the following groups designated in paragraphs (a)(1) and (2) of this section, or from among other qualified persons belonging to such groups:
(1) Those growers who market their almonds through cooperative handlers; and
(2) Those growers who market their almonds through other than cooperative handlers.
(b) Two members and an alternate for each member shall be selected from nominees submitted by each of the following groups designated in paragraphs (b)(1) and (2) of this section, or from among other qualified persons belonging to such groups:
(1) Cooperative handlers; and
(2) All handlers, other than cooperative handlers.
(c) One member and an alternate shall be selected from nominees submitted by each of the following groups designated in paragraphs (c)(1) and (2) of this section, or from among other qualified persons belonging to such groups:
(1) The group of cooperative handlers or the group of handlers other than cooperative handlers, whichever received for their account more than 50 percent of the almonds delivered by all growers as determined by December 31 of the then current crop year; and
(2) Those growers whose almonds were marketed through the handler group identified in paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

[61 FR 32920, June 26, 1996]

§ 981.32 Nominations.
(a) Method. (1) Each year the terms of office of three of the members elected pursuant to Section 981.31 (a) and (b) shall expire, except every third year when the term of office for two of those members shall expire. Nominees for each respective member and alternate member shall be chosen by ballot delivered to the Board. Nominees chosen by the Board in this manner shall be submitted by the Board to the Secretary on or before February 20 of each year to together with such information as the Secretary may require. If a nomination for any Board member or alternate is not received by the Secretary on or before February 20, the Secretary may select such member or alternate from persons belonging to the group to be represented without nomination. The Board shall mail to all handlers and growers, other than the cooperative(s) of record, the required ballots with all necessary voting information including the names of incumbents willing to accept renomination, and, to such growers, the name of any person proposed for nomination in a petition signed by at least 15 such growers and filed with the Board on or before January 20. Distribution of ballots shall be announced by press release, furnishing pertinent information on balloting, issued by the Board through newspapers and other publications having general circulation in the almond producing areas.

[61 FR 32920, June 26, 1996]
§ 981.33 Selection and term of office.

(a) Members and their respective alternates for positions open on the Board shall be selected by the Secretary from persons nominated pursuant to §981.32, or, at the discretion of the Secretary, from other qualified persons, for a term of office beginning March 1. Members and alternates shall continue to serve until their respective successors are selected and qualified.

(b) The term of office of members of the Board shall be for a period of three years beginning on March 1 of the years selected except where otherwise provided. However, for the initial eight members of the Board selected pursuant to this section and to paragraphs (a) and (b) of §981.31, two members shall serve for a term of one year; three members shall serve for a term of two years; and three members shall serve for a term of three years. For the initial terms of office, at the time of nomination under §981.32, the Board shall make this designation by lot. The term of office for the two members selected under paragraph (c) of §981.31 shall always be for a period of one year.

(c) Board members may serve for a total of six consecutive years. Members who have served for six consecutive years must leave the Board for at least one year before becoming eligible to serve again. A person who has served less than six consecutive years on the Board may not be nominated to a new three year term if his or her total consecutive years on the Board at the end of that new term would exceed six years. This limitation on tenure shall not include service on the Board prior to implementation of this amendment and shall not apply to alternate members.

[61 FR 32920, June 26, 1996]

§ 981.34 Qualification and acceptance.

(a) Any person to be selected as a member or alternate of the Board shall, prior to such selection, qualify by providing such background information as necessary and by advising the Secretary that he/she agrees to serve in the position for which nominated. Grower members and alternates shall be growers or employees of growers, and handler members and alternates shall be handlers or employees of handlers. In the event any member or alternate ceases to be qualified for the position for which selected, that position shall be deemed vacant.

(b) The Board, with approval of the Secretary, may establish additional
eligibility requirements for grower members on the Board.  
[61 FR 32921, June 26, 1996]

§ 981.35 Alternates.
An alternate for a member for the Board shall act in the place and stead of such member (a) in his absence, or (b) in the event of his death, removal, resignation or disqualification, until a successor for his unexpired term has been selected and has qualified.

§ 981.36 Vacancy.
To fill any vacancy occasioned by the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate of the Board, a successor for his unexpired term shall be selected by the Secretary after consideration of recommendations which may be submitted by members of the group for which such vacancy exists, unless such selection is deemed unnecessary by the Secretary.

§ 981.37 Expenses.
The members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but shall be allowed their necessary expenses.

§ 981.38 Powers.
The Board shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;
(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part;
(c) To receive, investigate and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 981.39 Duties.
The Board shall have, among other things, the following duties:
(a) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any handler or grower;
(b) To keep minute books and records which will clearly reflect all of its acts and transactions, and such minute books and records shall be subject to examination by the Secretary at any time;
(c) To investigate the growing, shipping, and marketing conditions with respect to almonds and to assemble data in connection therewith;
(d) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as may be deemed pertinent or as he may request;
(e) To appoint such employees as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries, define the duties and fix the bonds of such employees; and
(f) To cause the books of the Board to be audited by one or more competent certified public accountants at least once for each crop year, and at such other times as the Board may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request; and the report of each such audit shall show, among other things, the receipt and expenditure of funds pursuant hereto; and to file with the Secretary three copies of all audit reports made.

§ 981.40 Procedure.
(a) Organization and rules. The members of the Board shall select a chairman from their membership. The Board shall select such other officers and adopt such rules for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable. The Board shall give to the Secretary or his designated agent and representatives the same notice of meetings of the Board as is given to members of the Board.
(b) Quorum. All decisions of the Board, except where otherwise specifically provided, shall be by a majority vote of the members present. The presence of six members shall be required to constitute a quorum.
(c) Voting by mail, telegram, fax or other electronic means. The Board may vote by mail, telegram, fax or other electronic means upon written notice to all members, or alternates acting in their place, including in the notice a statement of a reasonable time, not to exceed 10 days, in which a vote by mail, telegram, fax or other electronic means must be received by the Board for counting. Voting by mail, telegram, fax or other electronic means shall not be permitted at any assembled meeting of the Board. When a proposition is submitted for vote by mail, telegram, fax or other electronic means, at least eight members of the Board must vote
§ 981.41 Research and development.

(a) General. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of projects involving production research, marketing research and development projects, and marketing promotion including paid advertising and crediting the pro rata expense assessment obligation of handlers with such portion of their direct expenditures for marketing promotion including paid advertising, shall require at least seven affirmative votes.

(b) Authorization. If, on the basis of a Control Board recommendation pursuant to §981.40(e) with respect to projects pursuant to this section, and appertaining rules and regulations established by the Secretary on recommendation of the Board, and other available information, the Secretary concurs that such activities should be permitted, he shall authorize such activities.

(c) Creditable expenditures. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may provide for crediting all or any portion of a handler’s direct expenditures for marketing promotion including paid advertising, that promotes the sale of almonds, almond products or their uses. No handler shall receive credit for any allowable direct expenditures that would exceed the total of his assessment obligation which is attributable to that portion of his assessment designated for marketing promotion including paid advertising. Such expenditures may include, but are not limited to, money spent for advertising space or time in newspaper, magazines, radio, television, transit, and outdoor media, including the actual standard agency commission costs not to exceed 15 percent.

(d) Promotion guidelines. All marketing promotion activity engaged in by the Board, including paid advertising, shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. No marketing promotion, including paid advertising shall refer to any private brand, private trademark or private trade name;

2. No promotion or advertising shall disparage the quality, use, value, or sale of like or any other agricultural commodity or product, and no false or unwarranted claims shall be made in connection with the product;

3. No promotion or advertising shall be undertaken without reason to believe that returns to producers will be improved by such activity; and

4. Upon conclusion of each activity, but at least annually, the Board shall summarize and report the results of such activity to its members and to the Secretary.

(e) Rules and regulations. Before any project involving marketing promotion, including paid advertising and the crediting of the pro rata expense assessment obligation of handlers is...
undertaken pursuant to this section, the Secretary, after recommendation by the Board, shall prescribe appropriate rules and regulations as are necessary to effectively regulate such activity.


QUALITY CONTROL

§ 981.42 Quality control.

(a) Incoming. Except as provided in this paragraph, each handler shall cause to be determined, through the inspection agency, and at handler expense, the percent of inedible kernels in each variety received by him and shall report the determination to the Board. The quantity of inedible kernels in each variety in excess of two percent of the kernel weight received, shall constitute a weight obligation to be accumulated in the course of processing and shall be delivered to the Board, or Board accepted crushers, feed manufacturers, or feeders. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may change this percentage for any crop year, may authorize additional outlets, may exempt bleaching stock from inedible kernel determination or obligation and may establish rules and regulations necessary and incidental to the administration of this provision, including the method of determining inedible kernel content and satisfaction of the disposition obligation. The Board for good cause may waive portions of obligations for those handlers not generating inedible material from such sources as blanching or manufacturing.

(b) Outgoing. For any crop year the Board may establish, with the approval of the Secretary, such minimum quality and inspection requirements applicable to almonds to be handled or to be processed into manufactured products, as will contribute to orderly marketing or be in the public interest. In such crop year, no handler shall handle or process almonds into manufactured items or products unless they meet the applicable requirements as evidenced by certification acceptable to the Board. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish rules and regulations necessary and incidental to the administration of this provision.

[41 FR 26853, June 30, 1976, as amended at 41 FR 53651, Dec. 8, 1976]

VOLUME REGULATION

§ 981.45 General.

In order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, no handler shall handle almonds except in accordance with the terms and conditions of this part.

§ 981.46 Withholding reserve.

When a reserve percentage has been fixed for any crop year, as hereinafter provided, no handler shall handle almonds except on condition that he comply with the requirements in respect to withholding reserve almonds and the prescribed disposition thereof.

§ 981.47 Method of establishing salable and reserve percentages.

Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and supporting information supplied by the Board or from any other available information, that to designate the percentages of almonds during any crop year which shall be salable almonds and reserve almonds would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall designate such percentages. Except as provided in §981.50 the salable and reserve percentages shall each be applied to the kernel weight of almonds received by a handler for his own account during the crop year. In establishing such salable and reserve percentages, the Secretary shall give consideration to the ratio of estimated trade demand (domestic plus export, less the handler carryover available to satisfy trade demand plus the desirable handler carryover at the end of the crop year) to the estimated production of marketable almonds (all expressed in terms of kernel weight) or the allocation quantity (marketable production plus almonds diverted to oil or feed when eligible for reserve satisfaction) whichever is applicable; the recommendation submitted to him by the Board; and such
§ 981.48 Increase of salable percentage.

Upon request filed prior to May 15 by the Board or, if the Board should fail to request, by two or more handlers who have handled at least 15 percent of all almonds handled in the preceding crop year, and after findings of fact (based upon a revision of the estimates required under § 981.49 and other pertinent information) that the quantity of salable almonds is not sufficient to satisfy trade demand and desirable carryover requirements for the crop year, the Secretary may increase the salable percentage. Such findings shall be made in the manner specified in § 981.47.

§ 981.49 Board estimates and recommendations.

To aid the Secretary in fixing the salable and reserve percentages, the Board shall furnish to the Secretary, not later than August 1, the following estimates (kernel weight basis) and recommendations for the crop year, each of which, or any later revisions thereof, shall be adopted by the affirmative vote of at least six members:

(a) The quantity of marketable almonds to be produced;
(b) The estimated handler carryover and the estimated reserve inventory as of July 31;
(c) The desirable handler carryover and the probable reserve inventory at the end of the crop year;
(d) The trade demand, taking into consideration anticipated imports, economic conditions and the anticipated market price (within the limitations of the act); and
(e) The recommended salable and reserve percentages to be established.

The Board shall also furnish to the Secretary a complete report of the proceedings of the Board meeting at which the recommended salable and reserve percentages were considered. If, for any reason, the Board fails to make these estimates or to recommend to the Secretary salable and reserve percentages as required hereby, reports representing the views of members with respect to such matters may be submitted to the Secretary who may act on the basis of such reports or other information available to him.


§ 981.50 Reserve obligation.

Whenever salable and reserve percentages are in effect for a crop year, each handler shall withhold from handling a quantity of almonds having a kernel weight equal to the reserve percentage of the kernel weight of all almonds such handler receives for his own account during the crop year: Provided, That, any quantity of almonds delivered to outlets such as poultry or animal feed or crushing into oil, in a manner permitting accountability to the Board, shall not be included in such receipts. The quantity of almonds hereby required to be withheld from handling shall constitute, and may be referred to as the “reserve” or “reserve obligation” of a handler. The almonds handled as salable almonds by any handler, in accordance with the provisions of this part, shall be deemed to be that handler’s quota fixed by the Secretary within the meaning of section 8a(5) of the act.

[41 FR 26853, June 30, 1976]

§ 981.51 Requirements for reserve.

Each handler may satisfy his reserve obligation with such almonds specified in the terms of the agency agreement authorized in § 981.67, including all applicable inspection and certification requirements. Any handler who does not become an agent may receive credit by similarly delivering almonds to the Board or its designees. These requirements may be established by the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, and from time to time so modified, and may include grade requirements for reserve almonds delivered to human consumption outlets.

[41 FR 26853, June 30, 1976]
§ 981.52 Holding requirement and delivery.

Each handler shall, at all times, hold in his possession or under his control, in proper storage for the account of the Board, the quantity of almonds necessary to meet his reserve obligation less: (a) Any quantity which was disposed of by him pursuant to § 981.67; and (b) any quantity for which he is otherwise relieved by the Board of responsibility to so hold almonds. Upon demand of the Board reserve almonds shall be delivered to the Board f.o.b. handler’s warehouse or point of storage, except that the Board shall not make such demand upon a handler with respect to reserve almonds for which he has agreed to undertake disposition pursuant to § 981.67. Any handler who does not act as agent for the Board in the disposition of reserve almonds shall be subject to the applicable inspection and certification requirements prescribed by the Board pursuant to § 981.67.

[41 FR 26853, June 30, 1976]

§ 981.54 Payment to handlers for services rendered.

The Board may pay handlers for necessary services rendered by them in connection with almonds eventually disposed of directly by the Board as reserve including but not limited to storing, shelling, sorting, bleaching, grading, packaging, fumigating, and other services in accordance with such schedule of payments and under such conditions as may be established by the Secretary after recommendation of the Board.

[41 FR 26853, June 30, 1976]

§ 981.55 Interhandler transfers.

(a) Any handler may, upon notice to and under the supervision and direction of the Board, transfer almonds or reserve credits to another handler. Any such transfers shall be accounted for in such manner that the reserve obligation and assessments on the combined transactions of the participating handlers shall be fully met and such reserve withholding obligation and assessments may be divided between such handlers in accordance with their arrangements subject to approval of the Board.

(b) When salable and reserve percentages are in effect, any handler may transfer reserve withholding obligation to other handlers. Terms and conditions implementing this provision must be recommended by the Board and approved by the Secretary.


§ 981.56 Assistance of Board in accounting for reserve.

The Board, on written request, may assist handlers in accounting for their reserve obligations and may aid any handler in acquiring almonds to meet any deficiency in his reserve.

§ 981.57 Application of salable and reserve percentages after end of crop year.

The salable and reserve percentages established for any crop year shall continue in effect with respect to all almonds for which the reserve obligation has not been previously met, which are received for his own account or handled during that crop year shall be adjusted to the newly established percentages.

§ 981.59 Adjustment upon increase of salable percentage.

(a) Upon any increase in the salable percentage and corresponding decrease in the reserve percentage, the reserve obligation of each handler for the entire crop year to the effective date of such action shall be computed in accordance with such revised salable and reserve percentages. From the reserve almonds that may have been withheld by him and not yet disposed of, any handler authorized to act and acting as agent of the Board in disposing of reserve pursuant to § 981.66 shall be permitted to select, under the supervision and direction of the Control Board, the particular reserve almonds to be restored to his salable percentage, and
§ 981.60 Determination of kernel weight.

(a) Almonds for which settlement is made on kernel weight. All lots of almonds, whether shelled or unshelled, for which settlement is made on the basis of kernel weight shall be included in the total kernel weight for any handler at the settlement weight.

(b) Almonds for which settlement is made on unshelled weight. The settlement weight for unshelled almonds shall be determined on the basis of representative samples of unshelled almonds reduced to shelled weight.


§ 981.61 Redetermination of kernel weight.

The Board, on the basis of reports by handlers, shall redetermine the kernel weight of almonds received by each handler for his own account during each crop year through each of the following dates: December 31, March 31, and June 30. Such redetermined kernel weight for each handler shall be the basis for computing his reserve obligation for the crop year through such dates, except that adjustment shall be made for almonds on which the obligation has been assumed by another handler. The redetermined kernel weight of each handler's receipts, as of any date during the crop year, shall be his carryover as of that date plus the weight of almonds delivered or used in products minus the carryover at the beginning of the crop year, the weight on which another handler has assumed the obligations, and the weight delivered to exempt outlets. Weights used in such computations for various classifications of almonds shall be:

(a) For unshelled almonds, the kernel weight based on representative samples reduced to shelled weight;

(b) For shelled almonds, the net weight; and

(c) For shelled almonds used in production of almond products, the net weight of such almonds.

[41 FR 26853, June 30, 1976, as amended at 61 FR 32921, June 26, 1996]

DISPOSITION OF RESERVE

§ 981.65 Prohibition on the use or disposition of reserve almonds.

Except as provided in §§ 981.66 and 981.67, almonds that are withheld as reserve pursuant to the requirements of § 981.50 or are creditable in satisfaction of a reserve withholding obligation thereunder, shall not be used or disposed of by any handler or any other person.

§ 981.66 Conditions governing disposition of reserve.

(a) General. The Board shall have power and authority to sell or dispose of any and all reserve almonds withheld upon the best terms and at the highest return obtainable consistent with the ultimate complete disposition of reserve, subject to all conditions of this section.

(b) Exclusion from salable normal trade channels. No reserve almonds shall be
sold in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Canal Zone other than to governmental agencies or to charitable institutions for charitable purposes, except for diversion into almond oil, almond butter, poultry or animal feed, or into other channels which the Board finds are noncompetitive with existing normal markets for almonds, and with proper safeguards in each case to prevent such almonds thereafter entering the channels of trade in such normal markets.

(c) Disposition after December 31. Any reserve almonds remaining unsold as of December 31 shall be disposed of by the Board as soon as practicable through the most readily available reserve outlets. The date of December 31 herein specified may be extended to a later date by the Secretary, upon recommendation of the Board or other information.

(d) Expenses. Direct expenses incurred by the Board in the maintenance and disposition of reserve almonds shall be charged against the proceeds of sales of such almonds.

(e) Distribution of proceeds. Net proceeds from the disposition of reserve almonds by the Board shall be distributed to each handler in proportion to his relative share of such disposition in terms of creditable reserve kernel weight pursuant to §981.51 or such other basis as the Board may adopt with the approval of the Secretary.

§ 981.67 Disposition by handler.

Upon request of a handler, made prior to the delivery by him of any reserve to the Board in any crop year, the Board shall authorize such handler to act as agent of the Board, upon such reasonable terms and conditions, including inspection and certification requirements, as the Board may specify and subject to the conditions of §981.66 in disposing of the reserve withheld from handling by such handler for that crop year. Any handler who is authorized to dispose of his reserve may, through arrangement with another handler dispose of such reserve through such other handler or, in lieu of disposition, may acquire credits for reserve disposition from another handler. In the first instance, the second handler shall also be subject to the conditions of §981.66. It shall be the obligation of any handler authorized to dispose of such reserve to effect disposition thereof in accordance with all applicable requirements and conditions. The proceeds of such disposition shall be retained by the handler making the disposition, except that, in case he disposes of the reserve of another handler, the proceeds from that disposition shall be divided between the two handlers on the basis of a mutual agreement. Such authorization shall expire as of December 31 of the next crop year, and any reserve then remaining undisposed of by the handler shall be returned to the Board. If the date of December 31 specified in §981.66(e) is extended, the date of December 31 shall be extended correspondingly. Any handler who has been authorized to act as agent of the Board in disposing of his reserve may terminate such agency as of April 1 of the particular crop year by giving written notice to the Board to that effect not later than the previous March 20, in which event such handler shall return to the Board, for disposition by it, all reserve almonds remaining in his possession. In case a handler does not terminate his agency as of April 1, he shall be required to continue to serve as such agent until December 31 of the next crop year. The Board shall not terminate such an agency prior to December 31 unless the agent violates the terms and conditions specified by the Board or other provisions of the order. During the period of such agency the Board, as principal, shall not dispose of the reserve withheld from handling by said agent. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary may prescribe such rules and regulations as are necessary to regulate disposition of reserve almonds including methods for crediting as reserve any salable almonds sold and delivered to reserve outlets.

§ 981.70 Records and verification.
Each handler shall keep records which will clearly show the details of his or her receipts of almonds, withholdings, sales, shipments, inventories, reserve disposition, advertising and promotion activities, as well as other pertinent information regarding his or her operation pursuant to the provisions of this part: Provided, that, such records shall be kept in the State of California. Such records shall be retained by the handler for 2 years after the end of the crop year to which they apply. Each handler’s premises shall be accessible to authorized representatives of the Board and the Secretary for examination and audit of the aforesaid records and for inspection and observation of almonds. The Board shall make such checks of almonds or audits of each handler’s records as it deems appropriate or are requested by the Secretary to insure that accurate information as required in this part is being furnished by handlers.

§ 981.71 Record of receipts.
For the purpose of establishing the reserve obligation and furnishing statistical information to the Board necessary for the conduct of its operations, each handler, on receiving almonds for his own account, shall issue to the person from whom so received a receipt therefor. At least two duplicates thereof shall be made at the time of issuance, one of which shall be retained by the handler as a part of his records and the other submitted to the Board as hereinafter provided. Such receipts shall be serially numbered and shall accurately show for each lot received, the identity of the handler, the name and address of the person from whom received, the number of containers in the lot, the variety, whether shelled or unshelled, and the settlement weight for each such variety. The character and amount of all adjustments deducted from the gross weight shall be shown with the gross weight on the receipt issued by the handler.

§ 981.72 Reports of receipts.
Each handler receiving almonds for his own account shall tabulate such receipts by varieties and shall submit reports thereof to the Board in such form and at such intervals as the Board may prescribe for all receipts issued by him. Such reports shall be accompanied by duplicate copies of the receipts issued pursuant to the provisions of §981.71 for all almonds included in such report. The Board, after checking such reports in such manner as it deems desirable, shall determine in the manner specified in §981.60 the kernel weight of the almonds so received.

§ 981.73 Periodic reports.
On or before January 15, and April 15, and August 15 of each crop year, each handler shall file with the Board a written report, certified to the Board and to the Secretary by such handler as to its completeness and correctness, showing as of the close of business on December 31, March 31, and July 31, respectively, such information as may be prescribed by the Board for use in redetermination of kernel weight and marketing policy considerations.

§ 981.74 Other reports.
Upon the request of the Board, made with the approval of the Secretary, every handler shall furnish to the Board in such manner and at such times as it prescribes (in addition to such other reports as are specifically provided for in this part) such other information as will enable the Board to perform its duties and exercise its powers hereunder.

§ 981.75 Confidential nature of records and reports.
All information contained in handler records made available to the Board or the Secretary, or in reports to the Board, constituting a trade secret or disclosing the trade position, financial condition, or business operations of
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 981.81 Assessment.

(a) Requirement for payment. Each handler shall pay to the Board on demand by the Board, from time to time, such sum less any amounts credited pursuant to §981.41, based on such rate per pound of almonds, kernel weight basis, received by him for his own account (except as to receipts from other handlers on which assessments have been paid) as the Secretary finds is necessary to provide funds to meet the authorized board expenses and the operating reserve requirements, and establishes for the crop year. Upon redetermination of the kernel weight of almonds received by handlers for their own account as provided in §981.61, such redetermined kernel weight for each handler, adjusted for receipts on which assessments have been paid, shall be the basis upon which he shall pay assessments. At any time during or after a crop year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessments to apply to all such almonds during such crop year to secure sufficient funds to cover the expenses authorized by §981.80 or by any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses of the Board, and such additional assessments shall be paid to the Board by each handler on demand. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the Board may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) Refunds. Any money collected as assessments for either the administrative (maintenance and functioning) or research activities of the Board and not used for the expenses of the applicable crop year, may be used in paying the Board's expenses of the first four months of the succeeding crop year. No later than the fifth month the amount not expended from assessments collected for administrative-research in the previous crop year shall be retained in the operating reserve fund. Any amounts, not credited pursuant to §981.41 for a crop year may be used by the Board for its marketing promotion expenses of the succeeding crop year, and any unexpended portion of those amounts at the end of that crop year shall be retained in the marketing promotion portion of the operating reserve fund. Any funds in each portion of the operating reserve fund in excess of the level authorized pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section shall be refunded to handlers or used to reduce the assessment rate of the subsequent crop year, as the Board may determine. Each handler's share of a refund shall be the amount by which his payment of assessments exceeds his pro rata share of the two major classifications of Board expenses. For the purpose of computing

§ 981.76 Handler list of growers.

No later than December 31 of each crop year, each handler other than a cooperative handler (hereinafter, referred to as independent handler) governed by this subpart shall, upon request, submit to the Board a complete list of growers who have delivered almonds to such independent handler during that crop year.

[61 FR 32921, June 26, 1996]

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 981.80 Expenses.

The Board is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary may find are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it during each crop year, for the maintenance and functioning of the Board, including the accumulation and maintenance of an operating reserve fund, and for such purposes as the Secretary may, pursuant to the provisions of this subpart, determine to be appropriate. The recommendation of the Board as to the expenses for each such year, together with all data supporting such recommendation, shall be submitted to the Secretary on or before August 1 of the crop year in connection with which such recommendation is made.


§ 981.81 Assessment.

(a) Requirement for payment. Each handler shall pay to the Board on demand by the Board, from time to time, such sum less any amounts credited pursuant to §981.41, based on such rate per pound of almonds, kernel weight basis, received by him for his own account (except as to receipts from other handlers on which assessments have been paid) as the Secretary finds is necessary to provide funds to meet the authorized board expenses and the operating reserve requirements, and establishes for the crop year. Upon redetermination of the kernel weight of almonds received by handlers for their own account as provided in §981.61, such redetermined kernel weight for each handler, adjusted for receipts on which assessments have been paid, shall be the basis upon which he shall pay assessments. At any time during or after a crop year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessments to apply to all such almonds during such crop year to secure sufficient funds to cover the expenses authorized by §981.80 or by any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses of the Board, and such additional assessments shall be paid to the Board by each handler on demand. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the Board may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) Refunds. Any money collected as assessments for either the administrative (maintenance and functioning) or research activities of the Board and not used for the expenses of the applicable crop year, may be used in paying the Board's expenses of the first four months of the succeeding crop year. No later than the fifth month the amount not expended from assessments collected for administrative-research in the previous crop year shall be retained in the operating reserve fund. Any amounts, not credited pursuant to §981.41 for a crop year may be used by the Board for its marketing promotion expenses of the succeeding crop year, and any unexpended portion of those amounts at the end of that crop year shall be retained in the marketing promotion portion of the operating reserve fund. Any funds in each portion of the operating reserve fund in excess of the level authorized pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section shall be refunded to handlers or used to reduce the assessment rate of the subsequent crop year, as the Board may determine. Each handler's share of a refund shall be the amount by which his payment of assessments exceeds his pro rata share of the two major classifications of Board expenses. For the purpose of computing
§ 981.85 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the Board, or any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or any other person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate member, agent, or employee, except for acts of dishonesty.

§ 981.86 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder hereof or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 981.87 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 981.88 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon its termination except with respect to acts done under and during its existence.

§ 981.89 Agents.

The Secretary may, by a designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the United States Government, or name any bureau or division of the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this subpart.

§ 981.90 Effective time, suspension, or termination.

(a) Effective time. The provisions of this subpart, as well as any amendments to this subpart, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare, and shall continue in force until terminated or suspended in one of the ways hereinafter specified in this section.
(b) Suspension or termination—(1) Failure to effectuate policy of act. The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this subpart, whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(2) The Secretary shall conduct a referendum as soon as practical after the end of the fiscal year ending two years after implementation of this amendment, and at such time every fifth year thereafter, to ascertain whether continuation of the order is favored by growers who have been engaged in the production of almonds for market within the State of California during the current crop year.

(3) When favored by growers. The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any crop year whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of the growers of almonds who during the crop year have been engaged in the production for market in the State of California: Provided, That such majority have during such period produced for market more than 50 percent of the volume of such almonds produced for market within said State; but such termination shall be effected only if announced on or before July 1 of the then current crop year.

(4) If enabling legislation is terminated. The provisions of this subpart shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

(c) Proceedings after termination—(1) Designation of trustees. Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart, the members of the Board then functioning shall continue as joint trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the Board, of all funds and property then in the possession or under the control of the Board, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trusteeship shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.

(2) Duties of trustees. Said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the Board and the joint trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall, upon request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the Board or the joint trustees pursuant thereto.

(3) Obligations of persons other than board members and trustees. Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered by the Board or its members, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the said Board and upon the said joint trustees.


§ 981.91 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulation issued under this subpart, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person, with respect to any such violation.

§ 981.92 Amendments.

Amendments to this subpart may be proposed, from time to time, by any person or by the Board.

EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .399) and “Marketing percentage” regulations (e.g., sections .200 through .299) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.
§ 981.343 Assessment Rates

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 981.343 Assessment rate.

On and after August 1, 1997, an assessment rate of 2 cents per pound of assessable almonds is established for California almonds. Of the 2 cent assessment rate, 1 cent per assessable pound is available for handler credit-back.


Subpart—Administrative Rules and Regulations

§ 981.401 Adjusted kernel weight.

(a) Definition. Adjusted kernel weight shall mean the actual gross weight of any lot of almonds; less weight of containers; less moisture of kernels in excess of five percent; less shells, if applicable; less processing loss of one percent for deliveries with less than 95 percent kernels; less trash or other foreign material. The adjusted kernel weight shall be determined by sampling certified by the inspection agency.

(b) Computation. The computation of adjusted kernel weight shall be in the manner shown in the following examples. The examples are based on the analysis of a 1,000 gram sample taken from a lot of almonds weighing 10,000 pounds with less than 95 percent kernels, and a 1,000 gram sample taken from a lot of almonds weighing 10,000 pounds with 95 percent or more kernels. The first computation example is for the lot with less than 95 percent kernels containing the following: Edible kernels, 530 grams; inedible kernels, 120 grams; foreign material, 350 grams, and moisture content of kernels, seven percent. Excess moisture is two percent. The second computation example is for the lot with 95 percent or more kernels containing the following: Edible kernels, 840 grams; inedible kernels, 120 grams; foreign material, 40 grams; and moisture content of kernels, seven percent. Excess moisture is two percent. The example computations are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Computation No. 1</th>
<th>Computation No. 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delivers with less than 95 percent kernels</td>
<td>Delivers with 95 percent or more kernels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of sample</td>
<td>Weight (pounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Actual gross weight of delivery</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Percent of edible kernel weight</td>
<td>53.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Less weight in processing</td>
<td>1.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Less excess moisture of edible kernels (excess moisture×line 2)</td>
<td>50.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Net percent shell out (line 2 – lines 3 and 4)</td>
<td>5,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Net edible kernels (line 5×line 1)</td>
<td>5,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Percent of inedible kernels (from sample)</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Less excess moisture of inedible kernels (excess moisture from sample×line 7)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Net percent inedible kernels (line 7 – line 8)</td>
<td>11.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Total inedible kernels (line 9×line 10)</td>
<td>1,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Adjusted kernel weight (line 6+line 10)</td>
<td>6,270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Only applies to deliveries with less than 95 percent kernels.


§ 981.408 Inedible kernel.

Pursuant to §981.8, the definition of inedible kernel is modified to mean a kernel, piece, or particle of almond kernel with any defect scored as serious damage, or damage due to mold, gum, shrivel, or brown spot, as defined in the United States Standards for Shelled Almonds, or which has embedded dirt or other foreign material not easily removed by washing: Provided, That the presence of web or frass shall not be considered serious damage for the purposes of determining inedible kernels, pieces, or particles of almond kernels.

[59 FR 19439, Aug. 3, 1994]
§ 981.413 Roadside stand exemption.

The term "at retail at a roadside stand" as used in § 981.13 shall be defined to mean sales for home use and not for resale which are not in excess of 100 pounds net kernel weight to any one customer per day. Sales of almonds at certified farmers' markets in compliance with section 1392 of the regulations of the California Department of Food and Agriculture shall be construed as "roadside" sales for the purpose of § 981.13 where these conditions are met.

[50 FR 30264, July 25, 1985]

§ 981.441 Credit for market promotion activities, including paid advertising.

(a) In order for a handler to receive credit for his/her own promotional activities from his/her pro rata portion of advertising assessment payments, pursuant to § 981.41(c), the Board must determine that such expenditures meet the applicable requirements of this section. Credit will be granted either in the form of a payment from the Board, or as an offset to the advertising assessment if activities are conducted and documented to the satisfaction of the Board at least two weeks prior to assessment billings. Credit, hereinafter termed "Credit-Back", will be granted in an amount not to exceed 66 2/3 percent of a handler's proven expenditures for qualified activities.

(b) The portion of the handler assessment for which credit may be received under this section will be billed, and is due and payable, at the same time as the portion of the handler assessment used for the Board's administrative expenses, unless the handler(s) conduct and document at least two weeks prior to assessment billings. Credit-Back will be granted in an amount not to exceed 66 2/3 percent of a handler's proven expenditures for qualified activities.

(c) The Board shall grant Credit-Back for qualifying activities conducted and completed during the crop year for which Credit-Back is requested.

(e) The following requirements shall apply to Credit-Back for all promotional activities:

(1) Credit-Back granted by the Board shall be that which is appropriate when compared to accepted professional practices and rates for the type of activity conducted. In the case of claims for Credit-Back activities not covered by specific and established criteria, the Board shall grant the claim if it is consistent with practices and rates for similar activities. To this end, the Board may issue guidelines for qualifying activities from time to time as warranted. For activities in markets other than the United States and Canada, paragraph (e)(5) of this section shall also apply.

(2) The clear and evident purpose of each activity shall be to promote the sale, consumption or use of California almonds, and nothing therein shall detract from this purpose.

(3) No Credit-Back will be given for advertising placed in publications that target the farming or grower trade. No Credit-Back shall be given for any outdoor advertising or sponsorships in the California almond growing counties of Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Madera, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties, except that, outdoor advertising in these counties which specifically directs consumers to a handler-operated outlet offering direct purchase of almonds will be eligible for Credit-Back.

(4) Credit-Back shall be granted for those qualified activities specified below, except that Credit-Back for travel expenses will not be allowed in any case.

(i) Paid advertising directed to end-users, trade or industrial users. Credit-Back shall be granted for money spent on paid advertising space or time including, but not limited to, newspapers, magazines, radio, television, transit and outdoor media, and including the standard agency commission costs not to exceed 15 percent of gross.

(ii) Other market promotion activities. Credit-Back shall be granted for market promotion other than paid advertising, for the following activities:
§ 981.441

(A) Marketing research (except pre-testing and test-marketing of paid advertising);
(B) Trade and consumer product publicity;
(C) Printing costs for promotional material;
(D) Direct mail printing and distribution;
(E) Retail in-store demonstrations;
(F) Point-of-sale materials (not including packaging);
(G) Sales and marketing presentation kits;
(H) Trade fairs and exhibits;
(I) Trade seminars;
(J) 50/50 advertising with retailers;
(K) Couponing (printing, distribution and handling costs only);
(L) Purchase of Board produced promotional materials; and
(M) Sponsorships
(iii) For any qualified activity involving joint participation by a handler and a manufacturer or seller of a complementary product(s), or a handler selling multiple complementary products, including other nuts, with such activity including the handler's name or brand, or the words “California Almonds”, the amount allowed for Credit-Back claim shall reflect that portion of the activity represented by almonds, or the handler's actual payment, whichever is less.
(iv) When products containing almonds are promoted, the amount allowed for Credit-Back shall reflect that portion of the product weight represented by almonds, or the handler's actual payment, whichever is less.

(5) Credit-Back for promotional activities in a foreign market shall be granted at 66 2/3 percent of a handler's unreimbursed expenditures for qualified activities in any foreign market, if the handler is promoting pursuant to a contract with the Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA (FAS) and/or the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Such activities must also meet the requirements of paragraphs (e)(1), (2), (3), (4), and (6) of this section. Unless the Board is administering the foreign marketing program, such activities shall not be eligible for Credit-Back unless the handler certifies that he/she was not and will not be reimbursed by either FAS or the CDFA for the amount claimed for Credit-Back, and has on record with the Board all claims for reimbursement made to FAS and/or the CDFA. Foreign market expenses paid by third parties as part of a handler's contract with FAS or CDFA will not be eligible for Credit-Back.

(6) A handler must file claims with the Board to obtain Credit-Back for promotional expenditures, as follows:
(i) All claims submitted to the Board for any qualified activity must include:
(A) A description of the activity and when and where it was conducted;
(B) Copies of all invoices from suppliers or agencies;
(C) Copies of all canceled checks issued by the handler in payment of these invoices; and
(D) An actual sample, picture or other physical evidence of the activity.
(ii) Handlers may receive credit against their assessment obligation up to the advertising amount of the assessment installment due; Provided: That the handler submits the required documentation for a qualified activity at least two weeks prior to the mailing of assessment notices from the Board. In all other instances, handlers must remit the advertising assessment to the Board when billed, and a refund will be issued to the extent of proven, qualified activities.
(iii) Checks from the Board in payment of approved Credit-Back claims will be mailed to handlers on February 15, April 15, June 15, and 30 days after submission of final claims for the crop year pursuant to paragraph (e)(6)(iv) of this section. To receive payment on these dates, handler claims must be submitted, with all required elements, at least one month prior to the payment date. A handler can receive Credit-Back for his/her allowable direct expenditures only up to the amount of that portion of the handler's assessment designated for marketing promotion, including paid advertising.
(iv) A statement of the Credit-Back commitments outstanding as of the close of a crop year must be submitted in full to the Board within 15 days after...
§ 981.442 Quality control.

(a) Incoming. Pursuant to § 981.42(a), the quantity of inedible kernels in each variety of almonds received by a handler, including almonds of his own production, shall be determined and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph.

(1) Sampling. Each handler shall cause a representative sample of almonds to be drawn from each lot of any variety received. The sample shall be drawn before inedible kernels are removed from the lot, or the lot is processed or stored by the handler. For receipts at premises with mechanical sampling equipment and under contracts providing for payment by the handler to the producer for sound meat content, samples shall be drawn by the handler in a manner acceptable to the Board and the inspection agency. The inspection agency shall make periodic checks of the mechanical sampling procedures. For all other receipts, including but not limited to field examination and purchase receipts, accumulations purchased for cash at the handler’s door or from an accumulator, or almonds of the handler’s own production, sampling shall be conducted or monitored by the inspection agency in a manner acceptable to the Board. All samples shall be bagged and identified in a manner acceptable to the Board and the inspection agency.

(2) Variety. For the purpose of classifying receipts by variety to determine a handler’s disposition obligation, “variety” shall mean that variety of almonds which constitutes at least 90 percent of a lot. If no variety constitutes at least 90 percent of the almonds in a lot, the lot shall be designated as “mixed”. If the variety which constitutes at least 90 percent of the almonds in the lot is unknown, the lot shall be designated “unknown”.

(3) Analysis of sample. Each sample shall be analyzed by or under the surveillance of the inspection agency to determine the kernel content and the proportion of inedible kernels in the sample. The inspection agency shall prepare a report for each handler showing, by variety, the total adjusted kernel weight received by handler, the inedible kernel weight and any other information as the Board may prescribe. The report shall cover the handler’s daily receipt or the handler’s total receipts during a period not exceeding one month, and shall be submitted by the inspection agency to the Board and the handler.

(4) Disposition obligation. (i) The weight of inedible kernels in excess of 1 percent of kernel weight reported to the Board of any variety received by a handler shall constitute that handler’s disposition obligation. For any almonds sold inshell, the weight may be reported to the Board and the disposition obligation for that variety reduced proportionately.

(ii) If a sufficient sample is not available for any lot of almonds, the handler may establish and substantiate, to the satisfaction of the Board, the received weight, the edible and inedible kernel weights, and the adjusted kernel weight by providing sufficient information as the Board may prescribe. If the handler is only able to establish and substantiate the approximate received weight, an inedible disposition obligation of 10 percent of such received weight may be applied, upon agreement between the Board and the handler.

[59 FR 35233, July 11, 1994]
§ 981.450  Exempt dispositions.

As provided in §981.50 any handler disposing of almonds for crushing into oil, or for poultry or animal feed, may have the kernel weight of these almonds excluded from his receipts, and exempt from program obligations so long as the handler qualifies as, or delivers such almonds to, a crusher, a feeder, or dealer in nut waste; the crusher, feeder, or dealer are acceptable to the Board; each delivery is made directly to the crusher, feeder, or dealer, by June 30 of the crop year; and each delivery is certified to the Board by the handler on ABC Form 8.

[42 FR 19322, Apr. 13, 1977]
§ 981.455 Interhandler transfers.
(a) Transfers of almonds. Interhandler transfers of almonds pursuant to §981.55 shall be reported to the Board on ABC Form 7. The report shall contain the following information: (1) Date of transfer; (2) the names, and plant locations of both the transferring and receiving handlers; (3) the variety of almonds transferred; (4) whether the almonds are shelled or unshelled; and (5) the name of the handler assuming reserve and assessment obligations on the almonds transferred. ABC Form 7 shall be signed by the transferring handler and by the receiving handler if the latter is assuming the obligation(s).

(b) Transfers of reserve credits. A handler may transfer reserve credits to another handler after having filed with the Board, in accordance with §981.474, a completed ABC Form 13/14 covering the almonds to be diverted to a non-competitive outlet and all the documentation applicable thereto. Such a transfer does not relieve the transferring handler of any reserve obligations for the applicable crop year. The transferred credit shall not exceed the quantity needed by the receiving handler to cover that handler’s reserve obligation. The Board shall complete the transfer upon receipt of an ABC Form 11 executed by both handlers. No transfer of reserve credits shall be made to satisfy a handler’s inedible disposition obligation incurred pursuant to §981.42(a).

(c) Transfers of reserve withholding obligation. A handler may transfer reserve withholding obligation to other handlers pursuant to §981.55 after having filed with the Board an ABC Form 11 executed by both handlers. The Board shall approve the transfer upon receipt of the properly completed form.

(d) Transfer of inedible obligation may be made, with the approval of the Board, only when the inedible kernels are physically transferred with the entire lot of almonds. The transfer of the lot shall be reported on ABC Form 9, showing date of transfer and, for the transferring handler, the (1) original inspection certificate number, (2) total weight shown on the certificate, and (3) weight of inedible kernels shown on the certificate. ABC Form 9 shall be signed by both, the transferring handler and the receiving handler, and submitted by the receiving handler to the Board for approval.


§ 981.466 Almond butter.
Almond butter as used in §981.66(c) is hereby defined as a comminuted food product prepared by grinding shelled or blanched almonds into a homogeneous plastic or semiplastic mass or liquid having very few particles larger than 1/16 inch in any dimension. To produce chunky style almond butter, almond chunks or pieces may be added up to a maximum of 25 percent by weight of the finished product. The size of the almond pieces used to make chunky style almond butter may not exceed 1/16 inch in any dimension.

[48 FR 11250, Mar. 17, 1983]

§ 981.467 Disposition in reserve outlets by handlers.
(a) Agents of Board. Beginning with August 1 of any crop year, a handler may become an agent of the Board pursuant to §981.67 for the purpose of disposing of reserve almonds of such crop year, in the authorized outlets. The agency shall be established upon a handler executing a reserve agreement (ABC Form 12) ABC, applicable to diversion, containing terms and conditions specified by the Board.

(b) Reserve credit. Credit in satisfaction of a reserve obligation shall not exceed the accrued reserve obligation derived by applying the reserve percentage to the quantity of almonds received by a handler for his own account during the crop year. Disposition by an agent of the Board in eligible reserve outlets within a crop year in excess of his reserve obligation shall be held to be a disposition of salable almonds. Whenever such disposition has been inspected and certified, if required, and has complied with the terms, conditions, and documentation applicable to disposition of reserve almonds as determined by the Board, the disposition
§ 981.472 Report of almonds received.

(a) Each handler shall report to the Board on ABC Form 1 the total adjusted kernel weight of almonds, by varieties, received by it for its own account within any of the hereinafter prescribed reporting periods. Each such report shall be received by the Board within five (5) calendar days after the close of the applicable one of the following reporting periods: August 1 to August 31; September 1 to September 30; October 1 to October 31; November 1 to November 30; December 1 to December 31; January 1 to March 31; and April 1 to July 31.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 981.473 Redetermination reports.

Each handler shall furnish for use by the Board in redetermination of the kernel weight of almonds received for his own account and for marketing policy considerations, the information listed and described in this section. Such information shall be reported within the applicable times specified in §981.73 on forms provided by the Board.

(a) Handler carryover. Report the weight of all almonds, whether unshelled or shelled, wherever located, held by the handler for his own account, whether or not sold.

(b) Delivered sales. Report the weight of salable almonds sold and delivered (shipments), showing the weight, and whether unshelled or shelled, including those disposed of pursuant to the requirements for reserve disposition, or used in almond products.

(c) Transfers. A report of almonds transferred to another handler showing the weight of each lot transferred, whether unshelled or shelled.

(d) Remaining inedible obligation. Report the quantity of almonds the handler intends to deliver to Board approved outlets to meet the disposition obligation pursuant to §981.42(a).

§ 981.474 Other reports.

(a) Report of shipments and commitments. Each handler shall report on ABC Form 25-1 all shipments of almonds, inshell, shelled, and products by classification (domestic and export by countries of destination); and on ABC Form 25-2 all commitments (almonds not shipped, but sold or otherwise obligated) whether domestic contract, export contract, or non-contract. If the destination of any export is unknown to the handler, such handler shall have the broker/exporter furnish this information to the Board. In support of this report, the handler shall
keep invoices on the shipments, or such other documentation as may be acceptable to the Board. The reports shall be received by the Board within five calendar days after the close of each month of the crop year.

(b) Reserve reports. In any crop year when reserve almonds are diverted to noncompetitive outlets, such handler shall report such handler’s intentions to divert on ABC Form 13 and the completion of diversion on ABC Form 14. Upon notice to all handlers, the Board may waive the requirements to file ABC Form 13 for diversion of almonds to noncompetitive outlets which are acceptable to the Board.

(c) Handler information reports. Each handler shall file no later than September 1 of each year ABC Form 42, a Handler Information Sheet, listing the handler’s name, address, phone number, ownership or corporate information and acknowledging receipt of marketing order program information.

§ 981.481 Interest and late payment charges.

(a) Pursuant to § 981.481, the Board shall impose an interest charge on any handler whose assessment payment has not been received in the Board’s office, or the envelope containing the payment legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, within 30 days of the invoice date shown on the handler’s statement. The interest charge shall be a rate of one and one half percent per month and shall be applied to the unpaid assessment balance for the number of days any of any part of the unpaid balance is delinquent beyond the 30 day payment period.

(b) In addition to the interest charge specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the Board shall impose a late payment charge on any handler whose payment has not been received in the Board’s office, or the envelope containing the payment legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, within 60 days of the invoice date. The late payment charge shall be 10 percent of the unpaid balance.

[61 FR 64603, Dec. 6, 1996]
§ 982.1 Secretary

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any other officer or employee of the United States Department of Agriculture who is, or who may be, authorized to perform the duties of the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States.

§ 982.2 Act.


§ 982.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 982.4 Hazelnuts.

Hazelnuts means hazelnuts or filberts produced in the States of Oregon and Washington from trees of the genus Corylus.

§ 982.5 Area of production.

Area of production means the States of Oregon and Washington.

§ 982.6 Grower.

Grower is synonymous with producer and means any person engaged, in a proprietary capacity, in the commercial production of hazelnuts.

§ 982.7 To handle.

To handle means to sell, consign, transport or ship (except as a common carrier of hazelnuts owned by another person), or in any other way to put hazelnuts, inshell or shelled, into the channels of trade either within the area of production or from such area to points outside thereof. Provided, That sales or deliveries by growers to handlers within the area of production or
authorized disposition of restricted hazelnuts and substandard hazelnuts shall not be considered as handling.

§ 982.8 Handler.
Handler means any person who handles hazelnuts.

§ 982.11 Pack.
Pack means a specific commercial classification according to size, internal quality, and external appearance and condition of hazelnuts packed in accordance with any of the pack specifications prescribed pursuant to § 982.45.

§ 982.12 Merchantable hazelnuts.
Merchantable hazelnuts means inshell hazelnuts that meet the grade and size regulations in effect pursuant to § 982.45 and are likely to be available for handling as inshell hazelnuts.

§ 982.13 Substandard hazelnuts.
Substandard hazelnuts means hazelnuts, inshell or shelled, that do not meet the minimum standards effective pursuant to § 982.45.

§ 982.14 Restricted hazelnuts.
Restricted hazelnuts means inshell hazelnuts withheld in satisfaction of a restricted obligation.

§ 982.15 Inshell handler carryover.
Inshell handler carryover as of any given date means all inshell hazelnuts (except restricted hazelnuts) wherever located then held by handlers or for their accounts, whether or not sold, including certified merchantable hazelnuts and the estimated merchantable content of those uncertified hazelnuts then held by handlers which are intended for handling as inshell hazelnuts.

§ 982.16 Inshell trade acquisitions.
Inshell trade acquisitions means the quantity of inshell hazelnuts acquired by the trade from all handlers during a marketing year for distribution in the continental United States and such other distribution areas as may be recommended by the Board and established by the Secretary.

§ 982.17 Marketing year.
Marketing year means the 12 months from July 1 to the following June 30, both inclusive; or such other period of time as may be recommended by the Board and established by the Secretary.

§ 982.18 Board.
Board means the Hazelnut Marketing Board established pursuant to § 982.30.

§ 982.19 Disappearance.
Disappearance means the difference between orchard-run production and the available supply of merchantable hazelnuts and merchantable equivalent of shelled hazelnuts.

§ 982.20 Part and subpart.
Part means the order, as amended, regulating the handling of hazelnuts grown in Oregon and Washington, and all rules, regulations, and supplementary orders issued thereunder. This order, as amended, regulating the handling of hazelnuts grown in Oregon and Washington shall be a subpart of such part.

§ 982.30 Establishment and membership.
(a) There is hereby established a Hazelnut Marketing Board consisting of 10 members, each of whom shall have an alternate member, to administer the terms and provisions of this part. Each member and alternate shall meet the same eligibility qualifications. The 10 member positions shall be allocated as follows:
(b) Four of the members shall represent handlers, as follows:
(1) One member shall be nominated by the handler who handled the largest volume of hazelnuts during the two marketing years preceding the marketing year in which nominations are made;
§ 982.31 Grower districts.

(a) For the purpose of nominating grower members and alternate members, the following districts within the production area are hereby established:

(1) District 1—The State of Washington, and Clackamas and Multnomah Counties in Oregon.

(2) District 2—Marion and Polk Counties in Oregon.

(3) District 3—Linn, Lane, and Benton Counties in Oregon.

(4) District 4—Yamhill County in Oregon.

(5) District 5—All other Oregon counties within the production area.

(b) The Secretary, upon the recommendation of the Board, may reestablish districts within the production area and may reapportion grower membership among the various districts. Provided, That in recommending any such changes, the Board shall give consideration to (1) the relative importance of production in each district and the number of growers in each district; (2) the geographic location of districts as they would affect the efficiency of administering this part; and (3) other relevant factors.

[51 FR 29547, Aug. 19, 1986]

§ 982.32 Initial members and nomination of successor members.

(a) Members and alternate members of the Board serving immediately prior to the effective date of this amended subpart shall continue to serve on the Board until their respective successors have been selected.

(b) Nominations for successor handler members and alternate members specified in §982.30(b) (1) through (3) shall be made by the largest, second largest, and third largest handler determined according to the tonnage of certified merchantable hazelnuts and, when shelled hazelnut grade and size regulations are in effect, the inshell equivalent of certified shelled hazelnuts (computed to the nearest whole ton) recorded by the Board as handled by each such handler during the two marketing years preceding the marketing year in which nominations are made.

(c) Nominations for successor handler member and alternate handler member positions specified in §982.30(b)(4) shall be made by the handlers in that category by mail ballot. All votes cast shall be weighted according to the tonnage of certified merchantable hazelnuts and, when shelled hazelnut grade and size regulations are in effect, the inshell equivalent of certified shelled hazelnuts (computed to the nearest whole ton) recorded by the Board as handled by each such handler during the two marketing years preceding the marketing year in which nominations are made. If less than one ton is recorded for any such handler, the vote shall be weighted as one ton. Voting will be by position, and each eligible handler can vote for a member and an alternate member. The person receiving the highest number of weighted votes for each position shall be the nominee for that respective position.

(d) For the purposes of nominating and voting for handler members and alternates, the tonnage of hazelnuts...
shall be credited to the handler responsible under the order for the payment of assessments of those hazelnuts.

(e) Nominees to successor grower member and alternate member positions shall be submitted to the Secretary after the Board conducts ballotting of growers, or officers or employees of growers, in the grower districts according to the following procedure: Names of the candidates to be shown on the ballot for a particular district may be submitted to the Board on petitions signed by not less than 10 growers on record with the Board as growers being in that district; each grower may sign only as many petitions as there are persons to be nominated within that district. If such petitions fail to result in submission of at least two names for a district, the Board shall request County Agricultural Extension Agents in that district to recommend one or more eligible growers to be included on the ballot. Ballots, accompanied by the names of all such candidates, with spaces to indicate voters' choices and spaces for write-in candidates, together with voting instructions, shall be mailed to all growers who are on record with the Board. The person receiving the highest number of votes shall be the member nominee for that district, and the person receiving the second highest number of votes shall be the alternate member. The Board shall recommend one candidate in case of a tie vote.

(f) Nominations received in the foregoing manner by the Board for all handler and grower member and alternate member positions shall be certified and sent to the Secretary at least 60 days prior to the beginning of each two-year term of office, together with all necessary data and other information deemed by the Board to be pertinent or requested by the Secretary. If nominations are not made within the time and manner specified in this subpart, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the Board members and alternates on the basis of the representation provided for in this subpart.

(g) The members of the Board shall nominate the public member and alternate public member at the first meeting following the selection of members for a new term of office.

(h) The Board with the approval of the Secretary shall issue rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this section or to change the procedures in this section in the event they are no longer practical.


§ 982.33 Selection and term of office.

(a) Selection. Members and their respective alternates shall be selected by the Secretary from nominees submitted by the Board or from among other qualified persons.

(b) Term of office. The term of office of Board members and their alternates shall be for two years beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30, but they shall serve until their respective successors are selected and have qualified. Provided, That beginning with the 1996-97 marketing year, no member shall serve more than three consecutive two-year terms as member and no alternate member shall serve more than three consecutive two-year terms as alternate unless specifically exempted by the Secretary. Nomination elections for all Board grower and handler member and alternate positions shall be held every two years.

(c) The members on the Board shall continue to serve until the new members and alternates have been selected and have qualified.


§ 982.34 Qualification.

(a) Any person prior to selection as a member or an alternate member of the Board shall qualify by filing with the Secretary a written acceptance of willingness to serve on the Board.

(b) Each grower member and alternate shall be, at the time of selection and during the term of office, a grower or an officer, employee, or agent of a grower in the district for which nominated.

(c) Each handler member and alternate shall be, at the time of selection and during the term of office, a handler or an officer, employee, or agent of a handler.
(d) Any member or alternate member who at the time of selection was a member (or employed by or an agent of a member) of the group which nominated that person shall, upon ceasing to be such, become disqualified to serve further and that position shall be deemed vacant. In the event any grower member or alternate member of the Board handles hazelnuts produced by other growers or becomes an employee or agent of a handler, that person shall be disqualified to continue to serve on the Board in that capacity.

(e) No person nominated to serve as a public member or alternate member shall have a financial interest in any hazelnut growing or handling operation.

(f) The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may issue rules and regulations covering matters of qualifications for members or alternate members.

§ 982.36 Alternates.

An alternate for a member of the Board shall act in the place of the member during such member’s absence or, upon the member’s death, removal, resignation, or disqualification, until a successor for that member’s term has been selected and has qualified.

§ 982.37 Procedure.

(a) Seven members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at an assembled meeting of the Board, and any action of the Board shall require the concurring vote of at least six members. At any assembled meeting, all votes shall be cast in person.

(b) The Board may vote by mail, telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication: Provided, That any votes (except mail votes) so cast shall be confirmed at the next regularly scheduled meeting. When any proposition is submitted for voting by any such method, its adoption shall require 10 concurring votes.

(c) The members of the Board and their alternates shall serve without compensation, but members and alternates acting as members shall be allowed their necessary expenses: Provided, That the Board may request the attendance of one or more alternates not acting as members at any meeting of the Board, and such alternates may be allowed their necessary expenses.

§ 982.38 Powers.

The Board shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer the provisions of this subpart in accordance with its terms;

(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;

(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of this subpart;

(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 982.39 Duties.

The Board shall have among others the following duties:

(a) To select from among its members such officers and adopt rules or bylaws for the conduct of its meetings as it deems advisable;

(b) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any handler or grower;

(c) To keep minute books and records which will clearly reflect all of its acts and transactions, and such books and records shall be available for examination by the Secretary at any time;

(d) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as he may request;

(e) To appoint such employees as it deems necessary and determine the salaries, define the duties and fix the bonds of such employees.
(f) To cause the books of the Board to be audited by one or more public accountants approved by the Board at least once for each marketing year and at such other times as the Board deems necessary or as the Secretary may request, and to file with the Secretary reports of all audits made;

(g) To investigate the growing, shipping and marketing conditions with respect to hazelnuts, and assemble data in connection therewith;

(h) To give the Secretary the same notice of the meetings of the Board as is given to its members; and

(i) To furnish to the Secretary a report of the proceedings of each meeting of the Board held for the purpose of making marketing policy recommendations.


MARKETING POLICY
§ 982.40 Marketing policy and volume regulation.

(a) General. As provided in this section, prior to September 20 of each marketing year, the Board may hold meetings for the purpose of computing its marketing policy for that year and shall do so for the purpose of submitting any recommendations on its policy to the Secretary. The Board may designate one of its employees to compute and announce the preliminary computed free and restricted percentages.

(b) Inshell trade demand. If the Board determines that volume regulation would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, it shall compute and announce an inshell trade demand for that year prior to September 20. The inshell trade demand shall equal the average of the preceding three years' trade acquisitions of inshell hazelnuts: Provided, That the Board may increase such average by no more than 25 percent if market conditions justify such an increase. If the trade acquisitions during any or all of these years were abnormal because of crop or marketing conditions, the Board may use a prior year or years in determining the three-year average.

(c) Inshell allocation. (1) Preliminary computed percentages. Prior to September 20 of a marketing year, the Board shall compute and announce preliminary computed free and restricted percentages for that year, to release 80 percent of the inshell trade demand for that year. The preliminary computed free percentage shall be computed by multiplying the trade demand, adjusted by the declared carryin, by 80 percent, and by dividing that amount by the Board's estimate of orchard-run production less the average disappearance during the preceding three years, plus the undeclared carryin. The difference between 100 percent and the preliminary free percentage shall be the preliminary computed restricted percentage. At the same time, the Board may announce the portion of the restricted supply that may be shelled or exported, and the remainder of that supply to be disposed of in outlets approved by the Board pursuant to §982.52.

(2) Interim final and final percentages. On or before November 15, the Board shall meet to recommend to the Secretary the interim final and final free and restricted percentages, including the portion of the restricted supply that may be shelled or exported. The interim final percentages shall release 100 percent of the inshell trade demand previously computed by the Board for the marketing year. The final free and restricted percentages may release an additional 15 percent of the average of the preceding three years' trade acquisitions of inshell hazelnuts for desirable carryout. If the trade acquisitions during any or all of these years were abnormal, the Board may use a prior year or years in determining this three-year average. The final free and restricted percentages shall become effective 30 days prior to the end of the marketing year, or earlier as may be recommended by the Board and approved by the Secretary. The recommendations to the Secretary shall include the following:

(i) The estimated tonnage of merchantable hazelnuts expected to be produced during the marketing year.

(ii) The estimated tonnage of inshell hazelnuts held by handlers on the first day of the marketing year which may be available in handling as inshell hazelnuts thereafter.
§ 982.41 Free and restricted percentages.

The free and restricted percentages computed by the Board or established by the Secretary pursuant to §982.40 shall apply to all merchantable hazelnuts handled during the current marketing year. Until the preliminary computed free and restricted percentages are computed by the Board for the current marketing year, the percentages in effect at the end of the previous marketing year shall be applicable.


§ 982.45 Establishment of grade and size regulations.

(a) Minimum standards. No handler shall handle any inshell or shelled hazelnuts unless such inshell hazelnuts meet requirements of Oregon No. 1 grade and medium size (as defined in the Oregon Grade Standards Hazelnuts In Shell), and such shelled hazelnuts meet such requirements as are established by the Secretary on the basis of a recommendation of the Board, except as may be otherwise provided in §982.57. These minimum standards may be modified by the Secretary on the basis of a recommendation of the Board or other information whenever he finds that such modification would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Such minimum standards and the provisions of this part relating to the administration thereof shall continue in effect irrespective of whether the season average price of hazelnuts is above the parity level specified in section 2(1) of the act.

(b) Additional grade and size regulations. When the season average price of hazelnuts is not determined to be above parity, the Secretary may establish additional grade and size regulations for inshell hazelnuts in the form of a more restrictive minimum standard than that specified in paragraph (a) of this section, or pack specifications as to grades and sizes that may be handled, if he finds, on the basis of a recommendation of the Board or other information, that such regulations would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.


§ 982.46 Inspection and certification.

(a) Before or upon handling any hazelnuts, or before any inshell or shelled hazelnuts are credited (under §§982.50 or 982.51) in satisfaction of a restricted obligation, each handler shall, at his own expense, cause such hazelnuts to be inspected and certified by the Federal-State Inspection Service as meeting the then effective grade and size...
§ 982.51 Restricted obligation.

(a) No handler shall handle inshell hazelnuts unless prior to or upon shipment thereof, he: (1) Has withheld from handling a quantity, by weight, of certified merchantable hazelnuts determined by dividing the quantity handled, or to be handled, by the applicable free percentage and multiplying the quotient by the restricted percentage; (2) has withheld from handling an equivalent quantity of creditable ungraded inshell hazelnuts under § 982.51(a); or (3) has under § 982.51(b), declared in lieu of a quantity of certified merchantable hazelnuts, under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, the equivalent quantity, by weight as determined under that section, of shelled hazelnuts certified as meeting the standards in effect for Oregon No. 1 grade for shelled hazelnuts as contained in Oregon Grade Standards for Hazelnut Kernels or such other standards as may be recommended by the Board and established by the Secretary. Any handler who intends to withhold shelled hazelnuts in satisfaction of a restricted obligation must make such declaration to the Board prior to shelling any such hazelnuts. Withholding may be temporarily deferred under the bonding provisions in § 982.54. The quantity of hazelnuts required to be withheld shall be the restricted obligation. Certified merchantable hazelnuts handled in accordance with this subpart shall be deemed to be the handler’s quota fixed by the Secretary within the meaning of section 8a(5) of the Act.

(b) Inshell hazelnuts withheld by a handler in satisfaction of his restricted obligation shall not be handled and shall be held by him subject to examination by and accounting control of, the Board until disposed of pursuant to this part.

(c) A handler having certified merchantable hazelnuts which have not been handled at the end of a marketing year may elect to have those hazelnuts bear the restricted and assessment obligations of that year or of the marketing year in which handled. The Board shall establish such procedures as are necessary to facilitate the administration of this option among handlers.

(d) Whenever the restricted percentage for a marketing year is reduced, each handler’s restricted obligation shall be reduced to conform with the new restricted percentage. Any handler who, upon such reduction, is withholding restricted hazelnuts in excess of his new restricted obligation may have the excess freed from withholding by complying with such procedures as the Board may require to insure identification of the remaining hazelnuts withheld.

[40 FR 53227, Nov. 17, 1975, as amended at 46 FR 26039, May 11, 1981]
§ 982.52 Disposition of restricted hazelnuts.

Hazardnuts withheld from handling as inshell hazelnuts pursuant to §§ 982.50 and 982.51 may be disposed of as follows:

(a) Shelling. Any handler may dispose of such hazelnuts by shelling them under the direction or supervision of the Board or by delivering them to an authorized sheller. Any person who desires to become an authorized sheller in any marketing year may submit written application during such year to the Board. Such application shall be granted only upon condition that the applicant agrees:

(1) To use such restricted hazelnuts as he may receive for no purpose other than shelling;

(2) To dispose of or deliver such restricted hazelnuts, as inshell hazelnuts, to no one other than another authorized sheller;

(3) To comply fully with all laws and regulations applicable to shelling of hazelnuts; and

(4) To make such reports, certified to the Board and to the Secretary as to their correctness, as the Board may require.

(b) Export. Sales of certified merchantable restricted hazelnuts for shipment to destinations outside the continental United States and such other distribution areas as may be recommended by the Board and established by the Secretary shall be made only by the Board. Any handler desiring to export any part or all of that handler’s certified merchantable restricted hazelnuts shall deliver to the Board the certified merchantable restricted hazelnuts to be exported, but the Board shall be obligated to sell in export only such quantities for which it may be able to find satisfactory export outlets. Any hazelnuts so delivered for export which the Board is unable to export shall be returned to the handler delivering them. Sales for export shall be made by the Board only on execution of an agreement to prevent exportation into the area designated in §982.16. A handler may be permitted to act as an agent of the Board, upon such terms and conditions as the Board may specify, in negotiating export sales, and when so acting shall be entitled to receive a selling commission as authorized by the Board. The proceeds of all export sales, after deducting all expenses actually and necessarily incurred, shall be paid to the handler whose certified merchantable restricted hazelnuts are so sold by the Board.
(c) Other outlets. In addition to the dispositions authorized in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, the Board may designate such other outlets into which such hazelnuts may be disposed which it determines are noncompetitive with normal market outlets for inshell hazelnuts. Such dispositions shall be made under the direction or supervision of the Board.

(d) Restricted credits. During any marketing year, handlers who dispose of a quantity of eligible hazelnuts in restricted outlets in excess of their restricted obligations, may transfer such excess credits to another handler or handlers. Upon a handler’s written request to the Board during a marketing year, the Board shall transfer any or all of such excess restricted credits to such other handler or handlers that the handler may designate. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, shall establish rules and regulations for the transfer of excess restricted credits.

§ 982.53 Substandard hazelnuts.

The Board shall, with the approval of the Secretary, establish such reporting and disposition procedures as it deems necessary to insure that hazelnuts which do not meet the effective inshell or shelled hazelnut minimum standards do not enter normal market outlets for certified hazelnuts.

§ 982.54 Deferment of restricted obligation.

(a) Bonding. Compliance by any handler with the requirements of § 982.50 when restricted hazelnuts may be withheld shall be temporarily deferred to any date requested by the handler, but not later than 60 days prior to the end of the marketing year. Such deferment shall be conditioned upon the voluntary execution and delivery by the handler to the Board of a written undertaking before beginning to handle merchantable hazelnuts during the marketing year. Such written undertaking shall be secured by a bond or bonds with a surety or sureties acceptable to the Board that on or prior to such date the handler will have fully satisfied the restricted obligation required by § 982.50, subject to any adjustment pursuant to § 982.51.

(b) Bonding requirement. Such bond or bonds shall, at all times during their effective period, be in such amounts that the aggregate thereof shall be no less than the total bonding value of the handler’s deferred restricted obligation. The bonding value shall be the deferred restricted obligation poundage multiplied by the applicable bonding rate. The cost of such bond or bonds shall be borne by the handler filing same.

(c) Bonding rate. Said bonding rate shall be an amount per pound as established by the Board. Such bonding rate shall be based on the estimated value of restricted credits for the current marketing year. Until bonding rates for a marketing year are fixed, the rates in effect for the preceding marketing year shall continue in effect. The Board should make any necessary adjustments once such new rates are fixed.

(d) Restricted credit purchases. Any sums collected through default of a handler on the handler’s bond shall be used by the Board to purchase restricted credits from handlers, who have such restricted credits in excess of their needs, and are willing to part with them. The Board shall at all times purchase the lowest priced restricted credits offered, and the purchases shall be made from the various handlers as nearly as practicable in proportion to the quantity of their respective offerings of the restricted credits to be purchased.

(e) Unexpended sums. Any unexpended sums which have been collected by the Board through default of a handler on the handler’s bond, remaining in the possession of the Board at the end of a marketing year, shall be used to reimburse the Board for its expenses, including administrative and other costs incurred in the collection of such sums, and in the purchase of restricted credits as provided in paragraph (d) of this section.

(f) Transfer of restricted credit purchases. Restricted credits purchased as provided for in this section shall be turned over to those handlers who have defaulted on their bonds for liquidation.
§ 982.55 Exchange of certified merchantable hazelnuts withheld.

Any handler who has withheld from handling certified merchantable hazelnuts pursuant to the requirements of §982.50 may exchange therefor an equal quantity, by weight, of other certified merchantable hazelnuts. Any such exchange shall be made under the direction or supervision of the Board.

§ 982.56 Interhandler transfers.

Within the area of production, interhandler transfers of hazelnuts may be made as follows:

(a) Uncertified inshell hazelnuts may be sold or delivered by one handler to another for packing or shelling, and the receiving handler shall be responsible for compliance with the regulations effective pursuant to this part with respect to such hazelnuts.

(b) Restricted hazelnuts withheld by a handler may be sold or delivered to another handler for shelling, export, or other authorized outlet subject to the disposition requirements set forth in §982.52.

(c) Certified hazelnuts other than restricted hazelnuts may be sold or delivered by one handler to another and the transferring handler shall be responsible for compliance with the requirements effective pursuant to this part, unless specified and agreed upon in writing by both handlers that the receiving handler shall be responsible for such compliance and a copy of such agreement is furnished to the Board.

(d) The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, shall establish procedures, including necessary reports, for such transfers.

§ 982.57 Exemptions.

(a) General. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish such rules, regulations, and safeguards that exempt from any or all requirements pursuant to this part such quantities of hazelnuts or types of shipments as do not interfere with the volume and quality control objectives of this part, and shall require such reports, certifications, or other conditions as are necessary to ensure that such hazelnuts are handled or used only as authorized.

(b) Sales by growers direct to consumers. Any hazelnut grower may sell hazelnuts of such grower’s own production free of the regulatory and assessment provisions of this part if such grower sells such hazelnuts in the area of production directly to end users at such grower’s ranch or orchard or at roadside stands and farmers’ markets. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish such rules, regulations, and safeguards and require such reports, certifications, and other conditions, as are necessary to ensure that such hazelnuts are disposed of only as authorized. Mail order sales are not exempt sales under this part.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT

§ 982.58 Research, promotion, and market development.

(a) General. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of projects involving production research, marketing research and development, and marketing promotion, including paid advertising, designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, consumption, or efficient production of hazelnuts. The Board may also provide for crediting the pro rata expense assessment obligations of a handler with such portion of such handler’s direct expenditures for such marketing promotion including paid advertising as may be authorized. The expenses of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to §982.61, §982.63, or credited pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section.
(b) Creditable expenditures. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may provide for crediting all or any portion of a handler’s direct expenditures for marketing promotion including paid advertising, that promotes the sale of hazelnuts, hazelnut products, or their uses. No handler shall receive credit for any allowable direct expenditures that would exceed the total of the handler’s assessment obligation which is attributable to that portion of the handler’s assessment designated for marketing promotion including paid advertising.

(c) Rules and regulations. Before any projects involving marketing promotion, including paid advertising and the crediting of the pro rata expense assessment obligation of handlers is undertaken pursuant to this section, the Secretary, after recommendation by the Board, shall prescribe appropriate rules and regulations as are necessary to effectively administer such projects.


EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 982.60 Expenses.

The Board is authorized to incur such expenses including maintenance of an operating reserve fund as the Secretary may find are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it during each marketing year, for the maintenance and functioning of the Board and for such purposes as the Secretary may, pursuant to the provisions of this subpart, determine to be appropriate. The recommendation of the Board as to the expenses and size of the operating reserve for each such marketing year, together with all data supporting such recommendations, shall be submitted to the Secretary at the beginning of the fiscal year in connection with which such recommendation is made. The funds to cover such expenses shall be acquired by levying assessments as provided in § 982.61.

§ 982.61 Assessments.

(a) For each marketing year, the Secretary shall fix an assessment rate per pound of hazelnuts handled and withheld, including the creditable weight of ungraded restricted hazelnuts withheld pursuant to §982.51 and, when subject to regulation pursuant to §982.45, the inshell equivalent of shelled hazelnuts certified which are produced from other than restricted hazelnuts that will provide sufficient funds to meet the authorized expenses and reserve requirements of the Board. At any time during or after a marketing year when he determines, on the basis of a Board recommendation or other information, that a different rate is necessary, the Secretary may modify the assessment rate and the new rate shall be applicable to all such hazelnuts. Each handler shall pay to the Board on demand, assessments on all such assessable hazelnuts at the rate fixed by the Secretary, less any amounts credited pursuant to §982.58. The Board shall impose a late payment charge on any handler who fails to pay his assessment within the time prescribed by the Board. In the event the handler thereafter fails to pay the amount outstanding, including the late payment charge, within the prescribed time, the Board shall impose an additional charge in the form of interest on such outstanding amount. The rate of such charges shall be prescribed by the Board, with the approval of the Secretary.

(b) In order to provide funds for the administration of the provisions of this part during the first part of a fiscal period before sufficient operating income is available from assessments on the current year’s shipments, the Board may accept the payment of assessments in advance, and may also borrow money for such purpose. Further, payment discounts may be authorized by the Board upon the approval of the Secretary to handlers making such advance assessment payments.


§ 982.62 Accounting.

(a) Operating reserve. The Board with the approval of the Secretary may establish and maintain an operating monetary reserve in an amount not to exceed approximately one marketing year’s operational expenses or such
§ 982.63 Contributions.

The Board may accept voluntary contributions but these shall only be used to pay expenses incurred pursuant to §982.58. Furthermore, such contributions shall be free from any encumbrances by the donor and the Board shall retain complete control of their use.

[61 FR 29550, Aug. 19, 1996]

RECORDS AND REPORTS

§ 982.64 Creditable promotion and advertising reports.

Each handler shall file such reports of creditable promotion including paid advertising conducted pursuant to §982.58 as recommended by the Board and approved by the Secretary.

[51 FR 29550, Aug. 19, 1996]

§ 982.65 Carryover reports.

As of January 1, May 1, and August 1, or such other dates as the Board may recommend and the Secretary approve, each handler shall report within 10 days to the Board the handler’s inventory of inshell and shelled hazelnuts. Such reports shall be certified to the Board and the Secretary as to their accuracy and completeness and shall show, among other items, the following: (a) Certified merchantable hazelnuts on which the restricted obligation has been met; (b) merchantable hazelnuts on which the restricted obligation has not been met; (c) the merchantable equivalent of any hazelnuts intended for handling as inshell hazelnuts; and (d) restricted hazelnuts withheld.

[46 FR 26040, May 11, 1981]

§ 982.66 Shipment reports.

Each handler shall report to the Board the respective quantities of inshell and shelled hazelnuts handled by him during such periods and in such manner as are prescribed by the Board with the approval of the Secretary.

§ 982.67 Reports of disposition of restricted hazelnuts.

(a) Each handler, before he disposes of any quantity of restricted hazelnuts held by him, shall file with the Board a report of his intention to dispose of such quantity of restricted hazelnuts. This report shall be filed not less than five days prior to the date on which the restricted hazelnuts are disposed of, unless the five-day period is expressly waived by the Board.

(b) Each handler, within 15 days after the disposition of any quantity of restricted hazelnuts, shall file with the Board a report of the actual disposition of such quantity of restricted hazelnuts. Such reports shall be certified to the Board and to the Secretary as to their correctness and accuracy.

(c) All reports required by this section shall show the quantity, pack, and location of the hazelnuts covered by such reports; the applicable handler’s storage lot and inspection certificate numbers; and the disposition of the restricted hazelnuts which is intended or which has been accomplished.

§ 982.68 Other reports.

Each handler shall furnish to the Board such other reports as the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may require to enable it to exercise its powers and to perform its duties.
§ 982.69 Verification of reports.

For the purpose of checking and verifying reports submitted by handlers, the Secretary and the Board, through its duly authorized agents, shall have access to each handler's premises at any time during reasonable business hours and shall be permitted to inspect any hazelnuts held by such handler and all records of the handler with respect to hazelnuts held or disposed of by such handler and all records of the handler with respect to promotion and advertising activities conducted pursuant to §982.58. Each handler shall furnish all labor necessary to facilitate such inspections as the Secretary or the Board may make of such handler's holdings of any hazelnuts. Each handler shall store hazelnuts in such manner as to facilitate inspection, and shall maintain adequate storage records which will permit accurate identification of all such hazelnuts held.


§ 982.70 Confidential information.

All reports and records furnished or submitted by handlers to the Board, which include data or information constituting a trade secret or disclosing of the trade position, financial condition, or business operations of the particular handler from whom received, shall be kept in the custody and under the control of one or more employees of the Board, and shall be disclosed to no person except the Secretary.

[40 FR 53228, Nov. 17, 1975, as amended at 51 FR 29550, Aug. 19, 1986]

§ 982.71 Records.

Each handler shall maintain such records of hazelnuts received, held, and disposed of by the handler, an such records detailing such handler's promotion and advertising activities, as may be prescribed by the Board in order to perform its function under this part. Such records shall be retained and be available for examination by authorized representatives of the Board or the Secretary for a period of two years after the end of the marketing year in which the transactions occurred.

[40 FR 53228, Nov. 17, 1975, as amended at 51 FR 29550, Aug. 19, 1986]

§ 982.80 Right of the Secretary.

The members of the Board (including successors, alternates, or other persons selected by the Secretary), and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the Board, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary, in his discretion, at any time. Each and every order, regulation, decision, determination, or other act of the Board shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time, and, upon such disapproval, shall be deemed null and void except as to acts done in reliance thereon or in compliance therewith.

§ 982.81 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the Board, or any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or any other person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate member, agent or employee, except for acts of dishonesty.

§ 982.82 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 982.83 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 982.84 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except
§ 982.85 Agents.

The Secretary may, by a designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this subpart.

§ 982.86 Effective time, termination or suspension.

(a) Effective time. The provisions of this subpart, as well as any amendments to this subpart, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare, and shall continue in force until terminated or suspended in one of the ways specified in this section.

(b) Suspension or termination. (1) The Secretary may, at any time, terminate the provisions of this subpart by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine.

(2) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this subpart whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(3) Referendum. The Board shall recommend to the Secretary during the first half of every 10-year period starting January 1, 1990, that a referendum be conducted to ascertain whether continuation of this subpart is favored by the producers.

(4) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any marketing year whenever the Secretary finds that such termination is favored by a majority of the producers of hazelnuts who during the preceding marketing year have been engaged in the production for marketing of hazelnuts in the States of Oregon and Washington; Provided, That such majority have during such period produced for market more than 50 percent of the volume of such hazelnuts produced for market within said States; but such termination shall be effected only if announced 30 days or more before the end of the then current marketing year.

(5) The provisions of this subpart shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

(c) Proceedings after termination. (1) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart, the members of the Board then functioning shall continue as joint trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the Board, of all funds and property then in the possession or under the control of the Board, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trusteeship shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.

(2) Said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the Board and the joint trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall, upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the Board or the joint trustees pursuant to this subpart.

(3) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered by the Board or its members, pursuant to this section shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the said Board and upon said joint trustees.

§ 982.87 Effect of termination or amendment.

(a) Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (1) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart, or (2) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulation issued under this subpart, or
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§ 982.101 Grade requirements for shelled hazelnuts.

(a) Pursuant to § 982.45(a), no handler shall handle any shelled hazelnuts unless such hazelnuts meet the grade requirements for shelled hazelnuts as contained in exhibit A of this section.

(b) Pursuant to §§ 982.50(a) and 982.51(b), a handler may declare and withhold shelled hazelnuts in lieu of merchantable hazelnuts in satisfaction of the handler’s restricted obligation. Shelled hazelnuts so declared and withheld shall, in lieu of the standards prescribed in § 982.50(a)(3), meet the grade requirements contained in exhibit A of this section.

EXHIBIT A

Grade Requirements for Shelled Hazelnuts

Hazelnut kernels or portions of hazelnut kernels shall meet the following requirements:

1. Well dried and clean;
2. Free from foreign material, mold, rancidity, decay or insect injury; and
3. Free from serious damage caused by serious shriveling, or other means.

Tolerances

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling the following tolerances, by weight, are permitted as specified:

1. For Foreign Material: 0.02 of one percent, for foreign material.

2. For Defects: Five percent for kernels or portions of kernels which are below the requirements of this grade, including not more than the following: Two percent for mold, rancidity, decay or insect injury. Provided, That not more than one percent shall be for mold, rancidity, or insect injury.

Definitions

1. Well dried means that the kernels are firm and crisp, not containing more than 6 percent moisture.
2. Clean means practically free from plainly visible adhering dirt or other foreign material.
3. Foreign material means any substance other than the hazelnut kernels, or portions of kernels. (Loose skins, pellicles or cory tissue which have become separated from the kernels shall not be considered as foreign material, provided that this material does not exceed .02 of one percent by weight.)
4. Serious damage means any specific defect described in this section, or any equally objectionable variation of any one of these defects, or any other defects, or any combination of defects, which seriously detracts from the appearance or the edible or marketing quality of the individual portion of the kernel or of the lot as a whole. The following defects shall be considered as serious damage.
   i. Serious shriveling means when the kernel is seriously shrunken, wrinkled and tough.
   ii. Mold means that there is a visible growth of mold either on the outside or inside of the kernel.
   iii. Rancidity means that the kernel is noticeably rancid to the taste. An oily appearance of the flesh does not necessarily indicate a rancid condition.
   iv. Decay means that any portion of the kernel is decomposed.
   v. Insect injury means that the insect, frass or web is present, or the kernel or portion of kernel show definite evidence of insect feeding.


EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .399) and “Marketing percentage” regulations (e.g., sections .200 through .299) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.
§ 982.340 Assessment rates.

On and after July 1, 1997, an assessment rate of $0.004 per pound of assessable hazelnuts is established for Oregon and Washington hazelnuts.


§ 982.432 [Reserved]

§ 982.446 Inspection documentation.

Pursuant to §982.46(b), handlers are required to use the following identification on bags and cartons of 25 pounds or larger capacity which contain certified hazelnuts:

(a) The words “This Produce Inspected and Certified Per Federal Marketing Order No. 982” shall be contained within an outline of the combined States of Oregon and Washington; and

(b) This identification shall be printed on the upper right quarter of the printed side of a bag; or

(c) This identification shall be printed on the upper right quarter of one of the side panels of a carton.

[54 FR 46720, Nov. 7, 1989]

§ 982.450 Application of restricted obligation.

(a) Each handler required to withhold restricted hazelnuts pursuant to §982.50 or §982.51 shall hold such hazelnuts separate from all other hazelnuts and shall maintain the identity of each lot so withheld. The restricted product withheld must be reported to the Board on F/H Form 1d, Restricted Inshell Certified.

(b) Each handler making the election pursuant to §982.50(c) in connection with certified merchantable hazelnuts which have not been handled, shall thereupon give written notification to the Board on F/H Form 4 of the particular election and of the weight and identity of the hazelnuts involved.

(c) Pursuant to §982.50(d), a handler may withdraw from withholding restricted hazelnuts in excess of such handler’s restricted obligation upon advising the Board of the weight and lot identity of the hazelnuts to be withdrawn. When the quantity of restricted hazelnuts to be withdrawn from withholding consists of a part of a lot of ungraded hazelnuts, no part of such lot shall be withdrawn unless the remainder of such lot is reinspected and meets the requirements of §982.51. Handlers will use F/H Form 1d prior to the end of the marketing year or F/H Form 7 after the end of the marketing year, when reporting the withdrawal of restricted hazelnuts from withholding status.

[54 FR 46720, Nov. 7, 1989]

§ 982.452 Disposition of restricted hazelnuts.

(a) Shelling. (1) Any person desiring to shell restricted hazelnuts during a fiscal year may do so upon being designated by the Board as an authorized sheller for such year. Application for such designation shall be made in duplicate on F/H Form B and include, in addition to the conditions specified in §982.52(a), the following: (i) The location of the applicant’s shelling operation; (ii) the number of years such person has operated a hazelnut shelling plant; and (iii) the daily (8-hour) shelling capacity of the plant. Designation of an authorized sheller shall be effected by the board manager signing the application form and returning a signed copy of the form to the applicant. Each such designation shall continue in effect during the particular fiscal year so long as the authorized sheller is in compliance with the requirements and conditions pursuant to §982.52 applicable to authorized shellers.

(2) When an authorized sheller completes the shelling of a lot of restricted hazelnuts, the sheller shall submit a report thereon to the Board on F/H Form 7 showing: (i) The date shelling was completed; (ii) the inspection certificate or lot number; (iii) the quantity shelled; (iv) the weight of the kernels produced; and (v) the location where restricted hazelnuts were held immediately prior to shelling.
(b) Exports. Any handler who desires to act as agent of the Board in negotiating export sales of certified merchantable restricted hazelnuts may do so upon the execution of an “Export Agreement”, F/H Form A, wherein the handler agrees, among other things, to negotiate such export sales at not less than such price as the Board may prescribe, and in conformity to and compliance with the other terms and conditions of the Export Agreement including those set forth in §982.52(b).

(c) Other authorized outlets. Under the direction or supervision of the Board, a handler may dispose of restricted hazelnuts for charitable purposes and for promoting the consumption of hazelnuts on behalf of the hazelnut industry in general. The report required under §982.67(b) following each such disposition shall be accompanied by a certification by the person receiving such hazelnuts from the handler that they will be used for charitable or promotional purposes, as authorized.


§ 982.453 Disposition of substandard hazelnuts.

The Board shall maintain a list of approved users who are crushers, livestock feed manufacturers, or livestock feeders, and of the locations of the facilities to which substandard hazelnuts may be shipped. Users interested in purchasing substandard hazelnuts or hazelnut waste must make prior application to the Board on F/H Form D to be included on the approved list of such users. Each handler who disposes of substandard hazelnuts to an approved user shall, upon shipment, report to the Board on F/H Form D1 the quantities disposed of or shipped. Substandard hazelnuts disposed of to an approved user may only be shipped directly to an approved location where the crushing, feed manufacture, or feeding is to take place. The Board may deny approval to any user application, or may remove any user from the approved list when such denial or removal is deemed necessary to ensure control over disposition of substandard hazelnuts. This may occur if the Board determines that substandard hazelnuts are not properly shipped to, or utilized at, approved facilities, in compliance with this requirement. F/H Form D includes the location and description of the disposal facilities to be used as well as a certification to the Board and the Secretary of Agriculture that the applicant will:

(a) Crush, manufacture feed, or feed to livestock such hazelnuts at the location;

(b) Use such hazelnuts for no other purpose than for crushing into oil, manufacturing into livestock feed, or livestock feeding;

(c) Permit such inspection of premises and of hazelnuts received and held, and such examination of books and records covering hazelnut transactions as the Board may require;

(d) Keep a record of receipts, holdings, and use of substandard hazelnuts available for examination by authorized representatives of the Board and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a period of two years after the end of the marketing year in which the recorded transactions are completed; and

(e) Make such reports, certified to the Board and the Secretary of Agriculture as to their correctness, as the Board with the approval of the Secretary may require.

[54 FR 24328, June 7, 1989]
§ 982.456 Interhandler transfers.

Each interhandler transfer of hazelnuts pursuant to § 982.56 (a) and (c) may be made upon notification to the Board in triplicate by the receiving handler on F/H Form 2 signed by both the transferring handler and the receiving handler which shall include the following information: (a) Date of transfer; (b) names of the transferring and receiving handlers; (c) locations between which the hazelnuts were transferred; (d) whether uncertified inshell or certified merchantable; (e) net weight of the hazelnuts transferred, by size and variety; (f) the inspection certificate, or lot number covering the hazelnuts; and (g) if certified merchantable, the name of the handler responsible for compliance with the applicable requirements pursuant to this part relating to such hazelnuts.

[54 FR 46721, Nov. 7, 1989]

§ 982.457 [Reserved]

§ 982.460 Transfer of excess restricted credits.

(a) Notification. Each handler having excess restricted credits who wants to transfer all or a portion thereof to another handler or handlers, may notify the Board accordingly. The Board shall make available to all handlers such information on a weekly basis.

(b) Application. Each handler who has excess restricted credits and desires to transfer them to another handler, may submit such request to the Board on F/H Form 3. This form shall include: (1) The name and signature of the handler requesting the transfer; (2) the name and signature of the designated handler to whom the transfer is to be made; (3) the amount of excess restricted credits to be transferred; and (4) such other information as may be needed by the Board to enable the Board to effect the requested transfer of the excess restricted credits.

(c) Transfer. The Board shall transfer the requested amount of the excess restricted credits from one handler to a designated handler upon receipt of a completed F/H Form 3 together with such information as may be required by this section.

[37 FR 3630, Feb. 18, 1972, as amended at 54 FR 46721, Nov. 7, 1989]

§ 982.461 Late payment and interest charges.

The Board shall impose a late payment charge on any handler failing to pay his assessment within 30 days of the billing date shown on the handler's assessment statement received from the Board. Such amount shall be shown on the statement as the “Assessment Due”. The late payment charge shall be 5 percent of the unpaid balance of that amount. In the event the handler fails to pay the delinquent amount, including the late payment charge, within 60 days following the billing date, an additional 1 percent interest charge shall be applied monthly thereafter to the unpaid balance, including any accumulated interest. Any amount paid by a handler as assessments, including any charges imposed pursuant to this paragraph, shall be credited when the payment is received in the Board's office.

[38 FR 5151, Feb. 26, 1973]

§ 982.466 Reports of inshell hazelnuts handled, shelled and withheld.

Each handler shall report to the Board monthly on F/H Form 1 and F/H Forms 1a through 1e, as applicable, the quantities of inshell hazelnuts handled or withheld for restricted use and all product shelled and certified since the last report. All reports shall be submitted to include transactions through the end of each month, or other reporting periods established by the Board, and are due in the Board office on the tenth day following the end of the reporting period. The quantities of inshell hazelnuts handled shall be reported by size. The respective quantities of merchantable or ungraded hazelnuts withheld as restricted product shall be reported separately, and with respect to hazelnuts certified for shelling, or certified kernels withheld, the kernel weight
and inshell equivalent weight shall be reported separately by size.

[54 FR 46721, Nov. 7, 1989]

§ 982.468 Report of hazelnut receipts, disposition, and inventory.

On or before January 15 and July 15, or any other date requested by the Board with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall:

(a) Report to the Board on F/H Form 6 such handler's receipts and disposition of inshell hazelnuts and production of hazelnut kernels during the respective preceding six-month period of July 1 to December 31, and the preceding 12-month period of July 1 to June 30; and

(b) Report to the Board on F/H Form 5 such handler's inventory of hazelnuts as of January 1 and July 1, respectively, showing the quantities of inshell hazelnuts separately in terms of certified merchantable, graded uncertified merchantable, restricted, and ungraded. The certified merchantable hazelnuts shall be reported on the basis of whether located within or outside the production area and whether or not the restricted obligation has been met.

[54 FR 46721, Nov. 7, 1989]

§ 982.471 Records.

Each handler shall maintain complete and accurate records showing the receipt, shipment and sale of all hazelnuts handled, used or otherwise disposed of and shall retain such records for the two-year period prescribed in §982.71. Handlers shall also maintain a current record of all hazelnuts held in inventory.

[54 FR 46721, Nov. 7, 1989]
§ 984.1 Certification of reports.
984.78 Certification of reports.
984.79 Confidential information.
984.80 Books and other records.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
984.83 Rights of the Secretary.
984.84 Personal liability.
984.85 Separability.
984.86 Derogation.
984.87 Duration of immunities.
984.88 Agents.
984.89 Effective time and termination.
984.90 Effect of termination or amendment.

Subpart—Assessment Rates
984.347 Assessment rate.

Subpart—Administrative Rules and Regulations
984.437 Method for proposing names of additional candidates to be included on walnut grower's nomination ballots.
984.445 Procedures for voting by mail or telegram.
984.450 Grade and size regulations.
984.451 Inspection and certification of inshell and shelled walnuts.
984.452 Certification of shelled walnuts for processing.
984.456 Disposition of reserve walnuts and walnuts used for reserve disposition credit.
984.464 Disposition of substandard walnuts.


Subpart—Order Regulating Handling
984.471 Reports of handler carryover.
984.472 Reports of merchantable walnuts shipped.
984.473 Report of walnut receipts.
984.480 Books and other records.

SOURCE: 27 FR 9094, Sept. 13, 1962, unless otherwise noted.

DEFINITIONS
§ 984.1 Secretary.
Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any other officer or employee of the United States Department of Agriculture who is, or who may be, authorized to perform the duties of the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States.

§ 984.2 Act.
Act means Public Act No. 10, 73d Congress, as amended and as reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

§ 984.3 Person.
Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 984.4 Area of production.
Area of production means the State of California.

§ 984.5 Grower.
Grower is synonymous with producer and means any person engaged in a proprietary capacity in the commercial production of walnuts.

§ 984.6 Board.
Board means the Walnut Marketing Board established pursuant to §934.35.

§ 984.7 Marketing year.
Marketing year means the twelve months from August 1 to the following July 31, both inclusive.

§ 984.8 Walnuts.
Walnuts means only walnuts of the “English” (Juglans regia) varieties grown in California.

§ 984.9 Inshell walnuts.
Inshell walnuts means walnuts the kernels of which are contained in the shell.

§ 984.10 Shelled walnuts.
Shelled walnuts means walnut kernels after the shells are removed.

§ 984.11 Merchantable walnuts.
(a) Inshell. Merchantable inshell walnuts means all inshell walnuts meeting the minimum grade and size regulations effective pursuant to §984.50.
(b) Shelled. Merchantable shelled walnuts means all shelled walnuts meeting
the minimum grade and size regulations effective pursuant to §984.50.

§ 984.12 Substandard walnuts.

Substandard walnuts means all walnuts (whether inshell or shelled) the kernels of which do not meet the minimum standard prescribed for merchantable shelled walnuts.

§ 984.13 To handle.

To handle means to sell, consign, transport, or ship (except as a common or contract carrier of walnuts owned by another person), or in any other way to put walnuts, inshell or shelled, in the current of commerce either within the area of production or from such area to any point outside thereof, or for a manufacturer or retailer within the area of production to purchase directly from a grower: Except, that the term “to handle” shall not include sales and deliveries within the area of production by growers to handlers.

§ 984.14 Handler.

Handler means any person who handles inshell or shelled walnuts, categorized as either:
(a) Cooperative handler meaning any handler who is a cooperative marketing association of growers; or
(b) Independent handler meaning any handler who is not a cooperative marketing association of growers.
[39 FR 35328, Oct. 1, 1974]

§ 984.15 Pack.

Pack means to bleach, clean, grade, or otherwise prepare walnuts for market as inshell walnuts.
[39 FR 35328, Oct. 1, 1974]

§ 984.19 Manufacturer.

Manufacturer means any person who uses walnuts in the production of bakery goods, ice cream, candy, or other food products, except walnut oil.

§ 984.20 Kernelweight.

Kernelweight means the determined weight of the kernels in a quantity of walnuts regardless of their quality.
[39 FR 35328, Oct. 1, 1974]

§ 984.21 Handler carryover.

Handler carryover as of any date means all the merchantable walnuts (except those held in satisfaction of a reserve obligation) wherever located, then held by a handler or for his account (whether or not sold), plus (a) the estimated quantity of merchantable inshell walnuts in lots then held by that handler for packing as merchantable inshell walnuts, and (b) the estimated quantity of merchantable shelled walnuts to be produced from shelling stock and unsorted material then held by that handler.

§ 984.22 Trade demand.

(a) Inshell. The quantity of merchantable inshell walnuts which the trade will acquire from all handlers during a marketing year for distribution in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Canal Zone.
(b) Shelled. The quantity of merchantable shelled walnuts which the trade will acquire from all handlers during a marketing year for distribution in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Canal Zone.

§ 984.23 Free walnuts.

Free walnuts means walnuts which are included in the free percentage established by the Secretary pursuant to §984.49.
[39 FR 35328, Oct. 1, 1974]

§ 984.26 Reserve walnuts.

Reserve walnuts means those walnuts which are held to meet a reserve obligation.
[41 FR 31542, July 29, 1976]
§ 984.31 Part and subpart.

Part means the order regulating the handling of walnuts grown in California, and all rules, regulations, and supplementary orders issued thereunder. This order regulating the handling of walnuts grown in California shall be a subpart of such part.

[41 FR 31542, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.32 To certify.

To certify means the issuance of a certification of inspection of walnuts by the inspection service.

[41 FR 31542, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.33 Hold.

Hold means to maintain possession or keep control of, in proper storage at all times, the kernelweight of certified merchantable walnuts necessary to meet a reserve obligation.

[41 FR 31542, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.35 Walnut Marketing Board.

(a) A Walnut Marketing Board is hereby established consisting of 10 members selected by the Secretary, each of whom shall have an alternate nominated and selected in the same way and with the same qualifications as the member. The members and their alternates shall be selected by the Secretary from nominees submitted by each of the following groups or from other eligible persons belonging to such groups:

(1) Two members to represent cooperative handlers;

(2) Two members to represent independent handlers;

(3) Two members to represent growers who market their walnuts through cooperative handlers;

(4) One member to represent growers who market their walnuts through cooperative handlers or independent handlers, whichever category of such handlers had certified as merchantable more than 50 percent of the kernelweight of all walnuts certified as merchantable by all handlers during the two marketing years preceding the year in which nominations were made—the member representing growers who market their walnuts through independent handlers shall be nominated at large in the State of California;

(5) One member to represent growers from District 1 who market their walnuts through independent handlers; and

(6) One member to represent growers from District 2 who market their walnuts through independent handlers.

(b) The tenth member and alternate shall be selected after the selection of the nine members from the groups specified in paragraph (a) of this section and after the opportunity for such members to nominate the tenth member and alternate. The tenth member and his alternate shall be neither a walnut grower nor a handler.

(c) Grower Districts:

(1) District 1. District 1 encompasses the counties in the State of California that lie north of a line drawn on the south boundaries of San Mateo, Alameda, San Joaquin, Calaveras, and Alpine Counties.

(2) District 2. District 2 shall consist of all other walnut producing counties in the State of California south of the boundary line set forth in paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(3) The Secretary on the basis of a recommendation of the Board or other information may establish different districts within the area of production.

[41 FR 31542, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.36 Term of office.

The term of office of Board members, and their alternates shall be for a period of two years ending on June 30 of odd-numbered years, but they shall serve until their respective successors are selected and have qualified.


§ 984.37 Nominations.

(a) Nominations on behalf of growers who market their walnuts through cooperative handlers in California shall be submitted on a ballot cast by each such handler for its growers. The vote of each such handler shall be weighted by the kernelweight of the walnuts certified as merchantable during the preceding marketing year for each such grower.
handler. The person receiving the highest number of votes for the cooperative grower position shall be the nominee.

(b) Nominations on behalf of independent growers in Group 4, whenever such group represents independent growers and Groups 5 and 6, shall be submitted after ballot by such growers pursuant to an announcement by press releases of the Board to the news media in the walnut producing areas. Such releases shall provide pertinent voting information, including the names of candidates and the location where ballots may be obtained. Ballots shall be accompanied by full instructions as to their markings and mailing and shall include the names of incumbents who are willing to continue serving on the Board and such other candidates as may be proposed pursuant to methods established by the Board with the approval of the Secretary. Each grower in Group 4, whenever such group represents independent growers, and Groups 5 and 6, regardless of the number and location of his walnut orchard(s) shall be entitled to cast only one ballot in the nomination and each vote shall be given equal weight. If the independent grower has orchard(s) in both grower districts he shall advise the Board of the district in which he desires to vote. The person receiving the highest number of votes for an independent grower position shall be the nominee.

(c) Nominations for all handler members shall be submitted on ballots mailed by the Board to all handlers in their respective groups. All handlers' votes shall be weighted by the kernel weight of walnuts certified as merchantable by each handler during the preceding marketing year. Each independent handler in California may vote for the independent handler member nominees and their alternates. However, no independent handler shall have more than one person on the Board either as member or alternate member. The person receiving the highest number of votes for an independent and cooperative handler member position shall be the nominee for that position.

(d) The nine members shall nominate one person as member and one person as alternate for the tenth member position. The tenth member and alternate shall be nominated by not less than 6 votes cast by the nine members of the Board.

(e) Nominations in the foregoing manner received by the Board shall be reported to the Secretary on or before June 15 of each odd-numbered year, together with a certified summary of the results of the nominations. If the Board fails to report nominations to the Secretary in the manner herein specified by June 15 of each odd-numbered year, the Secretary may select the members without nomination. If nominations for the tenth member are not submitted by August 1 of any such year, the Secretary may select such member without nomination.

(f) The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may change these nomination procedures should the Board determine that a revision is necessary.

§ 984.38 Eligibility.

No person shall be selected or continue to serve as a member or alternate to represent one of the groups specified in §984.35(a)(1) through (6), unless he is engaged in the business he is to represent, or represents, either in his own behalf or as an officer or employee of the business unit engaged in such business. Also, each member or alternate member representing growers in District 1 or District 2 shall be a grower, or officer or employee of the group he is to represent.

§ 984.39 Qualify by acceptance.

Each person selected by the Secretary as a member or alternate of the Board shall, prior to serving, qualify by filing with the Secretary a written acceptance as soon as practicable after being notified of such selection.

§ 984.40 Alternate.

(a) An alternate for a member of the Board shall act in the place and stead of such member in his absence or in the
§ 984.41 Vacancy.

Any vacancy occasioned by the removal, resignation, disqualification, or death of any member or alternate, or any need to select a successor through failure of any person selected as a member or alternate to qualify, shall be recognized by the Board causing a nomination to be made by the appropriate group and certifying to the Secretary a new nominee within 60 calendar days.


§ 984.42 Expenses.

The members and their alternates of the Board shall serve without compensation, but shall be allowed their necessary expenses.


§ 984.43 Powers.

The Board shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the provisions of this part in accordance with its terms;
(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part;
(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part.

§ 984.44 Duties.

The duties of the Board shall be as follows:
(a) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any handler or grower;
(b) To keep minute books and records which will clearly reflect all of its acts and transactions, and such minute books and records shall at any time be subject to the examination of the Secretary;
(c) To furnish to the Secretary a complete report of all meetings and such other available information as he may request;
(d) To appoint such employees as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries, define the duties, and fix the bonds of such employees;
(e) To cause the books of the Board to be audited by one or more competent public accountants at least once for each marketing year and at such other times as the Board deems necessary or as the Secretary may request, and to file with the Secretary three copies of all audit reports made;
(f) To investigate the growing, shipping and marketing conditions with respect to walnuts and to assemble data in connection therewith;
(g) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part; and
(h) To recommend rules and regulations for the purpose of administering this subpart.

§ 984.45 Procedure.

(a) The members of the Board shall select a chairman from their membership, and shall select such other officers and adopt such rules for the conduct of Board business as they deem advisable. The Board shall give the Secretary the same notice of its meetings as is given to members of the Board.
(b) All decisions of the Board, except where otherwise specifically provided, shall be by majority vote of the members present. A quorum of six members...
§ 984.49 Volume regulation.

(a) Free, reserve, and export percentages. Whenever the Secretary finds, on the basis of the Board’s recommendation or other information, that limiting the quantity of walnuts that may be handled in domestic markets for merchantable free walnuts during a marketing year will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall establish a free percentage to prescribe the portion of such walnuts which may be handled as free walnuts, and a reserve percentage to prescribe the portion that must be withheld as reserve walnuts. Whenever the Board recommends an export percentage pursuant to §984.48(a)(7), the Secretary shall establish a percentage if he finds it would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(b) Revision of percentages. (1) On or before February 15 of the marketing year, the Board may recommend that the free percentage be increased and the reserve percentage be decreased. On the basis of the Board’s recommendation or other information the Secretary may establish such revisions. If the reserve percentage is reduced when an export percentage is in effect, an increase shall be made in the export percentage so that the quantity previously authorized for export will not be reduced. If the revised reserve quantity is less than the quantity previously authorized for export the export percentage shall be 100 percent. Upon revision, all reserve obligations...
that are theretofore accrued on merchantable walnuts certified during such year on the basis of the previously effective percentages shall be adjusted accordingly.

(2) Any time prior to July 1, the Board may recommend an increase in the export percentage, if it finds that there is an insufficient volume of reserve walnuts available for export and additional demand exists, which would not adversely affect the disposition of the oncoming crop. On the basis of the Board’s recommendation or other information, the Secretary may establish such revision.

[41 FR 31543, July 29, 1976]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 60 FR 40064, Aug. 7, 1995, in §989.49, in paragraph (b)(1), the words “On or before February 15 of the marketing year,” were suspended.

QUALITY CONTROL

§ 984.50 Grade and size regulations.

(a) Minimum standard for inshell walnuts. Except as provided in §984.64, no handler shall handle inshell walnuts unless such walnuts are equal to or better than the requirements of U.S. No. 2 grade and baby size as defined in the then effective United States Standards for Walnuts (Juglans regia) in the Shell. This minimum standard may be modified by the Secretary on the basis of a Board recommendation or other information.

(b) Minimum standard for shelled walnuts. Except as provided in §984.64, no handler shall handle shelled walnuts unless such walnuts are equal to or better than the requirements of the U.S. Commercial grade as defined in the then effective United States Standards for Shelled Walnuts (Juglans regia) and the minimum size shall be pieces not more than 5 percent of which will pass through a round opening 9/64 inch in diameter. This minimum standard may be modified by the Secretary on the basis of a Board recommendation or other information.

(c) Effective period. The minimum standards established pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section and the provisions of this part relating to the administration thereof, shall continue in effect irrespective of whether the season average price for walnuts is above the parity level specified in section 2(1) of the Act.

(d) Additional grade and size regulation. The Board may recommend to the Secretary additional grade and size regulations in the form of more restrictive minimum standards than those specified in this section. If the Secretary finds on the basis of such recommendation or other information that such additional grade and size regulations would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act, he shall establish such regulation.

(e) Minimum requirements for reserve. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may specify the minimum kernel content and related requirements for any lot of walnuts acceptable for disposition for credit against a reserve obligation: Provided, That reserve walnuts exported must meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section if inshell, or paragraph (b) of this section if shelled.


§ 984.51 Inspection and certification of inshell and shelled walnuts.

(a) Before or upon handling of any walnuts for use as free or reserve walnuts, each handler at his own expense shall cause such walnuts to be inspected to determine whether they meet the then applicable grade and size regulations. Such inspection shall be performed by the inspection service designated by the Board with the approval of the Secretary. Handlers shall obtain a certificate for each inspection and cause a copy of each certificate issued by the inspection service to be furnished to the Board. Each certificate shall show the identity of the handler, quantity of walnuts, the date of inspection, and for inshell walnuts, the grade, size, and color of such walnuts as set forth in the United States Standards for Shelled Walnuts (Juglans regia) in the Shell. Certificates covering reserve shelled walnuts for export shall also show the grade, size, and color of such walnuts as set forth in the United States Standards for Shelled Walnuts (Juglans regia). The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe such additional information to
be shown on the inspection certificates as it deems necessary for the proper administration of this part.

(b) Inshell merchantable walnuts certified shall be converted to the kernelweight equivalent at 45 percent of their inshell weight. This conversion percentage may be changed by the Board with the approval of the Secretary.

(c) Upon inspection, all walnuts for use as free or reserve walnuts shall be identified by tags, stamps, or other means of identification prescribed by the Board and affixed to the container by the handler under the supervision of the Board or of a designated inspector and such identification shall not be altered or removed except as directed by the Board. The assessment requirements in §984.69 shall be incurred at the time of certification.

(d) Whenever the Board determines that the length of time in storage or conditions of storage of any lot of merchantable walnuts which has been previously inspected have been or are such as normally to cause deterioration, such lot of walnuts shall be reinspected at the handler's expense and recertified as merchantable prior to shipment.


§ 984.52 Processing of shelled walnuts.

(a) No handler shall slice, chop, grind, or in any manner change the form of shelled walnuts unless such walnuts have been certified as merchantable or as suitable for processing pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section. The Board shall establish such procedures as are necessary to insure that all such walnuts are inspected and certified prior to any such processing.

(b) Any lot of shelled walnuts which, upon inspection, fails to meet the minimum standard effective pursuant to §984.50 solely due to excess shriveling may be certified for processing provided that the total amount of shrivel does not exceed 20 percent, by weight, of the lot. All such walnuts must be reinspected after processing and shall be certified as merchantable if the processed material meets the effective minimum standard. The provisions of this paragraph may be modified by the Secretary, upon recommendation of the Board or other information.

§ 984.54 Establishment of obligation.

(a) Reserve obligation. Whenever free and reserve percentages are in effect for a marketing year, each handler shall withhold a kernelweight of certified merchantable walnuts equal to a quantity derived by the application of the reserve percentage to the kernelweight of merchantable walnuts certified. The kernelweight of certified merchantable walnuts which handlers are required to withhold shall be the "reserve obligation." The walnuts handled for use as free walnuts by any handler in accordance with the provisions of this part shall be deemed to be that handler's quota fixed by the Secretary within the meaning of section 8(a)(5) of the act.

(b) Holding requirements. Each handler shall at all times hold in his possession or under his control in proper storage the kernelweight of certified merchantable walnuts necessary to meet his reserve obligation less: (1) Any quantity which was disposed of by him pursuant to §984.56; and (2) any quantity for which he is otherwise relieved by the Board of responsibility to so hold walnuts.

[41 FR 31543, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.56 Disposition of reserve walnuts.

(a) General. The Board shall have power and authority to sell or dispose of any and all reserve walnuts withheld upon the best terms and at the highest returns obtainable consistent with the ultimate complete disposition of reserve, subject to all conditions of this section. The Board may dispose of reserve walnuts through handlers acting as agents of the Board under the terms and conditions specified by the Board.

(b) Export. The Board may export or authorize the disposition in export to the destinations outside the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Canal Zone, the quantity of reserve walnuts permitted to be exported by the export percentage establishment pursuant to §984.49. Reserve walnuts may be exported by any handler as an agent of
§ 984.59 Interhandler transfers.

(a) Within the area of production inshell walnuts may be sold or delivered by one handler to another for packing or shelling and the receiving handler shall comply with the regulations made effective pursuant to this part with respect to such walnuts.

(b) A handler may, for the purpose of meeting his reserve obligation, acquire walnuts from another handler, and any assessments, reserve obligations, and inspection requirements with respect to walnuts so transferred, shall be assumed by the buying handler. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish methods and procedures including necessary reports for such transfers.

(c) Except as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, whenever transfers of walnuts are made from one handler to another, the first handler thereof shall comply with all of the regulations effective pursuant to this part.


§ 984.64 Disposition of substandard walnuts.

Substandard walnuts may be disposed of only for manufacture into oil, livestock feed, or such other uses as the Board determines to be noncompetitive with existing domestic and export markets for merchantable walnuts and with proper safeguards to prevent such walnuts from thereafter entering channels of trade in such markets. Whenever free and reserve percentages are in effect, the kernelweight of any walnuts meeting the minimum kernel content requirements effective pursuant to §984.50(e), may be pooled and the disposition credited to the handler's reserve obligation pursuant to §984.56. Each handler shall submit, in such form and at such intervals as the Board may determine, reports of (a) his production and holdings of substandard walnuts and (b) the disposition of all substandard walnuts to any other person, showing the quantity, lot, date, name and address of the person to whom delivered, the approved use and such other information pertaining thereto as the Board may specify.

[41 FR 31544, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.65 Compliance.

Except as provided in this subpart, no person shall handle walnuts, inshell or shelled, during any marketing year...
§ 984.66 Assistance of the Board in meeting reserve obligation.

The Board may assist any handler in accounting for his reserve obligation and may aid any handler in acquiring walnuts to meet any deficiency in his reserve obligation, or in accounting for, or disposing of reserve walnuts.

[41 FR 31544, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.67 Exemptions.

(a) Exemption from volume regulation. Reserve percentages shall not apply to lots of merchantable inshell walnuts which are of mammoth size or larger as defined in the then effective United States Standards for Walnuts in the Shell, or to such quantities as the Board may, with the approval of the Secretary, prescribe.

(b) Exemptions from assessments, quality, and volume regulations—

(1) Sales by growers direct to consumers. Any walnut grower may handle walnuts of his own production free of the regulatory and assessment provisions of this part if he sells such walnuts in the area of production directly to consumers under the following types of exemptions.

(i) At roadside stands and farmers’ markets;

(ii) In quantities not exceeding an aggregate of 500 pounds of inshell walnuts or 200 pounds of shelled walnuts during any marketing year (at locations other than those specified in (b)(i) of this section); and

(iii) If shipped by parcel post or express in quantities not exceeding 10 pounds of inshell walnuts or 4 pounds of shelled walnuts to any one consumer in any one calendar day.

(2) Green walnuts. Walnuts which are green and which are so immature that they cannot be used for drying and sale as dried walnuts may be handled without regard to the provisions of this part.

(3) Noncompetitive outlets. Any person may handle walnuts, free of the provisions of this part, for use by charitable institutions, relief agencies, governmental agencies for school lunch programs, and diversion to animal feed or oil manufacture pursuant to an authorized governmental diversion program.

(c) Rules and modifications. The Board may establish, with the approval of the Secretary, such rules, regulations and safeguards and such modifications as will promote the objectives of this subpart.


EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 984.68 Expenses.

The Board is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it during each marketing year for the maintenance and functioning of the Board, and for such other purposes as the Secretary may, pursuant to this subpart, determine to be appropriate. The Board shall file a proposed budget of expenses and a rate of assessment with the Secretary as soon as practicable after the beginning of each marketing year.

[41 FR 31544, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.69 Assessments.

(a) Requirement for payment. Each handler shall pay the Board, on demand, his pro rata share of the expenses authorized by the Secretary for each marketing year. Each handler's pro rata share shall be the rate of assessment per kernelweight pound of walnuts fixed by the Secretary times the kernelweight of merchantable walnuts he has certified. At any time during or after the marketing year the Secretary may increase the assessment rate as necessary to cover authorized expenses and each handler's pro rata share shall be adjusted accordingly.

(b) Reserve walnut pool expenses. The Board is authorized temporary use of funds derived from assessments collected pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section to defray expenses incurred in disposing of reserve walnuts pooled. All such expenses shall be deducted from the proceeds obtained by the Board from the sale or other disposal of pooled reserve walnuts.
§ 984.71 Reports of handler carryover.

Each handler shall submit to the Board in such form and on such dates as the Board may prescribe, reports showing his carryover of inshell and shelled walnuts.

[39 FR 35332, Oct. 1, 1974]

§ 984.72 Reports of merchantable walnuts handled.

Each handler who handles merchantable walnuts, inshell or shelled, at any time during a marketing year shall submit to the Board in such form and at such intervals as the Board may prescribe, reports showing the quantity so handled and such other information pertinent thereto as the Board may specify.

§ 984.73 Reports of walnut receipts.

Each handler shall file such reports of his walnut receipts from growers in such form and at such times as may be requested by the Board.

[39 FR 35332, Oct. 1, 1974]

§ 984.76 Other reports.

Upon request of the Board made with the approval of the Secretary each handler shall furnish such other reports and information as are needed to enable the Board to perform its duties and exercise its powers under this subpart.

§ 984.77 Verification of reports.

For the purpose of verifying and checking reports filed by handlers or the operations of handlers, the Secretary and the Board through its duly authorized representatives shall have access to any premises where walnuts and walnut records are held. Such access shall be available at any time during reasonable business hours. Authorized representatives shall be permitted to inspect any walnuts held and any records of the handler with respect to matters within the purview of this part. Each handler shall maintain complete records on the receiving, holding, and disposition of both inshell and shelled walnuts. Each handler shall furnish all labor necessary to facilitate such inspections at no expense to the Board or the Secretary. Each handler shall store all walnuts held by him in such manner as to facilitate inspection and shall maintain adequate storage records which will permit accurate identification with respect to inspection certificates of respective lots and of all such walnuts held or disposed of theretofore. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish any methods and procedures needed to verify reports.

[41 FR 31544, July 29, 1976]

§ 984.78 Certification of reports.

All reports submitted to the Board as required in this part shall be certified to the Secretary and the Board as to the completeness and correctness of the information contained therein.

§ 984.79 Confidential information.

All reports and records submitted by handlers to the Board, which include data or information constituting a trade secret or disclosing the trade position, or financial condition or business operations of the handler shall be kept in custody of one or more employees of the Board and shall be disclosed to no person except the Secretary.
§ 984.80 Books and other records.
Each handler shall maintain such records of walnuts received, held and disposed of by him as may be prescribed by the Board for the purpose of performing its functions under this subpart. Such books and records shall be retained and be available for examination by authorized representatives of the Board and the Secretary for a period of two years after the end of the marketing year in which the recorded transactions are completed.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 984.83 Rights of the Secretary.
The members and alternates of the Board and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the Board, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary, at his discretion, at any time. Each and every decision, determination, or other act of the Board shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time, and upon such disapproval, shall be deemed null and void.

§ 984.84 Personal liability.
No member or alternate of the Board, nor any employee or agent thereof shall be held personally responsible either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate employee or agent, except for acts of dishonesty.


§ 984.85 Separability.
If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder hereof or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 984.86 Derogation.
Nothing contained in this subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 984.87 Duration of immunities.
The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination hereof except with respect to acts done under and during the existence hereof.

§ 984.88 Agents.
The Secretary may, by a designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the Government, or name any subdivision of the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this subpart.

§ 984.89 Effective time and termination.
(a) Effective time. The provisions of this subpart shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare above his signature attached to this subpart, and shall continue in force until terminated in one of the ways hereinafter specified.

(b) Termination. (1) The Secretary may, at any time, terminate the provisions of this subpart by giving at least one day’s notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine.

(2) The Secretary may terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this subpart, whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(3) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any marketing year whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of the producers of walnuts who during the preceding marketing year have been engaged in the production for market of walnuts in the State of California: Provided, That such majority have during such period produced for market more than 50 percent of the volume of such walnuts produced for market within said States, but such
termination shall be effected only if announced on or before July 1 of the then current marketing year.

(4) The provisions of this subpart shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

(c) Proceedings after termination. (1) Upon the termination of the provisions of this subpart, the members of the Board then functioning shall continue as joint trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the Board, of all funds and property then in the possession or under the control of the Board, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trustees shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.

(2) Said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the Board and the joint trustees to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall, upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the Board or the joint trustees pursuant hereto.

(3) Any person to whom funds, property or claims have been transferred or delivered by the Board or its members, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligation imposed upon the members of the said Board and upon said joint trustees.


§ 984.90 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or of any regulation issued under this subpart, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person, with respect to any such violation.

EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .399) and “Marketing percentage” regulations (e.g., sections .200 through .299) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 984.347 Assessment rate.

On and after August 1, 1997, an assessment rate of $0.0116 per kernelweight pound is established for California merchantable walnuts.


Subpart—Administrative Rules and Regulations

§ 984.437 Methods for proposing names of additional candidates to be included on walnut growers’ nomination ballots.

(a) Whenever the grower member position specified in §984.35(a)(4) is assigned to growers who marketed their walnuts through independent handlers, any ten or more such growers who marketed an aggregate of 500 or more tons of walnuts through those handlers during the marketing year preceding the year in which Board nominations are held, may petition the Board to include on the nomination ballot the name of an eligible candidate for this position, and the name of an eligible candidate to serve as his alternate. The names of the eligible candidates proposed pursuant to this paragraph shall be included on the ballot together with the names of any incumbents who are willing to continue serving on the Board.

(b) Any ten or more growers eligible to serve in the grower member positions specified in §984.35(a)(5) and (6) and who marketed an aggregate of 500 or more tons of walnuts through independent handlers during the marketing year preceding the year in which Board
nominations are held, may petition the Board to include on the nomination ballot for a district the name of an eligible candidate for the applicable position, and the name of an eligible candidate to serve as his alternate. The names of the eligible candidates proposed pursuant to this paragraph shall be included on the ballot together with the names of any incumbents who are willing to continue serving on the Board.

(c) Petitions made pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section shall be on forms supplied by the Board and filed no later than April 1 of the nomination year.

[41 FR 54476, Dec. 14, 1976]

§ 984.445 Procedures for voting by mail or telegram.

Whenever the Board votes upon any proposition by mail or telegram at least six members or alternates acting as members must vote and one dissenting vote shall prevent its adoption. Each proposition to be voted upon by either of these methods shall specify a time limit for members to vote, after which the alternates shall be given the opportunity to vote.

[40 FR 22267, May 22, 1975]

§ 984.450 Grade and size regulations.

(a) Minimum kernel content requirements for inshell walnuts for reserve disposition credit. For the purposes of §§984.54 and 984.56, no lot of inshell walnuts may be held, exported, or disposed of for use by government agencies or charitable institutions unless it meets the minimum requirements for merchantable inshell walnuts effective pursuant to §984.59(a). The disposition of any lot of inshell walnuts pursuant to §984.64 having at least a certified kernelweight of kernels six sixty-fourths of an inch or larger of not less than 10 percent of the total weight of the lot may be credited against a handler’s reserve obligation: Provided, That such minimum kernel content requirements shall not apply to any lot of walnut meal certified by the designated inspection service as having been derived from chopping, slicing, or dicing merchantable shelled walnuts.

[41 FR 54476, Dec. 14, 1976]

§ 984.451 Inspection and certification of inshell and shelled walnuts.

(a) The inspection service shall be the DFA of California.

(b) Each handler shall make each container of each lot of walnuts accessible for sampling and sealing or stamping in connection with the inspection and certification of any lot of inshell or shelled walnuts.

(c) Inshell and shelled walnuts for export pursuant to §984.56(b) shall have been inspected and certified not more than 60 days prior to shipment from the handler’s plant.

[41 FR 54476, Dec. 14, 1976]

§ 984.452 Certification of shelled walnuts for processing.

Each certificate issued for shelled walnuts for processing pursuant to §984.52(b) shall bear the notation “Certified for Processing Only.” Shelled walnuts so certified for processing may not be processed by anyone other than the handler obtaining such certificate.

[28 FR 1863, Feb. 28, 1963]

§ 984.456 Disposition of reserve walnuts and walnuts used for reserve disposition credit.

(a) Beginning August 1 of any marketing year, a handler may become an agent of the Board to dispose of reserve walnuts of such marketing year. The agency shall be established upon execution of an “Agency Agreement for Reserve Walnuts” setting forth the terms and conditions specified by the Board for the sale of reserve walnuts in authorized outlets.
§ 984.464 Disposition of substandard walnuts.

(a) Whenever free and reserve percentages are in effect during a marketing year substandard walnuts meeting the requirements of §984.450 may be delivered by a handler to the Board for pooling at any time during the year and the disposition credited to the handler’s reserve obligation.

(b) The Board shall maintain a list of approved crushers, livestock feed manufacturers and livestock feeders, and of the locations of the facilities within the area of production to which substandard walnuts may be shipped. The Board may deny approval to any applicant or remove any approved crusher, feed manufacturer, or feeder from the list when such denial or removal is deemed necessary to insure control of substandard walnut disposition or the Board determines that substandard walnuts are not shipped to such facilities. Substandard walnuts disposed of to an approved crusher, livestock feed manufacturer, or livestock feeder, may only be shipped directly to an approved location where the crushing, manufacture, or feeding is to take place. Applications for approval to crush, manufacture livestock feed, or feed substandard walnuts shall be submitted to the Board on a form prescribed by the Board and which includes the location and a description of the disposal facilities to be used and a certification to the Board and the Secretary of Agriculture that the applicant will:

(1) Crush, manufacture feed, or feed such walnuts at the location;

(2) Use such walnuts for no other purpose than for crushing into oil, manufacturing into livestock feed, or livestock feeding;

(3) Permit such inspection of his premises and of walnuts received and held by him, and such examination of his books and records covering walnut transactions as the Board may require;

(4) Keep a record of his receipts, holdings, and use of substandard walnuts available for examination by authorized representatives of the Board and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a period of two years after the end of the marketing year in which the recorded transactions are completed; and

(5) Make such reports, certified to the Board and the Secretary as to their correctness, as the Board may require.

(c) Each handler who disposes of substandard walnuts to an approved crusher, livestock feed manufacturer or livestock feeder shall upon shipment report to the Board on WMB Form No. 20, the quantities disposed of or shipped.

[41 FR 54476, Dec. 14, 1976]

§ 984.471 Reports of handler carryover.

Reports of handler carryover as of August 1, January 1, and April 1 of each marketing year shall be submitted to the Board on WMB Form No. 4 for inshell walnuts and on WMB Form No. 5 for shelled walnuts, on or before August 15, January 15, and April 15 respectively, of that marketing year.

[40 FR 22267, May 22, 1975]
§ 984.472 Reports of merchantable walnuts shipped.

(a) Reports of merchantable walnuts shipped during a month shall be submitted to the Board on WMB Form No. 6 not later than the 5th day of the following month. Such reports shall include all shipments during the preceding month and shall show for inshell and shelled walnuts (1) the quantity shipped, (2) whether they were shipped into domestic or export channels, and (3) for exports, the quantity by country of destination. If a handler makes no shipments during any month he shall submit a report marked “None”. If a handler has completed his shipments for the season he shall mark the report “Completed”, and he shall not be required to submit any additional WMB Form No. 6 reports during the remainder of that marketing year.

(b) Reports of walnuts purchased directly from growers by handlers who are manufacturers or retailers shall be submitted to the Board on WMB Form No. 6, not later than the 5th day of the month following the month in which the walnuts were purchased. Such reports shall show the quantity of walnuts purchased and the quantity inspected and certified as merchantable walnuts.

[41 FR 54476, Dec. 14, 1976]

§ 984.473 Report of walnut receipts.

Each handler shall file a report of his walnut receipts from growers on or before January 15 of each marketing year on forms supplied by the Board.

[40 FR 22267, May 22, 1975]

§ 984.480 Books and other records.

Each handler shall maintain true and complete records of all inshell and shelled walnuts and walnut material, by categories, received, held, or disposed of by him. The records shall be maintained in such form as to permit verification of all transactions involved and shall be made available during normal business hours to authorized representatives of the Board or the Secretary of Agriculture. These records shall include the following:

(a) The names and addresses of the persons from whom received, and the quantities received from each such person;
(b) The names and addresses of the persons to whom disposal is made, and the quantities disposed of to each such person;
(c) The quantities used by the handler for such purposes as manufacturing, production of oil, and livestock feeding; and
(d) The quantities held on August 1, January 1, and April 1 of each marketing year.

[40 FR 22268, May 22, 1975]
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SOURCE: 45 FR 25040, Apr. 14, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

DEFINITIONS

§ 985.1 Secretary.
Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any other officer or employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture who is, or who may be, authorized to perform the duties of the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States.

§ 985.2 Act.

§ 985.3 Person.
Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 985.4 Spearmint oil.
Spearmint oil, hereinafter referred to as oil, means essential oil extracted by distillation from plants, grown in the production area, of the genus Mentha, species Cardiaca (commonly referred to as Scotch Spearmint), Spicata (commonly referred to as Native Spearmint), or such other species, grown in the production area, that produce a spearmint flavored oil. Oil shall be segregated into the following classes:

"Class 1"—Oil extracted from the first cutting of Scotch Spearmint.
"Class 2"—Oil extracted from the second cutting of Scotch Spearmint.
"Class 3"—Oil extracted from Native Spearmint.
"Class 4"—Oil which has a spearmint flavor, extracted from plants other than Scotch or Native Spearmint.

The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may change these classes to recognize new, or delete obsolete, classes.

§ 985.5 Production area.
Production area means all the area within the States of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and that portion of Nevada north of the 37th parallel and that portion of Utah west of the 111th meridian. The area shall be divided into the following districts:

(a) District 1. State of Washington
(b) District 2. The State of Idaho and that portion of the States of Nevada and Utah included in the production area.
(c) District 3. The State of Oregon.

[61 FR 32924, June 26, 1996]

§ 985.6 Producer.
Producer is synonymous with grower and means any person engaged in a proprietary capacity in the commercial production of oil or who causes it to be produced.
§ 985.7 Handler.
Handler means any person who handles oil.

§ 985.8 Handle.
Handle means to prepare oil for market, acquire oil from a producer, use oil commercially of own production, or sell, transport, or ship (except as a common or contract carrier of oil owned by another), or otherwise place oil into the current of commerce within the production area or from the area to points outside thereof: Provided, That (a) the preparation for market of salable oil by producers who are not dealers or users, (b) the sale or transportation of salable oil by a producer to a handler of record within the production area, or (c) the transfer of excess oil by the producer to another producer to enable that producer to fill a deficiency in an annual allotment, or (d) the delivery of excess oil by the producer to the Committee or its designees, shall not be construed as handling.

§ 985.9 Marketing year.
Marketing year means the 12 months from June 1 to the following May 31, inclusive, or such other period as the Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish.

§ 985.10 Crop.
Crop means that oil produced by a producer during the marketing year.

§ 985.11 Salable oil.
Salable oil means that oil which is free to be handled.

§ 985.12 Salable quantity.
Salable quantity means the total quantity of each class of oil which handlers may purchase from, or handle on behalf of, producers during a marketing year.

§ 985.13 Annual allotment.
Annual allotment means that portion of the salable quantity prorated to a producer.

§ 985.14 Part and subpart.
Part means the order regulating the handling of oil grown in the production area, and all rules and regulations issued thereunder. The order shall be a subpart of such part.

Administrative Committee

§ 985.20 Establishment and membership.
A Spearmint Oil Administrative Committee is hereby established (hereinafter referred to as Committee) and shall consist of eight members, each of whom shall have an alternate, to administer the terms and provisions of this part. Four of the members and alternates shall be producers in District 1; two members and alternates shall be producers in District 2; and one member and alternate shall be a producer in District 3. One member and alternate shall represent the public.

§ 985.21 Eligibility.
Each member and alternate member of the Committee shall be, at the time of selection and during the term of office, a producer, or an officer or employee of a producer, in the district for which selected: Provided, That these requirements should not apply to the public member and alternate member.

§ 985.22 Term of office.
The term of office of each member and alternate member of the Committee shall be for two calendar years: Provided, That one-half of the initial members and alternates shall serve for terms ending December 31, 1980, and one-half of the initial members and alternates shall serve for terms ending December 31, 1981. Members and alternates shall serve in such capacity for the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms as member and no alternate shall serve more than two consecutive terms as alternate.

§ 985.23 Nominations.
(a) Procedure. (1) Nominations for producer members of the Committee and their alternates shall be made at nomination meetings of producers in each District. Such meetings shall be
§ 985.24 Selection.

Committee members shall be selected by the Secretary from nominees submitted by the Committee or from among other eligible persons. Each person so selected shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary prior to assuming the duties of the position.

§ 985.25 Alternate members.

An alternate for a member shall act in the place of such member (a) in the member's absence, (b) in the event of the member's death, removal, resignation, or disqualification, until a successor for the member's unexpired term has been selected and has qualified, or (c) when requested and designated by the member.

§ 985.26 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person appointed as a member or as an alternate member of the Committee to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member or alternate member of the Committee, a successor to fill the unexpired term shall be nominated and appointed in the manner specified in §§ 985.23 and 985.24. If the names of the nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within 30 days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which appointment shall be made on the basis of representation provided for in § 985.20.

§ 985.27 Powers.

The Committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer this subpart in accordance with its terms and provisions;
(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;
(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of this part; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 985.28 Duties.

The Committee shall have, among others, the following duties;
(a) To select from among its membership such officers and adopt such rules or by-laws for the conduct of its meetings as it deems necessary;
(b) To appoint such employees as it may deem necessary, and to determine the compensation and to define the duties of each employee.
(c) To appoint such subcommittees and consultants as it may deem necessary;
(d) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the Committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;
(e) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the Committee and to make copies of each such statement available to producers and handlers for examination at the office of the Committee;
(f) To cause the books of the Committee to be audited by a certified public accountant at such times as the Committee may deem necessary, or as the Secretary may request, to submit copies of each audit report to the Secretary, and to make available a copy which does not contain confidential data for inspection at the offices of the committee by producers and handlers;
(g) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;
(h) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to oil;
(i) To submit to the Secretary such available information as may be requested or that the Committee may deem desirable and pertinent;
(j) To notify producers and handlers of all meetings of the Committee to consider recommendations for regulations and of all regulatory actions taken affecting producers and handlers;
(k) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees as is given to its members;
(l) To investigate compliance and use means available to prevent violations of the provisions of this part;
(m) With the approval of the Secretary, to redefine the districts into which the production area is divided and to reappoint the representation of any district on the Committee: Provided, That such changes shall reflect insofar as practical, shifts in oil production within the production area and numbers of producers; and
(n) To establish with the approval of the Secretary such rules and regulations as are necessary or incidental to administration of this subpart, as are consistent with its provisions, and as would tend to accomplish the purposes of this subpart and the act.

§ 985.29 Procedure.
(a) At an assembled meeting, all votes shall be cast in person and seven members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. Decisions of the Committee shall require the concurring vote of at least six members. If both a Committee member and appropriate alternate are unable to attend a Committee meeting, the Committee may designate any other alternate from the same district who is present at the meeting to serve in the member's place.
(b) The Committee may vote by mail, telephone, telegraph, or other means of communication: Provided, That each proposition is explained accurately, fully, and identically to each member. All votes shall be confirmed promptly in writing. Seven concurring votes and no dissenting votes shall be required for approval of a Committee action by such method.

§ 985.30 Expenses and compensation.
Members of the Committee, their alternates, subcommittees including any special subcommittees, shall serve without compensation but shall receive such allowances for necessary expenses, incurred in performing their duties, as may be approved by the Committee.

Research

§ 985.31 Research and development projects.
The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of production research, marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution and consumption of efficient production of oil. The Committee shall consider ongoing research, by industry and grower organizations, in making its recommendations. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to § 985.41.
EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 985.40 Expenses.

The Committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it for such purposes as the Secretary may, pursuant to this subpart, determine to be appropriate, and for the maintenance and functioning of the Committee during each marketing year. The Committee shall submit to the Secretary a budget for each marketing year, including an explanation of the items appearing therein, and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such year.

§ 985.41 Assessments.

(a) Requirements for payment. Each person who first handles salable oil shall pay to the Committee, upon demand, that handler's pro rata share of the expenses authorized by the Secretary for each marketing year. Each handler's pro rata share shall be the rate of assessment fixed by the Secretary times the quantity of oil which the handler handles as the first handler thereof. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the Committee and for such purposes as the Secretary may, pursuant to this subpart, determine to be appropriate, may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect, irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) Rate of assessment. The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by each handler. At any time during or after the marketing year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment as necessary to cover authorized expenses. Such increase shall be applied to all oil handled during the applicable marketing year. In order to provide funds for the administration of this part before sufficient operating income is available from assessments, the Committee may accept advance assessments and may also borrow money for such purpose. Advance assessments received from a handler shall be credited toward assessments levied against the handler during the marketing year.

§ 985.42 Accounting.

(a) Excess funds. At the end of a marketing year, funds in excess of the year's expenses may be placed in an operating reserve not to exceed approximately one marketing year's operational expenses or such lower limits as the Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish. Funds in such reserve shall be available for use by the Committee for expenses authorized pursuant to §985.40. Funds in excess of those placed in the operating reserve shall be refunded to handlers: Provided, That any sum paid by a first handler in excess of that handler's pro rata share of the expenses during any marketing year may be applied by the Committee at the end of such marketing year to any outstanding obligations due the Committee from such person. Each handler's share of such excess funds shall be the amount of assessments paid in excess of that handler's pro rata share.

(b) Disposition of funds upon termination of order. Upon termination of this part, any funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate: Provided, That to the extent practicable, such funds will be returned pro rata to the first handler from whom such funds were collected.

VOLUME LIMITATIONS

§ 985.50 Marketing policy.

(a) The Committee shall meet on or before January 15 of each year to adopt a marketing policy for the ensuing marketing year or years. As soon as is practical following the meeting or meetings, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary recommendations for volume regulations deemed necessary to meet market requirements and establish orderly marketing conditions. Additional reports shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Committee subsequently adopts a new or revised policy because of changes in the demand and supply situation with respect to the various classes of oil.

(b) In determining such marketing policy, Committee consideration shall include but not be limited to:
(1) The estimated quantity of salable oil of each class held by producers and handlers;
(2) The estimated demand for each class of oil;
(3) Prospective production of each class of oil;
(4) Total of allotment bases of each class of oil for the current marketing year and the estimated total of allotment bases of each class for the ensuing marketing year;
(5) The quantity of reserve oil, by class, in storage;
(6) Producer prices of oil, including prices for each class of oil;
(7) General market conditions for each class of oil, including whether the estimated season average price to producers is likely to exceed parity.

(c) Notice of the marketing policy recommendations for a marketing year and any later changes shall be announced publicly by the Committee, and be submitted promptly to the Secretary and all producers and handlers. The Committee shall publicly announce its marketing policy or revision thereof and notice and contents thereof shall be submitted to producers and handlers by bulletins or through appropriate media.

(d) As soon as practicable following the effective date of this subpart and the organization of the Committee, the Committee may adopt a marketing policy for the 1980-81 marketing year.

§ 985.52 Issuance of volume regulation.

(a) Whenever the Secretary finds, on the basis of the Committee's recommendation or other information, that limiting the total quantity of a class of oil of any crop that handlers may purchase from or handle on behalf of producers during a marketing year, would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, the Secretary shall establish the salable quantity for that oil.

The salable quantity shall be prorated among producers by applying an allotment percentage to each producer's allotment base for that class of oil. The allotment percentage shall be established for each class of oil by dividing the salable quantity by the total of all producers' allotment bases for the same class of oil.

(b) When an allotment percentage for a class of oil is established for any marketing year, no handler shall purchase from or handle on behalf of producers any oil of that class during such year unless:

(1) It is, at the time of handling, within the unused portion of a producer's annual allotment, and

(2) Such handler notifies the Committee of the handling in such manner as it may prescribe.

§ 985.53 Allotment base.

(a) Initial issuance. Each producer desiring an allotment base for one or more classes of oil shall register with the Committee and furnish to it, on forms provided by the Committee, a report of the number of pounds of each class of oil sold during each of the marketing years of 1977, of 1978, and of 1979, which is the representative base period, and the number of pounds of each class of oil currently available for sale and the location of such oil, the name and
§ 985.54 Issuance of annual allotments.

(a) Whenever the Secretary establishes a salable quantity and allotment percentage for a class of oil that may be freely marketed during a marketing year, the Committee shall issue an annual allotment to each producer holding an allotment base for that class of oil. Each producer’s annual allotment for a class of oil shall be determined by multiplying the producer’s allotment base for that class of oil by the applicable allotment percentage.

(b) On or before December 1, the Committee shall furnish each registered holder of an allotment base a current copy of the allotment base. The Committee shall also furnish each registered holder of an allotment base with information regarding the salable quantity and allotment percentage for a class of oil that may be freely marketed during the next marketing year.

(d)(1) Beginning with the 1982-83 marketing year, the Committee annually shall make additional allotment bases available for each class of oil in the amount of no more than 1 percent of the total allotment base for that class of oil. Fifty percent of these additional allotment bases shall be made available for new producers and 50 percent made available for existing producers.

(2) Any person may apply for an additional allotment base for any class of oil by filing an application with the Committee on or before December 1 of the marketing year preceding the marketing year for which the additional allotment bases will be made available.

(3) The Committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary, establish rules and regulations to be used for determining the distribution of additional allotment bases. In establishing such rules, the Committee shall take into account, among other things, the minimum economic enterprise requirements for oil production, the applicant’s ability to produce oil, the area where the oil will be produced and other economic and marketing factors.

(e) The right to each producer receiving an allotment base, or any legal successor in interest, to retain all or part of an allotment base, shall be dependent on continuance to make a bona fide effort to produce the annual allotment referable thereto and failing to do so, such allotment base shall be reduced by an amount equivalent to such unproduced portions.
form for the producer to apply for an annual allotment for the ensuing marketing year. The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall establish rules and regulations prescribing the information to be submitted on this form. The Committee shall notify each producer of the producer’s annual allotment for each class of oil within 10 days after the Secretary establishes the salable quantity and allotment percentage.

(c) Through 1981, a handler may acquire oil of a producer’s own production to fulfill a written contract entered into by these two persons prior to February 27, 1979. The terms of this contract shall require the producer to deliver to that handler a specified quantity of a class of oil from that producer’s production at a specific price from a specified acreage and produced prior to 1982. The quantity of oil acquired by the handler pursuant to that contract during the 1980-81 or 1981-82 marketing year may exceed the producer’s annual allotment for the applicable marketing year, but shall be charged against the producer’s annual allotment for that year.

§ 985.55 Identification.

(a) Each producer shall, under supervision of the Committee, identify each class of oil within 15 days following its production, or such other period of time as is recommended by the Committee with the approval of the Secretary. Identification of oil shall be accomplished before its delivery either to a handler for handling as salable oil, or to the Committee or its designees for storage as excess oil.

(b) Identification shall indicate whether the oil is salable or excess oil and include the name of the producer, the class of oil, the net weight, the container number and such other information as may be required by the Committee.

(c) Identification shall be accomplished in accordance with rules and regulations established by the Committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(d) No handler shall handle as salable oil, and the Committee shall not receive as excess oil, any oil that has not been identified as provided in this section, and no person shall alter or remove any identification except when incidental to final disposition.

§ 985.56 Excess oil.

Oil of any class in excess of a producer’s applicable annual allotment shall be identified as excess oil and shall be disposed of as follows:

(a) Before October 15, or such date as the Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish, a producer, following notification of the Committee, may transfer excess oil to another producer to enable that producer to fill a deficiency in that producer’s annual allotment, or

(b) Before November 1, or such other date as the Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish, excess oil, not used to fill another producer’s deficiency, shall be delivered to the Committee or its designees for storage. Such oil shall be stored for the account of the producer. All costs of storage including identification and insurance shall be paid by the producer of excess oil. No handler shall handle excess oil and no producer shall deliver excess oil to other than the Committee or its designees.

(c) The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish such rules and regulations as it deems necessary for the transfer or storage of excess oil.

§ 985.57 Reserve pool requirements.

(a) On November 1, or such other date as the Committee, with the approval of the Secretary may establish, the Committee shall pool identified excess oil as reserve oil in such manner as to accurately account for its receipt, storage, and disposition. The Committee shall store reserve oil for the account of the producer and maintain the identity of the reserve oil by producer’s name, the year produced, the class of oil, and such other identification as may be used in normal commercial trade practices. The Committee shall designate a Committee employee as reserve pool manager.

(b) Disposition. (1) When, in any marketing year, a producer has produced less than the annual allotment of a class of oil, the producer may, upon notification of the Committee, fill the deficiency with the same class of reserve.
§ 985.58 Exempt oil.

Oil held by a producer or handler on the effective date of this subpart shall not be regulated under this subpart if reported and identified to the Committee not later than 60 days after that date. Any such oil not reported and identified to the Committee shall be subject to all regulation under this subpart.

§ 985.59 Transfers.

(a) Nothing contained in this part shall prevent a producer from transferring the location where that producer's annual allotment is produced to another location except that the producer shall report the transfer to the Committee within 30 days after the transfer.

(b) A producer may transfer all or part of an allotment base to another producer under rules and regulations established by the Committee, with the approval of the Secretary: Provided, That the allotment base obtained by transfer from another producer or issued pursuant to § 985.53(d)(1) shall not be transferred for at least 2 years following transfer or issuance, and that the person receiving the allotment base submit to the Committee, evidence of an ability to produce and sell oil from such allotment base in the first marketing year following the transfer or issuance of the allotment base.

REPORTS AND RECORDS

§ 985.60 Reports.

(a) Inventory. Each handler shall file with the Committee a certified report showing such information as the Committee may specify with respect to any oil which was held by the handler at such times as the Committee may designate.

(b) Receipts. Each handler shall, upon request of the Committee, file with the Committee a certified report showing for each lot of oil received, the identifying marks, class of oil, weight, place of production, and the producer's name and address at such times as the Committee may designate.

(c) Other reports. Upon the request of the Committee, each handler shall furnish such other information as may be necessary to enable the Committee to exercise its powers and perform its duties under this part.

§ 985.61 Records.

Each handler shall maintain such records pertaining to all oil handled as
§ 985.70 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.
§ 985.71 Effective time.

The provisions of this subpart, and of any amendment thereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare and shall continue in force until terminated or suspended in one of the ways specified in §985.72.

§ 985.72 Termination.

(a) Failure to effectuate. The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this part upon a finding that such provisions obstruct or do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(b) Referendum. The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart at the end of any marketing year upon a finding that such termination is favored by a majority of the producers who, during the preceding marketing year, produced for market more than 50 percent of the volume of oil so produced: Provided, That termination shall be effective only if announced before May 31 of the then current marketing year.

(c) Termination of act. The provisions of this subpart shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 985.73 Proceedings after termination.

Upon termination of the provisions of this part, the Committee shall, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the Committee, continue as trustees of all the funds and property then in its possession or under its control, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. The said trustees shall (a) continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; (b) from time to time account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the Committee and of the trustees, to such persons as the Secretary may direct; and (c) upon the request of the Secretary execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the Committee or the trustees pursuant thereto. Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligation imposed upon the Committee and upon trustees.

§ 985.74 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have risen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued hereunder, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or any regulation issued hereunder, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or any other person with respect to any such violation.

Subpart—Administrative Rules and Regulations

§ 985.104 Changed classes of spearmint oil.

Pursuant to §985.4, the classes of spearmint oil contained in that section are changed by deleting the term and definition Class 2 Oil and changing the definition of Class 1 Oil. The changed classes are as follows:

Class 1—Oil extracted from Scotch Spearmint.

Class 3—Oil extracted from Native Spearmint.

Class 4—Oil which has a spearmint flavor, extracted from plants other than Scotch or Native Spearmint.

[48 FR 53400, Nov. 28, 1983]

§ 985.141 Assessment rate.

On and after June 1, 1996, an assessment rate of $0.10 per pound is established for Far West spearmint oil. Unexpended funds may be carried over as a reserve.

[61 FR 20124, May 6, 1996]

§ 985.152 Handling report.

Whenever an allotment percentage has been established for a class of oil,
each handler shall furnish to the Committee at least the following information for each lot of that class of oil acquired by the handler from a producer: (a) Name of producer; (b) name of handler; (c) class of oil acquired; (d) date of acquisition; (e) date when oil was produced; (f) net weight of oil in the lot; (g) quantity of that class of oil in the producer’s annual allotment available for handler before this acquisition; and (h) quantity of oil remaining in the producer’s annual allotment after this acquisition. This information shall be furnished in such manner as the Committee may prescribe. Upon acquisition the handler or the handler’s agent also shall include the applicable information on the back of the producer’s Annual Allotment Certificate, showing that the acquired oil was within the unused portion of the producer’s annual allotment.

[46 FR 43130, Aug. 27, 1981]

§ 985.153 Issuance of additional allotment base to new and existing producers.

(a) Definitions. (1) New producer means any person who never was issued an allotment base by the Committee for a class of oil in any capacity either as an individual, or as a member of a partnership, corporation, or any other business unit.

(2) Existing producer means any person who was issued an allotment base by the Committee for a class of oil in any capacity either as an individual, or as a member of a partnership, corporation, or any other business unit. Any person who was initially issued an allotment base for a class of oil and changed identity of operation, as set forth in §985.53(a), since April 14, 1980, and requests additional allotment base for that class of oil pursuant to this section, shall be deemed to be an existing producer.

(b) Requests. Any new or existing producer desiring additional allotment base for any class of oil made available by the Committee pursuant to §985.53(d)(1) shall request such base by a date specified by the Committee prior to the marketing year for which such base will be made available.

(c) Issuance—(1) New producers—(i) Regions: For the purpose of issuing additional allotment base to new producers, the production area is divided into the following regions:

(A) Region 1. The State of Oregon and those portions of Utah and Nevada included in the production area.

(B) Region 2. The State of Idaho.

(C) Region 3. The State of Washington.

(ii) Each year, the Committee shall determine the size of the minimum economic enterprise required to produce each class of oil. The Committee shall thereafter calculate the number of new producers who will receive allotment base under this section for each class of oil. An equal number of grants of the additional allotment base for each class of oil that is available to new producers each marketing year shall be issued to producers within each region. The Committee shall include that information in its announcements to new producers in each region informing them when to submit requests for allotment base. The Committee shall determine whether the new producers requesting additional base have ability to produce spearmint oil. The names of all eligible new producers in each region shall be placed in a lot for drawing. A separate drawing shall be held for each region. If, in any marketing year, there are no requests in a class of oil from eligible new producers in a region, such unused allotment base shall be issued to an eligible new producer whose name is selected by drawing from a lot containing the names of all remaining eligible new producers from all regions for that class of oil. The Committee shall immediately notify each new producer whose name was drawn and issue that producer an allotment base in the appropriate amount.

(2) Existing producers. (i) The Committee shall review all requests from existing producers for additional allotment base.

(ii) Each existing producer of a class of spearmint oil who requests additional allotment base and who has the ability to produce additional quantities of that class of spearmint oil, shall be eligible to receive a share of the additional allotment base for that class of oil. Additional allotment base to be issued by the Committee for a
§ 985.154

Class of oil shall be distributed equally among the eligible producers for that class of oil. The Committee shall immediately notify each producer who is to receive additional allotment base by issuing that producer an allotment base in the appropriate amount.

(d) The person receiving any additional allotment base pursuant to this section shall submit to the Committee, evidence of an ability to produce and sell oil from such allotment base in the first marketing year following issuance of such base. Allotment base issued under this section shall not be transferred for at least two years following issuance.


§ 985.154 Issuance of annual allotments.

(a) Each producer who is a registered holder of an allotment base, and desiring an annual allotment for the ensuing marketing year, shall apply to the Committee for that allotment. The registered holder shall furnish at least the following information: (1) The number of acres of each species (Scotch or Native) of spearmint planted, or intended to be planted for harvest in the ensuing marketing year; (2) whether the spearmint to be harvested in the ensuing marketing year is baby mint (first year harvest) or mature mint (second year or older harvest); and (3) any changes in location or production as reported for the preceding year.

(b) In order to enable the Committee to insure compliance and verify furnished information, each producer requesting an annual allotment shall permit the Committee or its representatives, whenever necessary, to measure the producer’s spearmint acreage.

[46 FR 43130, Aug. 27, 1981]

§ 985.155 Identification of oil by producer.

Following the distillation of oil and prior to delivery either to a handler for handling as salable oil or to the Committee or its designee for storage as excess oil, each producer shall furnish the following information to the Committee: Provided, That any class of oil retained by a producer shall be reported to the Committee within 15 days following the completion of its distillation.

(a) Producer’s name and address; (b) date the oil was put into the drum; (c) class of oil in the drum; (d) drum identification number; (e) approximate net weight of the oil; (f) handler’s pickup receipt number, when applicable; (g) destination of oil for storage; (h) name of the firm where the oil was distilled; and (i) name of the person submitting the information.

[46 FR 43130, Aug. 27, 1981]

§ 985.156 Transfer of excess oil by producers.

Before November 1 a producer, following notification of the Committee, may transfer excess oil to another producer to enable that producer to fill a deficiency in that producer’s annual allotment.

[45 FR 71760, Oct. 30, 1980]

EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .399) and “Marketing percentage” regulations (e.g., sections .200 through .299) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

PART 987—DOMESTIC DATES PRODUCED OR PACKED IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

Source: 27 FR 6818, July 19, 1962, unless otherwise noted.

Definitions

§ 987.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 987.2 Act.


§ 987.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 987.4 Area of production.

Area of production means Riverside County, Calif.

§ 987.5 Dates.

Dates means the Deglet Noor, Zahidi, Halawy, and Khadrawy varieties of domestic dates produced or packed in the area of production.

§ 987.6 Crop year.

Crop year means the 12-month period beginning October 1 of each year and ending September 30 of the following year.

§ 987.7 Producer.

Producer is synonymous with grower and means any person engaged in a proprietary capacity in the production of dates for sale.

§ 987.8 Handler.

Handler means any person handling dates which have not been inspected and certified for handling in the hands of a previous holder and any repacker: Provided, That for the purposes of §§ 987.21 and 987.24 a person shall qualify as a handler only if he has acquired the dates directly from producers.

§ 987.8a Repacker.

Repacker means any wholesaler or jobber who receives packed dates certified for handling pursuant to § 987.41(a), repackages them in containers other than those in which received, and handles such repacked dates.

§ 987.9 Handle.

Handle means to sell, consign, transport, or ship (except as a common or contract carrier of dates owned by another person) or in any way to put dates into the current of commerce including the shipment or delivery of utility dates or cull dates into nonhuman consumption outlets, except that sales or deliveries, by producers, of other than cull dates, to a handler within the area of production, or the movement of dates by a handler to storage for his account within the area of production, or counties adjoining the area of production, shall not be considered handling. The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish monitoring procedures for storage of dates in Orange, San Diego, and Yuma Counties.

§ 987.10 Handler carry-over.

Handler carry-over means, as of any date, all marketable dates then held by a handler or for his account (whether or not sold), plus the estimated quantity of marketable dates in ungraded or unprocessed lots then held by said handler.
§ 987.11 Trade demand.

Trade demand means those quantities of marketable dates which the Committee finds are required to satisfy the need for dates in specific outlets in which marketable dates are handled.

[43 FR 4250, Feb. 1, 1978]

§ 987.12 Marketable dates.

Marketable dates means those dates which are certified as equal to or higher than the applicable minimum grade and size requirements in effect pursuant to § 987.39, and any additional applicable requirements in effect pursuant to § 987.40. Marketable dates shall include but not be limited to the following:

(a) DAC dates. DAC dates are marketable whole or pitted dates that are inspected and certified as meeting the grade, size, container, and identification requirements established by the Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, for a specific variety for handling in the United States and Canada.

(b) Dates for further processing. Dates for further processing (FP) are marketable whole dates acquired by one handler from another handler that are certified as meeting the same grade and size requirements for DAC dates, with the exception of moisture requirements, and such identification requirements applicable to FP dates that are established by the Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, for any specific variety.

(c) Export dates. Export dates are marketable whole or pitted dates that are inspected and certified as meeting the grade, size, container, and identification requirements established by the Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, for a specific variety, to be handled in export to any country or group of countries with the exception of Canada. The Committee may establish different requirements for different countries.

(d) Product dates. Product dates are marketable dates that are inspected and certified as meeting the applicable grade and size requirements for dates to be handled in such forms as rings, chunks, pieces, butter, macerate, paste, or any other forms which the Committee deems appropriate and which will result in dates moving into consumption in a form other than that of whole or pitted dates.

[43 FR 4250, Feb. 1, 1978]

§ 987.13 Free dates.

Free dates means dates of any variety that are at the time of certification destined for consumption in whole or pitted form in the United States and Canada (and such other countries as the Committee determines are likely to acquire them at prices reasonably comparable with prices received domestically) and which are free to be handled pursuant to any free percentage established by the Secretary in accordance with § 987.44.

[43 FR 4251, Feb. 1, 1978]

§ 987.14 Restricted dates.

Restricted dates means those dates which must be withheld by handlers pursuant to any restricted percentage established by the Secretary in accordance with § 987.44.

§ 987.15 Substandard dates.

Utility dates means those dates which fail to meet the requirements for marketable dates but are not cull dates.


§ 987.16 Cull dates.

Cull dates means dates which fail to meet the requirements (with respect to freedom from defects) prescribed in title 3, group 4, section 24, section 1434 of the Food and Agricultural Code of California for dates for use in products or by-products other than alcohol, brandy, and products not intended for human consumption and any dates residual from field or packinghouse grading operations.


§ 987.17 Graded dates.

Graded dates means those dates which are eligible for certification as marketable dates.
§ 987.18 Committee.

Committee means the California Date Administrative Committee established pursuant to §987.21.

[36 FR 15037, Aug. 12, 1971]

§ 987.20 Part and subpart.

Part means the order regulating the handling of domestic dates produced or packed in Riverside County, Calif., and all rules, regulations, and supplementary orders issued thereunder. The aforesaid order shall be a subpart of such part.

[36 FR 15037, Aug. 12, 1971]

CALIFORNIA DATE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

§ 987.21 Establishment and membership.

A California Date Administrative Committee consisting of nine members is hereby established to administer the terms and conditions of this part. For each member there shall be an alternate member, and the provisions of this part applicable to the number, nomination, qualification and selection of members shall apply in like manner to alternate members. Three of the members, referred to in this part as “producer members”, shall be producers or officers or employees of producers, and shall not be handlers, or directors, officers, or employees exercising a supervisory or managerial function of a handler. The six remaining members, referred to in this part as “producer-handlers”, shall be selected from (a) handlers, or directors, officers or employees of a handler, or (b) producers who are also handlers or directors, officers or employees exercising a supervisory or managerial function of a handler. The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may issue rules and regulations covering matters of eligibility for producer members, or revising the composition of the Committee prescribed in this section if it no longer is representative following a substantial change in the industry.

[43 FR 4251, Feb. 1, 1978]
§ 987.25 Qualification.
Each person selected as a member or alternate member of the Committee shall, prior to serving on the Committee, qualify by filing with the Secretary a written acceptance after receiving notice of his selection. Any member or alternate who, at the time of his selection, was a member of or employed by a member of the group which nominated him shall, upon ceasing to be such member or employee, become disqualified to serve further and his position on the Committee shall be deemed vacant.

§ 987.26 Vacancies.
In the event of any vacancy occasioned by the failure to qualify, declination to serve, removal, resignation, disqualification, or death of any person nominated to serve on the Committee, or any member or alternate member selected by the Secretary, the Committee shall promptly submit its recommendation to the Secretary of a nominee eligible to serve in accordance with the requirements specified for the group in § 987.21. If the vacancy is for a member position, the Committee shall recommend appointment of the alternate member if that person is willing to serve in that position. If the Committee’s recommendation is not submitted within 30 calendar days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, and the selection shall be made on the basis of representation provided in § 987.21.

§ 987.27 Alternates.
An alternate for a member of the Committee shall act in the place and stead of such member during his absence or in the event of his removal, resignation, disqualification, or death, until a successor for such member’s unexpired term has been selected and has qualified. In the event a member and his alternate are unable to attend a meeting of the Committee, such member or alternate, in that order, may designate an alternate from the group he represents to act in his place. If neither a member nor his alternate has designated an alternate as his replacement, or such designated alternate is unable to serve as the replacement, the chairman may, with the concurrence of a majority of the members including alternates acting as members, representing such group, designate an alternate from such group who is present at the meeting and is not acting as a member to act in the place and stead of the absent member.

§ 987.28 Expenses.
The members of the Committee shall serve without compensation but shall be allowed their necessary expenses.

§ 987.29 Powers.
The Committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the terms and provisions of this subpart.
(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart.
(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of this subpart, and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 987.30 Duties.
The Committee shall have, among other things, the following duties:
(a) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler.
(b) To keep minutes, books, and records which will clearly reflect all of its transactions and such minutes, books, and other records shall be subject to examination by the Secretary at any time.
(c) To investigate the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to dates, to assemble data in connection therewith.
(d) To furnish to the Secretary such available information as may be deemed pertinent to the administration of this subpart or as he may request and to give to the Secretary the
§ 987.31 Procedure.

(a) A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(b) The Committee shall, from among its members, select a chairman and such other officers and adopt such rules for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable.

(c) For any decision of the Committee to be valid, a concurring vote of at least five members is required, except as follows:

(1) In matters relating to restructuring Committee composition pursuant to §987.21, concurrence by at least eight members is required;

(2) In matters relating to establishment, modification and application of free and restricted percentages pursuant to §§987.44 and 987.46, concurrence by at least seven members is required; and

(3) In matters relating to recommendation of any program of paid advertising or major program of market promotion pursuant to §987.33, concurrence by at least six members is required.

(d) At all assembled meetings each vote shall be cast in person.

(e) The Committee may vote upon any proposition by mail, or telephone when confirmed in writing within 2 weeks, or telegram, upon due notice and full and identical explanation to all members, including alternates acting as members, but any such action shall not be considered valid unless unanimously approved.

(f) If the total number of members of the Committee is changed pursuant to §987.21, the minimum voting requirements shall be in the same ratio to the revised total number of members, as nearly as practicable, as the minimum voting requirements prescribed in paragraph (c) of this section are to nine.

§ 987.33 Research and promotion.

(a) The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of marketing research and development projects, including marketing promotion and paid advertising, designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption of dates. The expenses of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to §987.72. Upon conclusion of each program, but at least annually, the Committee shall summarize and report on the program status and accomplishments, to its members and the Secretary. A similar report to the Committee shall be required of any contracting party on any paid advertising or major program. Also, for each advertising or major program the contracting party shall be required to maintain records of money received and expenditures and such shall be available to the Committee and the Secretary. The Committee shall, with the approval of...
§ 987.34 Development.

As early as practicable, but no later than October 31, the Committee shall prepare and submit to the Secretary, a report setting forth its marketing policy, including data on which it is based, by variety, for regulation of dates in the crop year.

(a) The committee shall consider such factors as: (1) The estimated production of dates during the crop year; (2) the estimated production of DAC dates, export dates, and product dates; (3) the handler carryin on October 1 of dates of those qualities; (4) the estimated trade demand in each outlet during the crop year; and (5) the desirable carryout, by outlet.

(b) If dates to be handled as free dates are not synonymous with those to be handled in DAC outlets, the Committee shall consider such additional factors as: (1) The supply of marketable dates that will be available from the estimated production, and from the October 1 carryin, that could be used as free dates, and (2) the estimated trade demand for free dates during the current crop year, and the desirable carryout for free dates.

(c) The Committee shall submit its recommendation as to grade, size, and container regulations and its recommendation whether free and restricted percentages should be established and if so, the free and restricted percentages and the appropriate withholding factor.

§ 987.35 Modifications.

In the event the Committee subsequently determines that the marketing policy should be modified due to changing supply or demand conditions, it shall formulate and submit to the Secretary its modified marketing policy along with the data which it considered in connection with such modification.

§ 987.36 Notice.

The Committee shall give notice through newspapers having general circulation in the area of production or by other means of communication to producers and handlers of the contents of each marketing policy report submitted to the Secretary and of each report modifying such marketing policy. Copies of all such reports shall be maintained in the office of the Committee where they shall be available for examination by producers and handlers.

§ 987.38 Handlers of record.

Each crop year but no later than October 10 for continuing handlers and prior to handling dates in the case of new handlers, any person desiring to handle dates shall submit a report to the Committee on a form prescribed by it containing the following information with respect to all dates which such person expects to handle:

(a) The name and address of each producer;

(b) The location of each date garden; and

(c) The acreage and estimated current season’s production thereon.

Those reports required to be filed by October 10 shall reflect producers who are signed up with the handlers as of October 1 of the then current crop year. The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may issue rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this section.

§ 987.39 The establishment of minimum standards.

In order to effectuate the declared policy of the act, all dates handled as marketable dates shall meet the requirements of U.S. Grade C, or if for further processing, U.S. Grade C (Dry) of the effective U.S. Standards for Grades of Dates, 7 CFR 52.1001: Provided, That the Secretary, may upon recommendation of the Committee, prescribe other minimum standards of grades and sizes for marketable dates of any variety to be handled in any designated outlet. To aid the Secretary in
§ 987.40 Additional grade or size regulations.

Whenever the Committee deems it advisable to establish grade or size requirements for any variety of dates, in addition to the minimum standard provided pursuant to §987.39, to govern dates of such variety to be handled in any designated outlet or to be withheld to meet withholding obligation, or both, it shall recommend to the Secretary requirements as to grade based on the effective United States Standards for Grades of Dates or any modification thereof, and such size requirements as it may deem appropriate. If the Secretary finds, upon the basis of such recommendation or other information available to him, that such additional grade or size regulation, or both such regulations, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall establish such regulations. Notice thereof, showing the effective date, shall be sent by the Committee to all handlers of record. On and after the effective date dates of such variety to be handled in any designated outlet or withheld to meet withholding obligation except in accordance with such regulations.


§ 987.41 Inspection.

(a) Packed dates. Prior to handling any dates packed for handling each handler shall, at his own expense, cause: (1) An inspection to be made of such dates in order to ascertain if such dates meet the applicable grade and size regulations prescribed or provided for in this part; and (2) a certification for handling to be made of all such dates as meet such grade and size regulations.

(b) Dates for further processing. Prior to handling any dates for further processing each handler shall, at his own expense, cause: (1) An inspection to be made to ascertain if such dates meet the applicable grade and size requirements effective pursuant to §987.39 or §987.40, except for character associated with moisture; and (2) a certification for further processing to be made of all such dates as meet such grade and size requirements: Provided, That such inspection and certification requirements shall not apply to inter-handler transfers within the area of production of field-run dates or graded dates.

(c) Identification and service. All dates handled shall be identified by seals, stamps, or other means prescribed by the Committee and affixed to the containers by the handlers under the supervision of the Committee or the designated inspectors. Inspection shall be performed by inspectors of the United States Department of Agriculture's Processed Products Standardization and Inspection Branch or such other inspection service as may be recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary. Handlers shall cause a copy of each inspection certificate to be furnished to the Committee.

Volume Regulation

§ 987.43 Outlets and specifications for marketable dates.

Marketable dates shall not be handled or otherwise disposed of except as provided in this subpart. This shall not preclude dates of better grades or sizes being handled or otherwise disposed of in any outlet established for dates of lesser grades or sizes. The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may modify the designations specified in §987.12 to reflect new major outlets.
and regulatory requirements needed because of changes in marketing conditions. Marketable dates shall include but not be limited to the following: DAC dates, Dates for further processing, Export dates, and Product dates.

[43 FR 4252, Feb. 1, 1978]

§ 987.44 Free and restricted percentages.

(a) Whenever the Committee finds that the available supply of marketable dates of applicable grade and size available to supply the trade demand for free dates of any variety is likely to be excessive, and that limiting the volume of marketable dates to be handled as free dates through establishment of free and restricted percentages applicable to such variety of such dates would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, it shall recommend such percentages to the Secretary. If the Secretary finds, upon the basis of the Committee's recommendation and supporting data or other information available to him, that the establishment of such percentages would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall establish such percentages. The sum of the free and restricted percentages for any crop year shall equal 100 percent.

(b) The dates handled by any handler in accordance with the provisions hereof shall be determined to be that handler's quota fixed by the Secretary within the meaning of section 8a(5) of the act.


§ 987.45 Withholding restricted dates.

(a) Whenever free and restricted percentages for any variety of dates have been established for a crop year by the Secretary in accordance with §987.44, each handler shall, at the time of having dates of such variety certified for handling as free dates (including those for further processing that are to be handled as free dates), withhold from handling a quantity of marketable dates of such variety having a weight equal to the restricted percentage for such variety referable to the dates so far certified. The withholding requirement shall not apply to dates certified for delivery directly to an excess supply removal program of the Secretary. The weight required to be withheld shall be determined by dividing the restricted percentage by the free percentage and applying the resultant withholding factor, rounded to the nearest one-tenth of one percent, to the weight of dates so certified. The withholding factor, computed as aforesaid, shall be established by the Secretary. When pitted dates are certified, the weight to be withheld shall be determined by dividing the weight of the pitted dates certified for handling or further processing by a divisor established by the Committee with the approval of the Secretary and applying the withholding factor.

(b) Compliance by any handler with the withholding of restricted dates may be deferred to any date not later than January 31 of any crop year, upon request to the Committee and when accompanied by a written undertaking that on or prior to such date, he will have fully satisfied his withholding obligation. Such undertaking shall be secured by a bond or bonds to be filed with, and acceptable to, the Committee and with a surety or sureties acceptable to the Committee, running in favor of the Committee and the Secretary in an amount conditioned upon full compliance with such undertaking. The amount shall be determined by multiplying the poundage of the deferred restricted obligation by a bonding rate per pound which would provide funds estimated to be sufficient for the Committee to purchase on the open market a volume of dates equivalent to the deferred obligation. Such bonding rate shall be established annually, and modified as necessary, by the Committee. Any sums collected through default by a handler on his bond shall be used by the Committee to purchase dates to meet the violated restricted obligation, reimburse the Committee for expenses relative to the default, and any excess money remaining shall be refunded to the defaulting handler. The dates so purchased by the Committee shall be turned over to the defaulting handler for disposition as restricted dates. In the event the Committee is unable to purchase a poundage of dates equal to the defaulted volume, the
§ 987.45

Sums collected shall, after reimbursement of Committee expenses in connection with the default, be distributed among all handlers other than the defaulting handler in proportion to the volume of certified dates handled as free dates (including those for further processing that were handled as free dates), during the crop year in which the default occurred.

(c) At any time during the crop year free dates may be inspected and certified for handling or for further processing as provided in §987.41. Dates so certified shall, at the time of certification, be identified by appropriate seals, stamps, or tags to be furnished by the Committee and to be affixed to the containers by the handler under the direction and supervision of the Committee or its designated inspectors. The assessment requirements in §987.72 as well as the withholding obligation prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section shall be met at the time of certification. However, a handler who has had more free dates certified for handling or further processing than he subsequently shipped or otherwise handled may, upon request to the Committee and with its approval, have any of such excess quantity of the certified dates suspended from certification of record or, if damaged or the outlet changed, removed from certification, and his withholding and assessment obligations adjusted accordingly. A handler, who has had dates certified for handling or further processing and has not had them so suspended from certification of record or removed from certification, may carry such certified free dates over into the new crop year and need not pay the assessment nor meet the requirements of any withholding percentages established for such year.

(d) Dates withheld to meet the withholding obligation shall be stored at the expense of the handler, in storage of his own choosing and disposed of in accordance with §987.55. All such dates shall be inspected and identified by appropriate seals, stamps, or tags to be furnished by the Committee and to be affixed to the containers by the handler under the direction and supervision of the Committee or its designated inspectors. All withholding and movement of restricted dates, shall be subject to the supervision and accounting control of the Committee and reports shall be filed as required by this part. Any handler who during a crop year disposes in restricted outlets of a quantity of marketable dates in excess of his withholding obligation of such year may: (1) On written request delivered to the Committee not later than September 30 of such crop year have a part of all of such excess transferred, by the Committee, to such other handler or handlers as he may name, for crediting such other handlers' withholding obligations incurred in that crop year; and in addition (2) have a part or all of the remainder of such excess credited to his restricted obligation of the subsequent crop year: Provided, That the amount of any such credit shall not exceed that established by the Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, as the percentage of such withholding obligation.

(e) On request to the Committee and with its approval, a handler may, in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph and any applicable rules and regulations which the Committee may prescribe with the approval of the Secretary, defer until any date not later than September 30 of the crop year the meeting of any portion of his obligation to withhold restricted dates by setting aside such amount of graded dates as will assure a quantity of marketable dates equal at least to the quantity needed to be withheld to meet his withholding obligation. With respect to any such dates the handler may set aside in connection with such a deferment, the Committee may require, if it deems it necessary, the handler to have made, at his own expense, such inspection as may be necessary for a determination as to whether such dates conform to the applicable requirements for dates that may be set aside under this paragraph. As a condition to the Committee approving the deferment, the handler shall agree in writing that: (1) He will adequately mark and identify the set-aside graded dates as such and hold them separate and apart from other dates; (2) the graded dates will not be removed from the stacks in which so set aside without the prior written permission of the
§ 987.47 Surplus.

All cull dates and all substandard dates, including such dates blended with varieties within the generic term "dates not regulated by this part," except any utility dates released to human consumption outlets pursuant to § 987.56, are surplus dates of any crop year. No handler shall ship or deliver such surplus dates to other than the Committee or its designee(s) for disposition in eligible outlets for such
§ 987.48 Container regulation.

Whenever the Committee deems it advisable to establish a container regulation for any variety of dates, it shall recommend to the Secretary the size, capacity, weight, or pack of the container, or containers, which may be used in the handling or packaging of dates, or both. If the Secretary finds upon the basis of such recommendation or other information available to him that such container regulation would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act he shall establish such regulation and notice thereof showing the effective date shall be sent by the Committee to all handlers of record. After the effective date of such regulation, no handler shall handle dates of such variety except in accordance with such regulation and all other applicable requirements in effect pursuant to this part.

QUALIFICATIONS TO REGULATION

§ 987.50 Application after end of crop year.

Unless otherwise specified the regulations and the bonding rates established for any crop year shall continue in effect with respect to all free dates for which control obligations have not been previously met, until regulations and bonding rates are established for the new crop year. Thereupon the withholding obligations for all free dates handled or certified for handling or for further processing during such crop year shall be adjusted to the newly established percentages and a similar adjustment shall be made in any bond or bonds already given for that crop year.


§ 987.51 Interhandler transfers.

Transfers of dates may be made from one handler to another, and each handler who so transfers any such dates shall immediately upon the completion of the particular transfer notify the Committee of the transfer, specifying the date of the transfer, the quantity and variety of dates involved, and the name of the receiving handler. If such transfer is wholly within the area of production, the assessment and withholding obligations shall be placed on the handler agreeing to assume them: Provided, That in the absence of the Committee receiving notice of a specific agreement on such obligations, the buying handler shall be held accountable. If such transfer is from within the area of production to any point outside thereof, the assessment and withholding obligations shall be met by the handler within the area of production. Except for packed dates inspected and certified for handling prior to transfer and which are not repacked, any receiving handler (other than a repacker not otherwise a handler, who shall comply with § 987.53) shall comply with the requirements of § 987.41 on all dates, but this shall apply to repacked dates previously inspected and certified for handling only if the handler also packs dates received as field-run dates.

[32 FR 12596, Aug. 31, 1967]

§ 987.52 Exemption.

The Committee may exempt from regulation, upon written request of any producer or handler, the dates he sells to consumers through roadside stands, local date shops, mail order or specialty outlets, if it determines that the particular request is not likely to materially interfere with the objectives of this part. All dates handled pursuant to exemptions under this section shall be reported to the Committee in such a manner as to permit the Committee to keep effective records of all exempted dates.

manner and in such form as the Committee may prescribe. The Committee shall issue, with the approval of the Secretary, appropriate rules and regulations establishing the bases on which exemptions may be granted.

§ 987.53 Application of regulations to repackers.

Repackers shall be exempt from those requirements of this part, including reporting requirements, with respect to packed dates which had been certified for handling, pursuant to § 987.41(a), prior to receipt, except that:

(a) A repacker who processes such dates by machine pitting shall comply with the grade, size, inspection, certification, and identification requirements, and (b) a repacker who repackages such dates in containers other than those in which received, shall comply with the then effective container regulations established pursuant to § 987.48.

[32 FR 12596, Aug. 31, 1967]

§ 987.55 Outlets for restricted dates.

Restricted dates may be disposed of only through exportation to such countries as the Committee may approve or by diversion in product outlets described in § 987.43 which the Committee concludes to be appropriate and which will result in dates moving into consumption in a form other than that of whole or pitted dates. To facilitate sales and promote orderly marketing of any variety of restricted dates handled in export, the Committee may participate in or negotiate for handlers, the sale of such dates to meet all or a substantial part of the needs of the particular country, and, in connection with each such sale, the Committee shall extend to all handlers an opportunity to participate therein and shall distribute the returns therefrom to participating handlers according to their respective contributions of dates. The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe rules and regulations governing the opportunity to participate in such sales. The provisions of this section shall not preclude restricted dates being disposed of in outlets for utility and cull dates prescribed in § 987.56.

[43 FR 4253, Feb. 1, 1978]

§ 987.56 Outlets for utility and cull dates.

Subject to the provisions of § 987.47, utility dates and cull dates may be disposed of without inspection, but only in feed, non-table syrup, alcohol, or brandy outlets, or in such other outlets for non-human food products as the Committee with the approval of the Secretary, may specify: Provided, That whenever the Committee concludes and the Secretary finds that the use of utility dates of any variety in certain products for human consumption would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, the Secretary shall specify such products, and dates of such variety that are inspected and certified as utility dates may be disposed of for use, or used, in such products: And provided further, That whenever the Committee concludes and the Secretary finds that the disposition of utility dates of any variety through any export outlet would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, the Secretary shall specify such export outlet, and dates of such variety that are inspected and certified as meeting such grade, size, container, and identification requirements as may be prescribed by the Committee with the approval of the Secretary for such outlet may be so exported.


§ 987.57 Approved manufacturers or feeders.

(a) Diversion of dates, pursuant to § 987.55 or § 987.56, shall be accomplished only by such persons (which may include handlers) as are approved manufacturers or feeders. Any person may become an approved manufacturer or feeder if he (1) submits an application to the Committee in which he agrees, as a condition to approval of his application, to furnish to the Committee such information as it may require and to comply with the requirements and restrictions relative to the use and disposition of such dates, as set forth in this part, and (2) receives from the

[32 FR 12596, Aug. 31, 1967]
§ 987.58

Committee written approval of his application. The application and approval shall be in accordance with such rules, regulations and safeguards as may be prescribed pursuant to § 987.59.


§ 987.58 Terminal date.

Dates covered by §§ 987.55 and 987.56 shall, by September 30 of the subsequent crop year (a) in accordance with the applicable requirements of such sections, be disposed of, or be converted from their whole or pitted form; or (b) be set aside and marked for disposition pursuant to the applicable requirements of such sections. The Committee may prescribe, with the approval of the Secretary, such rules, regulations and safeguards, pursuant to § 987.59, as may be necessary to prevent dates covered by §§ 987.55 and 987.56 from interfering with the objectives of this part.

§ 987.59 Safeguards.

The Committee may prescribe, with the approval of the Secretary, such rules, regulations and safeguards as are necessary to prevent dates covered by §§ 987.55 and 987.56 from interfering with the objectives of this part.

REPORTS AND RECORDS

§ 987.61 Reports of handler carryover.

Each handler shall file each year with the Committee written reports of his carryover of dates as of March 1, October 1, and at such other times as the Committee may prescribe: Provided, That during those seasons when volume regulations are established by the Secretary, the handler shall file an additional report on his January 1 carryover. Such reports shall be filed within 10 days of the date of the carryover. These reporting dates specified may be changed, upon recommendation of the Committee, together with substantiation of the need therefor, with the approval of the Secretary.

[43 FR 4253, Feb. 1, 1978]

§ 987.62 Reports of dates shipped.

Each handler who ships dates during a crop year shall submit to the Committee, in such form and at such intervals as the Committee may prescribe, reports showing the net weight of dates shipped by him and such other information pertinent thereto as the Committee may specify.

§ 987.63 Reports on restricted dates withheld.

Each handler from time to time, on demand of the Committee, shall file with it a report of the restricted dates withheld by him in satisfaction of his withholding obligation. Such reports shall show such information as the Committee may require and may be in such form as the Committee may prescribe.

§ 987.64 Reports on disposition of restricted, other marketable, utility, and cull dates.

Each handler disposing of any dates pursuant to §§ 987.55 and 987.56 shall promptly thereafter report such disposition to the Committee in such form as the Committee may prescribe.

[43 FR 4253, Feb. 1, 1978]

§ 987.65 Other reports.

Upon request of the Committee each handler shall furnish to it in such manner and at such times as it prescribes, such other information as will enable the Committee to perform its duties and exercise its powers hereunder.

§ 987.66 Certification of reports.

All reports submitted to the Committee as required in this part shall be certified to the United States Department of Agriculture and to the Committee as to the completeness and correctness of the information therein.

§ 987.67 Confidential information.

All data or other information constituting a trade secret or disclosing a trade position or business condition shall be received by, and kept in the custody of, one or more designated employees of the Committee and information which would reveal the circumstances of a single handler shall be disclosed to no person other than the Secretary.
§ 987.68 Verification of reports and records.

For the purpose of checking compliance with record keeping requirements and verifying reports filed by handlers, the Secretary and the Committee, through its duly authorized employees, shall have access to any premises where dates are held and, at any time during reasonable business hours, shall be permitted to examine any dates held and any and all records with respect to matters within the purview of this part. Handlers shall furnish labor necessary to facilitate such examinations at no expense to the Committee. All handlers shall maintain complete records which accurately show the quantity of dates handled, disposed of, and withheld. The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish the type of records to be maintained. Such records shall be retained by handlers for not less than two years subsequent to the termination of each crop year.


EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 987.71 Expenses.

The Committee is authorized to incur such expenses, including maintenance of an operating reserve fund, as the Secretary may find are reasonable and are likely to be incurred by it during each crop year for the maintenance and functioning of the Committee and for such other purposes as he determines to be appropriate. The recommendation of the Committee as to total expenses and allocation thereof for each crop year, together with all data supporting such recommendation, shall be submitted to the Secretary within a reasonable time after the marketing policy for each crop year is recommended.

§ 987.72 Assessments.

(a) Requirement for payment. Each handler shall pay to the Committee upon demand, on all dates he has certified as meeting the requirements for marketable dates and utility dates utilized in product outlets including the eligible portion of any field-run dates certified and set aside or disposed of pursuant to § 987.45(f), his pro rata share of all expenses which the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the Committee during each crop year. Should the condition arise wherein the utility portion of dates handled in certain other outlets should not be, in the opinion of the Committee, subject to the payment of assessments on that portion, the Committee may recommend and the Secretary approve by rulemaking, such exclusion. Each handler’s pro rata share shall be the rate of assessment per hundredweight fixed by the Secretary. At any time during or after a crop year the Secretary may increase such assessment rate to secure sufficient funds to cover unanticipated expenses or a deficit in assessable poundage. Any such increase shall apply to all assessable poundage of the crop year. The Committee may accept payments of assessments in advance and may borrow money in any amount not to exceed 10 percent of the estimated expenses set forth in its budget for the then crop year. The assessment weight of pitted dates shall be determined by dividing the weight of such dates by a divisor established by the Committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(b) Surplus expenses. The Committee is authorized to use temporarily funds derived from assessments collected pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section to defray expenses incurred in disposing of surplus dates. All such expenses shall be deducted from the proceeds obtained by the Committee from such disposal.

(c) Operating reserve. The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish and maintain during one or more crop years an operating monetary reserve in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the average of expenses incurred during the most recent five preceding crop years, except that an established reserve need not be reduced to conform to any recomputed average. Funds in reserve shall be available for use by the Committee for expenses authorized pursuant to § 987.71.

(d) Refunds. Funds held by the Committee at the conclusion of the crop year in excess of the crop year’s expenses, including reserve requirements,
§ 987.76 Compliance.

No handler shall handle any dates (including dates for further processing) except in conformity with, and as authorized by or pursuant to, the applicable provisions of this part, including but not being limited to the regulations relating to grade, size, and volume; and no handler shall use or otherwise dispose of restricted dates or any other dates which have not been certified for handling or for further processing except in conformity with, and as authorized by or pursuant to, the applicable provisions of this part.

§ 987.77 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee, or any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or any other person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate member, agent, or employee, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct or gross negligence.

§ 987.78 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability of this part to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 987.79 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 987.80 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon its termination except with respect to acts done under and during its existence.

§ 987.81 Agents.

The Secretary may, by a designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the United States Government, or name any bureau or division of the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

§ 987.82 Effective time, suspension, or termination.

(a) Effective time. The provisions of this part, as well as any amendments thereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare, and shall continue in force until terminated or suspended in one of the ways hereinafter specified in this section.

(b) Suspension or termination—(1) Failure to effectuate policy of act. The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this part, whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(2) When favored by growers. The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this part at the end of any crop year.
whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of the growers of dates who, during that crop year, have been engaged in the production for market of dates in the area of production: Provided, That such majority have, during such period, produced for market more than 50 percent of the volume of such dates produced for market within said area; but such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before August 1 of the then current crop year.

(3) If enabling legislation is terminated. The provisions of this part shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

(c) Proceedings after termination—(1) Designation of trustees. Upon the termination of the provisions hereof, the members of the Committee then functioning shall continue as joint trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the Committee, of all funds and property then in the possession or under the control of the Committee, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trusteeship shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.

(2) Duties of trustees. Said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary: shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the Committee and the joint trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall, upon request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such persons full title and right to all funds, property, and claims vested in the Committee or the joint trustees pursuant hereto.

(3) Obligations of persons other than Committee members and trustees. Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered by the Committee or its members, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the said Committee and upon the said joint trustees.


§ 987.83 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination hereof or of any regulation issued pursuant to this part, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not—

(a) Affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this part or any regulation issued hereunder, or

(b) Release or extinguish any violation of this part or of any regulation issued hereunder, or

(c) Affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person, with respect to any such violation.

§ 987.84 Amendments.

Amendments hereto may be proposed, from time to time by any person or by the Committee.

Subpart—Administrative Rules

SOURCE: 37 FR 23325, Nov. 2, 1972, unless otherwise noted.

DEFINITIONS

§ 987.101 Lot.

Lot means the aggregate quantity of dates of the same variety, style, type and grade in like containers with like identification either (a) packed as a continuous production segment, or (b) offered for inspection as a shipping, storage, or other unit.

§ 987.102 Lot number.

Lot number is synonymous with code and means a combination of letters or numbers, or both, acceptable to the Committee, showing at least the date of packing, the variety, and the outlet category of the dates. The combination of letters or numbers, or both, imprinted on the containers shall differ
§ 987.104 Major marketing promotion.
A major marketing promotion program is one requiring the expenditure of more than $500 of Committee funds.
[43 FR 28435, June 30, 1978]

§ 987.105 Whole equivalent of pitted dates.
For the purposes of this part, the whole date equivalent weight of pitted dates shall be determined by dividing the weight of the pitted dates by 0.83.
[53 FR 39226, Oct. 6, 1988]

IDENTIFICATION AND OUTLET SPECIFICATIONS

§ 987.112 Identification of dates.
(a) General. Prior to applying the markings required by this section, each handler shall remove or delete from each container all former identifying marks which conflict with those applicable to the dates currently in the container. Dates of each outlet category shall be held, stored, or shipped in a manner to preserve their identity. Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the markings on the containers shall be not less than five-sixteenths (\(\frac{5}{16}\)) inch in height on containers exceeding 5 pounds net weight and not less than one-eighth (\(\frac{1}{8}\)) inch in height on smaller containers. All markings shall be legible.

(b) DAC dates. Each handler shall mark every shipping or storage container (excluding subcontainers) of DAC dates with his name or that of the distributor for whom the handler is packing, and the lot number. Under the supervision of the inspection service every container shall be marked with the date of inspection, the name or insignia of the inspection service, and the letters “DAC”.

(c) FP dates. Each handler shall mark every shipping or storage container (excluding subcontainers) of FP dates with his name or that of the distributor for whom the handler is packing, and the lot number. Under the supervision of the inspection service every container shall be marked with the date of inspection, the name or insignia of the inspection service, and the letters “FP”.

(d) Export dates. Each handler shall mark every shipping or storage container (excluding subcontainers) of Export dates with his name or that of the exporting firm, and the lot number. If the dates, including fieldrun dates with cull dates removed, are certified as meeting the grade and size requirements for export to approved countries other than Mexico, the containers shall be marked “Export”. Dry dates for processing packed for shipment to approved countries shall be marked “Export Dry”. Dates packed for export to Mexico shall be marked “Export Mexico”. However, “Export Mexico” shall be in letters not less than three-fourths (\(\frac{3}{4}\)) inch in height on containers exceeding 5 pounds net weight, and not less than one-eighth (\(\frac{1}{8}\)) inch in height on smaller containers. DAC dates and FP dates, marked pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (c), respectively, of this section, may be exported without change of marking.

(e) Product and utility dates. Each handler shall mark every shipping or storage container (excluding subcontainers) of Product dates, or Utility dates when approved for use in products, with the lot number and, if for shipment outside the area of production, with the word Product or Utility, as applicable. Whenever a handler, or an approved date product manufacturer, utilizes a procedure that maintains the identity of the lot and assures that the dates will be used in products or exported, the Committee may waive the requirements of this paragraph for that lot.

(f) Unidentified dates. If a handler loses the identity of any lot of dates previously inspected and certified as marketable dates, the certification as to such lot shall be void.
[43 FR 28436, June 30, 1978]

§ 987.112a Grade, size, and container requirements for each outlet category.
(a) In lieu of the minimum standards prescribed in §987.39, the following standards are prescribed as the minimum grades and sizes for marketable dates to be handled in the applicable outlets. These standards shall continue

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in effect irrespective of whether the season average price to producers for dates is or is not in excess of the parity level specified in section 2(1) of the act.

(b) DAC dates. (1) All varieties of DAC dates may be handled in the United States, Canada, or any other outlet established for dates of lesser grades or sizes.

(2) DAC dates of any variety shall at least meet the requirements of U.S. Grade B, except that up to 25 percent, by weight, of the dates may possess semi-dry or dry calyx ends, but not more than 5 percent, by weight, of the dates may possess dry calyx ends. Also, with respect to whole dates of the Deglet Noor variety, the individual dates in the sample from the lot shall weigh at least 6.5 grams, but up to 10 percent, by weight, may weigh less than 6.5 grams, except beginning February 21, 1997, and ending October 31, 1997, the 10 percent tolerance shall be increased to 15 percent. These size requirements are in addition to, and do not supersede, the requirements as to uniformity of size prescribed in the grade standards.

(3) DAC dates of any variety, when packed in plastic containers, other than bags and master shipping containers, shall contain a net weight (i) for whole dates, of either eight ounces, twelve ounces, 1 pound 8 ounces, or two pounds or more, and (ii) for pitted dates, of either seven ounces, ten ounces, one pound, one pound eight ounces, or two pounds or more. DAC dates packed in other than plastic containers may be handled without regard to the net weight content. For the purpose of this subparagraph, plastic container means any containers of any shape made from plastic and in which dates are packed without the use of cardboard boats, trays, or other like stiffening material: Provided, That DAC dates shipped for sale in Canada in plastic containers are exempt from the net weight requirements of this subparagraph.

(4) The California Date Administrative Committee may designate with the approval of the Secretary such other types and sizes of containers for testing in connection with a research project conducted by or in cooperation with the Committee. The time period and the quantity of dates which may be marketed by handlers during that period shall be designated by the Committee for each market research project. The handling of each lot of dates in such test containers shall be subject to the prior approval, and under the supervision, of the Committee.

(c) Dates for further processing. (1) Except as provided in §987.152(b)(1), all varieties of FP dates may be disposed of only (i) to persons in the United States capable of processing and packing the dates and having them certified as DAC dates, or (ii) exported to the countries designated in paragraph (d)(2) of this section.

(2) FP dates of any variety shall at least meet the requirements of U.S. Grade B (dry). Also, with respect to whole dates of the Deglet Noor variety, the individual dates in the sample from the lot shall weigh at least 6.5 grams, but up to 10 percent, by weight, may weigh less than 6.5 grams, except beginning February 21, 1997, and ending October 31, 1997, the 10 percent tolerance shall be increased to 15 percent. These size requirements are in addition to, and do not supersede, the requirements as to uniformity of size prescribed in the grade standards.

(d) Export dates. (1) Dates of any variety identified as "Export" dates and inspected and certified as meeting the requirements of this subparagraph may only be exported to any country except Canada. Such dates shall at least meet the requirements of U.S. Grade C: Provided, That Deglet Noor dates shall score not less than 31 points for character and 24 points for absence of defects but up to 40 percent, by weight, of the dates may be damaged by broken skin.

(2) Export of dry dates. Dates of any variety identified and certified as meeting the requirements of this subparagraph only may be exported to the following designated date producing and processing countries in North Africa: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and the United States, Canada, or any other outlet established for dates of lesser grades or sizes.
§ 987.112a

Egypt, and Sudan; the following date processing and consuming countries north of the Mediterranean Sea: Spain, France, Belgium, West Germany, Italy, France, Greece, and the Netherlands; and the following date processing and consuming country in Asia: Japan. Such dates shall at least meet U.S. Grade C (dry) except for defects removable by washing: Provided, That Deglet Noor dates shall score not less than 31 points for character and 24 points for absence of defects but up to 40 percent, by weight, of the dates may be damaged by broken skin.

(3) Dates of any variety identified as “Export—Mexico” and inspected and certified as at least meeting the requirements of U.S. Grade C may be exported only to Mexico. No dates shall be exported to Mexico unless the handler certifies to the Committee and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, on CDAC Form No. 11(a), which shall be submitted to the Committee, that the importing buyer has agreed that such dates will not reenter the United States or be shipped to Canada. The form shall show the identity of the handler, the trucker, the importer, the destination of the dates, the location of the border-crossing station, and such other information as the Committee deems appropriate to perform its duties and exercise its powers under this part.

(4) Whenever field-run dates of any variety are authorized for export to any country, each lot shall consist of at least 85 percent, by weight, of sound dates. Sound dates means individual dates which are at least U.S. Grade C in character and are free of the defects—other than those removable by washing—scored to determine the point requirement applicable to their intended destination.

(5) Dates meeting the grade and size requirements of this paragraph may be disposed of in outlet categories established for dates of lesser grades and sizes.

(e) Product dates. (1) Dates of any variety identified as “Product” dates and inspected and certified as at least meeting the requirements of this paragraph may be disposed of by handlers for use or used by them in the production of table syrup, rings, chunks, pieces, butter, paste, and macerated dates or other products approved by the Committee. If the handler does not use the dates in products, he may sell them to: (i) Other handlers within the area of production for conversion into products, or (ii) to date product manufacturers approved by the Committee regardless of their location. Once the dates have been converted from their whole or pitted form, they may be shipped to any market in the United States, Canada, or foreign country.

(2) Product dates of any variety and identified as “Product” shall meet the requirements of U.S. Grade C, except that mashing and mechanical injury not affecting eating quality shall not be considered in determining the defect factor.

(f) Change of outlet. A handler may change the outlet category for any lot of dates: Provided, That prior to such change, the handler files a completed CDAC Form No. 1(a) and a new inspection certificate with the Committee. If the grade and size requirements of the new outlet category are the same as or less than the requirements of the outlet category previously intended, only a condition inspection is required. If the grade and size requirements of the new outlet category are greater, a complete inspection is required. The handler shall change the marking on the containers to conform with the identification requirements prescribed in §987.112 for the new outlet.

(g) Deteriorated dates. Any marketable dates which deteriorated in quality so that they are either utility or cull dates may be disposed of only in the applicable outlets for such dates or they may be reconditioned and upon reconditioning, the modified lot may
NOMINATIONS

§ 987.124 Nomination and polling.

(a) Date producers and producer-handlers shall be provided an opportunity to nominate individuals to serve on the Committee. For this purpose, the Committee shall establish a date and place for polling prior to June 15 of each even-numbered year and establish a procedure for casting absentee ballots. The date and place of polling shall be announced at least 6 weeks prior to the polling date by letters to all known date producers and producer-handlers and by Committee press releases to local newspapers and other news media in the date-producing area. Such letters and press releases shall: (1) Include the names of incumbents who are willing to continue serving on the Committee; (2) inform eligible producers and producer-handlers of the opportunity to propose additional names to be included on the nomination ballots; and (3) state when and where absentee ballots will be available. Additional names to be included on the nomination ballot must be received by the Committee at least 4 weeks prior to the polling date. Absentee ballots and instructions for completing and returning the ballots will be made available by the Committee at least 3 weeks prior to the polling date. Any person eligible to vote must request the ballot by the close of business on the polling date to be counted.

(b)(1) Producers. Each producer may vote for three producer members and three producer alternate members. No producer may vote more than once for any one person. The three individuals receiving the highest number of votes for the producer member positions shall be the producer member nominees. Individuals nominated for producer member and failing to receive enough votes to become a producer member nominee shall have their names listed with those nominated for producer alternate members and the votes cast for them as member shall be counted with any votes they received for producer alternate member. The three individuals receiving the highest number of votes for the producer alternate member positions shall be the producer alternate member nominees.

(2) Producer-handlers. Each producer-handler may vote for one producer-handler member and one producer-handler alternate member, and these votes shall be weighted as provided in § 987.24. No producer-handler may vote more than once for any one person. The six individuals receiving the highest weighted votes for the producer-handler member positions shall be the producer-handler member nominees. Individuals nominated for producer-handler member and failing to receive enough votes to become a producer-handler member nominee shall have their names listed with those nominated for producer-handler alternate members and the votes cast for them as member shall be counted with any votes they received for producer-handler alternate member. The six individuals receiving the highest weighted vote for producer-handler alternate member positions shall be the alternate member nominees.

§ 987.138 Handlers of record.

Prior to handling dates, each person shall file CDAC Form No. 18 with the Committee at the times, and containing the information, prescribed in § 987.38.

§ 987.141 Inspection and certification.

Each handler shall furnish, or cause the inspection service to furnish, to the Committee a copy of the inspection certificate issued to him on each lot of dates, and such certificate shall contain at least the following information:
§ 987.145

(a) The date of inspection; (b) the name of the handler; (c) the lot number and the applicable outlet category set forth in §987.112a; (d) the variety of dates and weight of the lot; (e) the number and type of containers in the lot; and (f) if the dates (1) are other than field-run dates, a certification as to the grade of the dates and whether or not they meet the applicable grade, size, container, and identification requirements, or (2) are field-run dates, a certification showing the percentage by weight, of sound dates in the lot, and whether or not they meet the identification requirements for such dates.

[43 FR 28437, June 30, 1978]

VOLUME REGULATION

§ 987.145 Withholding obligation.

(a) Satisfying the withholding obligation. Any handler may satisfy all or part of his withholding obligation for any variety of dates for which free and restricted percentages have been established by having an adequate quantity of that variety inspected and certified as meeting the applicable grade, size, and container requirements prescribed by the Committee for any approved restricted date outlet.

(b) Credit for excess disposition in restricted outlets. Disposition of marketable dates in restricted outlets in excess of a handler’s withholding obligation may be: (1) Transferred pursuant to §987.45 upon such handler filing a completed CDAC Form No. 14 with the Committee, or (2) credited to the handler’s withholding obligation of the following crop year so long as the excess disposition exceeds 199 pounds. However, the quantity so credited shall never exceed 40 percent of the handler’s withholding obligation of the crop year in which the excess disposition occurred and 100 percent of the withholding obligation incurred by him during October through December of the crop year following the crop year in which such excess disposition occurred. All such crediting or accumulation shall be contingent upon the Committee receiving notification from the inspection service, and in due course a copy of the on board bill of lading or other documentary evidence satisfactory to the Committee.

(c) FP dates. Withholding obligations on FP dates shall be based on the weight of such dates when they are inspected and certified. However, if such dates are subsequently processed and packed within the area of production, the withholding obligation shall be adjusted to reflect any increase in weight.

(d) Dates for deferment of withholding. Any handler may defer his certification and withholding or disposition of restricted dates by pledging a comparable volume of graded or field-run dates as a surety that he will meet his withholding obligation at a later date. Such deferment shall not be effective until: (1) The handler files with the Committee a CDAC Form No. 12 to set aside graded dates or CDAC Form No. 13 to set aside field-run dates; and (2) the pledged dates are set aside as a lot and identified by the handler as “Restricted” and as “Graded” or “Field-Run”, as appropriate, and as to the number of containers, the date of set-aside and whether or not the dates have been inspected. The handler sets aside field-run dates or disposes of field-run dates in outlets prescribed in or pursuant to §987.56 to obtain withholding credit for the sound date portion in the lot, the field-run dates shall meet the requirements prescribed in paragraph (f) of this section for eligible field-run dates, as determined by the inspection service.

(e) Identification of restricted dates. Any lot of restricted dates not immediately disposed of through exportation to countries approved by the Committee or directed to approved product outlets shall be stored as a lot separate from all other dates and in a specified location with a USDA inspection service tag marked “Restricted”.

(f) Field-run dates. Field-run dates set aside for the purpose of deferring or meeting any part or all of a withholding obligation shall consist of at least 70 percent, by weight, of sound dates but may contain 10 percent, by weight, of cull dates of which not more than 5 percent may be hidden culls—i.e., dates
with internal defects including souring, mold, fermentation, insect infestation, or foreign material.

(g) Substitution. Any handler may, under the direction and supervision of the Committee or the inspection service, substitute for any quantity of restricted dates held by him a like quantity of dates of the same variety and of the same or more recent year’s production which have been certified and identified as meeting the requirements for restricted dates.

[43 FR 28437, June 30, 1978]

SURPLUS

§ 987.147 Surplus.

(a) General. Surplus dates delivered to the Committee pursuant to §987.47 shall be pooled for sale to livestock feeders, distillers, or manufacturers of inedible products: Provided, That if any portion of the deliveries differs sufficiently to require separate handling, and earn a different average return, such portion shall be handled as a separate pool. The income from sale of surplus, after deduction of committee expenses, shall be paid to the respective equity holders in the pool or pools, or to their assignees, on the basis of the weight of dates each delivered.

(b) Delivery. The Committee may refuse delivery of any surplus dates which it determines are excessively soured, fermented, or adulterated by palm debris, rocks, paper, wood, plastic liners, or other foreign material. If the Committee refuses delivery, the deliverer shall be permitted to clean such dates sufficiently to make them acceptable to the Committee. The weight of each accepted delivery shall be that determined by a public weightmaster or, in the absence of such weight, that determined by the Committee on the basis of the number and size of the containers used in the delivery. Upon delivery of surplus dates to the Committee, the deliverer, or a designee of the Committee shall execute CDAC Form SP-1, Delivery Manifest, showing: (1) The person to receive payment of the net proceeds for the surplus, (2) the date and place of loading, (3) if field surplus, the location and owner of the garden, (4) the type and number of containers loaded or dumped, (5) the net weight of the load, and (6) if the delivery is directly to a buyer’s truck, the driver, truck and buyer.

QUALIFICATION TO REGULATION

§ 987.151 Interhandler transfers.

When any handler transfers dates, other than product dates, to another handler, the selling handler shall promptly notify the Committee by filing with it a completed CDAC Form No. 1 and shall show the name and address of the transferring or selling handler and of the receiving or buying handler, the variety and processed category or classification of the dates, the lot number and inspection certificate number on any lot of packed and certified dates, the number and type of containers, the net weight of the transferred dates, and if applicable, the transferring handler’s statement as to the withholding and assessment obligation. A transfer of product dates between handlers shall be reported as a disposition by the selling handler filing with the Committee a completed CDAC Form No. 8.


§ 987.152 Exemption from regulations.

(a) Producer exemption. The Committee may permit any producer to sell dates from such producer’s own production free of the requirements of §§987.41, 987.45, 987.48, and 987.72 when sold directly to consumers through a roadside stand or date shop owned or operated by the producer within 25 miles of the city limits of Indio, California, through shipments by parcel post or express, or by certified producers at certified farmers’ markets, as these terms are defined by the State of California. Permission to so sell dates shall be granted only upon the producer filing with the Committee a completed CDAC Form No. 9 wherein the producer describes how the producer plans to sell such dates and agrees to sell only dates of DAC date quality of the producer’s own production in direct sales; and to report such sales to the Committee. If the producer fails to comply with this agreement, the Committee may revoke any or all exemptions granted the producer.
(b) Handler exemptions. (1) Specialty sales. The Committee may permit any handler to sell to health food stores or health food outlets, dates which at least meet the requirements for FP dates. It may permit any handler to sell to a candy manufacturer hand-pitted dates which meet the grade requirements for DAC dates except for size, or damage due to cutting and pitting. Also, it may permit any handler to sell hand-layered dates in tin, wood, plastic, or other type of container exempt from §§ 987.41(a) and 987.48, or to make shipments by common carrier of up to 150 pounds to any one purchaser in any one day exempt from the provisions of §987.41(a): Provided, That the hand-layered dates or the shipment to a single purchaser in any 1 day have been packed from dates certified as meeting the grade requirements for DAC dates and have not been commingled with other dates. Permission to use these exemptions shall be granted only upon the handler filing with the Committee its CDAC Form No. 10 wherein he describes how he plans to sell, and agrees to sell only specific dates and to report such sales.

(2) Donations. The Committee may permit any handler to donate marketable dates other than DAC dates to needy persons, prisoners, or Indians on reservations. Before such donation is made, such handler shall file a request for donation with the Committee detailing the quantity and grade of dates involved and the name and address of the intended donee. The donation may be subject to Committee surveillance, verification by written documentation of receipt by the donee, and any other safeguards necessary to assure consumption in these outlets.

§ 987.157 Approved date product manufacturers.

Any date handler or other person with facilities for converting dates into products may apply to the Committee, by filing CDAC Form No. 3, for listing as an approved date product manufacturer. The applicant shall indicate on such form the products he intends to make, the quantity of dates he may use, and the location of his facilities. In addition, as a condition of approval, the applicant shall agree on such form not to use any of the products dates for sale as whole or pitted dates, to file a report of the disposition of each lot on the Committee's Form No. 8, and to file an annual usage and inventory report on CDAC Form No. 4. The Committee shall approve or disapprove each such application on the basis of the information furnished or its own investigation, and may revoke any approval for cause. The name and address of all approved manufacturers shall be placed on a list and made available to interested persons.

§ 987.161 Handler carryover.

Each handler shall file with the Committee, a report of his carryover of dates as of March 1 and October 1 and, when volume regulation is established, as of January 1. This report shall be on CDAC Form No. 5 and shall show, by variety, at least: (a) The quantity of DAC dates held within and outside the area, (b) the quantity of FP dates held within the area, (c) the quantity of export dates, and (d) the quantity of dates held graded but not certified, and as field-run, segregated as to outlet category.

§ 987.162 Handler acquisition and disposition.

Handlers shall file CDAC Form No. 6 with the Committee by the 10th of each month, reporting at least the following for the preceding month: (a) Their acquisition of field run dates; (b) their shipments of marketable dates in each outlet category; (c) their shipments of free dates and disposition of restricted dates, whenever applicable, and (d) their purchase from other handlers of DAC, Export, Product, Graded and field run dates. In addition, this report shall include the names and addresses of any producers not previously identified pursuant to §987.38, the quantity of dates acquired from each producer, the location of such producer's date garden, the acreage of that garden, and

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the estimated current season’s production from that garden.

§ 987.164 Shipments of product dates and disposition of restricted dates in approved product outlets.

Each handler shall file with the Committee a completed CDAC Form No. 8 showing the shipment of each lot of product dates or the disposition of restricted dates in approved product outlets. This report shall be filed promptly after shipment or disposition of those dates and shall identify the lot, the outlet, the number of containers, and the net weight of the dates. If such dates are sold to an approved date product manufacturer, a copy of the completed form shall be signed and dated by the manufacturer and returned to the Committee. If the lot was certified as product dates and is exported to Mexico, the handler shall submit completed CDAC Form No. 8 together with completed CDAC Form No. 11(a) to the Committee.

§ 987.165 Other reports.

(a) Exempt sales. Each handler shall file with the Committee, a completed CDAC Form No. 2 showing the quantity and variety of dates sold under exemption during the crop year. The report shall be filed upon the completion of such sales or promptly after the end of the crop year.

(b) Products. Each approved date product manufacturer shall file with the Committee a completed CDAC Form No. 4 showing his beginning and ending inventories of product dates, the quantity received during the crop year, the quantity used, the type and quantity of products manufactured, and his year-end inventory of products. This report shall be filed promptly after the end of each crop year.

§ 987.168 Handler records.

Each handler shall establish complete records which accurately show the quantity of dates handled, disposed of, and withheld. These records shall be maintained for at least 2 years after the end of the crop year of record. Records shall show:

(a) For grower deliveries of dates, the name of each grower, the varieties delivered and the net weight of each variety;

(b) For shipments of dates, the variety, type of pack, net weight and destination or name and address of the person to whom each shipment was sent;

(c) If different from shipments, the variety, type of pack, net weight and purchaser of each quantity of dates sold; and

(d) Manifests, invoices, weight certificates, inventory tabulations, or any other documents necessary to prepare, file, or substantiate the reports required to be filed with the Committee.

§ 987.172 Adjustment of assessment obligation.

In accordance with §§ 987.45 and 987.72, the assessment obligation of FP dates shall be based on the weight of the dates at the time of inspection and certification. However, if such dates are subsequently processed and packed within the area of production, the assessment obligation shall be adjusted to reflect any increase in weight and the obligation shall be placed on the handler agreeing to assume it.

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 987.339 Assessment rate.

On and after October 1, 1996, an assessment of $0.0556 per hundredweight is established for California dates.

PART 989—RAISINS PRODUCED FROM GRAPES GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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989.3 Person.
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989.6 [Reserved]
989.7 Golden Seedless raisins.
989.8 Natural condition raisins.
989.9 Packed raisins.
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989.11 Producer.
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989.14 Packer.
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§ 989.2 Act.


§ 989.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 989.4 Area.

Area means the State of California.

§ 989.5 Raisins.

Raisins means grapes of any variety grown in the area, from which a significant part of the natural moisture has been removed by sun-drying or artificial dehydration, either prior to or after such grapes have been removed from the vines. Removal of a significant part of the natural moisture means removal which has progressed to the point where the grape skin develops wrinkles characteristic of wrinkles in fully formed raisins. [37 FR 19622, Sept. 21, 1972]

§ 989.6 [Reserved]

§ 989.7 Golden Seedless raisins.

Golden Seedless raisins means raisins, the production of which includes soda dipping, sulfuring, and artificial dehydration.

§ 989.8 Natural condition raisins.

Natural condition raisins means raisins the production of which includes sun-drying or artificial dehydration but which have not been further processed to a point where they meet any of the conditions for "packed raisins", as defined in § 989.9. [25 FR 12813, Dec. 14, 1960, as amended at 42 FR 37201, July 20, 1977]
§ 989.9 Packed raisins.

Packed raisins means raisins which have been stemmed, graded, sorted, cleaned, or seeded, and placed in any container customarily used in the marketing of raisins or in any container suitable or usable for such marketing. Raisins in the process of being packed or raisins which are partially packed shall be subject to the same requirements as packed raisins.

§ 989.10 Varietal types.

Variatel types means raisins generally recognized as possessing characteristics differing from other raisins in a degree sufficient to make necessary or desirable separate identification and classification. Varietal types are the following: Natural (sun-dried) Seedless, Dipped Seedless, Golden Seedless, Muscats (including other raisins with seeds), Sultana, Zante Currant, Monukka, and Oleate and Related Seedless: Provided, That the Committee may, subject to approval of the Secretary, change this list of varietal types.

§ 989.11 Producer.

Producer means any person engaged in a proprietary capacity in the production of grapes which are sun-dried or dehydrated by artificial means until they become raisins: Provided, That a "producer" shall include any person whose production unit has qualified for diversion under a diversion program announced by the Committee.

§ 989.12 Dehydrator.

Dehydrator means any person who produces raisins by dehydrating grapes by artificial means.

§ 989.12a Cooperative bargaining association.

Cooperative bargaining association means a nonprofit cooperative association of raisin producers engaged within the area in bargaining with handlers as to price and otherwise arranging for the sale of natural condition raisin of its members.

§ 989.13 Processor.

Processor means any person who receives or acquires natural condition raisins, off-grade raisins, other failing raisins or raisin residual material and uses them or it within the area, with or without other ingredients, in the production of a product other than raisins, for market or distribution.

§ 989.14 Packer.

Packer means any person who, within the area, stems, sorts, cleans, or seeds raisins, grades stemmed raisins, or packages raisins for market as raisins: Provided, That:

(a) No producer with respect to the raisins produced by him, and no group of producers with respect to raisins produced by the producers comprising the group, and not otherwise a packer, shall be deemed a packer if he or it sorts or cleans (with or without water) such raisins in their unstemmed form;

(b) Any dehydrator shall be deemed to be a packer, with respect to raisins dehydrated by him, only if he stems, cleans with water subsequent to such dehydration, seeds or packages them for market as raisin;

(c) The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary restrict the exceptions as to permitted cleaning if necessary to cause delivery of sound raisins; and

(d) No person shall be deemed a packer by reason of the fact he repackages for market (with or without additional preparation) packed raisins which, in the hands of a previous holder, have been inspected and certified as meeting the applicable minimum grade standards for packed raisins.

§ 989.15 Handler.

Handler means: (a) Any processor or packer; (b) any person who places, ships, or continues natural condition raisins in the current of commerce from within the area to any point outside thereof; (c) any person who delivers off-grade raisins, other failing raisins or raisin residual material to other than a packer or other than into any eligible non-normal outlet; or (d)
any person who blends raisins: Provided, That blending shall not cause a person not otherwise a handler to be a handler on account of such blending if he is either: (1) A producer who, in his capacity as a producer, blends raisins entirely of his own production in the course of his usual and customary practices of preparing raisins for delivery to processors, packers, or dehydrators; (2) a person who blends raisins after they have been placed in trade channels by a packer with other such raisins in trade channels; or (3) a dehydrator who, in his capacity as a dehydrator, blends raisins entirely of his own manufacture.

[37 FR 19622, Sept. 21, 1972]

§ 989.16 Blend.

Blend means to mix or commingle raisins.

§ 989.17 Acquire.

Acquire means to have or obtain physical possession of raisins by a handler at his packing or processing plant or at any other established receiving station operated by him: Provided, That a handler shall not be deemed to acquire any raisins (including raisins produced or dehydrated by him) while: (a) He stores them for another person or as handler-produced tonnage in compliance with the provisions of §§ 989.58 and 989.70; (b) he reconditions them, or; (c) he has them in his possession for the purpose of inspection; and Provided further, That the term shall apply only to the handler who first acquires the raisins.

§ 989.18 Committee.

Committee means the Raisin Administrative Committee established under § 989.26.

[41 FR 32412, Aug. 3, 1976]

§ 989.20 Ton.

Ton means a short ton of 2,000 pounds.

§ 989.21 Crop year.

Crop year means the 12-month period beginning with August 1 of any year and ending with July 31 of the following year.

[41 FR 32412, Aug. 3, 1976]

§ 989.22 District.

District means any one of the geographical areas referred to in § 989.26, and designated in the rules and regulations.

[48 FR 32974, July 20, 1983]

§ 989.23 File.

File means transmit or deliver to the Secretary or committee, as the case may be, and such act shall be deemed to have been accomplished at the time: (a) Of actual receipt by the Secretary or committee in the event of personal delivery; (b) of receipt at the office of the telegraph company, in case submission is by telegram; or (c) shown by the postmark, in case submission is by mail.

§ 989.24 Standard raisins, off-grade raisins, other failing raisins, and raisin residual material.

(a) Standard raisins means raisins which meet the then effective minimum grade and condition standards for natural condition raisins.

(b) Offgrade raisins means raisins which do not meet the then effective minimum grade and condition standards for natural condition raisins: Provided, That raisins which are certified as off-grade raisins shall continue to be such until successfully reconditioned or become "other failing raisins."

(c) Other failing raisins means any raisins received or acquired by a handler, either as standard raisins or off-grade raisins, which are processed to a point where they qualify as packed raisins but fail to meet the applicable minimum grade standards for packed raisins.

(d) Raisin residual material means defective raisins, stemmer waste, sweepings, and other residue accumulated by a handler from reconditioning raisins or from processing standard raisins and other failing raisins.

Non-normal outlets means outlets other than those customarily used for commercial disposition of raisins meeting the then applicable minimum standards for natural condition raisins or packed raisins.

[29 FR 9483, July 11, 1964]

Part means the order regulating the handling of raisins produced from grapes grown in California, and all rules, regulations, and supplementary orders issued thereunder. This order regulating the handling of raisins produced from grapes grown in California shall be a subpart of such part.

RAISIN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Establishment and membership.

A Raisin Administrative Committee is hereby established consisting of 47 members of whom 35 shall represent producers, 10 shall represent handlers, 1 shall represent the cooperative bargaining association(s) and 1 shall be a public member. The producer members shall be selected as follows:

(a) Producer members representing the cooperative marketing association(s) shall be members of such association(s) engaged in the handling of raisins, each of which acquired not less than 10 percent of the total raisin acquisitions during the preceding crop year, and those members shall be equal to the product, rounded to the nearest whole number, obtained by multiplying 35 by the ratio the cooperative marketing association(s) raisin acquisitions are to the total acquisitions of all handlers during the preceding crop year.

(b) Producer members representing cooperative bargaining association(s) shall be members of such associations, and the number of those members shall be equal to the product, rounded to the nearest whole number, obtained by multiplying 35 by the ratio the raisins acquired by handlers from bargaining association members are to the total acquisitions of all handlers during the preceding crop year.

(c) All other producer members who shall not be members of a cooperative bargaining association(s), cooperative marketing association(s) engaged in the handling of raisins which acquired 10 percent or more of the total acquisitions during the preceding crop year, nor sold for cash to cooperative marketing association(s), shall represent all producers not defined in paragraph (a) or (b) of this section and shall be selected in the number and, when appropriate, for the districts as designated in the rules and regulations.

(d) The handler members shall be divided into two groups and include the following:

(1) Handler members shall be selected from and represent cooperative marketing association(s) engaged in the handling of raisins each of which acquired not less than 10 percent of the total raisin acquisitions during the preceding crop year, and the number of those members shall be equal to the product, rounded to the nearest whole number, obtained by multiplying 10 by the ratio of the cooperative marketing association(s) raisin acquisitions are to the total acquisitions of all handlers during the preceding crop year.

(2) The remaining handler members shall be selected from and represent all other handlers, which would include all independent handlers and small cooperative marketing association(s) who acquired less than 10 percent of the total raisin acquisitions during the preceding crop year. Handler nominees for this group shall be nominated by all handlers in the group in a manner determined by the Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, and specified in the rules and regulations.

(e) The “cooperative” bargaining association(s) member shall be selected from the cooperative bargaining association(s). The public member shall be nominated by the Committee and selected by the Secretary as public member.

(f) For each member of the Committee there shall be an alternate member who shall have the same qualifications as the member for whom he is an alternate.

[48 FR 32974, July 20, 1983]

Eligibility.

No person shall be selected or continue to serve as a member or alternate
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 989.28 Term of office.

The term of office of all representatives serving on the Committee shall be for two years and shall end on April 30 of even numbered calendar years, but each such member and alternate member shall continue to serve until their successor is selected and has qualified.

§ 989.29 Initial members and nomination of successor members.

(a) Initial members. Members and alternate members of the Committee serving immediately prior to the effective date of this amended subpart shall, if thereafter they are eligible, serve on the Committee until April 30, 1984, and until their respective successors have been selected and qualified.

(b) Nominations for successor members. Nominations for successor members and alternate members of the Committee shall be made as follows:

(1) The Committee shall notify the cooperative marketing association(s) engaged in handling not less than 10 percent of the total raisin acquisitions during the preceding crop year, and of independent handlers and cooperative marketing association(s) who handled less than 10 percent of the total raisin acquisitions during the preceding crop year, for the purpose of making nominations to fill the member and alternate member positions prescribed in §989.26 (c) and (d):

Provided, That member and alternate member nominations by independent handlers and cooperative marketing association(s) who acquired less than 10 percent of the total raisin acquisitions during the preceding crop year may be made to the Committee by mail in lieu of meetings.

(2)(i) Any producer representing independent producer and producers who are affiliated with cooperative marketing association(s) handling less than 10 percent of the total raisin acquisitions during the preceding crop year must have produced grapes which were made into raisins in the particular district for which they are nominated to represent said district as a producer member or alternate producer member on the committee. In the event any such nominee is engaged as a producer in more than one district, such producer may be a nominee for only one district. One or more producers may be nominated for each such producer member or alternate member position.

(ii) Each such producer whose name is offered in nomination shall be given the opportunity to provide the committee a short statement outlining qualifications and desire to represent on the committee independent producers or producers who are affiliated with cooperative marketing association(s) handling less than 10 percent of the total raisin acquisitions during the preceding crop year. These brief statements, together with a ballot and voting instructions, shall be mailed to all independent producers and producers who are affiliated with cooperative marketing association(s) handling less than 10 percent of the total raisin acquisitions during the preceding crop year of record with the committee in each district. The producer receiving the highest number of votes shall be designated as the first member nominee, the second highest shall be designated as the
§ 989.30 Selection.

The Secretary shall select producer, handler, cooperative bargaining association(s), and public members and alternate members in the number specified in § 989.26, as applicable, and with the qualifications specified in § 989.27. Such selections may be made from nominations certified pursuant to § 989.29 or from other eligible producers, handlers, or cooperative bargaining association(s) officers or employees.

[48 FR 32975, July 20, 1983]

§ 989.31 Failure to nominate.

In the event nomination for a member or alternate member position on the committee is not certified pursuant to and within the time specified in § 989.29, the Secretary may select an eligible person to fill such position without regard to nomination.

[41 FR 32412, Aug. 3, 1976]

§ 989.32 Acceptance.

Each person to be selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member of the Committee shall, prior to such selection, qualify by advising the Secretary that he/she agrees to serve in the position for which nominated for selection.

[48 FR 32975, July 20, 1983]

§ 989.33 Alternate members.

The alternate for a member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of such member (a) during his absence, and (b) in the event of his removal, resignation, disqualification, or death, until a successor for such member's unexpired term has been selected and has qualified.

[41 FR 32412, Aug. 3, 1976]

§ 989.34 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a member or as an alternate member of the committee to qualify, or in the event of the removal, resignation, disqualification, or death of any member or alternate member, a successor for such person's unexpired term shall be nominated and selected in the manner set forth in §§ 989.29 and 989.30, insofar as such provisions are applicable. If
nomination to fill any vacancy is not filed within 40 calendar days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may select an eligible person to fill such vacancy without regard to nomination.

§ 989.35 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer the terms and provisions of this part;
(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this part;
(c) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this part; and
(d) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of this part.

§ 989.36 Duties.

The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:

(a) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer, packer, dehydrator, processor or cooperative bargaining association;
(b) To investigate compliance and to use means available to it to prevent violations of this part;
(c) To keep minutes, books, and other records, which shall clearly reflect all of its acts and transactions, and such minutes, books, and other records shall be subject to examination by the Secretary at any time;
(d) To investigate and assemble data on the production, handling and market conditions with respect to raisins;
(e) To submit to the Secretary such available information with respect to raisins and grapes as he may request, and such other information as the committee may deem desirable and pertinent;
(f) To select from among its members a chairman and other officers, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;
(g) To appoint or employ such other persons as it may deem necessary, and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person;
(h) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by certified public accountants at least once each year, or at such other times as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request, and the report of each such audit shall show, among other things, the receipts and expenditures of funds, and at least two copies of each such audit shall be submitted to the Secretary;
(i) To give reasonable advance notice of the times, places, and purposes of its meetings by mail or other appropriate means to each member and alternate member and such notice shall be given as widespread publicity as is practicable;
(j) To conduct meetings for the purpose of making nominations for membership on the committee and the certifying of nominations made for such purposes to the Secretary;
(k) To establish, with the approval of the Secretary, such rules and procedures relative to administration of this subpart as may be consistent with the provisions contained in this subpart and as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of the act and the efficient administration of this subpart.

§ 989.37 Obligation.

Upon the removal, resignation, disqualification, or expiration of the term of office of any member or alternate member, such member or alternate member shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver to his successor, to the committee, or to a designee of the Secretary all property (including, but not limited to, all books and records) in his possession or under his control as member or alternate member, and he shall execute such assignments and other instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to vest in such successor, committee, or designee full title to such
§ 989.38 Procedure.

The Committee shall meet at the call of the chairman, or vice-chairman when acting as chairman, or at the call of any three members. All decisions of the Committee reached shall be by majority vote of the members present. All votes shall be cast in person and a quorum must be present. The presence of 25 members shall be required to constitute a quorum. The Committee shall give to the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the Committee as it gives to its members.

[41 FR 32412, Aug. 3, 1976]

§ 989.39 Compensation and expenses.

The members and alternate members of the committee shall serve without compensation, but shall be allowed their necessary expenses as approved by the committee.

[54 FR 34137, Aug. 18, 1989]

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

§ 989.53 Research and development.

(a) General. The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of projects involving marketing research and development and marketing promotion including paid advertising, designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption of raisins in domestic and foreign markets. These projects may include, but need not be limited to those designed to:

(1) Improve through research the accuracy of raisin production estimates;

(2) Improve through research the preparation for market, sanitation, quality, condition, storability, processing, or packaging of raisins;

(3) Ascertain through research the factors affecting acceptance of raisins by manufacturers or consumers;

(4) Promote the marketing, distribution, or consumption of raisins in domestic and foreign markets by collecting information available to producers, handlers, and exporters; and

(5) Promote the marketing, distribution, or consumption of raisins in foreign markets through the use of merchandising programs.

The expense of any such project relating solely to free tonnage raisins shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to § 989.80. The expense of any such project relating solely to reserve tonnage raisins shall be paid from the sale proceeds of such raisins. If any such project encompasses both free tonnage and reserve tonnage raisins, such as one which is designed to promote the consumption in export outlets of raisins generally on a long-term basis, the expense of the project may be allocated between the assessment fund and the pool fund.

(b) Creditable expenditures. The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may provide for crediting all or any portion of a handler’s direct expenditures for marketing promotion, including paid advertising, that promotes the sale of raisins, raisin products, or their use. No handler shall receive credit for any allowable direct expenditures that would exceed the total of his assessment obligation which is attributable to that portion of his assessment designated for marketing promotion including paid advertising.

(c) Criteria. Before any project involving marketing promotion, including paid advertising, and the crediting of the handler’s pro rata expense assessment obligation of handlers is undertaken pursuant to this section, the Secretary after recommendation by the Committee, shall approve appropriate criteria to effectively regulate such activity.

[48 FR 32976, July 20, 1983]
§ 989.54 Marketing policy.

(a) Trade demand. On or before August 15 of each crop year, the Committee shall hold a meeting to review shipment data, inventory data, and other matters relating to the quantity of raisins of all varietal types. For any varietal type for which a free tonnage percentage may be recommended, the Committee shall compute a trade demand. The trade demand shall be 90 percent of the prior crop year's shipments (converted to a natural condition weight) of free tonnage and reserve tonnage sold for free use for that varietal type, into all market outlets, adjusted by the carryin on August 1 of the current crop year and the desirable carryout for the varietal type at the end of that crop year. If the prior year's shipments were limited because of crop conditions, the Committee may select the shipments of one of the three years preceding the prior crop year. The desirable carryout shall be increased from 45,000 to 60,000 tons for Natural (sun-dried) Seedless raisins at a rate of 5,000 tons per year for three crop years following the effective date of this amended subpart. The desirable carryout for Dipped Seedless raisins shall be 1,500 tons, and for Oleate and Related Seedless raisins, 1,500 tons. The trade demand computed by the Committee shall be announced by the Committee in accordance with paragraph (h) of this section.

(b) Preliminary percentages. On or before October 5 of each crop year (except that the Committee may extend this date not more than five business days if warranted by a late crop), the Committee shall estimate the production of any varietal type of raisins for which it has computed a trade demand. The desirable carryout for Dipped Seedless raisins shall be 1,500 tons, and for Oleate and Related Seedless raisins, 1,500 tons. The trade demand computed by the Committee shall be announced by the Committee in accordance with paragraph (h) of this section.

(c) Interim percentages. Prior to February 15, the Committee may modify the preliminary free and reserve percentages to release less than the trade demand.

(d) Final percentages. No later than February 15, the Committee shall recommend to the Secretary, final free and reserve percentages which will tend to release the full trade demand for any varietal type for which preliminary or interim percentages have been computed and announced. The difference between any final free percentage designated by the Secretary and 100 percent shall be the final reserve percentage. With its recommendation, the committee shall report on its consideration of the factors in paragraph (e) of this section.

(e) Factors. When computing preliminary and interim percentages, or determining final percentages for recommendation to the Secretary, the Committee shall give consideration to the following factors:

1. The estimated tonnage held by producers, handlers, and for the account of the Committee at the beginning of the crop year;
2. The expected general quality and any modifications of the minimum grade standards;
3. The estimated tonnage of standard and off-grade raisins which will be produced;
4. If different than the computed trade demand, the estimated trade demand for raisins in free tonnage outlets;
5. The estimated free percentage to release 85 percent of the computed trade demand, if it determines that a field price has been established for that varietal type, or 65 percent of the trade demand if no field price has been established. The preliminary free percentage shall be computed by multiplying the trade demand by either 85 percent or 65 percent (as the case may be) and dividing the product by the estimated production of that varietal type and rounding the resulting percentage to the nearest full percent. The difference between 100 percent and the preliminary free percentage shall be the preliminary reserve percentage.

(f) Interim percentages. Prior to February 15, the Committee may modify the preliminary free and reserve percentages to release less than the trade demand.

(g) Final percentages. No later than February 15, the Committee shall recommend to the Secretary, final free and reserve percentages which will tend to release the full trade demand for any varietal type for which preliminary or interim percentages have been computed and announced. The difference between any final free percentage designated by the Secretary and 100 percent shall be the final reserve percentage. With its recommendation, the committee shall report on its consideration of the factors in paragraph (e) of this section.

(h) Factors. When computing preliminary and interim percentages, or determining final percentages for recommendation to the Secretary, the Committee shall give consideration to the following factors:

1. The estimated tonnage held by producers, handlers, and for the account of the Committee at the beginning of the crop year;
2. The expected general quality and any modifications of the minimum grade standards;
3. The estimated tonnage of standard and off-grade raisins which will be produced;
4. If different than the computed trade demand, the estimated trade demand for raisins in free tonnage outlets;
(5) If not estimated as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, an estimated desirable carryout at the end of the crop year for free tonnage and, if applicable, for reserve tonnage;

(6) The estimated market requirements for raisins outside free tonnage outlets, considering the estimated world raisin supply and demand situation;

(7) Current prices being received and the probable general level of prices to be received for raisins by producers and handlers;

(8) The trend and level of consumer income;

(9) Any prohibition of trade practices, pursuant to §989.62 intended for the crop year; and

(10) Any other pertinent factors bearing on the marketing of raisins including the estimated supply of and demand for other varietal types and regulations applicable thereto.

(f) Modification. In the event the Committee subsequently deems it advisable to modify its marketing policy on any crop, because of national emergency, crop failure, or other major change in economic conditions, it shall hold a meeting for that purpose, and file a report thereof with the Secretary within 5 days (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) after the holding of such meeting, which report shall show such modification and the basis therefor.

(g) Reserve tonnage to sell as free tonnage. On or before November 15 of the crop year, the Committee shall make two simultaneous offers of reserve tonnage to handlers to sell as free tonnage for each varietal type for which preliminary percentages have been computed and announced. One offer shall consist of a quantity equal to 10 percent of the prior year’s (or the alternative year selected by the Committee pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section) shipments of free tonnage and reserve tonnage sold for free use. This offer shall be allocated to handlers on the basis of their prior year’s shipments of free tonnage and reserve tonnage sold for free use. Each offer shall be open to handlers not more than five business days, and subsequently, two offers of any tonnage unsold in the original offers open not more than two business days each, may be made. The reoffer tonnage shall be allocated to handlers who purchase 100 percent of their allocation in preceding offers, and shall be on the basis of the quantity each handler purchased, as a percentage of the total quantity purchased by all handlers eligible to participate. At the close of the second reoffer, any remaining tonnage may be offered to handlers who purchased all of their allocations from previous offers on a first-come first-served basis and such offer shall be open to handlers for one business day. Any handler who had no shipments or acquisitions of raisins during the prior crop year will be allocated raisins under these offers on the basis of his acquisition (up to the time the original offer is made) of raisins in the current crop year. If field prices are not established, the offer shall be made not more than fifteen days following such establishment. The price of reserve tonnage raisins offered to handlers to sell as free tonnage, pursuant to this paragraph, shall be the established field price for free tonnage raisins of that varietal type, plus 3 percent of the established field price, plus the estimated costs incurred by the Committee for equity holders.

(h) Publicity. The Committee shall promptly give reasonable publicity to producers, dehydrators, handlers, and the cooperative bargaining association(s) of each meeting to consider a marketing policy or any modification thereof, and each such meeting shall be open to them. Similar publicity shall be given to producers, dehydrators, handlers, and the cooperative bargaining association(s) of each marketing policy report or modification thereof, filed with the Secretary and of the Secretary’s action thereon. Copies of all marketing policy reports shall be...
maintained in the office of the Committee, where they shall be made available for examination by any producer, dehydrator, handler, or cooperative bargaining association representative. The Committee shall notify handlers, dehydrators and the cooperative bargaining association(s), and give reasonable publicity to producers of its computation of the trade demand, preliminary percentages, and interim percentages and shall notify handlers, dehydrators, and the cooperative bargaining association(s) of the Secretary’s action on percentages by registered or certified mail.


EFFECTIVE DATE NOTES: 1. At 54 FR 24670, June 9, 1989, in §989.54, in paragraph (a), the sentences, "The desirable carryout shall be increased from 45,000 to 60,000 tons for Natural (sun-dried) Seedless raisins at a rate of 5,000 tons per year for the three crop years following the effective date of this amended subpart. The desirable carryout for Dipped Seedless raisins shall be 1,500 tons, and for Oleate and Related Seedless raisins 1,500 tons." were suspended indefinitely, effective July 10, 1989.
2. At 62 FR 50484, Sept. 26, 1997, in paragraph (g), the words "On or before November 15 of the crop year" and "simultaneous" in the first sentence were suspended indefinitely, effective Sept. 29, 1997.

§ 989.55 Regulation by the Secretary.
Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendation and supporting information supplied by the Committee or from other available information, that to designate final free and reserve percentages for any varietal type of standard raisins acquired by handlers, during the crop year will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act, the Secretary shall designate such percentages. In the event the Secretary finds that suspension or termination of any percentages computed by the Committee or designated by the Secretary tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act, the Secretary shall suspend or terminate such percentages.

[48 FR 32977, July 20, 1983]

§ 989.56 Raisin diversion program.
(a) Announcement of program. On or before November 30 of each crop year, the committee shall hold a meeting to review production data, supply data, demand data, including anticipated demand to all potential market outlets, desirable carryout inventory, and other matters relating to the quantity of raisins of all varietal types. When the committee determines that raisins exist in the reserve pool in excess of projected market needs for any varietal type, it may announce the amount of such tonnage eligible for diversion during the subsequent crop year. At the same time, the committee shall determine and announce to producers, handlers, and the cooperative bargaining association(s) the allowable harvest cost to be applicable to such diversion tonnage. A production cap of 2.75 tons of raisins per acre shall be established for any production unit approved for participation in a diversion program. The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may recommend, at the same time that the diversion tonnage for that season is announced, a change in the production cap for that season's diversion program of less than 2.75 tons per acre for any production unit approved for the diversion program.

(b) Voluntary diversion. No producer shall be required to participate in any raisin diversion program.

(c) Issuance of diversion certificates. After the committee announces a raisin diversion program, any producer may divert grapes of the producer's own production and receive from the committee a diversion certificate in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations. Such certificates may only be submitted by producers to handlers in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Diversion certificates issued by the committee shall apply to a specific production unit and shall be equal to the creditable fruit weight, not to exceed the production cap established pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, of such raisins produced on such unit during the prior crop year or the last prior crop year eligible for such diversion: Provided, That in the case of a production unit, or partial production unit, removed from production through vine removal or other means established by the committee, the committee may issue a diversion
§ 989.58 Natural condition raisins.

(a) Regulation. No handler shall acquire or receive natural condition raisins which fail to meet such minimum grade and condition standards as the committee may establish, with the approval of the Secretary, in applicable rules and regulations: Provided, That a handler may receive raisins for inspection, may receive off-grade raisins for reconditioning and may receive or acquire off-grade raisins for use in eligible non-normal outlets: And provided further, That a handler may acquire natural condition raisins which exceed the tolerance established for maturity under a weight dockage system established pursuant to rules and regulations recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary, Nothing contained in this paragraph shall apply to the acquisition or receipt of natural condition raisins of a particular varietal type for which minimum grade and condition standards are not applicable or then in effect pursuant to this part.

(b) Changes in minimum grade and condition standards for natural condition raisins. The committee may recommend to the Secretary changes in the minimum grade and condition standards for natural condition raisins of any varietal type and may recommend to the Secretary that minimum grade and condition standards for any varietal type be added to or deleted. The committee shall submit with its recommendation all data and information upon which it acted in making its recommendation, and such other information as the Secretary may request. The Secretary shall approve any such change if he finds, upon the basis of data submitted to him by the committee or from other pertinent information available to him, that to do so would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) Publicity and notice. The committee shall give prompt and reasonable publicity to producer, dehydrators, and handlers of each recommendation submitted by it to the Secretary and of each regulation issued by the Secretary. Notice of such regulation shall be given to all handlers by registered or certified mail.

(d) Inspection and certification. (1) Each handler shall cause an inspection and certification to be made of all natural condition raisins acquired or received by him, except with respect to: (i) An interplant or interhandler transfer of offgrade raisins as described in paragraph (e)(2) of this section, unless such inspection and certification are required by rules and procedures made effective pursuant to this amended subpart; (ii) an interplant or interhandler transfer of free tonnage raisins as described in §989.59(e); (iii) raisins received from a dehydrator which have been previously inspected pursuant to paragraph (d)(2) of this section; (iv) any raisins for which minimum grade and condition standards are not then in effect; (v) raisins received from a cooperative bargaining association which have been previously inspected pursuant to paragraph (d)(3) of this section; and (vi) any raisins, if permitted in accordance with such rules and procedures as the committee may establish with the approval of the Secretary.
acquired or received for disposition in eligible nonnormal outlets. The handler shall be reimbursed by the committee for inspection costs incurred by him and applicable to pool tonnage held for the account of the committee. Except as otherwise provided in this section, prior to blending raisins, acquiring raisins, storing raisins, reconditioning raisins, or acquiring raisins which have been reconditioned, each handler shall obtain an inspection certification showing whether or not the raisins meet the applicable grade and condition standards: Provided, That the initial inspection for infestation shall not be required if the raisins are fumigated in accordance with such rules and procedures as the committee shall establish with the approval of the Secretary. The handler shall submit or cause to be submitted to the committee a copy of such certification, together with such other documents or records as the committee may require. Such certification shall be issued by inspectors of the Processed Products Standardization and Inspection Branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, unless the committee determines, and the Secretary concurs in such determination, that inspection by another agency would improve the administration of this amended subpart. The committee may require that raisins held on memorandum receipt be reinspected and certified as a condition for their acquisition by a handler.

(2) The committee may, in accordance with rules and procedures established with the approval of the Secretary, authorize handlers to receive or acquire natural condition raisins which have been produced by any dehydrator by dehydrating grapes by artificial means and have been inspected and certified on his premises. In the event there shall have been compliance with committee requirements, any handler who receives or acquires such inspected and certificated raisins shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements contained in paragraph (d)(1) of this section with respect to inspection and certification of natural condition raisins received or acquired by him.

(3) The committee may, in accordance with rules and procedures established with the approval of the Secretary, authorize handlers to receive or acquire without further inspection and certification, natural condition raisins, standard or offgrade, which have been inspected, certified and held, in compliance with committee requirements, at a receiving station of a cooperative bargaining association.

(e) Off-grade raisins. (1) Any natural condition raisins tendered to a handler which fail to meet the applicable minimum grade and condition standards may: (i) Be received or acquired by the handler for disposition, without further inspection, in eligible non-normal outlets; (ii) be returned unstemmed to the person tendering the raisins; or (iii) be received by the handler for reconditioning. Off-grade raisins received by a handler under any one of the three described categories may be changed to any other of the categories under such rules and procedures as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall establish. No handler shall ship or otherwise dispose of off-grade raisins which he does not return to the tenderer, transfer to another handler as provided in paragraph (e)(2) of this section, or recondition so that they at least meet the minimum standards prescribed in or pursuant to this amended subpart, except into eligible non-normal outlets.

(2) Off-grade raisins may be transferred from the plant of the handler where received to another plant of his or to that of another handler within the State of California under such rules and procedures as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, shall establish to safeguard the objectives of this part.

(3) Each handler shall, while holding any off-grade raisins, store them separate and apart from other raisins and the off-grade raisins shall be stored in accordance with disposition and reconditioning categories. The committee with the approval of the Secretary may prescribe rules and procedures for the storage of the raisins.

(4) If the handler is to acquire the raisins after they are reconditioned, his obligation with respect to such raisins shall be based on the weight of the raisins (if stemmed, adjusted to natural condition weight) after they have
been reconditioned. If, after such reconditioning, such raisins meet the minimum standards but are no longer natural condition raisins, any handler who acquires such raisins shall meet his reserve tonnage obligations from natural condition standard raisins acquired by him.

(5) The committee shall establish, with the approval of the Secretary, such additional rules and procedures as may be necessary to insure adequate control of off-grade raisins, including, but not limited to, the reconditioning of off-grade raisins, the disposition and use of unsuccessfully reconditioned raisins, and the disposition and use of residual matter from reconditioning operations.

(f) Blending. No handler shall blend raisins except: (1) Incidental to reconditioning raisins as permitted under rules and procedures established by the committee, with the approval of the Secretary; (2) blending standard raisins with standard raisins; or (3) blending raisins which meet the minimum grade standards for packed raisins with other raisins which meet such standards.

§ 989.59 Regulation of the handling of raisins subsequent to their acquisition by handlers.

(a) Regulation. Unless otherwise provided in this part, no handler shall: (1) Ship or otherwise make final disposition of natural condition raisins unless they at least meet the effective and applicable minimum grade and condition standards for natural condition raisins; or (2) ship or otherwise make final disposition of packed raisins unless they at least meet such minimum grade standards established by the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, in applicable rules and regulations or as later changed or prescribed pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (b) of this section: Provided, That nothing contained in this paragraph shall prohibit the shipment or final disposition of any raisins of a particular varietal type for which minimum standards are not applicable or then in effect pursuant to this part. And provided further, that a handler may grind raisins, which do not meet the minimum grade standards for packed raisins because of mechanical damage or sugaring, into a raisin paste.

(b) The committee may recommend changes in the minimum grade standards for packed raisins of any varietal type and may recommend to the Secretary that minimum grade standards for any varietal type be added or deleted. The committee shall submit with its recommendation all data and information upon which it acted in making its recommendation, and such other information as the Secretary may request. The Secretary shall approve any such change if he finds, upon the basis of data submitted to him by the committee or from other pertinent information available to him, that to do so would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) Publicity and notice. The committee shall give prompt and reasonable notice to producers, dehydrators, handlers, and the cooperative bargaining association(s) of each recommendation submitted by it to the Secretary and of each regulation issued by the Secretary. Notice of such regulation shall be given to all handlers of record by registered or certified mail.

(d) Inspection and certification. Unless otherwise provided in this section, each handler shall, at his own expense, before shipping or otherwise making final disposition of raisins, cause and inspection to be made of such raisins to determine whether they meet the then applicable minimum grade and condition standards for natural condition raisins or the then applicable minimum grade standards for packed raisins. Such handler shall obtain a certificate that such raisins meet the aforementioned applicable minimum standards and shall submit or cause to be submitted to the committee a copy of such certificate together with such other documents or records as the committee may require. The certificate shall be issued by the Processed Products Standardization and Inspection Branch of the United States Department of Agriculture, unless the committee determines, and the Secretary...
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 989.60

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this amended subpart, the committee may establish, with the approval of the Secretary, such rules and procedures as may be necessary to permit the acquisition and disposition of any off-grade or reserve pool raisins, free from any or all regulations, for uses in non-normal outlets.

(b) The committee may establish, with the approval of the Secretary, such rules and procedures as may be necessary to exempt from any or all regulations raisins produced in southern California (i.e., the counties of Riverside, Imperial, San Bernardino, Ventura, Orange, Los Angeles, and San Diego) and disposed of for distillation,
livestock feed, or by export in natural condition to Mexico.

(c) The committee may designate such raisins as it deems appropriate for production, processing, and marketing research and development. The period of such designation shall be for not more than five years unless extended by the committee. The volume which may be acquired by all handlers shall not exceed 500 natural condition tons annually for each designated project, unless increased by the Secretary upon a recommendation of the committee. Such designated raisins may be acquired and disposed of free from those regulations specified by the committee. In any crop year, when the total industry acquisitions of the designated raisins exceed 500 natural condition tons or a larger quantity approved by the Secretary upon a recommendation of the committee, the exemption shall not apply.


§ 989.61 Above parity situations.

The provisions of this part relating to minimum grade and condition standards and inspection requirements, within the meaning of section 2(3) of the act, and any other provisions pertaining to the administration and enforcement of the order, shall continue in effect irrespective of whether the estimated season average price to producers for raisins is in excess of the parity level specified in section 2(1) of the act.

[42 FR 37202, July 20, 1977]

TRADE PRACTICES

§ 989.62 Authorization for prohibition of trade practices.

Whenever the Secretary finds, upon recommendation of the committee or other information, that continuance of certain practices in trade channels would tend to interfere with the achieving of the objectives of this part, he may prohibit handlers from using such practices, for any crop year or portion thereof, in selling raisins in containers exceeding four pounds net weight. The prohibited practices may include:

(a) Any provision within or added to a sales contract, or action or agreement outside such contract, whereby the handler is obligated to reflect declines in market prices of raisins by charging the buyer a subsequent market price in lieu of the sales price specified in the contract.

(b) Any agreement in an undertaking to hold raisins in reserve for possible future delivery to a buyer, or action or agreement outside such undertaking, whereby the handler is obligated to not reflect increases in market prices by charging the buyer a price specified in the agreement.

Prior to any such practices being prohibited in any crop year, the committee shall recommend, for the approval of the Secretary, such rules and procedures and such record keeping requirements as are necessary to administer these prohibitions and obtain compliance therewith.

VOLUME REGULATION

§ 989.65 Free and reserve tonnage.

The standard raisins acquired by handlers which are free tonnage, and any reserve tonnage purchased for free use, may be disposed of by him in any marketing channel, subject to the applicable provisions of this part. A handler’s free tonnage of a varietal type of raisin shall be either the free percentage of the standard raisins of the varietal type acquired by him or all of the standard raisins of the varietal type acquired by him if no free percentage is established by the Committee or designated by the Secretary for that varietal type. A handler’s reserve tonnage of a varietal type shall be the reserve percentage of the standard raisins of that varietal type acquired by him.

[48 FR 32977, July 20, 1983]

§ 989.66 Reserve tonnage generally.

(a) The standard raisins acquired by a handler which are designated as reserve tonnage and reserve tonnage transferred to a handler by the committee shall be held by him for the account of the committee and subject to the applicable restrictions of this part.

(b)(1) Each handler shall hold in storage all reserve tonnage acquired by him and all reserve tonnage transferred
to him by the committee until he has been relieved of such responsibility by the committee either by delivery to the committee or otherwise. Such handler shall store such reserve tonnage raisins in natural condition without addition of moisture and in such manner as will maintain the raisins in the same condition as when he acquired them, except for normal and natural deterioration and shrinkage, and except for loss through fire, acts of God or other conditions beyond the handler's control.

(2) Reserve tonnage acquired by a handler or transferred to a handler by the committee shall be stored separate and apart from other raisins to such extent and identified in such manner as the committee shall specify in its rules and procedures with the approval of the Secretary.

(3) Each handler may, under the direction and supervision of the committee, substitute for any reserve tonnage raisins a like quantity of standard raisins of the same varietal type and of the same or more recent year's production. Each such handler shall give the committee reasonable advance notice of his intention to substitute, the exact location of the raisins for which substitution is to be made, and arrange with the committee a mutually satisfactory time for the substitution.

(4) The committee may, after giving reasonable notice, require a handler to deliver to it, or to anyone designated by it, at such handler's warehouse or at such other place as the raisins may be stored, part or all of the reserve tonnage raisins held by such handler. Reserve tonnage raisins delivered by any handler to the committee, or to any person designated by it, in the form of natural condition raisins shall in the aggregate be not more than 2 percent less than the average maturity level of all raisins such handler acquired during the applicable crop year. The committee may require that such delivery consist of natural condition raisins, or it may arrange for such delivery to consist of packed raisins.

(c) Each handler shall, at all times, hold in his possession or under his control reserve tonnage referable to his acquisitions of standard raisins and reserve tonnage transferred to him by the committee, less any quantity of such reserve tonnage released to him by a change of percentages, delivered by him pursuant to instructions of the committee or sold to him by the committee.

(d) Reserve tonnage raisins delivered by any handler to the committee, or to any person designated by it, whether in the form of natural condition raisins or packed raisins shall meet the applicable minimum grade or grade and condition standards, except for normal and natural deterioration. The committee shall have the authority to require, in its discretion and at its expense, such reinspection and certification of reserve pool tonnage raisins as it may deem necessary.

(e) In the event the committee offers to handlers reserve tonnage raisins for contract packing or for sale in export, as provided in §989.67, each handler shall be given the opportunity to pack or purchase his share of each offer.

(f) Handlers shall be compensated for receiving, storing, fumigating, handling, and inspection of that tonnage of reserve raisins determined by the reserve percentage of a crop year and held by them for the account of the committee, in accordance with a schedule of payments established by the committee and approved by the Secretary. A box rental shall be paid by the committee to producers or handlers for boxes used in storing reserve tonnage raisins beyond the crop year of acquisition in accordance with a rental schedule established by the committee and approved by the Secretary. The handler compensation shall be reviewed annually and shall be paid, as to the amount determined to be earned and unpaid, as soon as practicable after the end of the second quarter of the crop year and quarterly thereafter.

Any handler may request the committee, by registered or certified mail, at any time after June 1 of a crop year to remove or relocate reserve tonnage raisins of the current crop year which remain in his possession. At any time during a crop year, a handler may request removal or relocation of reserve tonnage of a prior crop year. In each instance, he may request that the committee provide the necessary containers for any such removal or relocation.
§ 989.67 Disposal of reserve raisins.

(a) At the time the committee meets to consider free and reserve percentages for a crop year, the committee shall consider the marketing of reserve tonnage raisins for the subsequent 12-month period. The committee shall dispose of all reserve tonnage in such manner as to achieve, as nearly as may be practicable, maximum disposal of such raisins by the time reserve tonnage raisins from the subsequent crop year are available. Any reserve tonnage raisins held unsold by the committee on May 1 of the subsequent crop year shall be physically disposed of promptly in any available outlet not competitive with normal market channels for free tonnage raisins or sales of new crop reserve tonnage raisins in export: Provided, That, whenever the Secretary finds, based upon a recommendation of the committee, or on the basis of information otherwise available to him that because of national emergency, crop failure, an insufficient supply of reserve tonnage raisins for export, or other change of economic or marketing conditions, retention of reserve tonnage raisins carried over is warranted, the foregoing requirements as to disposal shall not apply and such raisins may be disposed of in any outlet recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

(b) Reserve tonnage raisins shall be disposed of by the committee: (1) By sale to handlers for sale in specified outlets or for resale to exporters for sale in export outlets; (2) by direct sale to any agency of the U.S. Government for noncompetitive use; (3) by direct sale to foreign government agencies or foreign importers in any country not listed pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section or where the procurement of raisins is so regulated as to preclude purchases from domestic handlers; (4) by gift; and (5) by any other means consistent with the provisions of this paragraph, as sufficient funds become available.

section, and in outlets noncompetitive with those for free tonnage raisins.

(c) The committee shall sell reserve raisins to handlers for export sale to countries on a list established by the Secretary, on the basis of the recommendation of the committee or from other available information. The list of countries shall be reviewed by the committee annually when it reviews matters relating to the free tonnage, and shall recommend any changes in the list to the Secretary for approval. No country may be removed from the list for the purpose of permitting direct sale by the committee unless a finding is made by the committee and approved by the Secretary, that such removal and subsequent direct sale by the committee shall not lead to disruption of sale of reserve tonnage raisins by handlers in other countries on the list, and that although handlers have been able to offer reserve tonnage raisins at competitive prices to the country to be so removed, there remains an unfilled demand in such country which has not been supplied by handlers and which could be supplied by the committee at the same prices by means of direct sale.

(d)(1) Reserve tonnage raisins shall be sold to handlers at prices and in a manner intended to maximize producer returns and achieve maximum disposition of such raisins by the time reserve tonnage raisins from the subsequent crop year are available. The committee may pay the cost of transporting reserve tonnage from one handler to another and in the event a handler has more than one plant, the committee may pay the cost of transporting reserve tonnage to the handler's plant of its choice. In each offer or reoffer of reserve tonnage raisins for export, the committee may include a quantity of raisins not to exceed 2 percent of the total tonnage offered in such offer or reoffer, which it may sell to handlers when the regular allocation provides insufficient tonnage to fill a containerized freight shipping container: Provided, That such sale may be made only when the remaining portion of a handler's regular allocation will fill at least 50 percent of such container and shall be made to a handler only one time in each offer or reoffer of reserve tonnage raisins. No offer or reoffer shall be made until 5 days (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) have elapsed from the time it files with the Secretary complete information as to varietal type, quantity, and price involved in such offer or reoffer, and the Secretary may disapprove the offer or reoffer or any term thereof: Provided, That at any time prior to the expiration of the 5-day period, the offer or reoffer may be made to handlers upon the committee receiving from the Secretary notice that he does not disapprove the making of the offer or reoffer. Subject to the same conditions as are set forth in the preceding sentence with respect to the making of such offer or reoffer, the committee may withdraw an offer or reoffer to sell reserve tonnage raisins to handlers or may extend the offer or reoffer period but not when such extension would deprive one or more handlers of an opportunity to purchase raisins.

(2) Except for the final offer of the reserve tonnage from a crop year, an offer of reserve tonnage raisins for export shall provide for a specific tonnage. Each handler's share of the reserve tonnage offered prior to November 1 of any crop year shall be determined as the same proportion of the quantity offered that the free tonnage raisins acquired by him during the preceding crop year is of the free tonnage raisins acquired by all handlers during the preceding crop year who remain handlers. If reserve tonnage raisins have been removed by the committee from a handler's premises pursuant to §989.66(f), such handler's allocation of reserve pool offers subsequent to such removal and prior to November 1 of the following crop year shall be reduced by the percentage such removed reserve tonnage is of the total reserve tonnage acquired by such handler in the crop year. Subsequent to October 31, each handler's share shall be determined as the same proportion of the quantity offered that the free tonnage raisins acquired by the handler during the then current crop year is of the total free tonnage raisins acquired by all handlers during the then current crop year. With respect to any offer other than the initial offer, each handler's share of the total quantity offered as of
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that date (the then current offer plus all prior offers of that crop year) shall first be determined by the appropriate formula. His share of the current offer shall then be determined by subtracting from his share of the total quantity offered, the total of his share of prior offers from the beginning of the crop year. If any handler did not acquire raisins during the preceding crop year, the basis for his share of any quantity of reserve tonnage raisins offered prior to November 1 shall be his acquisitions of free tonnage raisins during the then current crop year. The current free tonnage acquisitions of all such new handler shall, for the purposes of determining the shares of all handlers prior to November 1, be added to the total acquisitions of free tonnage raisins during the preceding crop year of all handlers in business at the time the offer is made.

(3) With respect to any offer of reserve tonnage for sale to handlers for resale in export, the committee may provide that any such tonnage unpurchased at the end of the share reservation period will be reoffered to handlers without regard to shares and that approval for handlers' applications for purchase may be made in the same order in which the applications are received by the committee. Such reoffer may be made by the committee at the time it makes a regular offer of reserve tonnage, at any time during the period a regular offer is in effect, or within a reasonable time after a regular offer has expired.

(4) The final offer of the reserve tonnage from a crop year may be offered to handlers without regard to shares and approval of handlers' applications for purchase may be made in the same order in which the applications are received by the committee.

(5) Whenever a handler's share or allocation pursuant to this paragraph is less than or exceeds his holdings of reserve tonnage by a minor quantity, the committee may adjust the handler's share or allocation so as to avoid the cost of the physical transfer. The maximum quantity by which a handler's share or allocation may be so allocated shall be prescribed in rules and procedures which the committee shall establish with the approval of the Secretary.

(e) The committee may sell reserve tonnage raisins as provided in paragraph (b)(3) of this section only when such country is not included in the list of specified countries established pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section and may sell reserve tonnage raisins to foreign government agencies of foreign importers in any country removed from such list. No agreement to sell reserve tonnage raisins shall be entered into by the committee until 5 days (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) have elapsed from the time it files with the Secretary complete information as to varietal type, quantity, price and foreign country involved in any such proposed sale, and the Secretary may disapprove such sale or any term thereof: Provided, That, at any time prior to the expiration of the 5-day period, the sale may be made upon the committee receiving from the Secretary notice that he does not disapprove the making of the sale.

(f) Whenever the committee concludes that the orderly disposition of reserve tonnage would be promoted by the committee replacing any portion or all of handlers' export shipments of free tonnage raisins, to other than free tonnage outlets, made prior to the committee's first offer to sell reserve tonnage, it may do so and may specify such requirements and conditions as are necessary to carry out the replacement consistent with the objectives of this amended subpart. The committee may establish a price for such replacement tonnage which is higher, the same as, or lower than that for reserve tonnage in the first offer of the crop year. Any such replacement offer by the committee shall be governed by those provisions of paragraph (d)(1) of this section which prescribe prior action by the Secretary on committee offers to sell tonnage to handlers.

(g)(1) The committee may, subject to review by the Secretary, refuse to sell reserve tonnage raisins for export:

(i) To any handler who is in default on any previous purchase of reserve tonnage raisins from the committee;

(ii) To any handler currently not in compliance with the provisions of a sales agreement covering reserve tonnage raisins, executed by such handler with the committee; or
(iii) To any handler who signifies an intention to sell reserve tonnage to or through any person who has previously failed to complete a sale of reserve tonnage raisins to a foreign buyer and such raisins remain to be exported and remain unsold to any foreign buyer in an eligible export market.

(2) Handlers who are in default of timely payment under any purchase agreement are subject to an interest and late payment charge(s) recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary on the delinquent amount that is owed the committee. The interest charge shall be the current prime rate plus 2 percent established by the bank in which the committee has its administrative assessment funds deposited, on the day the amount owed becomes delinquent; and further, that such rate of interest be added to the bill monthly until the handler’s delinquent amount owed plus applicable interest has been paid: Provided, That the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may recommend changes in the rate of interest to another rate of interest. When the committee determines to change the rate of interest or a late payment charge is needed, and such change is approved by the Secretary, the committee shall announce the change in the rate of interest or the rate of late payment charge through a mailing by the committee to handlers.

(3) Appeals. If a determination is made by the committee that a handler has not complied with the provisions of this section and any actions allowed under this section are taken against the handler, such handler may request a hearing before an appeals subcommittee established by the committee. If the handler disagrees with the subcommittee’s decisions, the handler may request the committee to review the subcommittee’s decision. The committee may, subject to the approval of the Secretary, establish additional procedures concerning appeals.

(h) Each packer’s share of an offer of reserve tonnage raisins for contract packing shall be determined as the same proportion that the reserve tonnage raisins acquired by him is of the reserve tonnage raisins acquired by all packers. In the event that any packer fails to contract for packing any or all of his share of any offer, the remaining portion thereof shall be reoffered by the committee to all packers who contracted for packing all of their respective shares, in proportion to their respective acquisitions: Provided, That, if such amount which packers fail to contract for packing does not exceed 250 tons, or if it is necessary to deviate from the foregoing in order to meet terms and conditions of shipment, the committee may, in its discretion, allocate such reserve tonnage raisins among packers as it deems appropriate, but the shares of packers in subsequent offers or reoffers shall be adjusted accordingly.

(i) In the event the committee determines that the applicable procedures as specified in paragraphs (d) and (h) of this section will not provide an allocation for handlers which is suitable for a particular situation, the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish such modifications of procedures, consistent with §989.66(e), as will facilitate the disposition of reserve tonnage through the handlers.

(j) The committee shall not sell reserve tonnage raisins of any varietal type to handlers to provide them with raisins to sell as free tonnage, other than as provided in §989.54, unless it files with the Secretary complete information and receives from the Secretary notice that he does not disapprove of such sale and that because of: National emergency, crop failure; change of economic or marketing conditions; free tonnage shipments during the then current crop year exceeding shipments of a comparable period of the prior crop year by more than 5 percent: Provided, That, such sale of reserve tonnage shall be limited to the quantity exceeding 105 percent of shipments for the first 10 months of the prior crop year; and/or an inadequate carryover, the free tonnage outlets cannot be reasonably well supplied by the tonnage released to the industry as a whole by the committee’s marketing policy for that varietal type. Any quantities of reserve raisins offered to handlers for free use, except as provided in §989.54(g), may be offered to them on the basis of handler shipments or acquisitions in the same manner as
§ 989.70 Storage of raisins held on memorandum receipt and of packer-owned tonnage.

All raisins stored by a handler for another person on memorandum or warehouse receipt, or raisins produced and stored by a handler, shall be stored separate and apart from other raisins and shall be clearly marked or tagged as raisins stored on memorandum or warehouse receipt or as raisins produced by the handler but not acquired by him in his capacity as a handler.

§ 989.71 Disposition of unsold reserve tonnage in above parity situations.

In the event that the Secretary should find, during a crop year when reserve tonnage percentages have been designated and are in effect pursuant to this part, that the estimated season average price for raisins for that crop year will be in excess of the price level contemplated by the provisions of section 2(1) of the act, he shall issue an order providing for the orderly disposition of the unsold reserve tonnage then on hand, in such outlets, at such times, and in accordance with such terms and conditions, as he may determine to be appropriate in the circumstances. In determining the liquidation procedures and terms, the Secretary shall give consideration to the data and recommendations, if any, which may be submitted by the committee.

[32 FR 12164, Aug. 24, 1967]

§ 989.72 Exemption of educational institutions.

The committee may exempt, wholly or in part, from the volume regulation provisions of this part, that volume of raisins received or acquired by public or private educational agencies or institutions incidental to or in connection with teaching, experimental, or research activities.

§ 989.73 Reports.

(a) Inventory reports. Each handler shall, upon request of the committee, file promptly with the committee a certified report, showing such information as the committee shall specify with respect to any raisins which were held by him on a date designated by the committee, which information as specified may include, but not be limited to: (1) The quantity of any raisins so held, segregated as to varietal type, natural condition, packed, standard
quality or off-grade quality; and (2) the locations of the raisins.

(b) Acquisition reports. Each handler shall submit to the committee in accordance with such rules and procedures as are prescribed by the committee, certified reports, for such periods as the committee may require, with respect to his acquisitions of each varietal type of raisins during the particular period covered by such report, which report shall include, but not be limited to: (1) The total quantity of standard raisins acquired; (2) the quantity of reserve tonnage referable to his acquisitions of standard raisins; (3) the locations of such reserve tonnages; (4) the total quantity of off-grade raisins acquired pursuant to §989.58(e)(1)(i), and (5) cumulative totals of such acquisitions from the beginning of the then current crop year to and including the end of the period for which the report is made. Upon written application made to the committee, a handler may be relieved of submitting such reports after completing his packing operations for the season. Upon request of the committee, each handler shall furnish to the committee, in such manner and at such times as it may require, the name and address of each person from whom he acquired raisins and the quantity of each varietal type of raisins acquired from each such person.

(c) Each handler shall file such reports of creditable promotion including paid advertising as recommended by the Committee and approved by the Secretary.

(d) Other reports. Upon the request of the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish to the committee such other information as may be necessary to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties under this amended part.

§ 989.76 Records.

Each handler shall maintain such records of all raisins received, and of all raisins acquired, by him as prescribed by the committee. Such records shall include, but not be limited to, the quantity of raisins of each varietal type acquired from each person and the name and address of each such person, total acquisitions, total sales, and total other disposition of each varietal type which he handles, and each handler shall maintain such records for at least two years after the termination of the crop year in which the transactions occurred. The Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe rules and regulations to include under this section handler records that detail promotion and advertising activities which the Committee may need to perform its functions under §989.53.

§ 989.77 Verification of reports and records.

For the purpose of checking and verifying reports filed by handlers and records prescribed in or pursuant to this amended subpart, the committee, through its duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any handler’s premises during regular business hours and shall be permitted at any such times to inspect such premises and any raisins held by such handler, and any and all records of the handler with respect to the handling or disposition of raisins by him and promotion and advertising activities conducted by person, except the Secretary upon request therefor, data or information obtained or extracted therefrom which would constitute a trade secret or the disclosure of which might affect the trade position, financial condition, or business operations of the particular handler from whom received: Provided, That the committee may require such an employee to disclose to it, or to any person designated by it or by the Secretary, information and data of a general nature, compilations of data affecting handlers as a group, and any data affecting one or more handlers, so long as the identity of the individual handlers involved is not disclosed.
§ 989.79 Expenses and Assessments

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses (other than those specified in § 989.62) as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it during each crop year, for the maintenance and functioning of the committee and for such purposes as he may, pursuant to this subpart, determine to be appropriate. The funds to cover such expenses shall be obtained by levying assessments as provided in § 989.80. The committee shall file with the Secretary for each crop year a proposed budget of these expenses and a proposal as to the assessment rate to be fixed pursuant to § 989.80, together with a report thereon. Such filing shall be made not later than October 5 of the crop year, but this date may be extended by the committee not more than 5 days if warranted by a late crop. Also it shall file at the same time a proposed budget of the expenses likely to be incurred during the crop year in connection with reserve raisins held for the account of the committee, exclusive of the receiving, storing, fumigating, and handling expenses which are covered by a schedule of payments to handlers effective pursuant to § 989.66(f) or any rules and procedures established by the committee, and exclusive of any expenses it may incur in connection with the disposition of such raisins and which are unknown at the time. The said report shall also cover this proposed budget.


§ 989.80 Assessments.

(a) Each handler shall, with respect to free tonnage acquired by him, and any reserve tonnage released or sold to him for use in free tonnage outlets, pay to the committee, upon demand, his pro rata share of the expenses (exclusive of expenses for receiving, fumigating, handling, holding or disposing of reserve pool tonnage) which the Secretary finds will be incurred, as aforesaid, by the committee during each crop year less any amounts credited pursuant to § 989.53. Such handler's pro rata share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the total free tonnage acquired by such handler plus any reserve tonnage released or sold to him for use as free tonnage, during the applicable crop year and the total free tonnage acquired by all handlers plus all reserve tonnage released or sold to all handlers for use as free tonnage, during the same crop year. Provided, That (1) in computing the total free tonnage acquired by a particular handler, there shall be excluded all standard raisins (recovered by the reconditioning of offgrade raisins) acquired by the handler and which comprise the assessable portion of another handler pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section, and (2) the computation of the total free tonnage acquired by all handlers shall not be similarly reduced.

(b) Each handler who reconditions offgrade raisins but does not acquire the standard raisins recovered thereof from shall, with respect to his assessable portion of all such standard raisins, pay to the committee, upon demand, his pro rata share of the expenses which the Secretary finds will be incurred by the committee each crop year. Such handler's pro rata share of such expenses shall be equal to the ratio between the handler's assessable portion (which shall be a quantity equal to the free tonnage portions of such handler's standard raisins which are acquired by some other handler or handlers) during the applicable crop
year and the total free tonnage acquired by all handlers, plus all reserve tonnage released or sold to all handlers for use as free tonnage, during the same crop year.

(c) During any crop year or any portion of a crop year for which volume percentages are not effective for a varietal type, all standard raisins of that varietal type acquired by handlers during such period shall be free tonnage for purposes of levying assessments pursuant to this section. The Secretary shall fix the rate of assessment to be paid by all handlers on the basis of a specified rate per ton. At any time during or after a crop year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment to obtain sufficient funds to cover any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses of the committee. Each handler shall pay such additional assessment to the committee upon demand. In order to provide funds to carry out the functions of the committee, the committee may accept advance payments from any handler to be credited toward such assessments as may be levied pursuant to this section against such handler during the crop year. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee, and for such purposes as the Secretary may pursuant to this subpart determine to be appropriate, may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect, irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(d) Each handler shall, with respect to administrative assessments not paid within 30 calendar days of the date of the Committee's invoice, pay to the Committee interest on the unpaid assessment at the rate of the prime rate established by the bank in which the Committee has its administrative assessment funds deposited, on the day that the administrative assessment becomes delinquent plus 2 percent; and further, that such rate of interest be added to the bill monthly until the delinquent handler's assessment plus applicable interest has been paid: Provided, That the Committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, modify the interest rate applicable to delinquent handler's assessment through the establishment of applicable rules and regulations.

§ 989.81 Accounting.

(a) If, at the end of the crop year, the assessments collected for such crop year exceed the expenses incurred with respect to such crop year, each handler’s share of such excess shall be credited to him against, and may be used for, the operations of the following crop year, unless such handler demands payment thereof, in which case his share shall be paid to him.

(b) The committee may, with the approval of the Secretary, maintain in its own name or in the name of its members, a suit against any handler for the collection of such handler’s pro rata share of the expenses.

§ 989.82 Expenses of reserve raisin operations.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as are reasonable and are necessary in discharging its obligations, pursuant to this part, with respect to the receiving, fumigating, handling, holding, or disposing of any quantity of reserve pool raisins held for the account of the committee. The committee is authorized to pay any taxes assessed against raisins held by or for the account of the committee on March 1, or such assessment date as later changed and then in effect, in the reserve pool established pursuant to this subpart: Provided, That any equity holder may pay his taxes upon giving notice to the committee on or before May 1 of each year of his intention to do so. All pool expenses shall be deducted from the proceeds obtained by the committee from the sale or other disposal of such reserve raisins held for the account of the committee.

§ 989.83 Funds.

All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part, shall be used solely for the purposes authorized, and shall be accounted for in the manner provided, in this part.
§ 989.84 Disposition limitation.

No handler shall dispose of free or reserve tonnage raisins, offgrade raisins, or other failing raisins, except in accordance with the provisions of this subpart or pursuant to regulations issued by the committee.


§ 989.85 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee or any employee or agent thereof shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or any person, for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate member, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty.


§ 989.86 Separability.

If any provision of this amended subpart is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this amended subpart or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 989.87 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this amended subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 989.88 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this amended subpart shall cease upon the termination of this amended subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.

§ 989.89 Agents.

The Secretary may, by a designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the United States Government, or name any bureau or division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this amended subpart.

§ 989.90 Effective time.

The provisions of this amended subpart, as well as any amendments to this amended subpart shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare, and shall continue in force until terminated, or during suspension, in one of the ways specified in § 989.91.

§ 989.91 Suspension or termination.

(a) The Secretary may, at any time, terminate the provisions of this amended subpart by giving at least one day's notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine.

(b) The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this amended subpart, whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this amended subpart at the end of any crop year whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of the producers who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production for market of grapes used in the production of raisins in the State of California: Provided, That such majority have, during such representative period, produced for market more than 50 percent of the volume of such grapes produced for market within said State; but such termination shall be effective only if announced before July 31 of the then current crop year.

(d) The provisions of this amended subpart shall, in any event, terminate upon the termination of this amended subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.
whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 989.92 Proceedings after termination.  
(a) Upon the termination of the provisions of this amended subpart, the members of the committee then functioning shall continue as joint trustees for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee, of all funds and property then in the possession or under the control of the committee, including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered at the time of such termination. Action by said trusteeship shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees.

(b) Said trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and the joint trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall, upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the committee or the joint trustees pursuant to this subpart.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property or claims have been transferred or delivered by the committee or its members, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the said committee and upon said joint trustees.

§ 989.93 Effect of termination or amendment.  
Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this amended subpart or any regulation issued pursuant to this amended subpart, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not, (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this amended subpart or any regulation issued under this amended subpart, (b) release or extinguish any violation of this amended subpart, or of any regulation issued under this amended subpart, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person, with respect to any such violation.

§ 989.94 Amendments.  
Amendments to this amended subpart may be proposed from time to time, by any person or by the committee.

§ 989.95 Right of Secretary.  
The members of the committee (including alternates and successors) and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the committee, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary, in his discretion, at any time. Every decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time. Upon such disapproval, the disapproved action of the committee shall be deemed null and void.
§ 989.105 Inspection point.

Inspection point means any plant or receiving station of a handler, or any other place where raisins are received by a handler, and which is so designated by the Committee. The inspection point(s) of the handler shall include any area(s) in which he receives grapes or raisins for dehydration unless he keeps his raisin dehydration business separate, physically and by records, from his business of handling raisins.

§ 989.106 Ship.

Ship means the physical movement of raisins other than to storage for the handler's account within the general locality of the packing plant.

§ 989.107 Inspection certificate.

Inspection certificate means any written certification, finding, or attestation as to the quality or condition of any lot or lots issued by an authorized member of the inspection service.

§ 989.110 Varietal types.

Pursuant to § 989.10, specific definitions for each varietal type of raisins contained in that section are as follows:

(a) Natural (sun-dried) Seedless includes all sun-dried seedless raisins that possess characteristics similar to Natural Thompson Seedless raisins which, for the purpose of expediting drying, have not been dipped in or sprayed with water, with or without soda, oil or other chemicals prior to or during the drying process.

(b) Dipped Seedless includes all raisins produced by artificial dehydration of seedless grapes that possess the characteristics similar to Thompson Seedless grapes which, in order to expedite drying, have been dipped in or sprayed with water only after such
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grapes have been removed from the vine.

c Olate and Related Seedless includes all raisins produced by sun-drying or artificial dehydration of seedless grapes which, in order to expedite drying, are dipped in or sprayed with water with soda, oil, Ethyl Olate, Methyl Olate or any other chemicals either while such grapes are on the vine or after they have been removed from the vine.

d Golden Seedless includes all seedless raisins whose color generally varies from golden yellow to dark amber.

e Muscats (including other raisins with seeds) include all raisins which usually contain seeds and possess characteristics similar to Muscat raisins.

f Sultana includes all raisins which usually contain an undeveloped (vestigial) seed and possess characteristics similar to Sultana raisins.

g Zante Currant includes all raisins that possess characteristics similar to those produced from Black Corinth or White Corinth grapes.

h Monukka includes all raisins produced from Monukka grapes.

i Other Seedless includes all raisins produced from Ruby Seedless, Kings Ruby Seedless, Flame Seedless and other seedless grapes not included in any of the varietal categories for Seedless raisins defined in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) or (h) above.

§ 989.115 Independent handler, major cooperative marketing association handler, and small cooperative marketing association handler.

(a) Independent handler means any handler who is not a cooperative marketing association of producers.

(b) Major cooperative marketing association handler means any handler who is a cooperative marketing association of producers which acquired not less than 10 percent of the total raisin acquisitions during the crop year preceding nominations.

(c) Small cooperative marketing association handler means any handler who is a cooperative marketing association of producers which acquired less than 10 percent of the total raisin acquisitions during the crop year preceding nominations.

[49 FR 18730, May 2, 1984]

RAISIN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

§ 989.122 Districts for independent and small cooperative producer representation on the Committee.

For the purposes of §989.26(c) and commencing with the term of office beginning May 1, 1984, independent and small cooperative producer districts are as follows:

(a) District No. 1—All of the counties north of Fresno County.

(b) District No. 2—All of the counties south of Fresno County.

(c) District No. 3—All of Fresno County.

[49 FR 18730, May 2, 1984]

§ 989.126 Representation of the Committee.

(a) To provide independent and small cooperative producers equitable representation throughout the production area commencing with the term of office beginning May 1, 1984, representation shall be apportioned among the three districts specified in §989.122. Districts 1 and 2 shall each have one producer member, and District 3 shall have the remaining producer members to which independent and small cooperative producers are entitled pursuant to §989.26(c).

(b) Pursuant to section 989.26(d) and commencing with the term of office beginning May 1, 1994, apportionment of
§ 989.129 Voting at nomination meetings.

Any person (defined in §989.3 as an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit) who is engaged, in a propietary capacity, in the production of grapes which are sun-dried or dehydrated by artificial means to produce raisins and who qualifies under the provisions of §989.29(b)(2) shall be eligible to cast one vote for a nominee for each producer member position and one vote for each producer alternate member position. Hence, where two persons operate land as landlord and tenant on a share-crop basis, each person is entitled to one vote for each such position to be filled. Where land is leased on a cash rental basis, only the person who is the tenant or cash renter (producer) is entitled to vote. A partnership or corporation, when eligible, is entitled to cast only one vote for a nominee for each producer position to be filled in its district.


§ 989.139 Compensation for attendance of alternates at Committee meetings.

Whenever a member of the Raisin Administrative Committee has reason to believe that he will be unable to attend a Committee meeting and has so notified his alternate or the Committee manager, such notification or a request from the manager shall be held to be a request for the alternate to attend and he shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses subject to the limitations contained in §989.39.


§ 989.154 Desirable carryout levels.

The desirable carryout levels to be used in computing and announcing a crop year's marketing policy shall be equal to the total shipments of free tonnage of the prior crop year during the months of August and September, for each varietal type, converted to a natural condition basis: Provided, That the desirable carryout levels to be used in computing and announcing the 1995-96 crop year's marketing policy shall be equal to the total 1994 shipments of free tonnage for the months of August and September, and one-fourth of the total shipments for the month of October: Provided further, That should the...
§ 989.156 Raisin diversion program.

(a)(1) Quantity to be diverted. On or before November 30 of each crop year, the Committee shall announce the quantity of raisins eligible for a raisin diversion program. On or before January 15 of each crop year, the Committee may announce an increase in the tonnage eligible for a raisin diversion program. The quantity eligible for diversion may be announced for any of the following varietal types of raisins: Natural (sun-dried) Seedless, Muscat (including other raisins with seeds), Sultanina, Zante Currant, Monukka, and Other Seedless raisins. At the same time the Committee shall determine and announce to producers, handlers, and the cooperative bargaining association(s) the allowable harvest cost to be applicable to such diversion tonnage. The factors to be reviewed by the Committee in determining allowable harvest costs shall include but not be limited to: Costs for picking, turning, rolling, boxing, paper trays, vineyard terracing, hauling to the handler, and crop insurance.

(2) The Committee may limit any season's diversion program to production units on which producers agree to remove the vines. Such restriction shall be announced at the time the tonnage available for that season's diversion program is announced.

(b) Application for diversion certificates. Any producer desiring to participate in a raisin diversion program shall file with the Committee, by certified mail, prior to December 20 of the crop year, an application on Form RAC-1000, "Application for Raisin Diversion Certificate" together with a copy of any two of the following four documents: Plot Map from County Hall of Records; irrigation tax bill; county property tax bill; or any other document containing an Appraisal Parcel Number. Such application shall include at least the following information:

(1) The name, address, and telephone number of the producer;
(2) The location and size of the production unit to be diverted;
(3) The raisin production by varietal type on such production unit during the prior crop year or the last crop year eligible for such diversion;
(4) The handler to whom such raisins were delivered;
(5) A statement identifying whether the applicant will remove the vines in the production unit under the program;
(6) A statement that all persons with an equity interest in the grapes in the production unit to be diverted consent to the filing of the application; and
(7) A statement that the producer agrees to comply with the regulations established for a raisin diversion program.

The producer applicant shall sign the application certifying that the information contained therein is true and correct.

(c) Handling of applications. After the Committee receives the producer applications, it shall review them to determine whether all the required information has been provided and appears reliable. Any incomplete application shall be returned to the producer applicant for correction together with a statement of the error or omission in the application. The applicant shall have a reasonable opportunity to correct such application. However, such correction must be received by the Committee on or before January 12.

(d) Priority of applications and allocations of tonnage. Those producer applications indicating that the vines of the producing units will be removed shall receive first priority over other applicants when reserve tonnage under the program is to be allocated. Grafting vines of one varietal type to another varietal type does not constitute removal under the program. If the production volume in such applications exceeds the amount of diversion tonnage available under the program, a lottery will be held to allocate such diversion tonnage among the applicants. In conducting any lottery under this section, the Committee may group producer applications on a handler-by-handler basis, and separate lotteries will be held for each such group. The...
diversion tonnage of raisins available for each such group in each lottery may not exceed the percentage of total handler acquisitions acquired by the group's handler during the previous crop year. To the extent diversion tonnage exists after such group lotteries, such remaining diversion tonnage may be allocated by one lottery of all remaining producer applications. If reserve tonnage exists under the program after the allocation of diversion tonnage has been made to all eligible producer applicants who remove vines, all other applications shall be considered. If the production volume in such applications exceeds the amount of reserve raisin tonnage remaining under the program, a lottery will be held to allocate the remaining diversion tonnage in the manner described above.

(e) Approval of applications. The Committee shall notify the applicant for diversion, in writing, as to whether or not the application has been approved. If the application is not approved, the notification shall state the reason(s) for disapproving the application.

(f) Disclosure of information. The applicant, whose application has been approved, agrees that by participating in the raisin diversion program, the information in the application may be disclosed to the Committee, its representatives, or agents. The Committee, its representatives, or agents may not use this information for any personal use and shall comply with all applicable provisions pertaining to the unauthorized disclosure of such information.

(g) Verification. Any applicant whose application has been approved, authorizes Committee representatives and agents to have access to the production unit in the diversion program during reasonable business hours during the crop year to confirm compliance with the program. Notice will be provided to the applicant of such visits.

(h) Compliance. (1) Methods of diversion. An approved applicant shall be required to remove the vines, spur-prune the vines, remove the bunches or take other means to preclude grapes from being produced and harvested on the production unit: Provided, That vine removal may be the only means of diversion in some seasons as determined and announced by the Committee. Bunches which occur on vines in an approved production unit shall be removed and destroyed by the applicant before maturity. If the Committee representatives or agents determine that there is an average of more than four bunches per vine remaining on an approved production unit, the producer shall be notified immediately by certified mail, in writing, and given 2 weeks to remove such bunches. Grafting vines of one varietal type to another varietal type does not constitute removal of vines under the program.

(2) Period of diversion. An approved applicant must remove the grapes, or vines, indicated on the application within the production unit designated in the application not later than June 1 of the crop year in which a raisin diversion program is implemented. Producers who remove the vines on a production unit after August 15 may qualify for a diversion program for that crop year if a diversion program is announced and if diversion on that unit and vine removal after August 15 can be documented and verified.

(i) Issuance of certificates. When preliminary percentages are announced,
the Committee shall issue diversion certificates to those approved applicants who have removed grapes in accordance with this section. Such certificates shall represent an amount of reserve tonnage raisins equal to the amount of raisins diverted from the production unit(s) specified in the producer application, or additional quantity granted by the Committee when vines are diverted through vine removal or any other means established by the Committee, as the case may be. If, prior to issuance of a certificate, the Committee is notified by an approved applicant that such applicant’s interest in the production unit(s) involved in the program has been transferred to another person, the Committee may substitute the transferee for the applicant provided the transferee agrees to comply with the provisions of this section.

(j) Submission of diversion certificates from producer to handlers. Diversion certificates may be submitted by producers only to handlers. The handler shall pay the producer for the free tonnage applicable to the diversion certificate minus the established harvest cost for the entire tonnage shown on the certificate.

(k) Redemption of certificates. Any handler holding diversion certificates may redeem such certificates for reserve pool raisins from the Committee. To redeem a certificate, a handler must present the diversion certificate to the Committee and pay the Committee an amount equal to the established harvest costs plus an amount equal to the payment for receiving, storing, fumigating, handling, and inspecting raisins as specified in §989.401 for the entire tonnage shown on the certificate. Handlers who acquire diversion certificates from producers shall report acquisitions of such certificates and submit them for redemption in a manner and for the reporting periods provided in §989.173(b) for the acquisition of raisins acquired from producers. The Committee shall issue a reserve release entitling the handler to an amount of reserve pool raisins equal to the entire tonnage shown on the certificate. Upon receipt of the diversion certificate, the Committee shall note on the certificate that it is cancelled. Diversion certificates will only be valid and honored if presented to the Committee for redemption on or before December 15 of the crop year for which they were issued.

(l) Lost, damaged, or destroyed certificates. The Committee should be notified of any lost, damaged, or destroyed certificates as quickly as possible by a handler or producer so that appropriate measures such as issuing new certificates may be taken.

(m) Appeals. If a determination is made by the Committee that a producer has not complied with these regulations and is not entitled to a diversion certificate, that a producer is subject to liquidated damages and interest or that a producer is denied the opportunity to participate in the next RDP, such producer may request a hearing before an appeals subcommittee established by the Committee. If a producer disagrees with the subcommittee’s decision, the producer may request the Committee to review the subcommittee’s decision. If the producer disagrees with the Committee’s decision upon review, the producer may, through the Committee, request the Secretary’s review of the decision.

(n) Voiding certificates. If, subsequent to a diversion certificate being issued to a producer but before it has been submitted to a handler, the Committee determines that the producer did not comply with these regulations, it shall void the certificate.

(o) Production unit. For the purposes of the raisin diversion program, a production unit is a clearly defined geographic area with permanent boundaries (either natural or man-made). A producer must be able to document to the Committee the previous year’s production data for that specific area by means of sales receipts or other delivery or transfer documents which indicate the creditable fruit weight delivered to handlers from that specific area. If the information submitted by producers on the application concerning a unit’s production is significantly greater than past production on the unit, production on neighboring units, or the industry norm, or the production is unable to be verified based on
submitted documentation, the Committee may request additional documentation such as tray count, payroll records, prior years’ production, and insurance records to substantiate the tonnage of raisins produced on all production units that such applicant controls or owns. Producers’ would not be precluded from submitting other information substantiating production if those producers’ desired. A new production unit will not be eligible for the raisin diversion program until at least 1 year’s production has been grown and is documented. An existing production unit, transferred to a new or expanding producer, is eligible for the raisin diversion program as soon as the previous year’s production can be properly documented.

(p) Handling of reserve pool tonnage released when diversion certificates are redeemed. Handlers shall comply with the applicable provisions of the order and administrative rules and regulations for the reserve pool tonnage released under the raisin diversion program in the same manner as raisins acquired from producers. Such provisions shall include, but not be limited to, reporting, satisfying reserve pool obligations, payment of assessments, storing reserve tonnage, and the remedies in the event of failure to deliver reserve tonnage raisins.

(q) Liquidated damages and interest charges. By applying to participate in a raisin diversion program, an applicant agrees that the failure of the approved applicant to timely remove the vines or grapes will cause serious and substantial damage to the program and the raisin industry and that, in consideration of the approval of the application, such applicant will pay liquidated damages and interest to the Committee, in the event of such failure to timely remove vines or grapes. Since it would be difficult, if not impossible, to determine the amount of such liquidated damages, the following amount, which is a fair measure of damages and not a penalty, shall apply:

(1) The amount of the liquidated damages shall be computed by multiplying the tonnage on the approved diversion application (Form RAC-1000) by the harvest cost determined and announced by the Committee.

(2) Each approved applicant shall, with the respect to liquidated damages not paid by July 1, pay to the Committee interest on such unpaid liquidated damages at the rate of the prime rate of the bank in which the Committee has its reserve pool funds deposited, on the day the liquidated damages become delinquent, plus 2 percent, and further such rate of interest shall be added to the unpaid amount, monthly, until the liquidated damages plus applicable interest are paid.

(3) Liquidated damages and interest collected by the Committee pursuant to this subparagraph shall be deposited in the reserve pool fund of the reserve pool applicable to the particular diversion program and be distributed to the equity holders in that pool.

(r) Notification. If any changes are made in the terms and conditions of the diversion program after a producer’s application has been approved, the Committee will notify the producer of such changes and the producer will be given 10 calendar days to agree to the revised terms, or to withdraw from the program. Failure of the producer to notify the Committee in writing of its intention to withdraw from the program within 10 calendar days from the date of the Committee’s notice will constitute agreement to the revised terms and conditions.

(s) Additional opportunity for vine removal. (1) The Committee may announce a date later than that provided in §989.156(b), by which producers, who agree to remove the vines on a production unit may file an application to participate in a raisin diversion program. The announced date shall be not later than May 1. The diversion certificates will be issued only for the production units from which vines are removed. The total tonnage available to such applicants shall not exceed the tonnage determined by deducting the tonnage approved for applications received on or before December 20 from the total tonnage announced as eligible by the Committee for diversion. Applications shall be considered and approved on a first-come, first-served, basis and shall not be given preference over the tonnage approved for applications received on or before December 20. The vines shall be removed from the
production units for which such applications are approved not later than June 1.

(2) Producers who agree to remove the vines pursuant to this paragraph shall notify the Committee in advance of the date when such vines will be removed in order to allow a representative of the Committee to observe and verify such vine removal.

§ 989.158 Natural condition raisins.

(a) Incoming inspection. (1)(i) The Committee shall, upon request of a handler who complies with the requirements of this part with respect to inspection points, designate as his inspection point any place (including his plant or receiving station) where the handler receives raisins.

(ii) Each handler shall, at his expense, provide the inspector with any assistance necessary in the inspection of the raisins, including the movement of individual containers. Each handler, other than a processor, shall maintain with the Committee a current written description, defining the boundaries and other
pertinent details, of each of his inspection points. In the event the Committee determines that any inspection point, or any modification thereof, does not comply with the definition or the requirements of this part, it shall notify the handler of the changes necessary for compliance. The handler shall make such changes promptly. In the event any of his inspection points is the same as that of another handler or person receiving raisins or grapes in any form, the handler shall maintain his raisins separate and apart from any other raisins.

(iii) The weight of each lot of raisins tendered for receiving, storage, reconditioning, acquisition, or disposition shall be substantiated by an official “State Certificate of Weights and Measures” issued by a public weighmaster, whether located at the inspection point or otherwise, or such other document approved by the Committee which accurately reflects the weight of each lot tendered. The net weight of such raisins for the purposes of this part, shall be determined by deducting the sand tare and box tare from the gross weight of the raisins. The sand tare shall be the weight of the sand and other foreign material removed from the raisins by passing the raisins over a screen (of a type commonly used by the industry for such purpose) having 36 square openings to the square inch, with each opening being one-eighth of an inch square.

(2) No handler, other than a processor, shall receive at points other than at an inspection point, natural condition raisins from a tenderer, either for acquisition, storage, reconditioning, inspection, or for disposition in eligible nonnormal outlets: Provided, That this requirement shall not preclude a handler from dehydrating, free from the provisions of this part, at separate dehydrating facilities recognized under §989.105 and located in California, raisins not delivered to an inspection point. Any handler who accepts raisins at an inspection point for drying or other reconditioning shall be deemed to have received the raisins for reconditioning and shall be subject to the provisions of this part with respect to such raisins.

(3) For each lot of natural condition raisins received by a handler for acquisition, reconditioning, storage, inspection, or for disposition in eligible nonnormal outlets, the handler shall, immediately upon physical receipt and tentative acceptance thereof, issue a prenumbered (numbered serially in advance) door receipt or weight certificate showing the name and address of the tenderer, the weight of the lot, the number and type of containers in the lot, and any other information necessary to identify the lot. For the purposes of identifying incoming lots of raisins, other than dehydrated raisins covered by paragraph (e) of this section, a handler, if it is impracticable for him to issue immediately a door receipt or weight certificate, may issue for temporary use only a prenumbered “Request for USDA Inspection” on a form furnished by the Committee. Any such raisins so received by a handler shall, prior to their acceptance, be inspected at an inspection point during the unloading process, and if certified as standard raisins shall be, unless returned to the tenderer, either promptly acquired by the handler or received for storage on memorandum receipt: Provided, That in the absence of an inspector to perform inspection during unloading, the handler shall not permit unloading to occur unless such absence is during normal business hours and the handler has a written statement from the inspection service to the effect that inspection cannot be furnished within a reasonable time: And provided further, That the raisins so unloaded shall be inspected promptly upon an inspector being available. It shall be the handler’s responsibility in any case to arrange for the inspection, other than with respect to dehydrated raisins covered by paragraph (e) of this section, and furnish weight certificates promptly. Any raisins received by a handler as off-grade for disposition in eligible nonnormal outlets or for reconditioning may be accepted uninspected: Provided, That an application for receiving such uninspected raisins shall be submitted by the handler, on a form furnished by the Committee, to the Inspection Service prior to, or upon physical receipt of, such off-grade raisins. Such form shall provide for at
least the name and address of the tenderer (equity holder), date, number, and type of containers, net weight of the raisins, and the particular defect(s) the handler indicates would cause the raisins to be off-grade. Handlers shall complete and sign the form. The application for such uninspected raisins shall not be acceptable unless signed by the tenderer. The uninspected raisins shall be subject to surveillance by the Inspection Service. Each lot of raisins accepted by a handler for reconditioning shall be reconditioned separately from any other lot.

(4) If any lot of natural condition raisins tendered to a handler is separated into two or more lots because a portion of the original lot failed to meet minimum grade and condition standards, or because the entire lot failed due to more than one defect, the handler shall issue a prenumbered weight certificate for each such new lot not returned to the tenderer, showing the name and address of the tenderer, the weight of the lot, and the number and type of containers in the lot. The weight of any meeting lot shall be determined by weighing it, or by weighing the failing portion of the incoming lot and deducting the weight thereof from the weight of the incoming lot. The weight of each failing lot shall be determined by weighing it, or by deriving such weight by applying the original average container weight to the number of containers.

(5) Any financially interested party may, upon the payment of any fees assessed by the inspection service, obtain an appeal inspection. An appeal inspection shall be applicable only to raisins which have not been removed from their containers, with pallet control cards still affixed, are readily identifiable, and have not been removed from the original inspection point: Provided, That when the condition of a lot of such raisins may have changed subsequent to the original inspection, an additional inspection, rather than an appeal inspection, may be obtained.

(6) Raisins produced by a handler shall be subject to the requirements of paragraph (a)(3) and (4) of this section upon delivery to an inspection point. Raisins produced by a handler by dehydration within an inspection point shall be subject to the requirements of paragraph (a)(3) and (4) of this section immediately upon completion of said dehydration.

(7) The inspection certificate for a mixed lot of natural condition raisins (raisins of different varietal types commingled within their containers) shall show the percentage which the raisins of each varietal type is of the total raisins contained in the lot.

(8) With respect to any lot of natural condition raisins being received and inspected at a handler’s inspection point pursuant to paragraph (a)(3) of this section, the handler shall notify the inspection service if he elects to have the raisins inspected for infestation. If the handler elects not to have the raisins inspected for infestation, he shall: (i) Fumigate promptly all raisins he receives; (ii) notify the inspection service in advance of the time he plans to fumigate such raisins; (iii) permit the inspection service to monitor the fumigation; and (iv) permit the inspection service to make periodic incubation checks of his packed raisins. The inspection service shall certify the raisins received as standard raisins if they meet all other grade and condition standards. If the handler elects to have the raisins inspected for infestation, the inspector shall afford such handler the opportunity to fumigate such raisins during the inspection and certification process. Such raisins shall remain under the supervision of the inspector during the fumigation. The inspection certificate shall not be issued until the fumigation is completed: Provided, That the inspection certificate shall be issued, whether or not the fumigation is completed, not later than five business days after the date the inspection and certification process is suspended by the inspector to permit fumigation.

(9) With respect to any lot (as defined in § 989.104(a)(1)) of natural condition raisins being received and inspected at a handler’s inspection point pursuant to paragraph (a)(3) of this section and notwithstanding separation of the meeting portion of the original lot from the failing portions thereof for the purposes on § 989.104 and paragraph (a)(4) of this section, any tenderer may, when permitted by the handler and
when notified by the inspector of defects during the inspection and certification process, and in accordance with the provisions of this subparagraph, perform any one or more of the following on an individual box basis: (i) Mix raisins within boxes containing raisins that are wet, or of high moisture content in some areas of the box; (ii) dump raisins from wet boxes into dry boxes; (iii) remove wet raisins; or (iv) remove foreign material such as sandburs, puncture vine seed, Eucalyptus pods or leaves, rocks, and sticks. This authorization to the tenderer shall not extend to raisins in containers larger than sweat boxes; and the number of boxes in the original lot on which the aforesaid actions may be performed during such process shall not exceed ten, or five percent of the total number of containers in the lot, whichever is less. Where the percentage computation results in a fraction of a box and is less than ten boxes, it shall be rounded upward to the next number. The entire lot of raisins shall remain under surveillance of the inspector during such process. The actions of the tenderer shall be done without delay, take place at the unloading dock in the inspection point, or in the immediate area thereof, and be under observation of the inspector.

(b) Submission of inspection certificates to the Committee. A copy of each inspection certificate which a handler is required to submit to the Committee pursuant to §989.58(d) shall be submitted not later than Wednesday of the week following the week for which such certificate was issued. This may be accomplished by authorizing the inspection service to submit a copy of each such inspection certificate directly to the Committee. A copy of such authorization shall be furnished to the Committee.

(c) Off-grade raisins—(1) Holding and identification. The inspection certificates covering any lot of off-grade raisins shall state whether or not such off-grade raisins are storable. Any raisins which do not meet the applicable grade and condition standards shall be classified in one of the three categories specified in §989.58(e)(1) within 5 business days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) after inspection or 3 such business days after issuance of the inspection certificate, whichever is later: Provided, That these time limits may be extended by the Committee under such conditions as it may deem necessary in the circumstances. The handler shall report to the Committee the information as required and specified in §989.173(b)(5). Any such lot of off-grade raisins shall be identified immediately following inspection by fixing to a container on each pallet a pre-numbered RAC control card (to be furnished by the Committee), and kept separate and apart from any other raisins in the handler's possession. In the event the handler does not normally use pallets in his operation the RAC control card shall be affixed to one or more of the containers in each lot. The RAC control cards shall remain fixed to the containers until the raisins are (i) disposed of by the handler in eligible nonnormal outlets, (ii) returned unstemmed to the tenderer, or (iii) submitted for reconditioning. The cards shall be removed only by an inspector of the inspection service or authorized Committee personnel, except control cards designating lots held only for fumigation may be removed by the handler after the completion of fumigation to the satisfaction of the inspection service. Each lot of off-grade raisins not returned to the tenderer shall be stored by the handler separate and apart by varietal types from all other raisins and by disposition and conditioning categories which preserve the lot identity and, if for reconditioning, the defect identity. Off-grade raisins shall be stored in such a manner as to be accessible to the Committee.

(2) Change in off-grade categories. After raisins have been classified as to the categories in §989.58(e)(1), any lot of natural condition off-grade raisins held by a handler under paragraph (i) or (ii) of §989.58(e)(1), may be changed to the other category, or to paragraph (ii). Prior to making such change the handler shall notify the inspection service in writing at least one business day in advance of the time he plans to begin such change. Any off-grade lot under paragraph (ii) of §989.58(e)(1) which has not been removed from the handler premises and is identifiable with the original inspection, may be
tendered to the handler for the purposes of paragraph (i) or (iii) of § 989.58(e)(1) and, if accepted, the handler shall so report to the Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the handler to establish and maintain the identity of the raisins in the changed categories in accordance with the applicable provisions of paragraph (c)(1) of this section. Where the tenderer has a financial interest in the raisins the handler shall, before making any change in category, submit to the Committee evidence of the tenderer’s permission to make any such change, except for changes from paragraph (i) or paragraph (iii) to paragraph (ii) of § 989.58(e)(1).

(3) Interplant and interpacker transfer of off-grade raisins. Any packer may, pursuant to § 989.58(e)(2) and under the surveillance of the inspection service, transfer to or from another packer’s plant in California, any off-grade raisins for reconditioning. Such transfer may be for the packer’s convenience or that of a financially interested person. Where a tenderer or other person has a financial interest in the raisins, the handler shall first obtain the tenderer’s or other interested person’s written agreement to the transfer. The handler shall notify the inspection service in advance and in writing on a form to be provided by the Committee, of the time he plans to transfer each lot and shall send a copy of the notification to the Committee. The notification shall be at least 1 business day in advance of the transfer unless a shorter period is acceptable to the inspection service. In the same manner except for the tenderer’s or other person’s written agreement, any packer may transfer off-grade raisins from one of his plants or inspection points to another of his plants in California. In both cases such raisins may be removed directly to the premises of the receiving packer or another plant of the packer under the surveillance of the inspection service. Upon completion of the transfer all applicable provisions of this part shall apply with respect to such raisins and the packer receiving them.

(4) Reconditioning off-grade raisins—reconditioning requirements. (i) The handler shall notify the inspection service in writing at least one business day in advance of the time he plans to begin reconditioning each lot of raisins, unless a shorter period is acceptable to the inspection service. Natural condition raisins which have been reconditioned shall continue to be considered natural condition raisins for purposes of reinspection (inspection pursuant to § 989.58(d)) or setaside by a handler to satisfy the handler’s reserve pool obligation, after such reconditioning has been completed, if no water or moisture has been added; otherwise, such raisins shall be considered as packed raisins. The weight of the raisins reconditioned successfully shall be determined by reweighing, except where a lot, before reconditioning, failed due to excess moisture only. The weight of such raisins resulting from reconditioning a lot failing account excess moisture may be determined by deducting 1.2 percent of the weight for each percent of moisture in excess of the allowable tolerance. When necessary due to the presence of sand, as determined by the inspection service, the requirement for deducting sand tare and the manner of its determination, as prescribed in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, shall apply in computing the net weight of any such successfully reconditioned natural condition raisins. If, after reconditioning, such raisins meet the minimum grade standards, but no longer are natural condition raisins as defined in § 989.8, any handler who acquires such raisins shall meet his reserve obligation from natural condition standard raisins of the same varietal type acquired by him. The weight of the reconditioned raisins acquired as packed raisins shall be adjusted to natural condition weight by the use of factors applicable to the various degrees of processing accomplished. The applicable factor shall be that selected by the inspector of the reconditioned raisins from among factors established by the Committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(ii) In reconditioning off-grade raisins, a handler shall use methods designed to remove the defects whereby the lot fails to qualify as standard raisins. Lots with identical defects may be reconditioned simultaneously (commingled basis) but lots with differing...
defects shall be reconditioned as separate lots.

(5) General. Reconditioning of off-grade raisins by a handler shall be done in accordance with such procedure as will enable the inspector to observe the off-grade raisins at any time and to make a proper inspection. A packer may recover raisins from residual raisin material obtained from his reconditioning operations in conformity with the applicable provisions of §989.159(g)(1).

(6) Off-grade raisins which are not reconditioned successfully. (i) Except as provided in paragraph (c)(6)(ii) of this section, no handler shall return to the tenderer any off-grade raisins received for reconditioning which, after his reconditioning of them is complete, have been stemmed and which then fail to meet the applicable minimum grade standards. Any raisins which fail to meet the applicable minimum grade and condition standards or minimum grade standards after reconditioning and all residual material from reconditioning, held by the handler, shall be identified promptly by affixing to one or more containers in each lot, or to a container in each pallet if pallets are used, a prenumbered RAC control card as prescribed in paragraph (c)(1) of this section: Provided, That such failing raisins and residual material which are placed directly into trucks or trailers for immediate disposition need not be identified by affixing thereto a RAC control card. The handler shall hold the failing raisins and the residual material separate and apart from all other raisins. The control cards shall be removed from the containers only by an inspector of the inspection service or authorized Committee personnel. The handler shall physically dispose of the residual material, and any failing raisins which he does not return unstemmed to the tenderer, only in eligible nonnormal outlets as provided in §989.159(g)(2).

(ii) Any packer may arrange for or permit the tenderer to remove the stemmed raisins (described in paragraph (c)(6)(i) of this section), but not the residual, directly to the premises, within California, of another packer for further reconditioning of the raisins at the latter's premises. Such removal and transfer shall be made under the surveillance of the inspection service. The packer shall notify the inspection service as required in paragraph (c)(3) of this section and shall obtain from the receiving packer a written statement that he will receive the raisins for reconditioning. The notification shall be on a form provided by the Committee, and a copy thereof and of the receiving packer's statement shall be forwarded by the transferring packer to the Committee. Such raisins may be received by the other packer without inspection. On and after such receipt of the raisins for further reconditioning, all applicable provisions of this part shall apply with respect to such raisins and the packer so receiving them.

(7) Return of off-grade raisins to tenderer. Any off-grade raisins which are to be returned unstemmed to the tenderer pursuant to §989.58(e)(1)(ii), shall be physically returned within five business days after the issuance of the inspection certificate: Provided, That such time limit may be extended by the Committee as it may deem justified by extenuating circumstances. The handler shall file with the Committee a report of the returned raisins as required in §989.173(b)(4).

(i) Unstemmed and stemmed raisins. For the purpose of determining whether or not off-grade raisins may be returned to the person tendering such raisins, "unstemmed" raisins shall be defined as lots of raisins that contain 150 or more capstems per pound. "Stemmed" raisins means lots of raisins that contain less than 150 capstems per pound.

(d) Reinspection of raisins held more than one hundred and twenty days on memorandum receipt. No handler shall acquire raisins held on memorandum receipt for a period longer than one hundred and twenty (120) days unless such raisins have been reinspected and certified immediately prior to acquisition as meeting the minimum requirements for standard raisins: Provided, That the Committee at any other time may require such reinspection and certification of raisins held on memorandum receipt as a prerequisite to acquisition if it has reason to believe that
the raisins do not then meet such requirements.

(e) Inspection of raisins on dehydrator's premises—(1) Application and agreement. (i) Any dehydrator may submit to the Committee for approval, and the Committee may approve, in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph an application and agreement, on a form furnished by the Committee, providing for dehydrator on-premise inspection of natural condition raisins produced by the dehydrator by subjecting grapes to artificial heat. Raisins so produced are referred to in paragraph (a)(3) of this section and in this paragraph as “dehydrated raisins.”

(ii) The provisions of such application and agreement shall include at least the following:

(a) The dehydrator shall request the inspection service to inspect all dehydrated raisins which the dehydrator produces and to issue a related memorandum report of inspection at the time of loading any quantity of such raisins for delivery to a packer's inspection point;

(b) The dehydrator will arrange with the inspection service for the necessary inspection service to be performed by the service, and the dehydrator will submit to the Committee a statement from the inspection service that the dehydrator has adequate facilities for the inspection and that such arrangements have been made;

(c) All necessary reconditioning of dehydrated raisins, identification and segregation of raisins, and movement of inspected dehydrated raisins on or from the dehydrator's premises shall be done in such manner and under such conditions as the inspection service may require;

(d) The dehydrator shall, at the time of the packer's receipt of such raisins, furnish to the packer to whose inspection point the inspected raisins are delivered the original and one copy of the memorandum report of inspection covering such raisins;

(e) The dehydrator shall maintain such records and furnish such reports and permit access to such records and the dehydrator's premises as required in the application and agreement or as the Committee may subsequently request; and

(f) The application and agreement may be suspended or terminated as provided therein.

(iii) The Committee will notify raisin packers of each dehydrator whose application and agreement has been approved by the Committee (such dehydrator is referred to as “authorized dehydrator”); similarly, the Committee will notify packers of each suspension or termination of a previously approved application and agreement.

(2) Delivery of inspected dehydrated raisins. Any dehydrated raisins which (i) are inspected on an authorized dehydrator's premises where produced; (ii) are moved promptly and directly to a packer's inspection point from the premises of the authorized dehydrator; (iii) are accompanied by an applicable memorandum report of inspection to be furnished to the packer; and (iv) are otherwise in compliance with the provisions of such approved application and agreement and this paragraph may be received by the packer without the inspection at time of receipt required by §989.58(d). With respect to such dehydrated raisins, the packer shall comply with all applicable requirements and procedures of this part, including, but not limited to, inspection after any necessary reconditioning and the inspection prescribed in §989.59.

(3) Packer's obligations. Immediately upon a packer's receiving any such already inspected dehydrated raisins accompanied by the applicable memorandum report of inspection, the packer shall give to the inspector at the packer's inspection point where the dehydrated raisins were received, the original and one copy of such memorandum report so that the inspector may enter the net weight and scale ticket number on such memorandum report of inspection and copy thereof. Whenever a packer receives off-grade raisins from an authorized dehydrator he shall so advise the inspector at the packer's inspection point at the time of receipt; and such raisins shall not be unloaded except in the presence of the inspector or in accordance with such prior arrangements as may have been made between the packer and the inspection service.
§ 989.158 Inspection of raisins at cooperative bargaining association's receiving station—(1) Application and agreement. (i) In accordance with the provisions of this paragraph, any cooperative bargaining association may submit to the Committee for approval, and the Committee may approve, an application and agreement, on a form furnished by the Committee, providing that where the association receives from individual producers lots of natural condition raisins at any of its receiving points and the raisins are inspected and stored consistent with such application and agreement, such lots shall be eligible for delivery to handlers, pursuant to paragraph (f)(3) of this section, without reinspection. Any raisins which upon inspection by the inspection service do not meet the applicable grade and condition standards shall be identified immediately following inspection and kept separate and apart from any other raisins in the association's possession.

(2) Terms and conditions. The provisions of such application and agreement shall include at least the following terms and conditions:
   (i) That the association shall, prior to delivery of any raisins to handlers, arrange for inspection services at the association's receiving station(s), and cause to be submitted to the Committee a statement by the inspection service of such arrangement and of the association's having adequate laboratory and other facilities for such services available at the association's receiving station(s).
   (ii) That the association shall maintain such facilities satisfactory to the inspection service.
   (iii) That the association shall request inspection of each lot of raisins immediately upon physical arrival thereof at the association's receiving station(s), and shall provide the inspector with any assistance necessary in the inspection of such raisins, including the movement of individual containers.
   (iv) That the association shall fumigate all raisins received at the association's receiving station(s) as necessary to assure that the raisins are free from active infestation and maintain them as such while on such premises, and that fumigation shall be performed to the satisfaction of the inspection service.
   (v) That the association shall, with respect to all raisins entering its premises which are not returned to the producer as provided in paragraph (f)(2)(vi) of this section, promptly affix to one or more containers in each lot, or to a container in each pallet if pallets are used, a Committee control card showing thereon such information as the Committee requires to maintain the producer identity of each lot and prevent commingling with any other lot. The association shall not move all or any portion of a lot of raisins on the premises of the association's receiving station(s) or load any such raisins for shipment, except in the presence of an inspector of the inspection service.
   (vi) That the association shall store any standard raisins and any off-grade raisins which are held by it after receipt and inspection on the premises of its receiving station(s) under conditions which protect the raisins from rain, infestation and contamination, and which can be expected to maintain their respective conditions except for normal and natural deterioration and shrinkage. Any raisins which after receipt and inspection are not accepted and held by the association shall be returned to the producer within 5 business days after the issuance of the inspection certificate.
   (vii) That the association shall furnish the inspection service with a completed Committee form requesting issuance, at the time of loading any lot of inspected raisins for delivery to any handler's inspection point, of a memorandum report of inspection covering such lot.
   (viii) That the association shall deliver to the handler at the time of receipt of any such lot of eligible raisins at the handler's inspection point the original and one copy of the inspection service's related memorandum report of inspection; and such original and copy shall accompany the shipment of such lot from the premises of the association's receiving station(s) to the handler's inspection point.
   (ix) That the association shall maintain complete records of the receipt, holding and disposition of each lot of raisins.
§ 989.159 Regulation of the handling of raisins subsequent to their acquisition.

(a) Inspection facilities. At each of the premises where packed raisins are to be inspected each handler shall, at his expense provide reasonably safe and adequate space and other facilities necessary for the proper and efficient inspection of such raisins.

(b) Identification of inspected raisins. 

(1) Each handler shall mark each shipping container with legible code or other identification, satisfactory to the Committee and the inspection service which shall indicate (i) with respect to packed raisins, the date that the raisins in such shipping containers were packed, and (ii) with respect to shipments of natural condition raisins, the date on which such raisins were inspected.

(2) Each handler shall furnish promptly to the Committee, through the inspection service, a certified report on a form furnished by the Committee showing the handler's count and weight of the raisins of each pack and varietal type packed each day.
(c) Outgoing inspection. (1) Outgoing inspection and certification of raisins as required by §989.59(d) shall be made as set forth in this paragraph.

(2) Such inspection of natural condition raisins (which is subject to exceptions and exemptions provided in this part) shall be made of each individual lot and in each case not more than five days before the date of shipment or other final disposition of the lot. The certificate that the raisins meet the applicable minimum grade and condition standards for natural condition raisins, which the handler is required to obtain and submit to the Committee pursuant to §989.59(d), shall be on Form FV 146 labeled “Certificate of Quality and Condition (Processed Foods).” If shipment involves exportation to a foreign country, the handler shall surrender to the United States Customs Service at the port of exit two copies of such inspection certificate. Such an inspection and certification (on Form FV 146) may, if requested by the handler, be made at the time of his receipt or acquisition of the raisins. In such an event, no additional inspection shall be required if the lot remains intact and identifiable, and shipment or other final disposition takes place within five days after the date of the inspection.

(3) Such inspection of packed raisins shall be made prior to shipment or other final disposition, and unless made during the final processing or packing operations so as to facilitate proper sampling, the inspector shall perform the inspection on the basis of representative samples drawn from shipping containers of the packed raisins.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in this part, where there is presented for inspection a lot of packed raisins consisting of raisins of different varietal types or sub-types commingled within their containers, each such type and sub-type shall be inspected separately, except that inspection for moisture shall be performed on the lot as a whole. The inspection certificate shall show the respective percentages which the raisins of the various types and sub-types are of the lot and whether each meets the applicable minimum grade standards. In the event the raisins of any such varietal type or sub-type contained in the lot fail to meet the applicable requirements, other than for moisture, none of the lot shall be certified as meeting minimum grade standards unless it is found to be practicable to separate the raisins into two new lots, one which meets and the other which fails to meet all of the applicable minimum standards, respectively. Any lot of mixed types or sub-types of packed raisins for which minimum grade standards are prescribed for each type or sub-type pursuant to §989.59(a) and (b) but which in their commingled form cannot be inspected against the standards for the respective varietal types or sub-types and hence are excluded from the category of “Mixed types” as defined in the then effective United States Standards for Grades of Processed Raisins, or any raisins which as a mixed lot contain moisture in excess of 18 percent, shall not be certified as meeting the minimum grade standard for packed raisins.

(d) Submission of inspection certificates to the Committee. A copy of each inspection certificate which a handler is required to submit to the Committee pursuant to §989.59(d) shall be submitted not later than Wednesday of the week following the week in which the certificate was issued. This may be accomplished by authorizing the inspection service in writing to submit a copy of each such inspection certificate directly to the Committee. A copy of such authorization shall be furnished to the Committee.

(e) Term of inspection certificate. Any handler who: (1) Fails to ship or make other final disposition for human consumption of any lot of packed raisins within 90 calendar days, or of any lot of natural condition raisins within 5 calendar days, after the date of the last inspection of the lot; or (2) Has any shipment or portion of a shipment returned to his inspection point or storage premises within the area, shall, before any such shipment or final disposition, or before blending with other raisins, have such raisins inspected for condition and shall furnish promptly to the Committee (which may be through the inspection service as provided in §989.158(b)) a copy of the
inspection certificate showing that the raisins meet the respective requirements of this part for shipment, final disposition or blending.

(f) Exemption of experimental and specialty packs—(1) Shipment under exemption. Upon obtaining approval of the Committee as provided in this paragraph, any handler may ship or dispose of raisins in experimental or specialty packs without regard to one or more of the requirements of the minimum grade standards for packed raisins and inspection and certification requirements, prescribed pursuant to §989.59. For the purpose of this exemption, experimental and specialty packs means raisins processed using methods, materials, or techniques that are not normally employed in packing raisins.

(2) Application for exemption. Each application for exemption shall be filed with the Committee in triplicate. The application shall at least contain information as to: (i) The name and address of the handler; (ii) the estimated quantity of each varietal type of raisins for which the exemption is requested; (iii) the specific requirements in the minimum grade standards from which exemption is requested; (iv) the special processing involved; (v) the net weight of each type of container; (vi) whether disposition will be made direct to consumers, wholesalers, retailers, persons, or organizations, and any special uses to be made of such raisins; and (vii) the general quality, style, and condition of the raisins for which the exemption is requested.

(3) Committee action on application. The Committee in its discretion shall approve each application for exemption of raisins, if it concludes that such exemption shall not jeopardize the objectives of the marketing order program. The Committee shall notify the handler promptly in writing of its approval or disapproval of his application and, if the application is approved, the maximum quantity for which approval is granted. If the application is disapproved, the Committee shall inform the handler of the reasons therefor.

(4) Reports. The handler shall report shipments or other dispositions under an approved exemption as required pursuant to §989.173(e).

(g) Off-grade raisins, other failing raisins, and raisin residual material—(1) Recovery of raisins. For the purposes of §§989.59(f) and 989.158(c)(4), a packer may recover raisins from: (i) Residual raisins from his processing of standard raisins; (ii) any raisins acquired as standard raisins which fail to meet the applicable outgoing grade and condition standards; (iii) any raisins rejected on a condition inspection; and (iv) residual raisins from reconditioning of off-grade raisins: Provided, That such recovery under paragraph (g)(1)(ii) and (iii) of this section must occur without blending, if the failure to meet the minimum grade standards for packed raisins is due to a defect or defects affecting the wholesomeness of the raisins: And provided further, That such recovery under paragraph (g)(1)(iv) of this section must occur without blending, except as permitted in §989.158(c)(4)(ii), and the weight of standard raisins in residual from off-grade raisins shall be credited equitably to the same lot or lots from which the residual was obtained. The provisions of this paragraph are not intended to excuse any failure to comply with all applicable food and sanitary rules and regulations of city, county, state, federal, or other agencies having jurisdiction.

(2) Disposition. (i) Except as authorized in this part, no handler shall ship or otherwise dispose of any off-grade raisins, other failing raisins, or raisin residual material. Any handler may ship, transfer, or otherwise dispose of off-grade raisins, other failing raisins, and raisin residual material to or at points within the continental United States (other than Alaska) for use in eligible nonnormal outlets only after filing with the Committee a written application to make such shipment, transfer, or other disposition and receiving its written approval thereof. However, the requirements of prior filing and approval of any such application shall not apply to:

(a) The transfer of any such raisins or residual material by a handler from one of his plants to another of his plants in the State of California, except any transfer of raisins which are for reconditioning shall be in accordance with §989.158(c)(3);
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(b) Any interpacker transfer or removal of off-grade raisins made in accordance with §989.158(c)(3) and of unsuccessfully reconditioned off-grade raisins which have been stemmed (other failing raisins) made in accordance with §989.158(c)(6)(ii);

(c) Any return by a handler of unstemmed off-grade raisins to the tenderer in accordance with §989.158(c)(7);

(d) Any shipment or transfer of off-grade raisins, other failing raisins, or raisin residual material by any handler to a processor within the State of California for use, within the State, in eligible nonnormal outlets;

(e) Any shipment or transfer of off-grade raisins, other failing raisins, or raisin residual material by any handler to any person with an effective agreement with the Committee, in which he agrees (1) to use such raisins and raisin residual material only in eligible nonnormal outlets, (2) if not so used, to pay to the Committee liquidated damages in the amount and under the conditions specified in paragraph (g)(2)(iii) of this section, and (3) to maintain complete, accurate, and current records regarding his dealings in raisins and residual material, retain the records for at least 2 years, and permit representatives of the Committee and of the Secretary of Agriculture to examine all of his books and records relating to raisins and residual material;

(f) Any direct use by the handler of such raisins or material in eligible nonnormal outlets within the State of California.

(ii) Each such application shall, in addition to the agreement specified in paragraph (g)(2)(iii) of this section, include as a minimum: (a) The names and addresses of the handler, the buyer, the consignee, and the user; (b) the quantity of off-grade and other failing raisins and the quantity of raisins residual material to be shipped or otherwise disposed of; (c) a description of such off-grade raisins and other failing raisins and raisin residual material, as to type or origin; (d) the present location of such raisins and raisin residual material; (e) the particular use to be made of the raisins; and (f) a copy of the sales contract, which may be on a form furnished by the Committee, wherein the buyer agrees:

(1) Not to ship such raisins or raisin residual material to points outside the continental United States or to Alaska;

(2) To dispose of the raisins or raisin residual material only for uses in eligible non-normal outlet(s); and

(3) To maintain complete, accurate, and current records regarding his dealings in raisins, retain the records for at least 2 years, and permit representatives of the Committee approving his application, agrees that in the event any raisins or raisin residual material covered by the approved application should be shipped to points outside of the continental United States or to Alaska, or disposed of in other than eligible non-normal outlets, by any person, it will cause serious and substantial damage to the Committee, to producers, and to handlers of raisins and will be difficult, if not impossible, to prove the extent of such damage. Therefore, the handler shall pay to the Committee a sum equal to the established field price as liquidated damages for each ton so shipped or disposed of, such sum being a fair measure of damages and not a penalty.

(iv) The Committee shall notify the applicant in writing of its approval action. In acting on an application, the Committee may disapprove the application when: (a) The application is incomplete, or any required information has not been submitted; (b) the Committee has cause to believe that the raisins or raisin residual material covered by the application will not be shipped or disposed of in accordance with the application; or (c) the handler, or any of the parties involved in the proposed shipment or disposition, had shipped or made disposition or use of raisins or raisin residual material covered by a previously approved application inconsistent with that application. When the use or the name and address of the user or consignee are not
known to the handler, the Committee shall not approve the application until it has been informed as to such use and user and consignee of the raisins or residual material.

(v) The Committee may, for cause, revoke any previously approved application if the handler, buyer, consignee or user covered by the application has shipped or made disposition inconsistent with any approved application. The Committee shall notify the handler in writing of such revocation.

(vi) The handler shall furnish the Committee with a copy of the shipping document or other documentary evidence of the disposition as may be satisfactory to the Committee and at such times as the Committee may direct.

(h) Appeal inspection. An appeal inspection on an original inspection may be obtained from the inspection service upon the request of any financially interested party and upon the payment of any fees assessed by the inspection service for such appeal inspection.

§ 989.160 Exemptions.

(a) Any processor may receive or acquire any raisins for use in eligible nonnormal outlets, and dispose of them for such use, without having them inspected and certified. Processors receiving or acquiring raisins under such exemption, or otherwise receiving or acquiring raisins which do not meet the applicable minimum grade and condition standards, shall not ship or otherwise dispose of any such raisins except in conformity with the provisions of §989.159(g)(2). Processors shall report receipts and acquisitions and make such other reports as are or may be required pursuant to §§989.73 and 989.173.

(b) Disposition of raisins produced in Southern California. Raisins produced from grapes dried on the vine in the counties of Riverside, Imperial, San Bernardino, Ventura, Orange, Los Angeles, and San Diego, which are disposed of for use in distillation or live-stock feed, shall be exempt from the provisions of this part.

§ 989.166 Reserve tonnage generally.

(a) Set-aside obligations—(1) Natural (sun-dried) Seedless. Handlers who acquire any lot of natural condition Natural (sun-dried) Seedless raisins which have been dipped in or sprayed with water, with or without chemicals prior to or during the drying process, for purposes other than to expedite drying, or that have been produced from seedless varieties of grapes other than Thompson Seedless (i.e., Fiesta, Emerald Seedless, Perlette, Delight, and other similar grape varieties), may set aside such raisins to satisfy their reserve pool obligation: Provided, That such raisins shall be identified by the Inspection Service affixing to one container on each pallet or to each bin in each lot, a prenumbered RAC control card (to be furnished by the Committee) which shall remain affixed until raisins are processed or disposed of as natural condition raisins: and Provided further, That such raisins shall not be delivered to the Committee or transferred to another handler without approval of the Committee or the receiving handler.

(2) Mixed varietal types. A handler who acquired any lot of natural condition raisins of mixed varietal types (commingled within their containers) shall meet the reserve tonnage setaside obligation for each varietal type contained in the mixed lot by setting aside raisins of each such varietal type which have not been mixed or commingled with raisins of any other varietal type. The obligation as to each varietal type shall be computed according to the reserve percentage established by the Secretary, and the percentage of the varietal type contained in the mixed lot as shown by the incoming inspection certificate applicable thereto.

(b) Storage of reserve tonnage raisins—(1) Time limits for setting aside pool tonnage. Handlers shall be allowed 3 calendar days (exclusive of Saturdays,
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Sundays, and holidays), after the preliminary or interim percentages have been computed and announced by the Committee, and after the publication in the Federal Register of the applicable final reserve percentages established for the crop year, or after any reserve tonnage raisins are acquired subsequent to the percentages being announced or established, to segregate and properly stack each varietal type of reserve tonnage raisins.

(2) Conditions. Each handler shall store reserve tonnage raisins in storage and under conditions which protect them from rain and which reasonably can be expected to maintain the raisins free of any biological or other infestation or contamination. Each handler shall, pursuant to § 989.66(b)(2), store each varietal type of reserve tonnage raisins held by him for the account of the Committee, separate and apart from all other raisins. Storage of such raisins shall be deemed "separate and apart" if the containers are so marked and placed as to be capable of ready and clear identification as to the category in which are held. Reserve tonnage raisins shall be stored in sweat boxes, picking boxes, or other portable containers not exceeding one ton capacity:

(3) Substitution of free tonnage. A handler may, pursuant to § 989.66(b)(3), after giving the Committee reasonable advance notice in writing and under its direction and supervision, substitute standard raisins for reserve tonnage raisins held by him for the account of the Committee, separate and apart from all other raisins. Storage of such raisins shall be deemed "separate and apart" if the containers are so marked and placed as to be capable of ready and clear identification as to the category in which are held. Reserve tonnage raisins shall be stored in sweat boxes, picking boxes, or other portable containers not exceeding one ton capacity:

(c) Remedy in the event of failure to deliver reserve tonnage raisins. A handler who fails to deliver to the Committee, upon request, any reserve tonnage raisins in the quantity and quality for which he has become obligated (after any shrinkage allowances which may then be in effect are applied and allowances for any deterioration due to conditions beyond his control are made) shall compensate the Committee for the amount of the loss resulting from his failure to so deliver. The amount of compensation for any shortage of tonnage shall be determined by multiplying the quantity of reserve raisins not delivered by the latest weighted average price per ton received by producers during the particular crop year for free tonnage raisins of the same varietal type or types, plus any charges already paid or credited to the handler and cost incurred by the Committee on account of the handler's failure to deliver. The weighted average price shall be determined from those sales made during the particular crop year up to the time such cash payment is requested by the Committee, or up to the end of the particular crop year, whichever date may be earlier. The amount which a handler shall compensate the Committee for any reserve raisins which have deteriorated so as to be off-grade in quality during storage for reasons within his control, shall be the latest weighted average price received by the Committee for the applicable varietal type of reserve pool raisins, less the amount actually received by the Committee in the disposition of the deteriorated raisins delivered by the handler (or the salvage value of such raisins as determined by the Committee). Any amounts paid to the Committee in satisfaction of such deficiencies shall accrue to the earnings of the applicable reserve pool. The remedies provided in this paragraph shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, any or all of the remedies or penalties prescribed in the act for failure on the part of the handler to comply with the applicable provisions of the act or of this part.

(d) Disposition of reserve tonnage raisins which become off-grade for causes beyond the handler's control. Any reserve tonnage raisins held by or for the account of the Committee which become off-grade for reasons beyond the handler's control shall, at the Committee's discretion, be reconditioned or disposed of by the Committee, or under the Committee's control, in eligible non-normal outlets. Any monetary loss sustained in the reconditioning or disposition of such raisins, not covered by insurance carried by the Committee, shall be charged to the applicable reserve pool.

(e) Offers of reserve tonnage raisins to handlers for sale in export. Whenever the Committee offers reserve tonnage raisins to handlers for sale in export. Whenever the Committee offers reserve tonnage raisins to handlers for sale in export, it shall specify in addition to the normal contract terms and conditions, the total quantity, the price and period
within which each handler will be permitted to purchase his share of the offer. Whenever a handler's share of an offer is less than, or exceeds, his holding of reserve tonnage raisins by not more than 10 tons, the Committee may adjust his share so as to avoid the cost involved in the physical transfer of raisins. If, prior to the expiration of the offer period, a handler desires to obtain reserve tonnage in an amount greater than that represented by his share of the offer, he may negotiate with another handler for any unpurchased portion of the other handler's share of an outstanding offer. No such transaction shall be deemed to reduce the transferring handler's share or to increase the transferee handler's share so as to affect either handler's share privileges in subsequent offers. Transfers to implement such transactions between handlers shall be permitted by the Committee only upon receipt of written authorization, on a form furnished by the Committee, by the transferring handler. All limitations applicable to the transferred tonnage shall continue to apply. Such reserve tonnage raisins will be released by the Committee to the transferee handler upon submission of his completed application and full payment for such raisins, and such transferee handler shall be responsible to the Committee for all documentation required in connection with the transaction. All such transfers shall be made at the expense of the handlers concerned.

§ 989.167 Disposal of reserve raisins.

(a) Offer of reserve tonnage raisins for use in noncompetitive outlets. Whenever the Committee proposes to offer standard reserve tonnage raisins in noncompetitive outlets pursuant to §989.67(a) and (b), it shall promptly file with the Secretary complete information with respect thereto and the basis therefor. The Secretary shall have the right to disapprove, within seven calendar days, the making of such an offer or sale or any term or conditions there-


§ 989.173 Reports.

(a) Inventory reports. Each handler shall submit to the Committee as of the close of business on July 31 of each crop year, and not later than the following August 6, an inventory report which shall show, with respect to each varietal type of raisins held by him:

(1) The quantity of free tonnage raisins, segregated as to locations where they are stored and whether they are natural condition or packed;

(2) The quantity of reserve tonnage raisins for the account of the Committee; and

(3) The quantity of off-grade raisins segregated as to those for reconditioning and those for disposition as such.

Upon request by the Committee, each handler shall file at other times, and as of other dates, any of the said information which may reasonably be necessary for the determination or revision of marketing policy and which the Committee shall specify in its request.

(b) Reports of raisins received or acquired—

(i) General. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (i) of this section, each handler shall submit to the Committee (on forms furnished by it) for each week (Sunday through Saturday or such other 7-day period for which the handler has submitted a proposal to and received approval from the Committee) and not later than the following Wednesday, the reports specified in paragraphs (b)(2), (3), (4), and (5) of this section.

(ii) For each report required to be submitted pursuant to this paragraph, the required information shall be shown separately for each varietal type. With each report, other than that specified in paragraph (b)(4) of this section, the handler shall submit a copy of the door receipt, weight certificate or such other document approved by the Committee that accurately reflects the weight of each lot tendered, for each lot of raisins received or acquired by him during the reporting period and for each lot of raisins stored on memorandum or warehouse receipt which was returned to the tenderer during such period, which shall show the information to be contained on such receipts or weight certificates as specified in §989.158(a)(3). At the time he submits the reports specified in paragraphs (b)(2) and (3) of this section to the Committee, each handler shall submit a copy of each such report to the Inspection Service.

(ii) Acquisition of standard raisins. Each handler shall report:

(i) The total net weight of the standard raisins acquired during the reporting period, segregated when appropriate, as to free tonnage and reserve tonnage;

(ii) The location of the reserve tonnage raisins; and

(iii) The cumulative totals of such acquisitions (as so segregated) from the beginning of the then current crop year.

(iii) Standard raisins received for memorandum storage. Each handler shall, with respect to all standard raisins held for memorandum receipt, storage, bailment, or warehousing (raisins received other than by acquisition or interhandler transfer), report:

(i) The net weight of such standard raisins held at the start of the reporting period;

(ii) The net weight of such standard raisins received during the reporting period;

(iii) The net weight of such standard raisins acquired during such period and included with the acquisitions required to be reported pursuant to paragraph (b)(2) of this section;

(iv) The net weight of such raisins returned during such period to the persons from whom they were received; and

(v) The net weight(s) and location(s) of such raisins held at the end of such period.

(iv) Off-grade raisins returned to tenderers. Each handler shall report with respect to each lot of off-grade raisins which the handler returned during the reporting period to the tenderer pursuant to paragraph (1) of §989.58(e):

(i) The inspection certificate number;

(ii) The net weight;

(iii) The name of the tenderer; and
(iv) The date the lot was returned to the tenderer.

(5) Off-grade raisins received for reconditioning or disposition in eligible nonfood channels. Each handler who is not a processor shall, with respect to all off-grade raisins received by the handler and retained by him for reconditioning or for disposition or use in eligible nonnormal outlets, report for each category received or reconditioned during the reporting period:

(i) The name of each tenderer;
(ii) The net weight of such raisins;
(iii) The locations where received;
(iv) The inspection certificate number covering each receipt;
(v) The name and address of each person to whom residual or off-grade lots were delivered for disposition, and the respective net weight delivered; and
(vi) The total net weight (according to location) of each category of off-grade raisins held by him at the end of the reporting period.

Each nonacquiring handler shall report also the weight of standard raisins recovered from reconditioning, their inspection certificate number(s) and the handler or other person to whom the standard raisins were delivered.

(6) Monthly report of raisins received or acquired by processors. Each processor who receives or acquires off-grade raisins, or who avail himself of the exemptions from the grade and inspection requirements provided in §§989.53, 989.59(f), and 989.160 and receives or acquires raisins or raisin residual material, shall submit to the Committee on or before the 7th day of each month a report of such raisins, raisin residual material, and off-grade raisins received or acquired during the preceding month. Each report shall show for each varietal type:

(i) The name and address of each handler, producer, or other person from whom such raisins or raisin residual material was received or acquired; and
(ii) The net weight of such raisins and raisin residual material.

(7) Receipt of raisins produced from grapes grown outside the State of California. Each handler who receives raisins produced from grapes grown outside the State of California shall submit to the Committee on an appropriate form provided by the Committee so that it is received by the Committee not later than the eighth day of each month, a report of the receipt of such raisins. This report shall include: The varietal type of raisins received; the net weight (pounds) of raisins categorized as natural condition or packed for the current month as well as a cumulative quantity from August 1; and the State or country where the raisins were produced. With each report, the handler shall submit a copy of the door receipt, weight certificate, or such other document as required by the Committee that includes, but is not limited to, the name of the tenderer (equity holder) from whom such raisins were received, the varietal type(s) of raisins, the net fruit weight, the number and type of containers in the lot, the date of delivery, and the address including State or country where such raisins were produced.

(c) Reports of disposition—(1) Free tonnage raisins. Each month each handler who is not a processor shall furnish to the Committee, on an appropriate form provided by the Committee and so that it is received by the Committee not later than the seventh day of the month, a report showing the aggregate quantity of each varietal type of free tonnage packed raisins and standard natural condition raisins which were shipped or otherwise disposed of by him during the preceding month (exclusive of transfers within the State of California between the plants of any such handler and from such handler to other handlers). Such required information shall be segregated as to:

(i) Domestic outlets (exclusive of Federal Government purchases) according to the quantity shipped in consumer cartons, the quantity shipped in bags having a net weight content of four pounds or less, and the quantity shipped in bulk packs (including, but not limited to those in bags having a net weight content of more than four pounds);
(ii) Federal Government purchases;
(iii) Export outlets according to the quantity shipped in consumer cartons, the quantity shipped in bags having a net weight content of four pounds or less, and the quantity shipped in bulk packs (including, but not limited to,
those in bags having a net weight content of more than four pounds); (iv) Export outlets, by countries of destination; and (v) Each of any other outlets in which the handler has made disposition of such raisins other than by any transfer which is excluded by the preceding sentence.

(2) Disposition by handlers (other than processors) of off-grade raisins, other failing raisins, and raisin residual material. Each handler who is not a processor shall submit to the Committee on or before the seventh day of each month a report of all shipments and other dispositions made during the preceding month of off-grade raisins, other failing raisins, and raisin residual material. Such report shall be submitted on a form furnished by the Committee and shall include the following information:

(i) Date of each shipment and other disposition;
(ii) Name and address of each buyer and receiver; and
(iii) Description and net weight of the raisins and raisin residual material in each shipment or other disposition.

(3) Disposition by handlers of raisins produced from grapes grown outside the State of California. Each handler who receives raisins produced from grapes grown outside the State of California shall submit to the Committee, on or before the eighth day of each month, a report, on the appropriate form provided by the Committee, of all shipments of such raisins made during the preceding month. This report shall include:

(i) The varietal type(s) of raisins shipped;
(ii) The net weight (pounds) of raisins shipped;
(iii) The destination (domestic, export, and other disposition such as distilleries, livestock feeders, or concentrate) of such shipments; and
(iv) The types of raisin packages (carton, bag, or bulk) shipped.

(4) Disposition reports by processors. Each processor shall submit to the Committee, upon its request, such of the following information and for such period as the Committee shall specify;

(i) The quantity of raisins or raisin material sold or otherwise disposed of by processing operations, segregated as to the processing outlets and the kinds of raisins or raisin material which the Committee shall specify; and
(ii) The quantity of raisins or raisin material sold or otherwise disposed of by the processor, segregated as to specified outlets and kinds of raisins or raisin material.

(d) Reports of interhandler transfers—(1) Free tonnage. Any handler who transfers free tonnage raisins to another handler within the State of California shall submit to the Committee not later than five calendar days following such transfer a report showing:

(i) The date of transfer;
(ii) The name(s) and address(es) of the handler or handlers and the locations of the plants;
(iii) The varietal type, net weight and condition of the raisins transferred; and
(iv) If packed, the inspection certificate number in the event such raisins have been inspected prior to such transfer and a certificate issued. Two copies of such report shall be forwarded to the receiving handler at the time the report is submitted to the Committee, on one of which the receiving handler shall certify to the receipt of such raisins and submit it to the Committee within five calendar days after the raisins or the copies of such report have been received by him, whichever is later.

(2) Off-grade and other failing raisins. Any handler who transfers off-grade raisins or other failing raisins including off-grade raisins unsuccessfully reconditioned, to another handler, other than a processor within the State of California, shall submit to the Committee (on forms furnished by it) no later than Wednesday following the week of the transfer:

(i) The date of transfer;
(ii) The name and address of the receiving handler and the location of his plant;
(iii) The name and address of the tenderer of each lot included in the transfer and the inspection certificate numbers applicable to the lot; and
(iv) The varietal type, net weight, and condition of the raisins.
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 989.210

handler who obtains an exemption pursuant to § 989.59(g) for the shipment of experimental or specialty packs of raisins shall submit to the Committee on a copy of the approved application for exemption a report showing the quantity of raisins shipped or disposed of under such exemption. The handler shall submit the report promptly after the end of the crop year or after completion by him of all shipments of such exempted raisins, whichever is earlier.

(f) Reports pertaining to the release of reserve tonnage and marketing policy information. Upon request of the Committee, each handler shall submit to the Committee on forms furnished by it a report containing such of the following information for each specified varietal type of raisins as the Committee may request:

(1) The quantity of free tonnage raisins held by him in and outside California as of the date specified in the Committee's request, segregated by the portion sold and the portion not sold;

(2) The total quantity of raisins expected to be acquired by him subsequent to the date specified by the Committee, pursuant to purchase contracts with producers and dehydrators, which are in effect as of the date specified by the Committee;

(3) The weighted average price paid by him to producers and dehydrators for free tonnage raisins, natural condition basis, during the period specified by the Committee and the quantity of raisins for which such average was computed;

(4) The quantity of free tonnage raisins sold or sold and shipped (as to which category the Committee shall specify) by him during a period specified by the Committee, segregated to show the quantities sold or sold and shipped in:

(i) Domestic markets; and

(ii) Foreign markets, detailed by country; and

(5) The average weighted f.o.b. sales prices received from sales, during a period specified by the Committee, of raisins in 30 pound fibre cases in domestic markets and the quantity of raisins for which such average prices were computed. Each such report shall be submitted not later than the end of the fifth calendar day following either the date of the request by the Committee or the ending date of the period to be covered by the report, whichever is later.

(g) Certification of report. All reports submitted to the Committee pursuant to this part shall be dated, and certified to the United States Department of Agriculture and to the Raisin Administrative Committee as to the truthfulness, accuracy and completeness of the information shown thereon.

(h) Reporting by non-profit cooperative associations. Non-profit cooperative associations need not submit door tags, door receipts, weight certificates or other similar documents with its report as to raisins received or acquired from its members.

(i) Exemption from filing report. A handler may be relieved by the Committee of submitting any of the reports required pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section which he shall specify in a written application therefor to the Committee stating that no transactions subject to such reports are contemplated for the balance of the crop year: Provided, That any such exemption shall remain in effect only so long as said handler has no such transactions subject to such reports.


§ 989.176 Records.

Each handler shall maintain complete, accurate, and current records of all of his business affairs concerning which he is required to submit reports with the Committee, and shall maintain such records for at least two years after the termination of the crop year in which the transactions occurred.

Subpart—Supplementary Regulations

§ 989.210 Handling of varietal types of raisins acquired pursuant to a weight dockage system.

(a) General. A handler may acquire as standard raisins lots of Natural (sun-
dried) Seedless, Golden Seedless, Dipped Seedless, Oleate and Related Seedless, Monukka, Other Seedless, Sultana, Zante Currant and Muscat (including other raisins with seeds) raisins under the weight dockage provisions described in §§ 989.212 and 989.213. The creditable weight of each lot of raisins acquired in this manner shall be that obtained by multiplying the net weight of the raisins in the lot by the applicable factor(s) from the appropriate dockage table(s) included in those sections.

(b) Free and reserve tonnage percentages. Whenever free and reserve percentages are designated for raisins of the varietal types specified in paragraph (a) of this section for a crop year, such percentages shall be applicable to the creditable weight of any lot of such raisins acquired by a handler pursuant to a weight dockage system.

(c) Reserve tonnage. A handler may hold as reserve tonnage raisins, any lot, or portion thereof, of raisins of the varietal types specified in paragraph (a) of this section acquired pursuant to a weight dockage system. Provided, that only the creditable weight of such lot, or portion thereof, may be applied by the Committee against the handler’s reserve tonnage obligation.

(d) Assessments. Assessments on any lot of raisins of the varietal types specified in paragraph (a) of this section acquired pursuant to a weight dockage system shall be applicable to the creditable weight of such lot.

(e) Payments for services on reserve tonnage. Payment to a handler for services performed by such handler with respect to reserve tonnage raisins of the varietal types specified in paragraph (a) of this section acquired pursuant to a weight dockage system shall be made on the basis of the creditable weight of such lot and at the applicable rate specified for such services in § 989.401 of Subpart—Schedule of Payments.

(f) Identification. Any lot of raisins of the varietal types specified in paragraph (a) of this section acquired pursuant to a weight dockage system shall be so identified by the inspection service affixing to one container on each pallet, or to each bin, in such lot, a prenumbered RAC control card (to be furnished by the Committee) which shall remain affixed to the container or bin until the raisins are processed or disposed of as natural condition raisins. The control card shall only be removed by, or under the supervision of an inspector of, the inspection service, or authorized Committee personnel.

(g) Application of dockage factors. A lot of raisins acquired which may be subject to both a substandard and maturity dockage factor shall have only the highest of the two dockage factors applied to determine the creditable weight.

§ 989.211 [Reserved]

§ 989.212 Substandard dockage.

(a) General. Subject to prior agreement between handler and tenderer, Natural (sun-dried) Seedless, Golden Seedless, Dipped Seedless, Oleate and Related Seedless, Monukka, and Other Seedless raisins containing from 5.1 through 17.0 percent, by weight, of substandard raisins may be acquired by a handler under a weight dockage system. A handler also may, subject to prior agreement, acquire as standard raisins any lot of Muscat (including other raisins with seeds), Sultana, and Zante Currant raisins containing from 12.1 percent through 20.0 percent, by weight, of substandard raisins under a weight dockage system. The creditable weight of each lot of raisins acquired under the substandard dockage system shall be obtained by multiplying the net weight of the lot of raisins by the applicable dockage factor from the appropriate dockage table prescribed in paragraph (b) or (c) of this section.

(b) Substandard dockage table applicable to Natural (sun-dried) Seedless, Golden Seedless, Dipped Seedless, Oleate and Related Seedless, Monukka, and Other Seedless raisins.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent substandard</th>
<th>Dockage factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.0 or less</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>.999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>.998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>.997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>.996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>.995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) No dockage.

[53 FR 49296, Dec. 7, 1988]
Note: Percentages in excess of the last percentage shown in the table shall be expressed in the same increments as the foregoing, and the dockage factor for each such increment shall be .003 less than the dockage factor for the preceding increment. Deliveries in excess of 17 percent would be off-grade; therefore, the dockage factor does not apply.

(c) Substandard dockage table applicable to Muscat (including other raisins with seeds), Sultana and Zante Currant raisins.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent substandard</th>
<th>Dockage factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.0 or less</td>
<td>.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>.999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>.998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>.997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>.996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>.995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Percentages in excess of the last percentage shown in the table shall be expressed in the same increments as the foregoing, and the dockage factor for each such increment shall be .0005 less than the dockage factor for the preceding increment. Deliveries in excess of 20 percent would be off-grade; therefore, the dockage factor does not apply.

[57 FR 28597, June 26, 1992]

§ 989.213 Maturity dockage.

(a) General. Subject to prior agreement between handler and tenderer, Natural (sun-dried) Seedless, Golden Seedless, Dipped Seedless, Oleate and Related Seedless, Monukka, and Other Seedless raisins containing from 35.0 percent through 49.9 percent by weight, of well-matured or reasonably well-matured raisins may be acquired by a handler under a weight docking system. The creditable weight of each lot of raisins acquired under the maturity docking system shall be obtained by multiplying the net weight of the lot of raisins by the applicable dockage factor from the docking table prescribed in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section.

(b) Maturity docking table applicable to lots of natural (sun-dried) seedless, golden seedless, dipped seedless, oleate and related seedless, Monukka, and other seedless raisins which contain 35.0 percent through 49.9 percent well-matured or reasonably well-matured raisins:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent well-matured or reasonably well-matured</th>
<th>Dockage factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50.0 or more</td>
<td>.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.9</td>
<td>.9995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.8</td>
<td>.9990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>.9985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>.9980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>.9975</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 No dockage.

Note: Percentages less than the last percentage shown in the table, down to 45.0 percent, shall be expressed in the same increments as the foregoing, and the dockage for each such increment shall be .0005 less than the dockage factor for the preceding increment.

(c) Maturity docking table applicable to lots of natural (sun-dried) seedless, golden seedless, dipped seedless, oleate and related seedless, Monukka, and other seedless raisins which contain 40.0 percent through 44.9 percent well-matured or reasonably well-matured raisins:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent well-matured or reasonably well-matured</th>
<th>Dockage factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44.9</td>
<td>.974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.8</td>
<td>.973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>.972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.6</td>
<td>.971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.5</td>
<td>.970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>.969</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Percentages less than the last percentage shown in the table, down to 40.0 percent, shall be expressed in the same increments as the foregoing, and the dockage factor for each such increment shall be .001 less than the dockage factor for the preceding increment.

(d) Maturity docking table applicable to lots of natural (sun-dried) seedless, golden seedless, dipped seedless, oleate and related seedless, Monukka, and other seedless raisins which contain 35.0 percent through 39.9 percent well-matured or reasonably well-matured raisins:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent well-matured or reasonably well-matured</th>
<th>Dockage factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>.9235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.8</td>
<td>.9220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.7</td>
<td>.9205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.6</td>
<td>.9190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>.9175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>.9160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Percentages less than the last percentage shown in the table shall be expressed in the same increments as the foregoing, and the dockage factor for each such increment would be off-grade, therefore, the dockage factor does not apply.
§ 989.221

be .0015 less than the dockage factor for the preceding increment. No dockage shall apply to lots of raisins containing 34.9 percent or less of well-matured or reasonably well-matured raisins.


§ 989.221 Sale and export of reserve raisins by handlers.

(a) Eligible countries. Pursuant to §989.67(c), the Committee may sell reserve raisins to handlers for export to all markets in the world except those listed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) Non-eligible countries. The Committee may not sell reserve raisins to handlers for export to Cuba, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada, Mexico, and all islands adjacent to Canada and Mexico.

[58 FR 48275, Sept. 15, 1993]

EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .399) and “Marketing percentage” regulations (e.g., sections .222 through .299) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in this volume.

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 989.347 Assessment rate.

On and after August 1, 1996, an assessment rate of $5.00 per ton is established for assessable California raisins.

[61 FR 52666, Oct. 8, 1996]

Subpart—Schedule of Payments

§ 989.401 Payments for services performed with respect to reserve tonnage raisins.

(a) Payment for crop year of acquisition—(1) Receiving, storing, fumigating, and handling. Each handler shall be compensated at a rate of $40.00 per ton (natural condition weight at the time of acquisition) for receiving, storing, fumigating, and handling the reserve tonnage raisins, as determined by the final reserve tonnage percentage, acquired during a particular crop year and held by the handler for the account of the Raisin Administrative Committee during all or any part of the same crop year.

(2) Inspection. Each handler shall be reimbursed by the Committee for inspection costs applicable to the reserve tonnage raisins, as determined by the final reserve tonnage percentage, received and held by him for the account of the Committee. Such payment shall be made at the currently applicable rate per ton paid by such handler to the inspection Service and on the quantity reported by the handler. The Committee shall pay the cost of any inspection required by it of such reserve tonnage raisins while they are being held for its account: Provided, That the cost of inspection of any raisins substituted, pursuant to §989.66(b)(3), by a handler for such reserve tonnage raisins, or which he received by transfer from another handler by purchasing, as permitted pursuant to §989.166, a portion or all of such other handler’s share of an offer, shall be borne by the handler and shall not be reimbursed to him by the Committee.

(b) Additional payment for reserve tonnage raisins held beyond the crop year of acquisition. Additional payment for reserve tonnage raisins held beyond the crop year of acquisition shall be made in accordance with this paragraph. Each handler holding such raisins for the account of the Committee on August 15 and the following September 1 shall be compensated for storing, handling and fumigating such raisins at the rate of $2.00 per ton per month, or any part thereof, for each month of the three-month period ending November 30, and $1.03 per ton per month, or any part thereof, for each month of the next nine months. Such services shall be completed so that the Committee is assured that the raisins are maintained in good condition.

(c) Payment of rental on boxes and bins containing raisins held beyond the crop year of acquisition. Payment of rental on boxes and bins containing raisins held beyond the crop year of acquisition shall be made in accordance with this paragraph. Each handler, producer, dehydrator, and other person who furnishes boxes or bins in which such raisins are held for
the account of the Committee on August 15 and the following September 1 shall be compensated for the use of such boxes and bins. The rate of compensation shall be: For boxes, two and one-half cents per day, not to exceed a total payment of $1 per box per year, per average net weight of raisins in a sweatbox, with equivalent rates for raisins in boxes other than sweatboxes; and for bins twenty cents per day per bin, not to exceed a total of $10 per bin per year. For purposes of this paragraph, box means any container with a capacity of less than 1,000 pounds and bin means any container with a capacity of 1,000 pounds, or more. The average net weight of raisins in each type of box shall be the industry average as computed by the Committee for the box in which the raisins are so held. No further compensation shall be paid unless the raisins are so held in the boxes on the succeeding September 1.

(d) Payment for other services—(1) General. In addition to the payments provided in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section, handlers shall be compensated for other services performed with respect to reserve tonnage raisins as set forth in this paragraph.

(2) Transportation. The Committee may arrange with any handler for transporting reserve tonnage raisins. Payment for such transportation shall be based on then prevailing haulage rates within the production area for the type of transportation required.

(3) Packing. A handler who accepts an offer by the Committee to pack reserve tonnage raisins for its account shall be compensated for such packing in an amount determined by or acceptable to the Committee. In considering the amount of compensation to be paid, the Committee shall take into account, among other factors, the particular varietal type of raisins to be packed, the particular pack or package required, and the quantity and quality of the raisins to be packed.

(4) Redelivery. In the event the Committee removes reserve tonnage raisins of a previous crop year from a handler upon the request provided for in §989.66(f) and such handler subsequently desires redelivery to him of reserve tonnage raisins for contract packing, or other purpose, he shall reimburse the Committee in advance of such redelivery for the net costs to it of the removal, storage, and redelivery of such raisins: Provided, That the Committee may waive payment by the handler of part or all of such costs if it determines that such waiver is reasonably necessary to the prompt and favorable disposition of the raisins involved.


Subpart—Conversion Factors

§989.601 Conversion factors for raisin weight.

The following factors for the named varietal types of raisins shall be used to convert the net weight of reconditioned raisins acquired by handlers as packed raisins to natural condition weight. The net weight of the raisins after the completion of processing shall be divided by the applicable factor to obtain the natural condition weight: Provided, That the adjusted weight does not exceed the original weight of the raisins prior to reconditioning; and Provided further, That, if the adjusted weight exceeds the original weight, the original weight will be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Varietal type</th>
<th>Conversion factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural (sun-dried) seedless</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden seedless</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dipped seedless</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscats (including raisins with seeds):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeded</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unseeded</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sultana</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zante currant</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire or Related Seedless</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[54 FR 41587, Oct. 11, 1989]

Subpart—Quality Control

§989.701 Minimum grade and condition standards for natural condition raisins.

Effective pursuant to §989.58, raisins meeting the varietal standards hereinafter set forth shall be considered as standard raisins and those failing to meet such standards shall be considered as off-grade raisins. Where the raisins in any lot consist of two or more
§ 989.701

varietal types commingled within their containers, the lot shall be considered as a mixed lot and as standard raisins if they meet for each defect the most restrictive requirements for the varietal types of raisins comprising the lot.

In the event layered Muscats (including other raisins with seeds) or Cluster Seedless raisins are commingled within their containers with loose Muscats (including other raisins with seeds) or loose Cluster Seedless raisins respectively, the entire lot shall be considered as loose Muscats (including other raisins with seeds) or Natural (sun-dried) Seedless raisins. The raisins shall be considered as standard raisins if the lot as a whole meets the minimum standards for loose Muscats (including other raisins with seeds) or Natural (sun-dried) Seedless raisins: Provided, That with respect to the requirements peculiar to a varietal type such as possessing characteristic color, flavor, or odor, the raisins shall be considered as meeting such requirements if they have been properly prepared as raisins. In each category, only those raisins which have been properly dried and cured in original natural condition, are free from active infestation, and are in such condition that they are capable of being received, stored, and packed without undue deterioration or spoilage, shall be considered as storable raisins.

(a) Natural (sun-dried) Seedless, Monukka and Other Seedless raisins. Natural condition Natural (sun-dried) Seedless, Monukka and Other Seedless raisins shall have been prepared from sound, wholesome, matured grapes properly dried and cured, and shall meet the following additional requirements: (1) Shall be fairly free from damage by sugaring, mechanical injury, sunburn, or other similar injury; (2) shall have a normal characteristic color, flavor, and odor of properly prepared raisins; (3) shall contain not more than 5 percent, by weight, of sub-standard raisins (raisins that show development less than that characteristic of raisins prepared from fairly well-matured grapes), and shall also contain at least 50 percent well-matured or reasonably well-matured raisins; (4) shall not exceed 14 percent moisture as determined by the dried fruit moisture tester method, except that there shall be no maximum moisture content for Cluster Seedless raisins; and (5) shall be of such quality and condition as can be expected to withstand storage as provided in the order and that when processed in accordance with good commercial practice will meet the minimum standards for processed raisins established by the Committee, and that with respect to Cluster Seedless raisins, in addition to the above requirements the raisins shall be fairly free from shattered (or loose end) berries, and be uniformly cured; shall contain 30 percent or more “2 Crown” or larger size berries; and shall be of such quality and condition that when processed in accordance with good commercial practice will, except for moisture content, meet the minimum standards for processed raisins established by the Committee.

(b) Dipped Seedless, and Oleate and Related Seedless. Natural condition Dipped Seedless, and Oleate and Related Seedless raisins shall have been prepared from sound, wholesome, matured grapes properly dried and cured, and shall meet the following additional requirements: (1) Shall be fairly free from damage by sugaring, mechanical injury, sunburn, or other similar injury; (2) shall have a normal characteristic flavor and odor of properly prepared raisins; (3) shall contain not more than 5 percent, by weight, of sub-standard raisins (raisins that show development less than that characteristic of raisins prepared from fairly well-matured grapes), and for the 1985-86 and subsequent crop years also contain at least 50 percent well-matured or reasonably well-matured raisins; (4) shall not exceed 14 percent moisture as determined by the dried fruit moisture tester method, (5) shall be of such quality and condition as can be expected to withstand storage as provided in the order and that when processed in accordance with good commercial practice will meet the minimum standards for processed raisins established by the Committee.

(c) Golden Seedless. Natural condition Golden Seedless raisins shall have been prepared from sound, wholesome, matured grapes properly dried and cured, and shall meet the following additional
requirements: (1) Shall be fairly free from damage by sugaring, mechanical injury, sunburn, or other similar injury; (2) shall have a normal characteristic flavor and odor of properly prepared raisins; (3) shall contain not more than 5 percent, by weight, of substandard raisins (raisins that show development less than that characteristic of raisins prepared from fairly well-matured grapes), and for the 1985-86 and subsequent crop years also contain at least 50 percent well-matured or reasonably well-matured raisins; (4) shall not exceed 14 percent moisture as determined by the dried fruit moisture tester method, (5) shall be of such quality and condition as can be expected to withstand storage as provided in the order and that when processed in accordance with good commercial practice will meet the minimum standards for processed raisins established by the Committee, and that with respect to layered Muscats (including other raisins with seeds), in addition to the above requirements the raisins shall be fairly free from shattered (or loose end) berries; uniformly cured; 30 percent or more “3 Crown” or larger size; of such quality and condition that when processed in accordance with good commercial practice will, except for moisture content, meet the minimum standards for processed raisins established by the Committee.

(e) Sultana Raisins. Natural condition Sultana raisins shall have been prepared from sound, wholesome, matured grapes properly dried and cured, and shall meet the following additional requirements: (1) Shall be fairly free from damage by sugaring, mechanical injury, sunburn, or other similar injury; (2) shall have a normal characteristic color, flavor, and odor of properly prepared raisins and shall contain not more than 12 percent, by weight, of substandard raisins (raisins that show development less than that characteristic of raisins prepared from fairly well-matured grapes); (3) shall not exceed 16 percent moisture as determined by the dried fruit moisture tester method; and (4) the raisins shall be of such quality and condition as can be expected to withstand storage as provided in the marketing agreement and order, and that when processed in accordance with good commercial practice will meet the minimum standards for processed raisins established by the Committee.

(f) Zante Currant Raisins. Natural condition Zante Currant raisins shall have been prepared from sound, wholesome, matured grapes properly dried and cured, and shall meet the following additional requirements; (1) Shall be fairly free from damage by sugaring, mechanical injury, sunburn, or other similar injury; (2) shall have a normal characteristic color, flavor, and odor of properly prepared raisins and shall contain not more than 12 percent, by weight, of substandard raisins (raisins that show development less than that characteristic of raisins prepared from fairly well-matured grapes); (3) shall not exceed 16 percent moisture as determined by the dried fruit moisture tester method, except that water dipped, vine sprayed or similarly treated Muscats (including other raisins with seeds) shall not exceed 14 percent moisture, and that there shall be no maximum moisture content for layered Muscats (including other raisins with seeds); (4) the raisins shall be of such quality and condition as can be expected to withstand storage as provided in the marketing agreement and order, and that when processed in accordance with good commercial practice will meet the minimum standards for processed raisins established by the Committee, and that with respect to layered Muscats (including other raisins with seeds), in addition to the above requirements the raisins shall be fairly free from shattered (or loose end) berries; uniformly cured; 30 percent or more “3 Crown” or larger size; of such quality and condition that when processed in accordance with good commercial practice will, except for moisture content, meet the minimum standards for processed raisins established by the Committee.
§ 989.702 Minimum grade standards for packed raisins.

Effective pursuant to §989.59, the minimum grade standards for packed raisins shall be as follows:

(a) Natural (sun-dried) Seedless, Dipped Seedless, and Oleate and Related Seedless Raisins. Packed Natural (sun-dried) Seedless, Dipped Seedless, and Oleate and Related Seedless raisins shall meet the requirements of U.S. Grade C as defined in the effective United States Standards for Grades of Processed Raisins (§§ 52.1841 through 52.1858 of this title). Provided, That at least 62.5 percent, by weight, of the raisins shall be well-matured or reasonably well-matured. With respect to select-sized and mixed-sized raisin lots, the raisins shall at least meet the U.S. Grade B tolerances for pieces of stem, and underdeveloped and substandard raisins, and small (midget) sized raisins shall meet the U.S. Grade C tolerances for those factors. These requirements shall be effective November 15, 1984; provided, That the tolerance for well-matured or reasonably well-matured raisins shall increase from 62.5 percent to 70 percent on November 15, 1985.

(b) Golden Seedless Raisins. Packed Golden Seedless raisins shall at least meet the requirements prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section, and the color requirements for “colored” as defined in said standards.
characteristics of raisins prepared from reasonably well-matured grapes; contain not more than 23 percent, by weight, of moisture; that not less than 30 percent, by weight, of raisins, exclusive of stems and branches, are “2 Crown” size or larger and meet the additional requirements as outlined in the table in paragraph (2)(iv) of this paragraph.

(iii) Substandard is the quality of Cluster Seedless raisins that fail to meet the requirements of Marketing Order Grade B.

(iv) Allowances for defects in Cluster Seedless raisins:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Defects</th>
<th>Marketing order grade A</th>
<th>Marketing order grade B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sugared</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discolored, damaged, or moldy.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provided these limits are not exceed:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damaged</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substandard Development and Undeveloped.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shattered (or loose) individual berries and</td>
<td>Practically free</td>
<td>Reasonably free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>small clusters of 2 or 3 berries each.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appearance or edibility of product</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slightly discolored or damaged by fermentation or any other defect not described above.</td>
<td>May not be affected.</td>
<td>May not be more than slightly affected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grit, sand, or silt</td>
<td>None of any consequence may be present that affects the appearance or edibility of the product.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(h) A handler may grind raisins which do not meet the minimum grade standards prescribed in paragraphs (a) through (g) of this section because of mechanical damage or sugaring, into a raisin paste.


Subpart—Antitrust Immunity and Liability

§ 989.801 Restrictions applicable to committee personnel.

Members and employees of the Raisin Administrative Committee are immune from prosecution under the United States antitrust laws only insofar as their conduct in administering the Raisin Marketing Order is authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, 7 U.S.C. 601 et seq., or the provisions of the order. Under the antitrust laws, Committee members and employees may not engage in any unauthorized agreement or concerted action that unreasonably restrains United States domestic or foreign commerce. For example, Committee members and employees have no authority to participate, either directly or indirectly, whether on an informal or formal, written or oral basis, in any bilateral or international undertaking or agreement with any competing foreign producer or seller or with any foreign government, agency, or instrumentality acting on behalf of competing foreign producers or sellers to (a) raise, fix, stabilize, or set a floor for raisin, sultana, or currant prices, or (b) limit
the quantity or quality of raisins, sultanas, or currants imported into or exported from the United States. Participation in any such unauthorized agreement or joint undertaking could result in prosecution under the antitrust laws by the United States Department of Justice and/or suit by injured private persons seeking treble damages, and could also result in expulsion of members from the Committee or termination of employment with the Committee.

[46 FR 39984, Aug. 6, 1981]

PART 993—DRIED PRUNES PRODUCED IN CALIFORNIA

Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

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Subpart—Order Regulating Handling

SOURCE: 26 FR 476, Jan. 19, 1961, unless otherwise noted.

DEFINITIONS

§ 993.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any other officer or employee of the United States Department of Agriculture who is or who may hereafter be, authorized to exercise the powers and to perform the duties of the Secretary under the Act.

§ 993.2 Act.

Act means Public Act No. 10, 73d Congress, as amended and reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

§ 993.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 993.4 Area.

Area means the State of California.

§ 993.5 Prunes.

Prunes means and includes all sun-dried or artificially dehydrated plums, of any type or variety, produced from plums grown in the area, except: (a) Sulfur-bleached prunes which are produced from yellow varieties of plums and are commonly known as silver prunes; and (b) plums which have not been dried or dehydrated to a point where they are capable of being stored prior to packaging, without material deterioration or spoilage unless refrigeration or other artificial means of
§ 993.6 Preservation are used, and so long as they are treated by a process which is in conformity with, or generally similar to, the processes for treatment of plums of that type which have been developed or recommended by the Food Technology Division, College of Agriculture, University of California, for the specialty pack known as “high moisture content prunes,” but this exception shall not apply if and when such plums are dried to the point where they are capable of being stored without material deterioration or spoilage, refrigeration or other artificial means of preservation.

§ 993.6 Non-French prunes.

Non-French prunes means prunes commonly known as Imperial, Sugar, Robe de Sargent, Burton, Standard, Jefferson, Fellenberg, Italian, President, Giant, and Hungarian (Gross), produced from such varieties of plums. This definition may be modified by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

§ 993.7 French prunes.

French prunes means: (a) Prunes produced from plums of the following varieties of plums: French (Prune d’Agen, Petite Prune d’Agen), Coates (Cox, Double X, Saratoga); and (b) any other prunes which possess taste, flesh texture, and other characteristics similar to those of the prunes named in this section.

§ 993.8 Natural condition prunes.

Natural condition prunes means prunes which have not been processed.

§ 993.9 Processed prunes.

Processed prunes means prunes which have been cleaned, or treated with water or steam, by a handler.

§ 993.10 Standard prunes.

Standard prunes means any lot of natural condition prunes meeting the applicable grade and size standards prescribed pursuant to §993.49 other than pursuant to §993.49(c).

§ 993.11 Standard processed prunes.

Standard processed prunes means any lot of processed prunes meeting the applicable grade and size standards prescribed pursuant to §993.50.

§ 993.12 Substandard prunes.

Substandard prunes means any lot of processed or natural condition prunes failing to meet the applicable grade and size standards prescribed pursuant to §§993.49 and 993.50 other than pursuant to §993.49(c).


§ 993.13 Handle.

Handle means to receive, package, sell, consign, transport, or ship (except as a carrier of prunes owned by another person), or in any other way to place prunes in the current of the commerce within the area or from such area to any point outside thereof: Provided, That this term shall not include: (a) Sales or deliveries of prunes by a producer or dehydrator to a producer, dehydrator, or handler within the area; (b) the receiving of prunes by a producer or dehydrator from a producer or dehydrator; and (c) receipts, sales, or shipments of prunes already handled by another person other than pursuant to §993.50(f).

§ 993.14 Handler.

Handler means any person who handles prunes.

§ 993.15 Dehydrator.

Dehydrator means any person who produces prunes by drying or dehydrating plums by means of sun-drying or artificial heat.

§ 993.16 Producer.

Producer means any person who is engaged, in a proprietary capacity, in growing plums for drying or dehydrating into prunes.

§ 993.17 Ton.

Ton means a short ton of 2,000 pounds.
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 993.18 Grade.
Grade means the classification of prunes for quality and condition according to the grading specifications established pursuant to the provisions of this subpart.

§ 993.19a Size.
Size means either (a) the number of prunes contained in a pound and may be referred to in terms of size ranges, or (b) the diameter of a round opening, expressed in multiples of one thirty-second of an inch, through which prunes pass freely.

§ 993.19b Undersized prunes.
Undersized prunes means prunes which pass freely through a round opening of a specified diameter.

§ 993.20 Crop year.
Crop year means the 12-month period beginning August 1 of any year and ending July 31 of the following year.

§ 993.21 Domestic.
Domestic means the United States, Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Canada.

§ 993.21a Proper storage.
Proper storage means storage of such character as will maintain prunes in the same condition as when received by a handler, except for normal and natural deterioration and shrinkage.

§ 993.21b Trade demand.
(a) Domestic trade demand. The quantity of prunes which the commercial trade will acquire from all handlers during a crop year for distribution in domestic markets for human consumption as prunes and prune products.
(b) Foreign trade demand. The quantity of prunes which the commercial trade will acquire from all handlers during a crop year for distribution in other than domestic markets for human consumption as prunes and prune products.

§ 993.21c Salable prunes.
Salable prunes means those prunes which are free to be handled pursuant to any salable percentage established by the Secretary pursuant to § 993.54, or, if no reserve percentage is in effect for a crop year, all prunes, excluding the quantity of undersized prunes determined pursuant to § 993.49(c), received by handlers from producers and dehydrators during that year.

§ 993.21d Reserve prunes.
Reserve prunes means those prunes which must be withheld in satisfaction of a reserve obligation arising from application of a reserve percentage established by the Secretary pursuant to § 993.54.

§ 993.22 Consumer package.
Consumer package means: (a) Any container of prunes holding less than 10 pounds of standard processed prunes or standard prunes; or (b) any container holding less than 10 pounds of prunes and other dried fruit if more than 60 percent of the net weight of mixed dried fruit in the lot consists of standard processed prunes or standard prunes.

§ 993.23 Part and subpart.
Part means the order regulating the handling of dried prunes produced in California, and all rules, regulations, and supplementary orders issued thereunder. This order regulating the handling of dried prunes produced in California shall be a subpart of such part.

§ 993.24 Establishment and membership.
A Prune Marketing Committee (herein referred to as the “Committee”), consisting of 22 members with an alternate member for each such member, is hereby established to administer the terms and provisions of this part, of whom 14 shall represent producers, 7 shall represent handlers, and 1 shall represent the public. Committee membership shall be allocated in accordance
§ 993.25 Term of office.

The term of office of members, and their respective alternates, shall be made in the appropriate number specified in §993.24, by the Secretary from nominees nominated pursuant to this part or, in the discretion of the Secretary, from other eligible persons.

§ 993.27 Eligibility.

Producer members of the Committee shall be at the time of their selection, and during their term of office, producers in the group, for which selected and if to represent a district also producers in the district for which selected, and, except for producer members representing cooperative producers, shall not be engaged in the handling of prunes either in a proprietary capacity or as a director, officer, or employee. Handler members of the Committee shall be handlers in the group they represent or directors, officers, or employees of such handlers. These eligibility requirements shall not apply to the public member and alternate member.

§ 993.28 Nominees.

(a) For the purpose of obtaining nominations for producer members to represent independent producers, the Committee shall, with the approval of the Secretary, divide the area into districts giving, insofar as practicable, equal representation to numbers of independent producers and production of prune tonnage by such producers. The number of districts shall be equal to the number of such producer members or seven, whichever is the lesser. Candidates for nomination by independent producers from the various districts shall be obtained at meetings convened by the committee. Following such meetings, the committee shall prepare a separate ballot for each of the districts, or a joint ballot for two or more districts, containing (1) the names of the candidates for each district involved and (2) provision for write-in candidates. The ballot shall be mailed to each independent producer of record in each district. The voting procedure (including the casting of the ballot by mail addressed to the committee), and tabulation of votes shall be in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the committee, with the approval of the Secretary.
Each voter shall be entitled to cast only one vote for a member nominee and only one vote for an alternate member nominee in a district in which he is a producer, and no voter shall vote for candidates in more than one district. In case he is a producer in more than one district, he shall elect in which of such districts he will vote and notify the committee as to his choice. Whenever the number of producer members to represent independent producers during the ensuing term of office is to exceed seven, one nominee shall be nominated by independent producers in each of the seven districts and an additional nominee for each member in excess of the seven members shall be nominated, without reference to districts, by such seven nominees. The committee shall recommend the establishment of districts, or any changes therein, to the Secretary prior to January 31 of each year in which nominations are made.

(b) Before April 16 of each even-numbered year nominations of producer members to represent cooperative producers and handler members to represent cooperative handlers shall be submitted to the Secretary by cooperative marketing associations engaged in the handling of prunes. The number of cooperative producer members and handler members to be nominated by each cooperative marketing association to be nominated shall bear, as near as practicable, the same percentage as each cooperative marketing association's tonnage of prunes handled as first handler thereof is to the total tonnage handled by all cooperative marketing associations during the preceding crop year.

(c) In any year in which nominations are made following a crop year during which the tonnage of prunes handled by cooperative handlers as first handlers exceeded the tonnage of prunes handled by independent handlers as first handlers, nominees for two member and alternate positions to represent the independent handlers referred to in paragraph (c)(1) of this section shall be nominated in accordance with said paragraph (c)(1), and one nominee for the member and one for the alternate position to represent all other independent handlers shall be nominated by the handlers referred to in paragraph (c)(2) and (3) of this section and the votes of such handlers shall be weighted by the tonnage of prunes handled during the preceding crop year by the respective handlers.

(d) The committee shall establish with the approval of the Secretary, the procedures by which such nominations, other than by cooperative marketing associations engaged in the handling of prunes, shall be obtained and shall submit such nominations to the Secretary before April 16 of the year in which nominations are made. In the event the committee determines that any nominating procedure specified in this section does not result in equitable representation, it may establish, with the prior approval of the Secretary, such modifications as will tend to assure such representation.

(e) The producer and handler members of the Committee selected for a new term of office shall nominate a public member and alternate member nominations, one nominee for a handler member and one for an alternate member;
§ 993.29 Alternates.

An alternate for a member of the committee shall act in the place and stead of such member (a) during his absence, and (b) in the event of his removal, resignation, disqualification, or death, until a successor for such member’s unexpired term has been selected and has qualified. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this subpart the provisions of this part applicable to members also apply to alternate members.

§ 993.30 Failure to nominate.

If a nomination for any position on the committee is not received by the Secretary by May 1, the Secretary may select an eligible individual without regard to nominations.

§ 993.31 Acceptance.

Each person selected as a member or alternate member of the committee shall, prior to serving on the committee, qualify by filing with the Secretary a written acceptance within 15 days after receiving notice of his selection.

§ 993.32 Vacancies.

In the event of any committee vacancy occasioned by the removal, resignation, disqualification, or death of any member, or in the event of the failure of any person selected as a member or alternate member to qualify, a successor for the unexpired term shall be nominated within 60 calendar days thereof. Such nominations shall be made in the manner provided for in this subpart, insofar as applicable, except that nominations of nominees for a producer member position to represent independent producers may, at the discretion of the committee, be made to the committee by the incumbent producer members of the committee who represent independent producers.

§ 993.33 Voting procedure.

Decisions of the Committee shall be by majority vote of the members present and voting and a quorum must be present: Provided, That decisions on marketing policy, grade or size regulations, pack specifications, salable and reserve percentages, and on any matters pertaining to the control or disposition of reserve prunes or to prune plum diversion pursuant to § 993.62, including any delegation of authority for action on such matters and any recommendation of rules and procedures with respect to such matters, including any such decision arrived at by mail or telegram, shall require at least 14 affirmative votes. A quorum shall consist of at least 13 members of whom at least 8 must be producer members and at least 4 must be handler members. Except in case of emergency, a minimum of 5 days notice must be given with respect to any meeting of the Committee. In case of an emergency, to be determined within the discretion of the chairman of the Committee, as much notice of a meeting as is practicable in the circumstances shall be given. The Committee may vote by mail or telegram upon due notice to all members, but any proposition to be so voted upon first shall be explained accurately, fully, and identically by mail or telegram to all members. When any proposition is submitted to be voted on by such method, one dissenting vote shall prevent its adoption.

§ 993.34 Expenses.

The members of the committee, and alternates when acting as members, or when alternates’ expenses are authorized by the committee, shall serve without compensation but shall be allowed their expenses.

§ 993.35 Powers.

The committee shall have the following powers:
(a) To administer the terms and provisions of this subpart;
(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;
(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of this subpart; and
(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 993.36 Duties.
The committee shall have, among others, the following duties:
(a) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer, dehydrator, or handler;
(b) To keep minutes, books, and other records which shall clearly reflect all of its acts and transactions, and such minutes, books, and other records shall be subject to examination by the Secretary at any time;
(c) To make, subject to the prior approval of the Secretary, scientific and other studies, and assemble data on the producing, handling, shipping, and marketing conditions relative to prunes, which are necessary in connection with the performance of its official duties;
(d) To select, from among its members, a chairman and other appropriate officers, and to adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of the business of the committee as it may deem advisable;
(e) To appoint or employ such other persons as it may deem necessary, and to determine the salaries and define the duties of such persons;
(f) To submit to the Secretary not later than the fourth Tuesday of July of each year, a budget of its anticipated expenditures and the recommended rate of assessment for the ensuing crop year, and the supporting data therefor;
(g) To submit to the Secretary such available information with respect to prunes as the committee may deem appropriate, or as the Secretary may request;
(h) To prepare and submit to the Secretary quarterly statements of the financial operations of the committee, exclusive of reserve prune operations, and to make such statements, together with the minutes of the meetings of said committee, available for inspection at the offices of the committee by producers, dehydrators, and handlers;
(i) To prepare and submit to the Secretary annually, as soon as practicable after the end of each crop year and at such other times as the committee may deem appropriate or the Secretary may request, a statement of the committee’s financial operations with respect to reserve prunes for such crop year and to make such statement available at the offices of the committee for inspection by producers, dehydrators, and handlers;
(j) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a certified public accountant at least once each crop year, and at such other times as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request, and two copies of each such audit report shall be submitted to the Secretary and a copy which does not contain confidential data shall be available for inspection at the offices of the committee, by producers, dehydrators, and handlers;
(l) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to the members of the committee;
(m) To give producers, dehydrators, and handlers reasonable advance notice of meetings of the committee, and to maintain all such meetings open to such persons;
(n) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this subpart and with any rules and regulations established pursuant to such provisions; and
(o) To establish, with the approval of the Secretary, such rules and procedures relative to administration of this subpart as may be consistent with the provisions contained in this subpart and as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of the act and the efficient administration of this subpart.


§ 993.37 Research and development.
The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish or provide for the establishment of marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption of prunes. The expense of such projects shall be paid from funds collected pursuant to §993.81.
§ 993.41 Marketing policy.

(a) On or before the first Tuesday of each July, the committee shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its recommended marketing policy for the ensuing crop year. If it becomes advisable to modify such policy, because of changed demand, supply, or other conditions, the committee shall formulate a new policy and shall submit a report thereon to the Secretary. Notice of the committee's marketing policy, and of any modifications thereof, shall be given promptly by reasonable publicity to producers, dehydrators, and handlers.

(b) In formulating its marketing policy for the ensuing crop year, the committee shall consider and shall include in its report to the Secretary, the following estimates (natural condition basis) and recommendations:

1. The carryover of salable prunes as of August 1;
2. The carryover of reserve prunes as of August 1;
3. The grade and size composition of the salable and reserve carryovers;
4. The quantity of prunes to be produced without regard to possible diversions of prune plums by producers;
5. The probable quality and prune sizes in the crop;
6. The domestic trade demand by uses of prunes;
7. The foreign trade demand by countries or groups of countries;
8. The desirable carryout of salable prunes at the end of the ensuing crop year;
9. The quantity of undersized prunes in the crop, itemized as to French prunes and non-French prunes;
10. The quantity of prunes to be withheld as reserve prunes so as to protect against errors of estimation and permit orderly marketing of the supply;
11. The recommended salable and reserve percentages;
12. The quantity of prune plums, dried weight basis, deemed desirable to be diverted pursuant to §993.62;
13. Any recommended change in regulations pursuant to §§993.49 to 993.53, inclusive;
14. The probable assessable tonnage for the purposes of §993.81; and
15. The current prices for prunes, the trend and level of consumer income, whether producer prices are likely to exceed parity, and such other factors as may have a bearing on the marketing of prunes or the administration of this part.


§ 993.48 Regulation.

No handler shall handle prunes except in accordance with the provisions of this part.

[30 FR 9799, Aug. 6, 1965]

§ 993.49 Incoming regulation.

(a) No handler shall receive prunes from producers or dehydrators, other than substandard prunes and undersized prunes, unless such prunes meet the minimum standards for natural condition prunes set forth in §993.97 (Exhibit A), or as such standards may be modified, or the more restrictive grade regulation established pursuant to this section, and then in effect: Provided, That no handler shall receive any prunes (including substandard prunes and undersized prunes) from producers or dehydrators unless such prunes have been properly dried and cured in original natural condition, without the addition of water, and are free from active insect infestation, so that they are capable of being received, stored, and packed without material deterioration or spoilage. Any “high moisture content prunes,” as described in the exception in §993.5(b), in the possession of a handler, shall be held separate and apart from any prunes held by him. If such “high moisture content prunes” are dried or dehydrated to a point where they are capable of being stored, without material deterioration or spoilage, unrefrigerated or not otherwise artificially preserved, they shall be deemed, at that time, to have been received by such handler as prunes, and shall be subject to all of the conditions and restrictions of this subpart.

[30 FR 9799, Aug. 6, 1965]
§ 993.50 Outgoing regulation.

(b) The Secretary, on the basis of a recommendation of the committee or other information, may establish size regulations or more restrictive grade regulations with respect to prunes that may be received by a handler from producers and dehydrators whenever he finds that such action would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(c) In no crop year shall a handler receive from producers or dehydrators prunes, other than as undersized prunes, which pass freely through a round opening with a diameter as follows: For French prunes 23/32 of an inch, and for non-French prunes 28/32 of an inch. Provided, That the Secretary upon a recommendation of the Committee, may establish larger openings whenever it is determined that supply conditions for a crop year warrant such regulation. The quantity of undersized prunes in any lot received by a handler from a producer or dehydrator shall be determined by the inspection service and entered on the applicable inspection certificate.

(d) French prunes: No handler shall ship or otherwise make final disposition of any lot of French prunes for human consumption as prunes, or any lot of mixed dried fruit containing French prunes for human consumption as mixed dried fruit, unless the average count of French prunes contained in any such lot is 100 or less per pound. However, under safeguards to be established by the Committee, any lot containing French prunes with an average size count of more than 100 prunes per pound may be shipped to or disposed of in prune product outlets in which they lose their form and character as prunes by conversion prior to consumption. In determining whether any such lot conforms to this minimum size requirement, the following tolerance shall apply: In a sample of 100 ounces, the count per pound of 10 ounces of the smallest prunes shall not vary from the count per pound of 10 ounces of the...
§ 993.51 Inspection and certification.

Each handler shall at his own expense, before or upon the receiving, and before the shipping or disposing of prunes, cause an inspection to be made of such prunes to determine whether they meet the applicable grade and size requirements or the pack specifications, including labeling, effective pursuant to this part. Such handler shall obtain a certificate that such prunes meet the aforementioned applicable requirements and shall submit such certificate, or cause it to be submitted, to the Committee. Acceptable certificates shall be those issued by inspectors of the Dried Fruit Association of California. The Secretary may designate another inspection service in the event the services of the Association prove unsatisfactory.

§ 993.52 Modification.

Minimum standards, pack specifications or size regulations, including the openings prescribed in §993.49(c), may be modified by the Secretary, on the basis of a recommendation of the Committee or other information, whenever he finds that such modification would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

§ 993.53 Above parity situations.

The minimum standards, the minimum sizes, including the minimum undersized regulation in § 993.49(c), and the provisions of this part relating to administration shall continue in effect irrespective of whether the estimated season average price for prunes is in excess of the parity level specified in section 2(1) of the act.

[46 FR 61637, Dec. 18, 1981]

§ 993.54 Establishment of salable and reserve percentages.

Whenever the Secretary finds, from the recommendations and supporting information supplied by the committee, or from any other available information, that to establish the percentages of prunes for any crop year which shall be salable prunes and reserve prunes, respectively, or to modify the previously established percentages, would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, he shall establish or modify such percentages. The salable and reserve percentages when applied to the natural condition weight of prunes, excluding the quantity of undersized prunes determined pursuant to § 993.49(c), received during the crop year by a handler from producers and dehydrators plus that diverted tonnage (dried weight natural condition prune basis) on diversion certificates issued pursuant to § 993.62 and credited to or held by him which were issued pursuant to § 993.62. However, if the committee determines the requirement as to setaside reflecting average marketable content of receipts is not essential to achieve program objectives for the crop of a particular season, it may be eliminated for that season by the committee, with the approval of the Secretary. As a prerequisite for making this determination, the committee must find that the resultant setaside procedures assure that the trade demand for manufacturing prunes, as well as prunes for consumption as prunes, will be met. The salable prunes permitted to be disposed of by any handler in accordance with the provisions of this part shall be deemed to be that handler’s quota fixed by the Secretary within the meaning of section 8a(5) of the act.


§ 993.55 Application of salable and reserve percentages after end of crop year.

The salable and reserve percentages established for any crop year shall remain in effect after that crop year until salable and reserve percentages are established for another crop year. After such percentages are established, all reserve obligations shall be adjusted to the newly established percentages.

[46 FR 61637, Dec. 18, 1981]

§ 993.56 Reserve obligation.

Whenever salable and reserve percentages are in effect for any crop year, the reserve obligation of a handler shall approximate the average marketable content of the handler’s receipts and shall be a weight of natural condition prunes equal to the reserve percentage applied to the natural condition weight of prunes, excluding the quantity of undersized prunes determined pursuant to § 993.49(c), such handler receives during the crop year from producers and dehydrators plus that diverted tonnage (dried weight natural condition prune basis) on diversion certificates credited to or held by him which were issued pursuant to § 993.62.


§ 993.57 Holding requirement and delivery.

Each handler shall at all times, hold, in his possession or under his control, in proper storage for the account of the committee, free and clear of all liens, the quantity of prunes necessary to meet his reserve obligation, less any
quantity: (a) For which he has a temporary deferment pursuant to § 993.58(a); (b) of prune plums (dried weight natural condition basis) diverted pursuant to § 993.62 as shown on diversion certificates held by him, or credited by the committee against his reserve obligation; (c) disposed of by him under a sales contract of the committee; (d) delivered by him to the committee, or to a person designated by it, pursuant to its instructions; and (e) for which he is otherwise relieved by the committee of such responsibility to so hold prunes. No handler may transfer a reserve obligation but any handler may, upon notification to the committee arrange to hold reserve prunes on the premises of another handler or in approved commercial storage, under conditions of proper storage. The committee may, after giving reasonable notice, require a handler to deliver to it, or to a person designated by it, f.o.b. handler's warehouse or point of storage, reserve prunes held by him. The committee may require that such delivery consist of natural condition prunes or it may arrange for such delivery to consist of processed prunes.

§ 993.58 Deferment of time for withholding.

(a) Compliance by any handler with the requirement of § 993.57 for withholding reserve prunes may be temporarily deferred to any date desired by the handler, but not later than November 15 of the crop year, upon the execution and delivery by such handler to the committee of a written undertaking that on or prior to the desired date he will have fully satisfied his holding requirement. Such undertaking shall be secured by a bond or bonds to be filed with and acceptable to the committee in the amount or amounts specified, conditioned upon full compliance with such undertaking.

(b)(1) Each bond shall be provided by and at the handler's expense, with a surety or sureties acceptable to the committee, and shall be in an amount computed by multiplying the pounds of natural condition prunes for which deferment is desired by the bonding rate. Such bonding rate shall be established by the committee at a level sufficient to achieve the objectives of this part.

(2) In case a handler defaults in meeting his deferred withholding requirement, any funds collected by the committee from the bonding company through such default shall be used by the committee to purchase from handlers a quantity of natural condition prunes, up to but not exceeding the quantity on which default occurred. Purchases shall be made from prunes with respect to which the reserve obligation has been met, and shall be of grades, varieties, or sizes and in such containers as the committee specifies in consideration of available reserve prune outlets. Purchases shall be at prices determined to be appropriate by the committee and if more prunes are offered than required by the committee, it shall make the purchases from various handlers as nearly as practicable in proportion to the quantity of their respective offerings at the same price. The committee shall dispose of the prunes acquired as soon as practicable in the most favorable reserve prune outlets and shall deposit the proceeds from such sales, less committee expenses in connection with such transaction, with reserve pool funds for distribution to equity holders.

(3) If for any reason the committee is unable to purchase a quantity of prunes as large as the quantity of reserve prunes in default by the handler, any remaining balance of funds received because of the default less expenses of the committee, shall be deposited with reserve pool funds for distribution to equity holders.

(c) A handler who has defaulted on his bond shall be credited on his reserve obligation with, and his holding requirement reduced by, that quantity of prunes represented by the sums collected but not more than the extent of his default.

§ 993.59 Payment to handlers for services.

The committee shall pay handlers for necessary services rendered by them in connection with reserve prunes including, but not limited to, inspection, receiving, storing, grading, and fumigation, in accordance with a schedule of payments and conditions established.
§ 993.62 Diversion privileges.

(a) Prune plums. The words prune plums as used in this section mean plums of a variety used in the production of prunes.

(b) Voluntary principle. No producer shall be required to divert all or any portion of the prune plums produced by him.

(c) Authorization. If, on the basis of a committee recommendation for diversion operations, the availability of governing rules and procedures established by the Secretary after recommendation of the committee, and other information, the Secretary concurs that diversion operations should be permitted, he shall authorize such operations.

(d) Diversion certificates. After diversion operations are authorized, and subject to the applicable rules and procedures, any producer may divert prune plums of his own production for eligible purposes and receive from the committee a diversion certificate therefor: Provided, That diversion certificates for prune plums diverted by producer members of a cooperative marketing association shall be issued by the committee to the association if it so requests. To the extent permitted by the rules and procedures, the certificate may be submitted to any handler in lieu of reserve prunes and to the same extent the certificate shall entitle the handler to satisfy his reserve obligation. Only to the extent permitted by the rules and procedures, diversion certificates may be transferable among producers and handlers.

(e) Eligible diversions. Within such restrictions as may be prescribed in rules and procedures, diversion may be authorized for such dispositions as are not competitive with the normal marketing of prunes and prune products. Such eligible diversions may include: (1) Disposal of prune plums for nonhuman use; (2) leaving prune plums unharvested; and (3) such other methods of diversion as may be authorized. No diversion certificate shall be issued by the committee for prune plums which would not, under normal producer practices, be dried and delivered to a handler.

(f) Nonparticipation in pool proceeds. Any prune plums diverted pursuant to this section shall not be included in any reserve pool.

(g) Payment of costs. Prior to the issuance of a diversion certificate to a producer or a cooperative marketing association, the producer or association shall pay to the committee fees established to cover costs pertaining to the diversion.

[30 FR 9800, Aug. 6, 1965]

§ 993.65 Disposition of reserve prunes.

(a) Committee’s right of disposition. The committee shall have the power and authority to sell or dispose of any and all reserve prunes (1) to meet demand either (i) as domestic trade demand, or (ii) as foreign trade demand, or (2) for use in any outlet, defined in rules and procedures, established by the Secretary after recommendation of the committee, noncompetitive with normal outlets for salable prunes.

(b) Methods of disposition. The committee may, for any of the purposes of § 993.65(a), offer to sell and sell reserve prunes to handlers for disposition or sale by them in specified outlets. Sale of reserve prunes by the committee to any handler for resale in such outlets or for resale to other persons for sale in such outlets shall be governed by the provisions of a sales agreement, executed by the handler with the committee. The committee may refuse to sell reserve prunes to any handler if the handler violates the terms and conditions of the agreement or other provisions of this part. The committee may sell reserve prunes into any outlet in which direct selling is determined to be more appropriate.

(c) Offers to sell reserve prunes. No offer to sell reserve prunes either to handlers or to other persons shall be made by the committee until 5 days (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) have elapsed from the time it files with the Secretary complete information as to the terms and conditions of the proposed offer including the basis for determining the handlers’ shares: Provided, That at any time
prior to the expiration of the 5-day period the offer may be made upon the committee receiving from the Secretary notice that he does not disapprove it.

(d) Transfer of shares. No handler may transfer a reserve obligation. However, any handler who is authorized by the committee to dispose of reserve prunes may arrange with another handler to dispose of his share of reserve prunes through such other handler. In that event, credit for the reserve disposition shall go to the handler whose reserve prunes are used.

(e) Distribution of proceeds. Expenses incurred by the committee for the receiving, handling, holding, or disposing of any quantity of reserve prunes shall be charged against the proceeds of sales of such prunes. Net proceeds from the disposition of reserve prunes shall be distributed by the committee either directly, or through handlers as agents of the committee, under safeguards to be established by the committee, to persons in proportion to their contributions thereto, or to their successors in interest, with appropriate grade and size differentials as established by the committee. Progress payments may be made by the committee as sufficient funds accumulate. Distribution of the proceeds in connection with the reserve prunes contributed by a cooperative marketing association shall be made to such association, if it so requests.

[30 FR 9800, Aug. 6, 1965]

REPORTS AND BOOKS AND OTHER RECORDS

§ 993.71 Confidential information. 
All reports and records furnished or submitted by handlers to the committee which include data or information constituting a trade secret or disclosing the trade position, financial condition, or business operations of the particular handler from whom received shall be received by, and at all times kept in the custody and under the control of one or more employees of the committee, who shall disclose such information to no person except the Secretary. Notwithstanding the above provisions of this section, information may be disclosed to the committee when reasonably necessary to enable the committee to carry out its functions under this subpart.

§ 993.72 Reports of acquisitions, sales, uses, and shipments.
Each handler shall file such reports of his acquisitions, sales, uses, and shipments of prunes, as may be requested by the committee.

§ 993.73 Other reports.
Upon the request of the committee, each handler shall furnish such other reports and information as are needed to enable the committee to perform its functions under this subpart.

§ 993.74 Records.
Each handler shall maintain such records of prunes received, held and disposed of by him, as are prescribed by the committee and needed by it to perform its functions under this subpart. Such records shall be retained for at least two years beyond the crop year of their applicability.

§ 993.75 Verification of reports.
For the purpose of checking and verifying reports filed by handlers or the operation of handlers under the provisions of this subpart, the Secretary, and the Committee through its duly authorized agents, shall have access to any premises where prunes may be held by any handler and at any time during reasonable business hours, shall be permitted to inspect any prunes so held by such handler and any and all records of such handler with respect to the holding or disposition of all prunes which may be held or which may have been disposed of by him.

[37 FR 862, Jan. 20, 1972]

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 993.80 Expenses.
The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it during each crop year for the maintenance and functioning of the committee and for such other purposes as the Secretary may, pursuant to the provisions of this subpart, determine to be appropriate.
§ 993.81 Assessments.

(a) Each handler shall pay to the committee, upon demand, with respect to all salable prunes handled by him as the first handler thereof, his pro rata share of all expenses which the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee during each crop year. Each handler’s pro rata share shall be the rate of assessment per ton fixed by the Secretary. At any time during or after a crop year the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment to cover unanticipated expenses of the committee or a deficit in assessable tonnage.

(b) In order to provide funds to carry out the functions of the committee, the committee may accept advance payments from any handler to be credited toward such assessments as may be levied pursuant to this section against the respective handler.

(c) Any money collected as assessments during any crop year and not expended in connection with the committee’s operations may be used by the committee for a period of five months subsequent to such crop year. At the end of such period the committee shall, from funds on hand, refund or credit to handler accounts the aforesaid excess. Each handler’s share of such excess funds shall be the amount of assessments he has paid in excess of his pro rata share of the actual net expenses of the committee for the preceding crop year. Any money collected from assessments hereunder and remaining unexpended in the possession of the committee at the termination of this part shall be distributed in such manner as the Secretary may direct: Provided, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.


§ 993.82 Funds.

All funds received by the committee pursuant to the provisions of this part shall be used solely for authorized purposes. The Secretary may, at any time, require the committee or its members and alternate members to account for all receipts and disbursements.

§ 993.83 Rights of the Secretary.

The members of the committee (including successors or alternates) and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the committee, shall be subject to the removal or suspension by the Secretary, in his discretion, at any time. Each and every decision, determination, or other acts of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time, and upon such disapproval, shall be deemed null and void.

§ 993.84 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee, or any employee, representative, or agent thereof shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person, for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate member, employee, representative, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty.

§ 993.85 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 993.86 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this subpart is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 993.87 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon the termination of this subpart, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this subpart.
§ 993.88 Agents.

(a) Authorization by Secretary. The Secretary may, by a designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the United States Government, or name any bureau or division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this subpart.

(b) Authorization by committee. The committee may authorize any person or persons or agency to act as its agent or representative in connection with the provisions of this subpart.

§ 993.89 Effective time.

The provisions of this subpart, as well as any amendments to this subpart, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare, and shall continue in force until terminated, or during suspension, in one of the ways specified in § 993.90.

§ 993.90 Termination or suspension.

(a) Failure to effectuate policy of act. The Secretary may, at any time, terminate the provisions of this subpart, by giving at least one day's notice by means of a press release or in any other manner which he may determine. The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this subpart, whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.

(b) Referendum. The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this subpart on or before the fifteenth day of July of any crop year, to be effective at the end of such crop year, whenever he is required to do so by the provisions of section 8c(16)(B) of the act. The Secretary may, at any time he deems it desirable, hold a referendum of producers to determine whether they favor termination of this subpart. However, beginning with 1951, if the Secretary receives a recommendation, adopted by at least a majority vote of the producer members of the committee, requesting the holding of such a referendum, the Secretary shall hold such a referendum: Provided, That the Secretary shall not be required to hold such a referendum upon the basis of such a request more than once every two years.

(c) Termination of act. The provisions of this subpart shall terminate, in any event, upon the termination of the act.

§ 993.91 Procedure upon termination.

Upon the termination of this subpart, the members of the committee then functioning shall continue as joint trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee. Action by such trustee shall require the concurrence of a majority of the said trustees. Such trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary, and shall, from time to time, account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and the joint trustees, to such person as the Secretary may direct; and shall, upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all the funds, properties, and claims vested in the committee or the joint trustees, pursuant to this subpart. Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered by the committee or the joint trustees, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of the said committee and upon said joint trustees.

§ 993.92 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any regulation issued pursuant to this subpart, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or any regulation issued under this subpart, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary, or of any other person, with respect to such violation.

§ 993.93 Amendments.

Amendments to this subpart may be proposed from time to time, by any
person or by the committee, and may be made a part of this subpart by the procedures provided under the act.

§ 993.97 Exhibit A; minimum standards.

I. Minimum standards for natural condition prunes.

A. Defects. Defects are: (1) Off-color; (2) inferior meat condition; (3) end cracks; (4) fermentation; (5) skin or flesh damage; (6) scab; (7) burned; (8) mold; (9) imbedded dirt; (10) insect infestation; (11) decay.

B. Explanation of terms. (1) Off-color means a dull color or skin differing noticeably in appearance from that which is characteristic of mature, properly handled fruit of a given variety or type.

(2) Inferior meat condition means flesh which is fibrous, woody or otherwise inferior due to immaturity to the extent that the characteristic texture of the meat is substantially affected.

(3) End cracks means callous growth cracks, at the blossom end of prunes, aggregating more than three-eighths of one inch (\(\frac{3}{8}\)) but not more than one-half of one inch (\(\frac{1}{2}\)) in length.

(4) Fermentation means damage to the flesh by fermentation to the extent that the characteristic appearance or flavor is substantially affected.

(5) Skin or flesh damage means growth cracks, splits, breaks in skin or flesh of the following descriptions:
   (a) Callous growth cracks, except end cracks as defined in this section, aggregating more than three-eighths of one inch (\(\frac{3}{8}\)) in length;
   (b) Splits or skin breaks exposing flesh and affecting materially the normal appearance of the prunes;
   (c) Any cracks, splits or breaks open to the pit;
   (d) Healed or unhealed surface or flesh blemishes caused by insect injury and which materially affect appearance, edibility or keeping quality;
   (e) Skin damage caused by rain or overdipping to the extent that the prunes cannot be processed normally without material sloughing of the skin.

(6) Scab means tough or thick scab exceeding in the aggregate the area of a circle three-eighths of one inch (\(\frac{3}{8}\)) in diameter or by unsightly scab of another character exceeding in the aggregate the area of a circle three-eighths of one inch (\(\frac{3}{8}\)) in diameter.

(7) Burned means injury by sunburn or excessive heat in dehydration to the extent that the characteristic appearance, flavor or edibility of the fruit is noticeably affected.

(8) Mold means a characteristic fungus growth and is self-explanatory.

(9) Imbedded dirt means the presence of dirt or other extraneous material so imbedded in, or adhering to, the prune that it cannot be removed in normal processing.

(10) Insect infestation means the presence of insects, insect fragments or insect remains.

C. Maximum tolerances. Tolerance allowances shall be on a weight basis and shall not exceed the following:

(1) The tolerance allowance for decay shall not exceed one percent (1%).

(2) The combined tolerance allowance for mold, imbedded dirt, insect infestation, and decay shall not exceed five percent (5%).

(3) The combined tolerance allowance for fermentation, skin or flesh damage, scab, burned, mold, imbedded dirt, insect infestation, and decay shall not exceed eight percent (8%).

(4) The combined tolerance allowance for end cracks, fermentation, skin or flesh damage, scab, burned, mold, imbedded dirt, insect infestation, and decay shall not exceed twenty percent (20%), except that the first eight percent (8%) of end cracks shall be given one-half value and any additional percentage of end cracks shall be given full value.

(5) The combined tolerance allowance for off-color, inferior meat condition, end cracks, fermentation, skin or flesh damage, scab, burned, mold, imbedded dirt, insect infestation, and decay shall not exceed twenty percent (20%), except that the first eight percent (8%) of end cracks shall be given one-half value and any additional percentage of end cracks shall be given full value.

(6) Prunes showing obvious live insect infestation shall be fumigated prior to acceptance.

D. Natural condition prunes must be properly dried and cured in original natural condition, without the addition of water, and free from active infestation, so that they are capable of being received, stored and packed without deterioration or spoilage.

II. Minimum standards for processed prunes:

A. Defects. Defects are: (1) Off-color; (2) inferior meat condition; (3) end cracks; (4) fermentation; (5) skin or flesh damage; (6) scab; (7) burned; (8) mold; (9) imbedded dirt; (10) insect infestation; (11) decay.

B. Explanation of terms. (1) Off-color means a dull color or skin differing noticeably in appearance from that which is characteristic of mature, properly handled fruit of a given variety or type.

(2) Inferior meat condition means flesh which is fibrous, woody or otherwise inferior due to immaturity to the extent that the characteristic texture of the meat is substantially affected.

(3) End cracks means callous growth, cracks, at the blossom end of prunes, aggregating more than three-eighths of one inch (\(\frac{3}{8}\)) but not more than one-half of one inch (\(\frac{1}{2}\)) in length.
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(4) Fermentation means damage to the flesh by fermentation to the extent that the characteristic appearance or flavor is substantially affected.

(5) Skin or flesh damage means growth cracks, splits, breaks in skin or flesh of the following descriptions:
   (a) Callous growth cracks, except end cracks as defined in this section, aggregating more than three-eighths of one inch (3⁄8") in length;
   (b) Splits or skin breaks exposing flesh and materially affecting the normal appearance of French prunes; or markedly affecting the normal appearance of varieties other than the French variety;
   (c) Any cracks, splits or breaks open to the pit;
   (d) Healed or unhealed surface or flesh blemishes caused by insect injury and which materially affect appearance, edibility or keeping quality.

(6) Scab means tough or thick scab exceeding in the aggregate the area of a circle three-eighths of one inch (3⁄8") in diameter or by unsightly scab of another character exceeding in the aggregate the area of a circle three-fourths of one inch (3⁄4") in diameter.

(7) Burned means injury by sunburn or excessive heat in dehydration to the extent that the characteristic appearance, flavor or edibility of the fruit is noticeably affected.

(8) Mold means a characteristic fungus growth and is self-explanatory.

(9) Imbedded dirt means the presence of dirt or other extraneous material so imbedded in, or adhering to, the prune that it cannot be readily removed in washing the fruit.

(10) Insect infestation means the presence of insects, insect fragments or insect remains.

C. Maximum tolerances. Tolerance allowances shall be on a weight basis and shall not exceed the following:

(1) There shall be no tolerance allowance for live insect infestation.

(2) The tolerance allowance for decay shall not exceed one percent (1%).

(3) The combined tolerance allowance for mold, imbedded dirt, insect infestation, and decay shall not exceed five percent (5%).

(4) The combined tolerance allowance for fermentation, skin or flesh damage, scab, burned, mold, imbedded dirt, insect infestation, and decay shall not exceed eight percent (8%).

(5) The combined tolerance allowance for end cracks, fermentation, skin or flesh damage, scab, burned, mold, imbedded dirt, insect infestation, and decay shall not exceed twenty percent (20%), except that the first eight percent (8%) of end cracks shall be given one-half value and any additional percentage of end cracks shall be given full value.

Subpart—Administrative Rules and Regulations

DEFINITIONS

SOURCE: 26 FR 8278, Sept. 2, 1961, unless otherwise noted.

§ 993.102 Committee.

Committee means the Prune Marketing Committee established pursuant to §993.24.


§ 993.103 Terms in the order.

Terms defined in the order shall have the same meaning when used in this subpart.

§ 993.104 Lot.

(a) Lot for the purposes of §§993.49 and 993.149 means any quantity of prunes delivered by one producer or one dehydrator to a handler on which inspection is requested: Provided, That a lot shall be limited to (1) the prunes contained in not more than 30 “ton box” containers or (2), if in other containers, not more than 60,000 pounds of prunes. If the prunes in any containers are markedly inferior in quality and condition to other prunes in the preferred lot, the containers shall be segregated into lots of reasonable uniform quality.

(b) Lot for the purposes of §§993.50 and 993.150 means:
   (1) With respect to in-line inspection either (i) the aggregate quantity of prunes of the same size, other than those rejected by inspection, processed in any continuous production of one calendar day and packed during such day in one size and style of container...
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 993.128

or (ii) the aggregate quantity of prunes of the same size, other than those rejected by inspection, so processed and held in packing containers for later packaging.

(2) With respect to floor inspection either (i) prunes not previously inspected in-line, of the same size, in like containers, bearing the same identification (e.g., brand) if in consumer packages, and offered for inspection as a lot; or (ii) prunes previously inspected in-line but rejected as failing to meet requirements, of the same size, in like containers, processed in any continuous production of one calendar day, and offered for inspection as a new lot.

§ 993.105 Size count.

Size count means the count or number of prunes per pound.


§ 993.106 In-line inspection.

In-line inspection means inspection of prunes where samples are drawn from a flow of prunes prior to packaging.

§ 993.107 Floor inspection.

Floor inspection means inspection of prunes where samples are drawn from packaged prunes or from unpackaged prunes that are held in packing containers.

§ 993.108 Non-human consumption outlet.

Non-human consumption outlet means any livestock feeder or manufacturer of inedible syrup, industrial alcohol, animal feed, or other product for non-human use, who has established, to the satisfaction of the committee, that any prunes or prune waste received for a non-human use will be used only within such outlet.


§ 993.109 Modified definition of non-French prunes.

The definition of non-French prunes set forth in §993.6 is modified to read as follows: Non-French Prunes means prunes commonly known as Imperial, Sugar, Robe de Sargent, Burton, Standard, Jefferson, Fellenberg, Italian, President, Giant, Hungarian (Gross), and Moyer, produced from such varieties of plums.

[38 FR 22887, Aug. 27, 1973]

PRUNE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

§ 993.128 Nominations for membership.

(a) Districts. In accordance with the provisions of §993.28, the districts referred to therein are described as follows:

District No. 1. The counties of Glenn and Colusa.

District No. 2. That portion of Sutter County north of a line extending along Bogue Road easterly to the Yuba County line and westerly to the Colusa County line and south of a line extending along Clark Road easterly to the Yuba County line and westerly to the Colusa County line.

District No. 3. All of Yolo County and that portion of Sutter County south of a line extending along Bogue Road easterly to the Yuba County line and westerly to the Colusa County line.

District No. 4. The counties of Alpine, Amador, Del Norte, El Dorado, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tehama and Trinity.

District No. 5. All of Butte County, and that portion of Sutter County north of a line extending along Clark Road easterly to the Yuba County line and westerly to the Colusa County line.

District No. 6. Yuba County.

District No. 7. The counties of Fresno, Kings, Merced, San Benito, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Solano, Tulare and all other counties not included in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

(b) Voting procedures—(1) Independent producers. Prior to March 8 of each election year, the Committee shall cause a meeting to be held, in each of the election districts established pursuant to §993.28(a) for the purpose of obtaining names of proposed candidates for nomination to the Secretary for selection as members and alternate members for the respective districts. Each such candidate must be a producer in the district for which he is proposed. Prior to March 15 of that
§ 993.149 Receiving of prunes by handlers.

(a) Receiving stations—(1) General. Prunes shall be received by a handler at any receiving station so designated by the Committee. Receiving station shall mean any plant of a handler or a dehydrator's premises; this term shall also mean any other place where prunes are normally and usually received by a handler in any considerable volume as ranch deliveries, and at which there are adequate facilities to enable the inspection service to determine whether the prunes meet the applicable grade, size, and condition requirements.

(2) Receiving at dehydrator. Any handler may arrange with the committee and the inspection service for the incoming inspection and certification to be based on samples of prunes drawn as prune plums and dehydrated in the same manner as the prunes to which they are referable. Where such arrangement is acceptable to the Committee as permitting the inspection and certification of the prunes to be comparable to an inspection and certification when based on samples drawn as prunes, such certification shall be acceptable for the purposes of this section if the inspector further certifies that the dehydration process of the prunes being certified resulted in

(b) Inspection stations. Prunes shall be inspected only at inspection stations established by the inspection service with the concurrence of the Committee. Inspection station shall mean a centralized station and any receiving station other than a handler's plant or a dehydrator's premises.

(c) Incoming inspection—(1) General. Upon any producer or dehydrator delivering prunes to a handler, the handler shall issue to the inspection service an identification tag showing the name and address of such producer or dehydrator, the date of delivery, the county of production, the number and type of containers, the approximate net weight of the prunes, the place where the prunes are to be inspected, and any other information necessary to identify such prunes to the satisfaction of the inspector and the Committee. For each such delivery, the handler shall issue to the producer or dehydrator a door receipt or weight certificate showing the name and address of the producer or dehydrator, the weight of the delivery, and any other information necessary to identify the delivery. Such information shall be available to the inspector and the Committee. Each lot shall be sampled separately and as soon as practicable following delivery. The handler shall supply any necessary information together with any assistance needed by the inspector in drawing samples including the dumping of containers.

(2) Certification. Following inspection of a lot not returned to the producer or dehydrator, the handler shall require the inspection service to issue, in quintuplicate, a certificate containing at least the following information: (i) The place where samples were drawn and the date and place of inspection; (ii) the name and address of the producer or dehydrator, the handler, and the inspection service; (iii) the variety of the prunes, the county in which such prunes were produced, the number and type of the containers thereof, the net weight of the prunes as shown on the applicable door receipt or weight certificate, together with the number of such receipt or certificate, and the contract or account number under which the prunes were delivered; (iv) whenever applicable, the percentage by weight of undersized prunes in the lot; (v) with respect to the balance of the lot, the inspector's computation of the percentage, by screen size of prunes and in the aggregate, of each group or combination of groups of defects for which a maximum tolerance is in effect; (vi) whether the prunes in the lot, exclusive of any undersized prunes, are standard or substandard; (vii) the inspector’s computation of the percentage of weight of each screen size and in the aggregate, of offgrade prunes (those defective pursuant to §993.97) necessary to be removed therefrom in order for the remainder in each screen size and in the aggregate to be standard prunes, and (viii) the average size count of prunes of each screen size and of the aggregate: Provided, That whenever an undersized prune regulation is in effect for the crop year, the average size count shall be of all prunes except undersized prunes in the lot, by screen size and in the aggregate. The handlers shall require the inspection service to furnish promptly the producer or dehydrator with one copy of the certificate and the handler with two copies.

(d) Conditional provisions—(1) Wet or slack-dry prunes. Any prunes delivered to a handler by a producer or dehydrator which an inspector determines have not been properly dried and cured in original natural condition, or which show evidence of the addition thereto of water, may be held by the handler for the account of the producer or dehydrator for conditioning by further drying or dehydration: Provided, That such prunes shall be identified and kept separate and apart from any other prunes in the handler's possession until resubmitted for inspection and certified as properly dried and cured, or returned to the producer or dehydrator. The certificate shall show, in addition to other inspection requirements, that the conditioning was performed and indicate the net weight after conditioning.

(2) Prunes with active insect infestation. Any prunes delivered to a handler which an inspector determines are not free from active insect infestation, may be returned to the producer or dehydrator or may be held by the handler
§ 993.150 Disposition of prunes by handlers.

(a) Inspection stations. An inspection station shall be any plant of a handler, and any other place where he handles prunes.

(b) Outgoing inspection. Except as otherwise specifically provided, no handler shall ship or otherwise make final disposition of natural condition prunes or of processed prunes unless he has, prior for the account of the producer or dehydrator for conditioning by fumigation: Provided, That such prunes shall be identified and kept separate and apart from any other prunes in the handler's possession until resubmitted for inspection and certificated to show, in addition to other inspection requirements, performance of fumigation and freedom from active infestation.

(3) High moisture content prunes. The delivery of any high moisture content prunes to a handler by a producer or dehydrator shall be reported promptly by the handler to the inspection service. The inspection service shall be requested to submit a report to the committee of each such delivery which shall contain the following information: (i) The date and place of the delivery; (ii) the name and address of the producer or dehydrator, the handler, and the inspection service; and (iii) the variety of the high moisture content prunes, the county in which they were produced, and their net weight as shown on the door receipt or weight certificate, together with the number of such receipt or certificate. Any handler who, subsequent to delivery to him of high moisture content prunes, elects to dry or dehydrate them or any portion thereof to a point where they are capable of being received by such handler shall, prior to proceeding with such drying or dehydration, notify an inspector of the inspection service of his election, and the same procedure shall apply as set forth in paragraph (d)(1) of this section. For each day on which a handler processes and packages high moisture content prunes, he shall furnish promptly to the inspector a signed statement and one copy showing the handler's name and address and the net weight of the total tonnage of high moisture content prunes processed and packaged by him on that day. The handler shall furnish promptly to the inspector two copies of the shipping or disposition order or other documents which shall show the date of each shipment or disposition, the applicable reference number thereof, and an adequate description of the shipment or disposition. One copy of each document so furnished shall be required to be forwarded to the committee. Upon request of the committee a handler shall, within ten days thereafter, file with the committee a signed report on Form PMC 3.1 "Report of High Moisture Content Prunes" which shall contain the following information: (i) The date and the name and address of the handler; (ii) the total tonnage of high moisture content prunes delivered to the handler during the crop year to the date of the report; (iii) the total tonnage of high moisture content prunes shipped or otherwise disposed of by the handler during such period; (iv) the total tonnage of high moisture content prunes delivered to the handler during such period which were dried or dehydrated and received as prunes by the handler; and (v) the total tonnage of high moisture content prunes in the handler's possession on the date of the report.

(4) Return of prunes to producers and dehydrators. Any lot of prunes delivered to a handler by a producer or dehydrator may be returned to the producer or dehydrator prior to an inspection thereof. Any lot of prunes so delivered whose identity has been maintained may be so returned following an inspection thereof, except prunes which have been size graded or sorted by the handler, resulting in a segregation of defects. Prunes which have been sorted for the producer or dehydrator, the identity of which have been maintained to the satisfaction of the inspector and the Committee, may be resubmitted for inspection in not more than three new lots, equal in weight to the original lot, and the applicable inspections shall supersede the original inspection.

to such shipment or final disposition, had them inspected and obtained a certificate showing that such prunes meet the effective minimum standards. Such inspection shall be made during that portion of the final preparation of the prunes for shipment or other final disposition as will permit proper sampling, whether in-line or floor inspection, and no handler shall perform such final preparation unless an inspector is present. The handler shall furnish promptly to the inspector a copy of the shipping or disposition order or other documents, which shall show the date of each shipment or disposition, the applicable reference number thereof, and an adequate description of the shipment or disposition. For the prunes inspected each day which meet the applicable minimum grade and size requirements for standard prunes, or standard processed prunes, the handler shall cause the inspector to issue in triplicate a signed certificate containing the following information: (1) The date and place of inspection; (2) the name and address of the handler and of the inspection service; (3) the number and size of packages or the net weight of prunes; (4) the number of the worksheet or worksheets on which the inspector’s computations and results of tests are recorded; and (5) a statement that the prunes meet the effective minimum standards for standard prunes, or standard processed prunes, as the case may be.

(c) Interhandler transfers. With the exception of those prunes held by a handler pending their disposition pursuant to §993.49(c) and those prunes held by him for the account of the Committee pursuant to §993.57, a handler may transfer prunes to another handler within the area. Any such interhandler transfer may be without the transferring handler having an inspection made as provided for in §993.51: Provided, That before each such transfer the transferring handler shall: (1) Give written notice of the transfer to the inspection service including the proposed date of the transfer, the names of the handlers and, by plant designation, the present location and the destination of the prunes, the number of containers, variety, size designation, and total net weight of the prunes, and the manifest or billing number; and (2) receive from the inspection service a DFA Form P-5 “Shipping Inspection Report and Certificate” marked “Interhandler Transfer Report” on which the inspection service recorded the information furnished by the transferring handler. The transferring handler shall sign the "Interhandler Transfer Report" including all copies thereof that were received from the inspection service, and forward the signed original and one copy to the receiving handler at the time of the interhandler transfer. Upon receipt of the transferred prunes, the receiving handler shall enter on both the original and the copy the date he received the prunes, sign the original, and immediately forward it to the inspection service. The transferring handler shall cause the inspection service to promptly report the transfer to the Committee. As provided in §993.50(f), the receiving handler shall, before shipping or otherwise making final disposition of such prunes, comply with the requirements of §§993.50 and 993.51.

(d) Tolerances for non-French prunes. Any lot of standard prunes or standard processed prunes containing more than 2 percent by weight of non-French prunes shall be disposed of only in prune product outlets as prescribed in §993.50(c) unless the non-French prunes therein have an average count of 40 or less per pound and unless in a 100-ounce sample of the lot, the count per pound of 10 ounces of the smallest prunes in the sample does not vary from the count per pound of 10 ounces of the largest prunes in the sample by more than 35 points. A lot shall be deemed to exceed the 2 percent tolerance for non-French prunes whenever an inspection shows such prunes exceed 2 percent in any four consecutive sampling units of two tons or less or, if less than four such units are sampled, in such lesser number of units.

(e) Prunes which fail to meet minimum standards—(1) Committee’s approval of disposition—(i) General. Those defective prunes accumulated by a handler by removing them from standard or substandard prunes, and those prunes received or held by a handler which fail
to meet the applicable minimum standards and are held for disposition without removal of defective prunes in excess of maximum tolerances, may only be used, if within the tolerances prescribed in §993.97 II. C. (1), (2), and (3), for prune products, or if any such tolerances are exceeded and any live infestation corrected by fumigation, for non-human consumption or be destroyed. In order to insure that all such prunes are shipped or otherwise disposed of in accordance with §993.50(e), no handler shall during any crop year ship or otherwise make final disposition of any such prunes, other than prune waste subject to daily non-human disposition for sanitation purposes, unless prior thereto he had obtained during that crop year (except as otherwise provided in paragraph (e)(1)(iii) of this section) the Committee's approval of his application to do so.

(ii) Application for approval. The handler's application to ship or otherwise make final disposition of any such prunes shall be submitted on Form PMC 2.2 "Application for Permission to Dispose of Substandard Prunes". If the prunes are for shipment, the application shall set forth: (a) The name and address of the handler's vendee and the name and address of the consignee whether the same as or different from the vendee; (b) the particular use to be made of the prunes; (c) if such use is to be by a person other than the handler's vendee or the consignee, the name and address of such user; and (d) the crop year or the period within or the portion of the crop year, for which the approval is granted: Provided, That, the Committee may approve in July any such application that is submitted during that month by the handler for shipment or other final disposition of the prunes covered thereby in the succeeding crop year. When the use or the name and address of the user or consignee are not known to the handler, the Committee shall not approve the application until it has been informed as to such use and user and consignee of the prunes.

(iii) Approval of applications. The Committee's approval of a handler's application shall be transmitted to the handler on Form PMC 2.3 "Permission to Dispose of Substandard Prunes". In approving an application, the Committee shall specify the crop year, or the period within or the portion of the crop year, for which the approval is granted: Provided, That, the Committee may approve in July any such application that is submitted during that month by the handler for shipment or other final disposition of the prunes covered thereby in the succeeding crop year. When the use or the name and address of the user or consignee are not known to the handler, the Committee shall not approve the application until it has been informed as to such use and user and consignee of the prunes.

(iv) Disapproval of applications; or revocation of approved applications. In acting on an application, the Committee may disapprove the application when: (a) The application does not conform with the requirements of paragraph (e)(1)(ii) of this section; (b) the Committee has cause to believe that the prunes covered by the application will not be shipped or disposed of in accordance with the application; or (c) the handler, or any of the parties involved in the proposed shipment or disposition, had shipped or made other disposition of prunes covered by a previously approved application inconsistently with that application. The Committee may for cause revoke a handler's previously approved application if he ships or makes other disposition inconsistent with such application. Whenever a user uses prunes inconsistent with an approved application, the Committee may for cause revoke such application, and such other approved applications applicable to such user as the Committee deems necessary to assure that the prunes covered by such applications will not be used in a manner inconsistent with those applications or the order. The Committee shall notify the handler in writing of each disapproval and each revocation.
(v) Evidence of non-human disposition. Whenever defective or substandard prunes or prune waste are shipped to or otherwise disposed of in non-human consumption outlets, or destroyed, the handler shall furnish the Committee with a copy of the shipping document or other documentary evidence of the disposition as may be satisfactory to the Committee and at such times as the Committee may direct.

(vi) Books and records. Each handler who ships or otherwise disposes of defective or substandard prunes or prune waste shall make available for examination by the Committee, at his business office at any reasonable time during business hours, copies of all applicable purchase orders, sales contracts, or disposition documents, together with any further information which the Committee may deem necessary or desirable to enable it to determine whether such prunes or prune waste have been or likely will be utilized as authorized.

(2) Out of the area shipments. Whenever substandard prunes for human consumption are packed in closed containers, and if for shipment outside the area they shall be so packed, each such container shall be clearly marked “For Manufacturing Purposes Only”. Whenever substandard prunes restricted to non-human usage are shipped in closed containers, each such container shall be clearly marked “For Non-Human Usage”. In each instance, the letters shall be of reasonable prominence and in a conspicuous place on the container.

(3) Inspection of substandard prunes. Each handler shall cause substandard prunes, for use in prune products, to be inspected (prior to disposition or shipment by a handler) by an inspector, and that such inspector issue, in triplicate, a signed clearance certificate (for the preparation of which the handler shall make available to the inspector the necessary data) containing the following information: (i) the date and place of inspection and clearance; (ii) the name and address of the inspection service and of the handler; (iii) the number and kind of packages, the net weight, and the adequacy of the marking; (iv) the lot number or shipping or disposition order number; (v) the committee's approval number; (vi) the destination; and (vii) the actual percentage of off-grade prunes of each group, or combination of groups, of defects in excess of the then current tolerances for standard prunes or standard processed prunes.

(f) Pitted prunes—(1) For human consumption as such. (i) No handler shall ship or otherwise make final disposition of any lot of pitted prunes for human consumption as pitted prunes unless the lot, before pitting, met (A) the applicable minimum standards set forth in §993.97 (Exhibit A), or as such standards may be modified, for standard prunes or standard processed prunes, and (B) the requirements specified in §993.50 (c) and (d).

(ii) No handler shall ship or otherwise make final disposition of any lot of pitted prunes for human consumption as pitted prunes unless these prunes do not exceed an average of 0.5 percent by count of prunes with whole pits and/or pit fragments 2 mm or longer; and four of ten subsamples examined have no more than 0.5 percent by count of prunes with whole pits and/or pit fragments 2 mm or longer. For the purposes of this paragraph (f)(1)(ii), pitted prunes means prunes with the pit removed that are characterized by a uniform depression and minimal skin break where the pit has been removed.

(iii) No handler shall ship or otherwise make final disposition of any lot of macerated prunes for human consumption as pitted prunes unless these prunes do not exceed an average of 2 percent by count of prunes with whole pits and/or pit fragments 2 mm or longer; and four of ten subsamples examined have no more than 2 percent by count with whole pits and/or pit fragments 2 mm or longer. For the purposes of this paragraph (f)(1)(iii), macerated prunes means prunes with the pit removed that are characterized by a flattened appearance with slightly more skin breaks where the pit has been removed than with pitted prunes.

(2) For use in prune products. Any lot of substandard prunes, whether natural condition or processed, if within the applicable tolerances prescribed in §993.97 II C (1), (2), and (3), may be pitted and shipped or disposed of for use and used in prune products for human
consumption: Provided, That prior to shipment or other final disposition by handler, such prunes have lost their form and character as prunes to the satisfaction of the inspector and the committee. An inspection certificate on such lot shall not be issued until the inspector has determined that the prunes therein have lost their form and character as prunes. Disposition of pit- ted prunes by handlers for use in prune products shall be in accordance with the applicable provisions of paragraph (e) of this section.

(g) Disposition of undersized prunes—
(1) Application for and approval of dis- position. Undersized prunes accumu- lated by a handler pursuant to section 993.49(c) shall be disposed of in non- human consumption outlets during the crop year in which the prunes estab- lishing such obligations were received from producers or dehydrators, or such later date that a handler may request in a notice, filed with the Committee at least 30 days prior to July 31 of the year of accumulation: Provided, That, such handler has made a bona fide ef- fort to dispose of its undersized prunes as demonstrated by the shipment of at least 65 percent of its undersized obli- gation by May 31; such handler has a sufficient quantity of undersized prunes held in storage to meet its re- maining obligation; and the extension of time requested is not later than 60 days beyond the end of the crop year. Prior to making any such disposition, the handler shall obtain the Commit- tee's approval of his application to do so. The handler's application to ship or other- wise make final disposition of any such undersized prunes shall be submit- ted on Form PMC 2.21 “Application for Permission to Dispose of Undersized Prunes” which shall set forth: (i) The name and address of the handler's vendee and the name and address of the consignee whether the same as or dif- ferent from the vendee; (ii) the particu- lar use to be made of the prunes; (iii) if such use is to be by a person other than the handler's vendee or the consignee, the name and address of such user; and (iv) the crop year or the period within, or portion of, the crop year during which shipment or other disposition is to be made. When the use or the name and address of the consignee or user are not known by the handler, the han- dler shall arrange for the submission of such information to the Committee. If use is to be by the handler, the application shall so indicate and shall set forth all applicable information. Each application for shipment shall be limited to the handler's vendee and the consignee, if different from the vendee, and to a specific user and use. Each ap- plication for final disposition for a particular use by the handler shall be limited to such handler and use. The Com- mittee's approval of a handler's applica- tion shall be transmitted to the han- dler on Form PMC 2.31 “Permission to Dispose of Undersized Prunes.” In ap- proving an application, the Committee shall specify the crop year or the pe- riod within, or the portion of, the crop year for which the approval is granted. When the use or name and address of the user or consignee are not known to the handler, the Committee shall not approve the application until it has been informed as to such use and user and consignee of the prunes. The re- quirements of §993.150(e)(1)(iv) (except item (a) thereof), (v), and (vi) with re- gard to disapproval of applications or revocation of approved applications, evidence of nonhuman disposition, and the maintenance of books and records, applicable to prunes which fail to meet minimum standards, shall also apply to undersized prunes.

(2) Documentation of disposition of un- dersized prunes—(i) Inspection and cer- tification. The handler shall cause an inspection to be made of each lot of un- dersized prunes prior to shipment or other disposition to determine whether such prunes meet the applicable re- quirements prescribed with respect to undersized prunes. After such deter- mination, the handler shall cause a signed inspection certificate applicable to such prunes to be forwarded promptly to the Committee. (ii) Documentation of shipment or other disposition. For each quantity of under- sized prunes so shipped or otherwise disposed of, the handler shall promptly forward to the Committee one copy of the applicable bill of lading, truck re- ceipt, or related documentation of dis- position which shall show: (a) The
name of the consignee; (b) the Committee approval number; (c) the destination by name and address of the person designated to receive the prunes; (d) the date of shipment or other disposition; (e) the inspection certificate number; (f) the net weight of the prunes; (g) the weight certificate number; and (h) identification of the prunes as undersized prunes.

(iii) Certification or receipt. The handler shall forward with each quantity of undersized prunes disposed of a certification form in triplicate, Form PMC 4.71 “User’s Receipt of Dried Prunes for Nonhuman Usage” on which the handler shall have entered the following applicable information: (a) The inspection certificate number; (b) the Committee approval number; (c) the shipping or other disposition document number; (d) the name of the carrier; (e) the date of shipment or other disposition; and (f) the license or car number of each carrier unit, if applicable, used in the movement of the prunes to the destination of disposition or usage. The handler shall cause, either directly or through the vendee or consignee, the user of the prunes to certify on Form PMC 4.71 the receipt by him of the applicable prunes and to promptly forward the original thereof to the Committee. Such certification shall set forth the location where the prunes were received, the date of such receipt, the name and address of the person who will use or otherwise dispose of the prunes, and the signature and authority of the certificate to act for the user.

(iv) Certification of usage. The handler shall cause, either directly or through the vendee or consignee, the user of the prunes to certify, and forward to the Committee, one copy of Form PMC 4.71, following use or disposition thereof, that the prunes have been used or otherwise disposed of, the date and location at which use or other disposition took place, the name and address of the user, the signature and authority of the certificant to act for the user, and the date of his certification.

(3) Tolerances permitting a deviation in prune sizes from applicable undersized openings—(i) Undersized French prunes. Whenever an undersized regulation specifies an opening of \( \frac{23}{32} \) of an inch in diameter for French prunes, any quantity of French prunes disposed of by a handler in compliance with §993.50(g) shall not contain more than 15 percent by weight of prunes which do not pass freely through a round opening \( \frac{24}{32} \) of an inch in diameter. Whenever an undersized regulation specifies an opening of \( \frac{29}{32} \) of an inch in diameter for French prunes, any quantity of French prunes disposed of by a handler in compliance with §993.50(g) shall not contain more than 12 percent by weight of prunes which do not pass freely through a round opening \( \frac{30}{32} \) of an inch in diameter.

(ii) Undersized non-French prunes. Whenever an undersized regulation specifies an opening of \( \frac{28}{32} \) of an inch for non-French prunes, any quantity of non-French prunes disposed of by a handler in compliance with §993.50(g) shall not contain more than 10 percent by weight of prunes which do not pass freely through a round opening \( \frac{30}{32} \) of an inch in diameter. Whenever an undersized regulation specifies an opening of \( \frac{30}{32} \) of an inch for non-French prunes, any quantity of non-French prunes disposed of by a handler in compliance with §993.50(g) shall not contain more than 12 percent by weight of prunes which do not pass freely through a round opening \( \frac{32}{32} \) of an inch in diameter.

§ 993.156 Application of reserve percentage.

The reserve obligation of each handler shall be determined by applying the reserve percentage to the weight of prunes in each lot, after deducting the weight of prunes in such lot shown as a percentage on the applicable inspection certificate as necessary to be removed therefrom pursuant to §993.49(c), in such manner as may be prescribed in such reserve control regulation established for the crop year in which such
§ 993.157 Holding and delivery of reserve prunes.

(a) Sales and deliveries. Committee sales and deliveries of reserve prunes from the holdings of any handler shall not exceed the quantity of reserve prunes required to be held by him. The reserve prune holding requirement of the handler shall be reduced by the tonnage so sold or delivered.

(b) Assistance to handlers. As assistance to handlers, the committee shall furnish each handler a monthly tabulation, beginning as soon as possible after the start of the crop year, showing his reserve obligation and holding requirement based on records on file with the committee.

(c) Failure to hold and deliver reserve prunes in accordance with reserve obligation. In the event a handler fails to hold for the committee and deliver his total reserve prune obligation in any category and is unable to rectify such a deficiency with salable prunes, he shall compensate the committee in an amount computed by multiplying the pounds of natural condition prunes so deficient by the applicable values established by the committee. Provided, That the remedies prescribed herein shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, any of the remedies or penalties prescribed in the act with respect to noncompliance. The determination of any such deficiency shall include application of any tolerance allowance for shrinkage in weight, increase in the number of prunes per pound, and normal and natural deterioration and spoilage which may then be in effect.

(d) Excess delivery of prunes to the committee. In the event a handler delivers to the committee as reserve prunes a quantity of prunes in excess of his holding requirement for reserve prunes, the committee shall make such practical adjustments as are consistent with this part and this may include compensating the handler for such excess (nonreserve prunes) by paying to him the proceeds received by the committee for such excess.

(e) Holding reserve prunes on other than a handler's premises. No handler shall hold reserve prunes on the premises of another handler, or in approved commercial storage other than on his own premises, unless prior thereto he notifies the committee in a certified report on Form PMC 5.1 “Notice of Proposed Intent to Store Reserve Prunes” which shall contain at least the following information: (1) The date and the name and address of the handler; (2) the name and address of the person on whose premises the reserve prunes will be stored for the handler; (3) the approximate quantity to be so stored and the exact location and description of the storage facilities; and (4) the proposed date that such storage will begin. The report shall be accompanied by a signed statement by the persons on whose premises the reserve prunes are to be stored agreeing to hold such prunes under conditions of proper storage and further agreeing to permit access to such premises by the committee at any time during business hours for the purpose of examining or taking delivery of such prunes in accordance with the provisions of this part. No handler shall be permitted to hold reserve prunes on any premises outside the area.

(f) Exchange of salable prunes for reserve prunes. No handler shall exchange salable prunes for reserve prunes unless he has entered into a sales agreement authorized pursuant to §993.65(b), whereby the value of any such exchange, and payment therefor to the committee, shall be determined.

(g) Delivery by nonsignatory handlers. Any handler not signing the sales agreement authorized pursuant to §993.65(b), shall deliver to the Committee, upon demand, the total weight of his reserve obligation by such variety, grade, and size categories, and at the count per pound for each size category as is required by the reserve control regulation of the applicable crop year. Such deliveries of prunes may be either graded prunes or any lot of ungraded prunes, or portion thereof, identifiable to the satisfaction of the committee as being in the same form as when received: Provided, That the percent of standard prunes in each lot shall be taken into account but with respect to

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any lot of graded prunes, no credit shall be given to the standard obligation of the handler if in a sample of 100 ounces, the count per pound of 10 ounces of the smallest prunes exceeds the count per pound of 10 ounces of the largest prunes by more than 45 prunes per pound.

§ 993.158 Deferral of reserve withholding.

Any handler who desires to defer withholding pursuant to the provisions of §993.58 shall notify the committee on Form PMC 9.1, "Notification of Desire for Deferral of Reserve Withholding", containing at least the following information: (a) The date and the name and address of the handler; (b) the total salable prunes acquired or under contract with producers and dehydrators; (c) the period for which deferral is requested; and (d) the tonnage of reserve prunes, by categories, on which deferral is requested. The notification shall be accompanied by the undertaking and bond or bonds required by §993.58. No handler shall defer withholding of reserve prunes until he has filed the required undertaking and bond or bonds with the committee and has received its acceptance.

§ 993.159 Schedule of payments and conditions.

(a) Rate of payment for necessary services. Each handler shall, with respect to reserve prunes held by him for the account of the committee pursuant to §993.57, be paid at the rate of $25 per ton (natural condition weight) for necessary services rendered by him in connection with such prunes so held during all or any part of the crop year in which the prunes were received from producers or dehydrators. Such amount shall, together with the additional payments, as applicable, provided in this section, be in full payment for the costs incurred in connection with but not being limited to, the following services: Inspection, receiving, storing, grading, and fumigation. The costs include, but are not limited to:

1. Acquisition costs, which include those for salaries, commission, or brokerage fees, transportation and handling between plants and receiving stations, inspection, and other costs, including container expense, incidental to acquisition or storage;
2. Direct labor costs, which include those for receiving, grading, preliminary sorting and storing (including that performed by the handler at the receiving station), and loading for shipment or other delivery to the committee or its designee; and
3. Plant overhead costs, which include those for superintendence, indirect labor, fuel, power and water, taxes and insurance on facilities, depreciation and rent, repairs and maintenance, factory supplies and expense, and employee benefits (payroll taxes, compensation insurance, and other such costs).

(b) Reimbursement for required insurance costs. Each handler holding reserve prunes for the account of the Committee shall maintain proper insurance thereon, including fire and extended coverage, in valuations (according to grade and/or size) established by, or acceptable to, the Committee for the particular crop year. The Committee shall reimburse the handler for the actual costs of such insurance. Prior to the receipt of reserve prunes at the beginning of each crop year, the handler shall certify to the Committee and the Secretary, on Form PMC 4.5, that he has a fire and extended coverage policy fully insuring all reserve prunes received by him during such crop year. Such certification shall contain the following information: (1) The name and address of the handler; (2) the location(s) where reserve prunes will be held for the account of the Committee and the premium rate per $100 value per annum at each location; (3) the value per ton at which the reserve prunes are insured; and (4) the name and address of the insurance underwriter.

(c) Certain additional payments in connection with the holding of reserve prunes for the account of the Committee. (1) Whenever a handler is directed by the committee to move and dump containers or reserve prunes held by him for the account of the committee for the
§ 993.162 Voluntary prune plum diversion.

(a) Quantity to be diverted. The Committee shall indicate the quantity of prune plums that producers may divert pursuant to § 993.62 whenever it recommends to the Secretary that diversion operations for a crop year be permitted. The Committee shall compute the dried weight equivalent of prune plums so diverted on a dryaway basis in accordance with the following schedule:

(1) For prune plums of French variety produced in the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, and Trinity, 1 pound of dried prunes for each 2.6 pounds of prune plums diverted;

(2) For prune plums of French varieties produced in the counties of Alameda, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, and San Mateo, 1 pound of dried prunes for each 2.75 pounds of prune plums diverted;

(3) For prune plums of French varieties produced in the counties of Amador, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Glenn, Sacramento, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba, 1 pound of dried prunes for each 3 pounds of prune plums diverted;

(4) For prune plums of French varieties produced in the counties of Fresno, Merced, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, Tulare, and all of the counties in the area not included in paragraphs (a)(1), (2), and (3) of this section, 1 pound of dried prunes for each 3.25 pounds of prune plums diverted;

(5) For prune plums of non-French varieties produced in any country in the area, 1 pound of dried prunes for each 3.50 pounds of prune plums diverted.

Whenever diversion operations for a crop year have been authorized by the Secretary, the Committee shall notify producers, dehydrators, and handlers, known to it of such authorization.

(b) Eligible diversions. Eligible diversions shall preclude prune plums from becoming prunes and shall be limited to the following methods: (1) Disposing...
of harvested prune plums under Committee supervision for nonhuman use at a location and in a manner satisfactory to the Committee; and (2) leaving unharvested the entire production of prune plums from a solid block of bearing trees designated by the producer applying for the diversion. In accordance with §993.62(c), eligible diversion shall not apply to prune plums which would not, under normal producer practices, be dried and delivered to a handler.

(c) Applications for diversion—(1) By producers. Each producer desiring to divert prune plums of his own production shall, prior to diversion, file with the Committee a certified application on Form PMC 10.1 “Application for Prune Plum Diversion” containing at least the following information: (i) The name and address of the producer; whether the producer is an owner-operator, share-landlord, share-tenant, or cash tenant; and the name and address of any other person or persons sharing a proprietary interest in such prune plums; (ii) the proposed method of diversion and the location where diversion is to take place; (iii) the quantity and variety of prune plums proposed to be diverted; and (iv) the approximate period of diversion. A deposit fee shall accompany each application and shall be the greater of either $100 or the amount obtained by multiplying the quantity, in tons, of prune plums proposed to be diverted by $3.50.

(2) By dehydrator as agent. Any producer, or group of producers, may authorize any dehydrator to act as agent to divert harvested prune plums. Prior to diversion such dehydrator shall submit to the Committee with respect to each producer the certified application on Form PMC 10.1 “Application for Prune Plum Diversion” required by paragraph (c)(1) of this section. A deposit fee shall accompany each application and shall be the greater of either $100 per producer who authorized the dehydrator to act as agent or the amount obtained by multiplying the aggregate quantity in tons of prune plums proposed to be diverted by the group by $3.50.

(3) Receipt of applications. The Committee shall establish, and give prompt notice of, a final date for receipt of applications for diversion: Provided, That if the Committee determines that the total quantity of prune plums covered by applications received by such date is substantially less than the quantity which the Committee has determined pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the Committee may provide such additional time for such receipt of applications as it deems appropriate and establish and give prompt notice of such additional time.

(d) Approval of applications. No certificate of diversion shall be issued by the Committee unless it had approved the application covering such diversion.

(1) The Committee’s approval of an application shall be in writing, and include at least the following: (i) The details as to the method of diversion to be followed; (ii) the method of appraisal to be used by the Committee to determine the quantity of prune plums diverted; (iii) the lesser of either the quantity specified in the application for diversion as proposed to be diverted, or any modification of that quantity as a result of any Committee proration of the total quantity proposed to be diverted by all producers; and (iv) such other information as may be necessary to assist the applicant in meeting the requirements of this section, including the conditions of proof of diversion under which diverted prune plums shall receive credit for certification.

(2) If the Committee determines that it cannot approve an application and shall notify the applicant promptly. The Committee shall state the reason for failing to approve the application, and request the applicant to submit, if practicable, an amended application correcting the deficiencies in the original application.

(3) The Committee shall establish, and give prompt notice of a final date by which a producer may modify his
approved application including changing the proposed method of diversion and the quantity of prune plums proposed to be diverted: Provided, That any change in the proposed method of diversion shall include information on the location where such diversion is to take place and shall be accompanied by a payment of $50 as a service charge, and any increase in the quantity of prune plums proposed to be diverted shall be accompanied by a payment of $4.50 per ton for such increase, of which $3.50 shall be the deposit fee and $1 shall be a service charge.

(4) Whenever an applicant cancels his approved diversion application prior to diversion, no part of the deposit fee covering actual costs incurred in connection with the application shall be refunded except upon approval by the Committee following review of all circumstances in the matter.

(e) Report of diversion. (1) When diversion of prune plums has been completed, the diverter (whether producer or dehydrator as agent of a producer) shall submit the required proof of such diversion to the Committee. When the Committee concludes that diversion has been completed pursuant to the requirements of this section, it shall furnish the producer whose prune plums were diverted with a listing of the total quantity of prune plums concluded to be so diverted: Provided, That a producer shall be given credit for any quantity of his prune plums diverted in excess of the quantity approved by the Committee pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section but not in excess of 120 percent of such approved quantity and then only to the extent that such creditable excess is already covered by his applicable deposit fee or such fee is increased by an additional deposit to cover such excess.

(2) Upon completion of the computation of dryaway pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section applicable to the diverter’s diversion of prune plums, the Committee shall issue a report of diversion to the producer whose prune plums were diverted for the total quantity, dried weight equivalent, credited for diversion setting forth the computations by which such total quantity was derived.

(f) Transferable certificate of diversion—(1) General. As hereinafter set forth, transferable certificates of diversion shall be issued by the Committee. Any transferable certificate of diversion issued to a handler that is a cooperative marketing association, or submitted to a handler and accepted by him, shall be returned to the Committee by the handler for credit against the handler’s reserve obligation of the crop year in accordance with § 993.57. Such credit shall be based on the amount shown on the certificate, and shall be applied to reduce the handler’s holding requirement for such crop year. With respect to such creditable certificate of a handler with a holding requirement prior to issuance or acceptance, as applicable, of the transferable certificate of diversion, such credit shall result in an adjustment downward in the handler’s then applicable holding requirement in an amount equal to that computed by applying the applicable salable percentage to the total quantity on such certificate. Any adjustment in a handler’s holding requirement shall not affect his obligation, if any, to continue to hold reserve prunes that are undersized prunes. The term undersized prunes shall have the same meaning as prescribed by the Secretary for the then current crop year. If the Committee determines that effective administration of diversion operations requires establishment of a final date for submission of transferable certificates of diversion by producers to handlers, or a final date for return of such certificates by handlers to the Committee for crediting against their reserve obligations, or both, it shall establish such dates.

(2) Issuance to producers. Except as provided in paragraph (f)(3) of this section, the Committee shall issue transferable certificates of diversion to each producer diverting prune plums and to whom a report of diversion was issued. Prior to issuance of any such transferable certificate of diversion, the producer shall advise the Committee, in writing: (i) Of the name of the handler to whom the transferable certificate of diversion is to be submitted and who is holding reserve prunes referable to prunes received from such producer; and (ii) how much of the quantity
shown on his report of diversion he desires to use in lieu of reserve prunes but not in excess of the quantity of reserve prunes referable to prunes received by the handler from such producer. The Committee shall enter on the transferable certificate of diversion the name of the handler and the quantity covered by the certificate. The transferable certificate of diversion shall be endorsed by the producer and the handler prior to its return to the Committee in order to be credited by the Committee against such handler’s reserve obligation. If any portion of the quantity shown on the producer’s report of diversion remains unused and he desires to transfer a transferable certificate of diversion covering all or any part of such unused portion to another producer, he shall advise the Committee, in writing, of the name and address of such producer, together with the applicable quantity desired to be covered by the transfer, and, if known, the name of the handler to whom such a transferable certificate is to be submitted. However, the quantity to be covered by the transfer shall not exceed the quantity of reserve prunes referable to prunes received by the handler from the transferee-producer. The Committee shall enter on the transferable certificate of diversion the names of the transferee-producer and the handler, and the quantity covered by the certificate. Prior to submission of any such transferred diversion certificate to a handler, the transferee-producer shall advise the Committee, in writing, of the name and address of the handler to whom the transferable certificate is to be submitted and who is holding reserve prunes referable to prunes received from such producer. Such transferred certificate shall be endorsed by both producers and the handler in order to be credited by the Committee against such handler’s reserve obligation.

(3) Issuance to a cooperative marketing association. In connection with prune plums diverted by producers who are members of a cooperative marketing association, the Committee shall, when so requested by the association, issue the applicable transferable certificates of diversion to it. The quantity entered on the report of diversion of a cooperative producer shall be entered on or annexed to the applicable transferable certificate of diversion issued to the association. Such transferable certificates of diversion shall be returned to the Committee by the association endorsed by an authorized officer of the association in order to be credited by the Committee against the association’s reserve obligation.

(4) Applicability of certain payments. The provisions of §§ 993.59 and 993.159 governing payments to a handler for necessary services rendered by the handler in connection with reserve prunes shall not be applicable to prunes no longer required to be held as reserve prunes due to a downward adjustment by the Committee in the handler’s holding requirement on the basis of applicable transferable certificates of diversion returned to the Committee.

(g) Costs. Pursuant to §993.62(g), the costs pertaining to diversion are to be defrayed by payment of fees by the producer or cooperative marketing association to whom a diversion certificate is issued. After authorized diversion operations for a crop year are completed, the Committee shall ascertain its costs of diversion operations during such crop year. If the total amount represented by the deposit fees which accompanied the applications for diversion exceeds such costs, each producer, and each cooperative marketing association, entitled thereto shall receive a proportionate refund of the net amount. Such refund shall be calculated in the same proportion as the quantity of prune plums diverted by each such producer, and each such cooperative marketing association, is to the total quantity of prune plums diverted: Provided, That the Committee may prescribe a minimum charge to cover costs of processing each application for diversion submitted to it.


Disposition of Reserve Prunes

§ 993.165 Disposition of reserve prunes.

(a) General. For purposes of §993.65(a)(2), normal outlets for salable prunes (herein referred to as ‘‘normal
§ 993.172 Reports of holdings, receipts, uses, and shipments.

(a) Holdings as of March 31. Each handler shall, on or before the 15th day of April, file with the committee a signed report of holdings of prunes which have not been inspected or received by him as a handler as of March 31. The report shall show for such prunes the name and address of the producer or dehydrator, the date of each identification tag assigned to such prunes, the numbers and dates of door receipts or weight certificates or any other identifying documents assigned to such prunes, the net weight shown on each, the total net weight of all prunes so held, and the name and address of the handler making the report.

(b) Receipts by handlers. Each handler shall file with the committee, for each month, not later than the 5th working day of the next succeeding month, a signed report on Form PMC 11.1, “New Crop Supply and Inbound Prune Report,” containing at least the following information: (1) The date, the name and address of the handler, and the period covered by the report; and (2) the total tonnage received during the month from each of (i) producers and dehydrators, (ii) other handlers, including interhandler transfers, and (iii) sources other than producers, dehydrators and other handlers.

(c) Shipments by handlers. Each handler shall file with the Committee for each month, not later than the 5th working day of the next succeeding month, a signed report on Form PMC 12.1, “Reports of Shipments,” reporting shipments of prunes during the crop year through the last day of the immediately preceding month. Such report shall contain at least the following information:

(1) The date, the name, and address of the handler, and the period covered by the report;

(2) The poundages of prunes shipped or otherwise disposed of, other than shipments to or for the account of other handlers, as follows: (i) Domestic outlets segregated by uses (including Federal Government agencies); (ii) export markets, segregated by countries; (iii) both domestic and export totals segregated by type of pack (carton, visipak, and other), and (iv) pitted prunes (pitted weight) segregated as to total to domestic outlets and total to export markets;

(3) The total poundage shipped to or for the account of other handlers, including interhandler transfers; and

(4) The total poundage of prunes not covered by, or excluded from, the definition of the term “prunes” (§ 993.5) shipped.

(e) Holding of reserve prunes. Upon request of the committee, a handler shall file with the committee, within 10 calendar days thereafter, a certified report on Form PMC 4.1, “Reserve Prunes Held by Handler,” containing the following information as of the date specified by the committee in its
request: (1) The date and name and address of the handler; (2) the effective date of the report; and (3) the tonnages of reserve prunes physically held by or for the handler, itemized by plants, together with the location of the plants and itemized by the tonnages and average size count by category held at each such plant.


§ 993.173 Reports of accounting.

(a) Independent handler's reports of accounting. Within 10 days (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after a handler, other than a non-profit cooperative agricultural marketing association, makes an accounting or settlement with a producer or dehydrator for prunes delivered to him, he shall submit to the committee a copy of the accounting or settlement record, which shall contain the following information: (1) The names and addresses of the producer or dehydrator, any other person having a financial interest in the prunes, and the handler; (2) the date of the accounting or settlement; (3) the contract or account number; (4) an itemized statement listing each lot of prunes in the delivery, showing the date received, receiving point, weight certificate, or door receipt number, inspection certificate number, variety, crop year of production, and the net weight, if any, of prunes shown by the applicable incoming inspection certificate to be disposed of for nonhuman consumption in accordance with § 993.150(g); (5) the total net weight of prunes held by each handler, as of the date specified in the committee's request and the tonnage of reserve prunes by size in each category; and (2) the handler's estimate of the tonnage of prunes held by producers and dehydrators from whom the handler received prunes during the current or preceding crop year, of the tonnage and quality and size of prunes expected to be produced by such producers and dehydrators during the current or following crop year, of current prices being received by producers, dehydrators, and handlers, and of the probable trade demand.


§ 993.174 Records.

Each handler shall maintain such records as are necessary to furnish the reports required to be submitted to the Committee by him under this subpart including, but not limited to, records of all transactions on prunes received, held and disposed of by him, and he shall retain such records for at least two years after the end of the crop year.
in which the applicable transaction occurred.


EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .399) and “Marketing percentage” regulations (e.g., sections .200 through .299) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 993.347 Assessment rate.

On and after August 1, 1997, an assessment rate of $1.60 per salable ton is established for California dried prunes.


Subpart—Undersized Prune Regulation

§ 993.400 Modifications.

Pursuant to the authority in §993.52, the provisions in §993.49(c) prescribing size openings for undersized prune regulations are hereby modified to permit larger size openings. For French prunes, any undersized regulation may prescribe an opening of $\frac{2}{5}$ of an inch or $\frac{2}{5}$ of an inch; for non-French prunes, any undersized regulation may prescribe an opening of $\frac{2}{5}$ of an inch or $\frac{2}{5}$ of an inch.

[40 FR 42531, Sept. 15, 1975]

Subpart—Pack Specification as to Size

§ 993.515 Size categories.

For the purpose of this part, the pack specifications prescribed for the packing of prunes in consumer packages shall, subject to the limitation prescribed in §993.516, be according to those commercially recognized size categories as are listed in paragraph (a) of this section by numerical designation or in paragraph (b) of this section by nomenclature designation.

(a) Numerical designations. Each of the following is a numerical size category described by the range of the size counts of prunes per pounds included in the respective size categories expressed as follows or in an applicable equivalent range expressed in the metric system per 500 grams: 15/20, 15/22, 18/24, 20/30, 25/35, 30/40, 35/45, 40/50, 50/60, 60/70, 70/80, 75/85, 80/90, and 90/100.

(b) Nomenclature designations. Each of the following is a nomenclature size category defined.

(1) Extra large;
(2) Large;
(3) Medium; and
(4) Small, breakfast, petite, or economy.

(c) Nomenclature designations defined. As used in paragraph (b) of this section:
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 993.601

(1) Extra large means any size count which falls within the range of 25 to 40 prunes, inclusive, per pound;

(2) Large means any size count which falls within the range of 40 to 60 prunes, inclusive, per pound;

(3) Medium means any size count which falls within the range of 60 to 85 prunes, inclusive, per pound; and

(4) Small, breakfast, petite, or economy means any size count which falls within the range of 85 to 100 prunes, inclusive, per pound.


§ 993.516 Tolerances and limitations.

With respect to in-line inspections and floor inspections, prunes in a particular lot shall, subject to the other applicable requirements of this section, be considered as being according to a particular size category prescribed in §993.515 if the average size count of the prunes in such lot falls within the range of the size counts specified for such size category, and the count per pound of 10 ounces of the smallest prunes in a sample of 100 ounces varies from the count per pound of 10 ounces of the largest prunes in such sample by no more than 45 points.


COMPLIANCE

§ 993.518 Compliance.

Whenever the season average price to producers for prunes is below the parity level specified in section 2(1) of the act, no handler shall ship consumer packages of prunes unless such prunes are packed and labeled in accordance with the specifications prescribed in this subpart; and whether prices are above or below parity, no handler shall use the nomenclature designations in §993.515(b) to describe size categories other than those prescribed pursuant to §993.515(c).

Subpart—Grade Regulations

§ 993.601 More restrictive grade regulation.

(a) Incoming and outgoing grade regulation. Whenever the estimated season average price to producers for prunes does not exceed the parity level specified in section 2(1) of the act, the minimum standards which handlers' receipts of natural condition prunes are required to meet pursuant to §993.49(a) shall be the standards specified in §§993.49(a) and 993.97(1), and the minimum standards which handlers' shipments or other final dispositions of prunes are required to meet pursuant to §993.50(a) shall be the applicable standards set forth in §993.97 Exhibit A; minimum standards, except that the following revised tolerance allowances shall apply in lieu of the tolerance allowances prescribed in paragraphs I C(2), II C(3), I C(5) and II C(6) of §993.97 as follows:
§ 993.602 Maximum tolerances.

In lieu of the provision prescribed in I C of § 993.97 that the tolerance allowances prescribed therein shall be on a weight basis, the tolerance allowance percentage for each defect or group of defects in I C of § 993.97 shall be derived by dividing the number of prunes in the applicable sample affected with the applicable defect(s) by the total number of prunes in such sample.

[39 FR 30344, Aug. 22, 1974]

PART 997—PROVISIONS REGULATING THE QUALITY OF DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED PEANUTS HANDLED BY PERSONS NOT SUBJECT TO THE PEANUT MARKETING AGREEMENT

DEFINITIONS

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997.2 Fruit and Vegetable Division.

997.3 Act.

997.4 Person.

997.5 Peanuts.

997.6 Loose shelled kernels.

997.7 Fall through.

997.8 Pickouts.

997.9 Fragmented.

997.10 Producer.

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997.12 Area association.

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997.30 Outgoing regulation.

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997.50 Inspection, chemical analysis, certification and identification.

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997.51 Assessments.

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997.52 Reports of acquisitions and shipments.

997.53 Verification of reports.

997.54 Agents.

ASSESSMENT RATES

997.101 Assessment rate.


SOURCE: 55 FR 49983, Dec. 4, 1990, unless otherwise noted.
§ 997.5 Peanuts.

Peanuts means the seeds of the legume arachis hypogaea and includes both inshell and shelled peanuts, other than those marketed by the producer in green form for consumption as boiled peanuts.

(a) Farmers stock. Farmers stock peanuts means picked and threshed peanuts which have not been shelled, crushed, cleaned or otherwise changed (except for removal of foreign material, loose shelled kernels and excess moisture) from the form in which customarily marketed by producers.

(b) Segregation 1. Segregation 1 peanuts means farmers' stock peanuts with not more than 2 percent damaged kernels nor more than 1.00 percent concealed damage caused by rancidity, mold, or decay and which are free from visible Aspergillus flavus.

(c) Segregation 2. Segregation 2 peanuts means farmers' stock peanuts with more than 2 percent damaged kernels or more than 1.00 percent concealed damage caused by rancidity, mold, or decay and which are free from visible Aspergillus flavus.

(d) Segregation 3. Segregation 3 peanuts means farmers' stock peanuts with visible Aspergillus flavus.

§ 997.6 Loose shelled kernels.

Loose shelled kernels means peanut kernels or portions of kernels completely free of their hulls and found in deliveries of farmers' stock peanuts.

§ 997.7 Fall through.

Fall through means sound split and broken kernels and whole kernels which pass through specified screens.

§ 997.8 Pickouts.

Pickouts means those peanuts removed during the final milling process at the picking table, by electronic equipment, or otherwise during the milling process.

§ 997.9 Fragmented.

For the purpose of this part, fragmented means that not more than 30 percent of the peanuts shall be whole kernels that ride the following screens, by type: Spanish 13/64×3/4 inch slot; Runner 16/64×3/4 inch slot; and Virginia 13/64×1 inch slot.

§ 997.11 Producer.

Producer means any person engaged within the area in a proprietary capacity in the production of peanuts for sale.

§ 997.12 Production areas.

Production areas mean all States with commercial production of peanuts including:

(a) The Southeastern Area consisting of the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and that part of South Carolina south and west of the Santee-Congaree-Broad Rivers.

(b) The Southwestern Area consisting of the States of Arizona, Arkansas, California, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

(c) The Virginia-Carolina Area consisting of the States of Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and that part of South Carolina north and east of the Santee-Congaree-Broad Rivers.

§ 997.13 Area association.

Area association means for the Southeastern area, GFA Peanut Association, Camilla, Georgia; Southwestern area, Southwestern Peanut Growers Association, Gorman, Texas; and Virginia-Carolina area, Peanut Growers Cooperative Marketing Association, Franklin, Virginia.

§ 997.14 Handle.

Handle means to engage in the receiving or acquiring, cleaning and shelling, cleaning inshell, or crushing of peanuts and in the shipment (except as a common or contract carrier of peanuts owned by another) or sale of inshell or shelled peanuts or other activity causing peanuts to enter the current of commerce: Provided, That this term does not include sales or deliveries of peanuts by a producer to a handler or to an intermediary person engaged in delivering peanuts to handler(s): And Provided further, That this term does not include sales or deliveries of peanuts by such intermediary person(s) to a handler.
§ 997.15 Handler.

Handler means any person who handles peanuts, in a capacity other than that of a custom cleaner or dryer, an assembler, a warehouseman or other intermediary between the producer and the person handling; Provided, That this term does not include handlers signatory to the Peanut Marketing Agreement.

§ 997.16 Crop year.

Crop year means the 12-month period beginning with July 1 of any year and ending with June 30 of the following year.

§ 997.17 Inspection service.

Inspection service means the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

QUALITY REGULATIONS

§ 997.20 Incoming regulation.

(a) No handler shall receive or acquire peanuts intended for human consumption, either from a producer or other person, unless such peanuts are inspected pursuant to §997.50 and are determined to be Segregation 1 peanuts at time of receipt from the producer or, if received from another person, had not been mixed with peanuts of a lower quality than Segregation 1 and meet the following additional requirements specified in this section; Provided, That a handler may—

(1) Acquire shelled peanuts from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) or cleaned inshell or shelled peanuts from other handlers, a handler as defined in 7 CFR 998.8, or from buyers who have purchased such peanuts from handlers or from the CCC, if the lot has been certified as meeting the requirements of §997.30(a) and the identity is maintained; and/or

(2) Perform services for an area association pursuant to a peanut receiving and warehouse contract.

(b) Moisture and foreign material—

(1) Moisture. Except as provided under paragraph (d) of §997.20, no handler shall receive or acquire peanuts containing more than 10.49 percent moisture prior to storing or milling. For farmers stock peanuts, moisture determinations shall be rounded to the nearest whole number. Moisture determinations on shelled peanuts shall be carried to the hundredths place.

(2) Foreign material. No handler shall receive or acquire farmers stock peanuts containing more than 10.49 percent foreign material, except that peanuts having a higher foreign material content may be received or acquired if they are held separately until milled, or moved over a sand-screen before storage, or shipped directly to a plant for prompt shelling. The term sand-screen means any type of farmers stock cleaner which, when in use, removes sand and dirt.

(c) Damage. For the purpose of determining damage, other than concealed damage, on farmers stock peanuts, all percentage determinations shall be rounded to the nearest whole number.

(d) Seed peanuts. Peanuts which are not Segregation 1 peanuts and therefore cannot be acquired for human consumption may be acquired, shelled and delivered for seed purposes. Peanuts intended for seed use, produced under the auspices of a State agency which regulates or controls the production of seed peanuts, which do not meet Segregation 1 requirements shall be stored and shelled separate from peanuts intended for human consumption. However, Segregation 2 seed peanuts, produced under the auspices of the State agency, which contain up to 3.00 percent damaged kernels and are free from visible Aspergillus flavus may be stored and shelled with Segregation 1 peanuts which are also produced under the auspices of the State agency. A handler whose operations include custom seed shelling may receive, custom shell, and deliver for seed purposes farmers stock peanuts, and such peanuts shall be exempt from the requirements of this section and, therefore, shall not be required to be inspected and certified as meeting these requirements, and the handler shall report to the Division the weight of each lot of farmers stock peanuts received on such basis on a form provided by the Department. However, handlers who acquire seed peanut residuals from their custom shelling of
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA §997.30

uninspected (farmers stock) seed peanuts or from another person may mill such residuals with other receipts or acquisitions of the handler, and such peanuts which meet the requirements specified in §997.30(a) may be disposed of by sale to human consumption outlets.

(e) Oilstock. Handlers may acquire for disposition to domestic crushing or export farmers stock peanuts of a lower quality than Segregation 1 or grades or sizes of shelled peanuts or cleaned inshell peanuts which fail to meet the requirements for human consumption. Handlers may act as accumulators and acquire, for other handlers; a handler as defined in 7 CFR 998.8 or from other persons, Segregation 2 or 3 farmers stock peanuts. Handlers may also acquire shelled peanuts originating from Segregation 2 or 3 farmers stock or the entire mill production of peanuts from Segregation 1 farmers stock or lots of shelled peanuts originating from Segregation 1 peanuts and which have been positive lot identified as specified in §997.30(d), which failed to meet the requirements for human consumption pursuant to §997.30(a). Provided, That all such acquisitions are held separate from Segregation 1 peanuts acquired for milling or from edible grades of shelled or milled peanuts. Handlers may commingle the Segregation 2 and 3 peanuts or keep them separate and apart. Handlers who acquire farmers stock peanuts of a lower quality than Segregation 1 or cleaned inshell peanuts which fail to meet the requirements for human consumption shall report such acquisitions to the Division as prescribed on a form prescribed by the Division. Handlers who acquire grades or sizes of shelled peanuts which fail to meet the requirements for human consumption for disposition to domestic crushing and subsequent export to countries shall report such disposition on a form provided by the Division.

(f) Shelled peanuts. Handlers may acquire shelled peanuts (which originated from “Segregation 1 peanuts”) from other handlers or a handler as defined in 7 CFR 998.8, for remilling and subsequent disposition to human consumption outlets. Further disposition of such peanuts shall be regulated by §997.40.

(g) No producer may handle, process, prepare for sale, or otherwise alter peanuts of his own production from the condition of farmers stock, for disposition in human consumption outlets unless such peanuts are first inspected and certified pursuant to §997.50 and meet the applicable requirements of this section.


§997.30 Outgoing Regulation.

(a) Shelled peanuts. (1)(i) No handler shall ship or otherwise dispose of shelled peanuts for human consumption unless such peanuts are positive lot identified, certified “negative” as to aflatoxin and certified as meeting the requirements in table 1:

Table 1—Minimum Grade Requirements—Peanuts for Human Consumption

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and grade category</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts, damaged kernels (percent)</th>
<th>Unshelled, damaged kernels and minor defects (percent)</th>
<th>Fall through</th>
<th>Sound split and broken kernels</th>
<th>Sound whole kernels</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Foreign materials (percent)</th>
<th>Moisture (percent)</th>
<th>Excluding lots of “splits”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Runner</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>1 3/16 inch round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.00%</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia (except No. 2).</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>1 3/16 inch round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.00%</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish and Valencia.</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>1 3/16 inch round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.00%</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 2 Virginia ..........</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>6.00%</td>
<td>1 3/16 inch round screen.</td>
<td>6.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.00%</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 1—MINIMUM GRADE REQUIREMENTS—PEANUTS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION—Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and grade category</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts, damaged kernels and minor defects (percent)</th>
<th>Fall through</th>
<th>Foreign materials (percent)</th>
<th>Moisture (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unshelled peanuts, damaged kernels and minor defects (percent)</td>
<td>Sound split and broken kernels</td>
<td>Sound whole kernels</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.00%; 17/64 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 14/64 x 3/4 inch; slot screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runner (not more than 4% sound whole kernels).</td>
<td>1.50 2.50</td>
<td>3.00%; 1/16 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 3/32 x 1/8 inch; slot screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia (not less than 90% splits).</td>
<td>1.50 2.50</td>
<td>3.00%; 17/64 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 14/64 x 1/8 inch; slot screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish and Valencia (not more than 4% sound whole kernels).</td>
<td>1.50 2.50</td>
<td>3.00%; 17/64 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 14/64 x 1/8 inch; slot screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(ii) Prior to disposition to human consumption outlets, peanuts which have been certified as meeting the requirements for Indemnifiable Grades must also be certified “negative” as to aflatoxin. Maximum limitations for Indemnifiable Grades are as follows:

### TABLE 2—SUPERIOR QUALITY REQUIREMENTS—PEANUTS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and grade category</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts and damaged kernels (percent)</th>
<th>Fall through</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Moisture (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unshelled peanuts and damaged kernels (percent)</td>
<td>Sound split and broken kernels</td>
<td>Sound whole kernels</td>
<td>Foreign materials (percent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.00%; 17/64 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 3/16 x 1/4 inch; slot screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runner U.S. No. 1 and better.</td>
<td>1.25 2.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 17/64 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 3/16 x 1/4 inch; slot screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia U.S. No. 1 and better.</td>
<td>1.25 2.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 17/64 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 3/16 x 1/4 inch; slot screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish and Valencia U.S. No. 1 and better.</td>
<td>1.25 2.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 17/64 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 3/16 x 1/4 inch; slot screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runner U.S. Splits (not more than 4% sound, whole kernels).</td>
<td>1.25 2.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 17/64 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 3/16 x 1/4 inch; slot screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia U.S. Splits (not more than 4% sound, whole kernels).</td>
<td>1.25 2.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 17/64 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 3/16 x 1/4 inch; slot screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish and Valencia U.S. Splits (not more than 4% sound, whole kernels).</td>
<td>1.25 2.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 17/64 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 3/16 x 1/4 inch; slot screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runner with splits (not more than 15% sound splits).</td>
<td>1.25 2.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 17/64 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 3/16 x 1/4 inch; slot screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 2—SUPERIOR QUALITY REQUIREMENTS—PEANUTS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION—Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and grade category</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts, damaged kernels and minor defects (percent)</th>
<th>Fall through</th>
<th>Foreign materials (percent)</th>
<th>Moisture (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sound split and broken kernels (percent)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia with splits (not more than 15% sound splits)</td>
<td>1.25 2.00 3.00%; 17 (\frac{5}{64}) inch, round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 16 (\frac{5}{64}) inch, slot screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
<td>.10 9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish and Valencia with splits (not more than 15% sound splits)</td>
<td>1.25 2.00 3.00%; 16 (\frac{5}{64}) inch, round screen.</td>
<td>2.00%; 15 (\frac{5}{64}) x 3 (\frac{3}{4}) inch, slot screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
<td>.10 9.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) The term “fall through”, as used herein, shall mean sound split and broken kernels and whole kernels which pass through specified screens. Prior to shipment, appropriate samples for pre-testing shall be drawn in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section from each lot of Superior Quality peanuts. For the current crop year, “negative” aflatoxin content means 15 parts per billion (ppb) or less for peanuts which have been certified as meeting edible quality grade requirements.

(b) Cleaned inshell peanuts. No handler shall ship, sell, or otherwise dispose of cleaned inshell peanuts for human consumption:

(1) With more than 1.00 percent kernels with mold present unless a sample of such peanuts, drawn by an inspector of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, was analyzed chemically by a U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratory (hereinafter referred to as “USDA laboratory”) or a laboratory listed in paragraph (c) of this section and found to be wholesome relative to aflatoxin;

(2) With more than 2.00 percent peanuts with damaged kernels;

(3) With more than 10.00 percent moisture; or

(4) With more than 0.50 percent foreign material.

(c) Sampling and testing shelled peanuts. (1) Each handler shall cause appropriate samples of each lot of edible quality shelled peanuts to be drawn by an inspector of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service. The gross amount of peanuts drawn shall be large enough to provide for the sample analysis, for grading check-sample, and for three 48-pound samples for aflatoxin assay. The three 48-pound samples shall be designated by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service as “Sample #1N”, “Sample #2N”, and “Sample #3N” and each sample shall be placed in a suitable container and “positive lot identified” by means acceptable to the Inspection Service. Sample #1N may be prepared for immediate testing or Sample #1N, Sample #2N, and Sample #3N may be returned to the handler for testing at a later date.

(2) The handler shall cause Sample #1N to be ground by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, a USDA laboratory or a laboratory listed herein, in a “subsampling mill” approved by the Division. The resultant ground subsample from Sample #1N shall be of a size specified by the Division and shall be designated as “Subsample 1—ABN” and at the handler’s or buyer’s option, a second subsample may also be extracted from Sample #1N. It shall be designated as “Subsample 1—CDN”. Subsample 1—CDN may be sent as requested by the handler or buyer, for aflatoxin assay, to a USDA laboratory or other laboratory that can provide analyses results on such samples in 36 hours. The cost of sampling and testing Subsample 1—CDN shall be for the account of the requester. Subsample 1—ABN shall be analyzed only in a USDA
laboratory or a laboratory listed herein. Both Subsamples 1—ABN and 1—CDN shall be accompanied by a notice of sampling signed by the inspector containing, at least, identifying information as to the handler (shipper), the buyer (receiver), if known, and the positive lot identification of the shelled peanuts. A copy of such notice covering each lot shall be sent to the Division.

(3) The samples designated as Sample #2N and Sample #3N shall be held as aflatoxin check-samples by the Inspection Service or the handler and shall not be included in the shipment to the buyer until the analyses results from Sample #1N are known.

(4) Upon call from the laboratory, handler shall cause Sample #2N to be ground by the Inspection Service in a "subsampling mill." The resultant ground subsample from Sample #2N shall be of a size specified by the Division and it shall be designated as "Subsample #2—ABN." Upon call from the laboratory, the handler shall cause Sample #3N to be ground by the Inspection Service in a "subsampling mill." The resultant ground subsample from Sample #3N shall be of a size specified by the Division and shall be designated as "Subsample #3—ABN." "Subsamples 2—ABN and 3—ABN" shall be analyzed only in a USDA laboratory or a laboratory listed herein and each shall be accompanied by a notice of sampling. A copy of each such notice shall be sent to the Division. The results of each assay shall be reported by the laboratory to the handler and to the Division. All costs involved in the sampling and testing of peanuts required by this regulation shall be for the account of the applicant.

(5) Information on making arrangements for the required inspection and certification can be obtained by contacting the Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, room 2049-S, Washington, DC, 20090-6456, telephone (202) 690-0604 or facsimile (202) 720-0393.

(i) Laboratories at the following locations are approved to perform the chemical analyses required pursuant to this part. The sampling plan and procedures may be obtained from the Science and Technology Division.

Science and Technology Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 279, 301 West Pearl St., Aulander, NC 27505, Tel: (919) 345-1661 Ext. 156, Fax: (919) 345-1991.

Science and Technology Division, AMS, USDA, 1211 Schley Ave., Albany, GA 31707, Tel: (912) 430-8400/401, Fax: (912) 430-8534.

Science and Technology Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 488, Ashburn, GA 31714, Tel: (912) 567-3703.

Science and Technology Division, AMS, USDA, 610 North Main St., Blakely, GA 31723, Tel: (912) 723-4570, Fax: (912) 723-3204.

Science and Technology Division, AMS, USDA, 1357 Reeves St., Dothan, AL 36303, Tel: (334) 794-5070, Fax: (334) 671-7894.

Science and Technology Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 1130, 308 Culloden St., Suffolk, VA 23434, Tel: (804) 925-2286, Fax: (804) 925-2285.

ABC Research, 3437 SW 24th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32607-4502, Tel: (904) 378-0436, Fax: (904) 378-6838.

J. Leek Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 5036, 1200 Wyandotte (31705), Albany, GA 31703-0395, Tel: (912) 889-8093, Fax: (912) 888-1166.

J. Leek Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 368, 675 East Pine, Colquitt, GA 31737, Tel: (912) 758-3722, Fax: (912) 758-2538.

J. Leek Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 6, 502 West Navarro St., Deltona, FL 32744, Tel: (386) 889-3063, Fax: (386) 3063.

Pert Laboratories, P.O. Box 267, Peanut Drive, Edenton, NC 27932, Tel: (919) 482-4456, Fax: (919) 482-5370.

Pert Laboratory South, P.O. Box 149, Hwy 82 East, Seabrook Drive, Sylvester, GA 31737, Tel: (912) 776-7676, Fax: (912) 776-1137.

Professional Service Industries, Inc., 3 Burwood Lane, San Antonio, TX 78216, Tel: (210) 349-5242, Fax: (210) 342-9401.

Southern Cotton Oil Company, 600 E. Nelson Street, P.O. Box 180, Quanah, TX 79252, Tel: (917) 663-5323, Fax: (917) 663-5091.

Quanta Lab, 9330 Corporate Drive, Suite 703, Selma, TX 76154-1257, Tel: (210) 651-5799, Fax: (210) 651-8271.

(ii) Handlers should contact the nearest laboratory from the list in paragraph (c)(5)(i) of this section to arrange to have samples chemically analyzed for aflatoxin content, or for further information concerning the chemical analyses required pursuant to this part. Handlers may contact: The Science and Technology Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, P.O. Box 1130, 308 Culloden St., Suffolk, VA 23434, Tel: (804) 925-2286, Fax: (804) 925-2285.
(d) Identification. Each lot of shelled or cleaned inshell peanuts, in lot sizes not exceeding 200,000 pounds, shall be identified by positive lot identification procedures prior to being shipped or otherwise disposed of. For the purpose of this regulation, “positive lot identification” of a lot of shelled or inshell peanuts is a means of relating the inspection certificate to the lot which has been inspected so that there can be no doubt that the peanuts are the same ones described on the inspection certificate. The crop year that is shown on the positive lot identification tags, or other means of positive lot identification shall accurately describe the crop year in which the peanuts in the lot were produced. Such procedure on bagged peanuts shall consist of attaching a lot numbered tag bearing the official stamp of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service to each filled bag in the lot. The tag shall be sewed (machine sewed if shelled peanuts) into the closure of the bag except that in plastic bags the tag shall be inserted prior to sealing so that the official stamp is visible. Any peanuts moved in bulk or bulk bins shall have their lot identity maintained by sealing the conveyance and if in other containers by other means acceptable to the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service.

All lots of shelled or cleaned inshell peanuts shall be handled, stored, and shipped under positive lot identification procedures, except those lots which have been reconstituted and/or commingled at the request of the requestor. All such reconstituted and/or commingled lots will no longer be considered positive lot identified and, therefore, no longer be eligible for appeal inspection. Handler shall keep and maintain records of the quantities involved in each reconstituting and/or commingling procedure, whether in single or multiple lots, and such records shall be available to the Division on request.

(e) Reinspection. Whenever the Division has reason to believe that peanuts may have been damaged or deteriorated while in storage, the Division may reject the then effective inspection certificate and may require the owner of the peanuts to have a reinspection to establish whether or not such peanuts may be disposed of for human consumption.


§ 997.40 Reconditioning and disposition of peanuts failing quality requirements.

(a) Lots of peanuts which have not been certified as meeting the requirements for disposition to human consumption outlets, may be disposed of for non-human consumption uses which are not regulated or limited by the provisions specified in this section: Provided, That each such lot is positive lot identified, using red tags, and certified as to aflatoxin content (actual numerical count). However, on the shipping papers covering the disposition of each such lot of inedible quality peanuts, the handler shall cause the following statement to be shown: “The peanuts covered by this bill of lading (or invoice, etc.) are not to be used for human consumption.”

(b) Except for inedible quality peanuts disposed of under the provisions of paragraph (f)(2) of this section and peanuts derived from the milling for seed of Segregation 2 and 3 farmers stock peanuts, peanuts which have not been certified as meeting the standards set forth in paragraphs (a) or (b) of § 997.30 shall be disposed of as prescribed hereinafter in this section.

(c) Sheller Oil Stock Residuals—For Crushing or Export. Peanuts, or portions of peanuts which are separated from edible quality peanuts by screening or sorting or other means during the milling process, may be segregated into categories or they may be commingled as sheller oil stock residuals. Such sheller oil stock residuals shall be identified pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section, but using a red tag, and such peanuts may be disposed of domestically or to the export market, in bulk or bags or other suitable containers. The movement of such peanuts shall be reported to the Division by the shipping handler and the crusher, as requested by the Division. (1) If the peanuts have not been tested and certified as to aflatoxin content,
as prescribed in paragraph (c) of this section, the handler shall cause the following statement to be shown on the shipping papers: "The peanuts covered by this bill of lading (or invoice, etc.) are limited to crushing only and may contain aflatoxin."

(2) If the peanuts are certified as 301 ppb or more aflatoxin content, disposition shall be limited to crushing or export.

(d) Blanching peanuts failing quality requirements. Handlers may blanch or cause to have blanched positive lot identified shelled peanuts, which originated from Segregation 1 peanuts, that fail to meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section because of excessive damage, minor defects, moisture, or foreign material or are positive as to aflatoxin. Lots of peanuts which are moved under these provisions must be accompanied by a valid grade inspection certificate and the title shall be retained by the handler until the peanuts are blanched and certified by an inspector of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service as meeting the requirements for disposal into human consumption outlets specified in paragraph (a) of this section, and be accompanied by a negative aflatoxin certificate. Blanching under these provisions may include composite remilling of more than one such lot of peanuts owned by the same handler. However, such peanuts owned by one handler shall be held and remilled separate and apart from other peanuts. The residual peanuts resulting from remilling under these provisions, shall be bagged and red tagged and disposition shall be that such peanuts are returned to the handler for further disposition; or, in the alternative, such residuals shall be positive lot identified by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, and shall be disposed of, by the remiller, to crushers who agree to comply with the terms of paragraph (c) of this section.

(e) Remilling peanuts failing quality requirements. Handlers may remill or cause to have remilled shelled peanuts, which originated from Segregation 1 peanuts, that fail to meet the requirements for disposition to human consumption outlets herefore specified in paragraph (a) of this section: Provided, That such lots of peanuts contain not in excess of 10 percent fall through. Lots of peanuts moved under these provisions must be accompanied by a valid grade inspection certificate and must be positive lot identified and the title of such peanuts shall be retained by the handler until the peanuts have been remilled and certified by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service as meeting the requirements for disposition to human consumption outlets specified in paragraph (a) of this section, and be accompanied by a negative aflatoxin certificate. Remilling under these provisions may include composite remilling of more than one such lot of peanuts owned by the same handler. However, such peanuts owned by one handler shall be held and remilled separate and apart from other peanuts. The residual peanuts resulting from remilling under these provisions, shall be bagged and red tagged and disposition shall be that such peanuts are returned to the handler for further disposition; or, in the alternative, such residuals shall be positive lot identified by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, and shall be disposed of, by the remiller, to crushers who agree to comply with the terms of paragraph (c) of this section.
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 997.101 Assessment rate.

On and after July 1, 1997, an administrative assessment rate of $0.35 per net
ton of assessable farmers stock peanuts received or acquired by each non-signatory first handler is established for peanuts.


PART 998—MARKETING AGREEMENT REGULATING THE QUALITY OF DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED PEANUTS

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SOURCE: 53 FR 20291, June 3, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

DEFINITIONS

§ 998.1 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States or any officer or employee of the United States Department of Agriculture who is, or who may hereafter be, authorized to act in his stead.

§ 998.2 Act.

Act means Public Act No. 10, 73d Congress (May 12, 1933), as amended and as re-enacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

§ 998.3 Person.

Person means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or any other business unit.

§ 998.4 Area.

Area means all States with commercial production of peanuts and includes the States of Virginia, North Carolina,
South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

§ 998.5 Peanuts.

Peanuts means the seeds of the legume arachis hypogaea and includes both inshell and shelled other than those marketed by the producer in green form for consumption as boiled peanuts.

(a) Farmers Stock. Farmers stock peanuts means picked and threshed peanuts which have not been shelled, crushed, cleaned, or otherwise changed (except for removal of foreign material, loose shelled kernels and excess moisture) from the form in which customarily marketed by producers.

(b) Segregation 1. Segregation 1 peanuts means farmers stock peanuts with not more than 2 percent damaged kernels nor more than 1.00 percent concealed damage caused by rancidity, mold or decay.

(c) Segregation 2. Segregation 2 peanuts means farmers stock peanuts with more than 2 percent but not more than 4 percent damaged kernels nor more than 1.00 percent concealed damage caused by rancidity, mold or decay.

(d) Segregation 3. Segregation 3 peanuts means farmers stock peanuts with more than 4 percent damaged kernels or more than 1.00 percent concealed damage caused by rancidity, mold or decay.

(e) The definitions set forth in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section may be modified by the Secretary pursuant to §998.34.

§ 998.6 Producer.

Producer means any person engaged within the area in a proprietary capacity in the production of peanuts for sale.

§ 998.7 Handle.

Handle means to engage in the receiving or acquiring, cleaning and shelling, cleaning inshell, or crushing of peanuts and in the shipment (except as a common or contract carrier of peanuts owned by another) or sale of cleaned inshell or shelled peanuts or other activity causing peanuts to enter the current of commerce: Provided, That this term does not include sales or deliveries of peanuts by a producer to a handler or to an intermediary person engaged in delivering peanuts to handler(s) and Provided further, That this term does not include sales or deliveries of peanuts by such intermediary person(s) to a handler.

§ 998.8 Handler.

Handler means any person who handles peanuts, in a capacity other than that of a custom cleaner or dryer, an assembler, a warehouseman or other intermediary between the producer and the person handling, and who is a party to this agreement.

§ 998.9 Crop year.

Crop year is synonymous with fiscal year and means the 12-month period beginning with July 1 of any year and ending with June 30 of the following year.

§ 998.10 Production areas.

Production areas mean (a) The Southeastern Area consisting of the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and that part of South Carolina south and west of the Santee-Congaree-Broad Rivers.

(b) The Southwestern Area consisting of the States of Arizona, Arkansas, California, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

(c) The Virginia-Carolina Area consisting of the States of Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and that part of South Carolina north and east of the Santee-Congaree-Broad Rivers.

§ 998.11 Area association.

Area association means for the Southeastern area, GFA Peanut Association, Camilla, Georgia; Southwestern area, Southwestern Peanut Growers Association, Gorman, Texas; and Virginia-Carolina area, Peanut Growers Cooperative Marketing Association, Franklin, Virginia.

§ 998.15 Establishment and membership.

A Peanut Administrative Committee (hereinafter referred to as committee)
§ 998.16 Eligibility.

Each producer member of the committee and alternate member, shall be, at the time of his selection and during his term of office, a producer, or an officer or employee of an area association, in the area for which selected and shall cease to be a member or alternate upon engaging in the handling of peanuts either in a proprietary capacity or as a director, officer, or employee of other than a cooperative association. Each handler member of the committee, and his alternate, shall be, at the time of his selection, a handler or an officer or employee of a handler in the area for which selected and shall throughout his term of office so continue to be a handler.

§ 998.17 Term of office.

Members and alternate members of the committee shall serve for terms of 3 years ending on April 30 but initial members and alternates shall be selected for terms of 1, 2, or 3 years so that one-third of the producer and handler representatives in each area may be replaced each year. Each member and alternate member shall continue to serve until his successor is selected and has qualified.

§ 998.18 Initial committee.

The initial members of the committee and their respective alternates shall be as follows:

Southeastern area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Producers</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Alternate member</th>
<th>Term of office years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area Assn</td>
<td>D.H. Harden</td>
<td>W.G. Miller</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>James E. Mobley</td>
<td>T. Lewis Knox</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Emmett Reynolds</td>
<td>Billy Newberry</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handlers</td>
<td>Don W. Sands</td>
<td>Tom Chandler</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Anderson</td>
<td>J.B. Roberts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R.C. Singletary, Jr.</td>
<td>Robert Pender</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Southwestern area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Producers</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Alternate member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area Assn</td>
<td>Ross Wilson</td>
<td>B.D. Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>O.B. Warren</td>
<td>E.A. Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Barton Scott</td>
<td>Jesse Leach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handlers</td>
<td>John Haskins</td>
<td>Pat Cagle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Melvin Shell</td>
<td>Ellis L. Ganey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Burroughs</td>
<td>R.L. Borden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Virginia-Carolina area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Producers</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Alternate member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area Assn</td>
<td>S. Womack Lee</td>
<td>J.F. Turner, Sr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Joe S. Sugg</td>
<td>Minton Beach, Jr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large</td>
<td>Wm. V. Rawlings</td>
<td>G.B. Ligon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
§ 998.19 Nomination.

Producers and handlers may nominate their successor representatives to those named in § 998.18 at meetings held in each area except that each area association representative shall be nominated by the association. The committee shall hold and shall give reasonable publicity to nomination meetings and may use the respective area associations to convene meetings of the producers. Only persons eligible to serve shall be eligible to vote. Each producer and each handler shall have but one vote, but a handler may vote in each production area in which he is a handler and if engaged in peanut production, may vote in his capacity as a producer. The person receiving the largest number of the votes cast for a position shall be the nominee. All nominations shall be certified by the committee to the Secretary no later than April 5 preceding the commencement of the term of office.

§ 998.20 Selection.

The Secretary shall select successor producer and handler members and alternate members of the committee in the numbers and with the qualifications specified in this agreement. Such selections may be made from the nominations certified by the committee or from other eligible producers and handlers.

§ 998.21 Failure to nominate.

In the event a nominee for any member or alternate member position is not certified pursuant to and within the time specified, the Secretary may select an eligible person to fill such position without regard to nomination.

§ 998.22 Qualify by acceptance.

Each person selected by the Secretary as a member or as an alternate member shall, prior to serving, qualify by filing with the Secretary a written acceptance as soon as practicable after being notified of such selection.

§ 998.23 Alternate members.

An alternate for a member shall act in the place and stead of such member: (a) During his absence, or (b) in the event of his removal, resignation, disqualification, or death, until a successor for such member's unexpired term has been selected and has qualified.

§ 998.24 Vacancies.

Any vacancy occasioned by the removal, resignation, disqualification, or death of any member or alternate, or any need to select a successor through failure of any person selected as a member or alternate member to qualify, and which is not recognized by the committee certifying to the Secretary a new nominee within 40 calendar days, may be filled pursuant to §998.21.

§ 998.25 Compensation and expenses.

The members of the committee, and the alternate members when acting as members, shall serve without compensation but shall be allowed their necessary expenses, actual or per diem as approved by the committee.

§ 998.26 Procedure.

All decisions of the committee reached at an assembled meeting shall be by majority vote of the members present except that a change of a quality regulation shall require approval of 75 percent of the members. Meetings, or portions of meetings, concerned with marketing policy or quality regulation shall be open to all members of the peanut industry. All votes in an assembled meeting shall be cast in person and a quorum must be present for a valid decision. A quorum shall consist of not less than 50 percent of the producer members and 50 percent of the handler members. The committee may vote by mail or telegram upon due notice to all members, but any proposition so voted upon first shall be explained accurately, fully, and identically by mail or telegram, to all such
§ 998.27

The committee shall have the following powers:

(a) To administer the agreement in accordance with its terms and provisions;
(b) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary, complaints of violations of this agreement; and
(c) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this agreement.

§ 998.28

The committee shall have the following duties:

(a) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer or handler;
(b) To keep minutes, books, and other records which shall clearly reflect all of its acts and transactions and these shall be subject to examination by the Secretary at any time;
(c) To investigate and assemble data on the production, handling, and marketing of peanuts;
(d) To submit to the Secretary such available information with respect to peanuts as he may request and such other information as the committee may deem desirable and pertinent;
(e) To select from among its members a chairman and other officers and to adopt such by-laws for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;
(f) To appoint or employ such persons as it may deem necessary and to determine the salaries and define the duties of each such person;
(g) To cause the books of the committee to be audited by a certified public accountant at least once each crop year and at such other times as the committee may deem necessary or as the Secretary may request, to submit two copies of each such audit report to the Secretary, and to make available a copy which does not contain confidential data for inspection at the offices of the committee by producers and handlers;
(h) To prepare and submit to the Secretary quarterly statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make such statements together with the minutes of the meetings of said committee available for inspection at the offices of the committee by producers and handlers;
(i) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to members;
(j) To investigate compliance with and to use means available to the committee to prevent violation of the provisions of this agreement; and
(k) To establish with the approval of the Secretary such rules and regulations as are necessary or incidental to administration of this agreement, as are consistent with its provisions, and as would tend to accomplish the purposes of this agreement and the act.

MARKETING POLICY

§ 998.30

Prior to May 31, the committee shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a report setting forth its recommended marketing policy covering quality regulations for the pending crop. In the event it becomes advisable to modify such policy, because of changed conditions, the committee shall formulate a new policy and shall submit a report thereon to the Secretary. In developing the marketing policy, the committee shall give consideration to the production, harvesting and storage conditions, probable quality of crop, grading and treatment methods, inspection capability, demand for peanuts in domestic and foreign markets, the basis of handler indemnification, the probable assessable tonnage for the purposes of §48 and such other factors as may have a bearing on the peanut quality regulation or the administration of this agreement. Notice of the committee's marketing policy, and of any modifications thereof, shall be given promptly by reasonable publicity, to producers and handlers.
QUALITY REGULATION

§ 998.31 Incoming regulation.

No handler shall receive or acquire peanuts, either from a producer or other person, unless such peanuts were determined pursuant to § 998.33 to be Segregation 1 peanuts at time of receipt from the producer or, if received from another person, had not been mixed with peanuts of a lower quality than Segregation 1. Provided, That a handler may:

(a) Receive or acquire and deliver for seed purposes farmers stock peanuts with not more than 3 percent damaged kernels nor more than 10 percent moisture if such peanuts were produced under the auspices of a State agency which regulates or controls the production of seed peanuts;

(b) Acquire shelled peanuts from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) or cleaned inshell or shelled peanuts from handlers subject to this agreement, or from buyers who have purchased such peanuts from such handlers or from CCC, if the lot has been certified as meeting the requirements of § 998.32(a) and the identity is maintained;

(c) Perform services for an area association pursuant to a peanut receiving and warehouse contract; and

(d) If a crusher, acquire peanuts of a lower quality than Segregation 1 as oil stock upon such conditions as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe.

Segregation 2 peanuts which are wholesome relative to mold damage may be acquired from peanuts held by CCC or an area association when released by the Secretary as needed to fill demand. In the situation of § 998.35, the Secretary may authorize handlers to acquire Segregation 2 peanuts from producers or intermediaries. The acquisition of loose shelled kernels or their removal from farmers stock peanuts shall be in accordance with such procedures as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish.

§ 998.32 Outgoing regulation.

(a) No handler shall dispose of for human consumption, peanuts which fail to meet such U.S. grade requirements, or modifications thereof, or requirements as to wholesomeness as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may specify including the tolerance for moldy peanuts, time in storage, or other pertinent factors. No inspection certificate issued pursuant to § 998.33 shall be effective if unacceptable to the committee or for more than such period of time as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe. Peanuts which fail to meet the requirements specified pursuant to this section shall be disposed of either delivery to the Commodity Credit Corporation or in such manner as may be prescribed by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

(b) Notwithstanding the restrictions contained in this section, and handler may transfer peanuts from one plant owned by him to another plant owned by him or to commercial storage without having an inspection made as provided for in § 998.33. No such transfers shall be made except in accordance with such procedures as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe for movement within each production area, to another production area or to points outside thereof.

§ 998.33 Inspection, certification and identification.

Each handler shall, at his own expense, prior to or upon receiving and before shipping or disposing of peanuts, cause an inspection to be made of any such peanuts not covered by a valid inspection certificate, to determine whether they meet the applicable grade requirements effective pursuant to this agreement and shall comply with such identification requirements as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may prescribe. Such handler shall obtain a certificate that such peanuts meet the aforementioned applicable requirements and all such certificates shall be available for examination or use by the committee. Acceptable certificates shall be those issued by Federal or Federal-State inspectors authorized or licensed by the Secretary.

§ 998.34 Modification.

The requirements of §§ 998.31 and 998.32 and definitions set forth in § 998.5,
§ 998.35 Above parity situations.

Minimum standards established under §§998.31 and 998.32, the grading and inspection requirements, and the provisions of this agreement relating to administration and indemnification shall continue in effect irrespective of whether or not the estimated season average price for peanuts is in excess of the parity level specified in section 2(1) of the Act.

§ 998.36 Indemnification.

The committee shall, upon such terms and conditions as it may establish with the approval of the Secretary, indemnify any handler, to the extent specified, for losses incurred by him on peanuts which have been milled for sale for human consumption and which meet the applicable grade and other requirements but which are determined by the committee or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to be unsuitable for human consumption because of aflatoxin including such peanuts returned, resold or rejected to a handler by a purchaser. Any peanuts for which the handler is indemnified pursuant to this paragraph shall be delivered to the committee or disposed of as the committee may direct. Funds for such indemnification shall be obtained pursuant to §998.48. The period of indemnification on any crop may extend to December 31 of the calendar year following the year in which the crop was produced.

[53 FR 20294, June 3, 1988; 54 FR 227, Jan. 4, 1989]

REPORTS, BOOKS AND RECORDS

§ 998.40 Confidential information.

All reports and records furnished or submitted by handlers to the committee which include data or information constituting a trade secret or disclosing the trade position, financial condition, or business operations of the particular handlers or their customers shall be received by, and at all times kept in the custody and under the control of, one or more employees of the committee, who shall disclose such information to no person except the Secretary. Notwithstanding the above provisions of this section, information may be disclosed to the committee when reasonably necessary to enable the committee to carry out its functions under this agreement.

§ 998.41 Reports of acquisitions and shipments.

Each handler shall file such reports of his acquisitions and shipments of peanuts, as may be requested by the committee.

§ 998.42 Other reports.

Upon the request of the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, each handler shall furnish such other reports and information as are needed to enable the committee to perform its functions under this agreement.

§ 998.43 Records.

Each handler shall maintain such records of peanuts received, held and disposed of by him, as will substantiate any required reports and will show performance under this agreement. Such records shall be retained for at least 2 years beyond the crop year of their applicability.

§ 998.44 Verification of reports.

For the purpose of checking and verifying reports filed by handlers or the operation of handlers under the provisions of this agreement, the Secretary and the committee, through its duly authorized agents, shall have access to any premises where peanuts may be held by any handler and at any time during reasonable business hours, shall be permitted to inspect any peanuts so held by such handler and any and all records of such handler with respect to the acquisition, holding, or disposition of all peanuts which may be held or which may have been disposed of by him.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 998.47 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds
are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it during each crop year for the maintenance and functioning of the committee and for such other purposes as the Secretary may, pursuant to the provisions of this agreement, determine to be appropriate.

§ 998.48 Assessments.
(a) Each handler shall pay to the committee, upon demand, with respect to peanuts received by him, including his own production, his pro rata share of all expenses, indemnification and other, which the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee during each crop year. Each handler’s pro rata share shall be the rate of assessment fixed by the Secretary per net ton of farmers stock peanuts received or acquired other than those peanuts described in § 998.31 (c) and (d). During a crop year the Secretary may not increase the rate of assessment to cover a deficit in the indemnification fund but may assess for a deficit in a subsequent year. An assessment rate may be increased to cover a deficit in the administrative fund.
(b) In order to provide funds to carry out the functions of the committee, the committee may borrow money or may accept advance payments from any handler to be credited toward such assessments as may be levied pursuant to this section against the respective handler.
(c) Indemnification reserve. The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish and maintain during one or more crop years a monetary reserve in an amount approximating anticipated expenses for indemnification pursuant to § 998.36.
(d) Refunds. Administrative funds held by the committee at the conclusion of the crop year in excess of the crop year’s expenses, other than indemnification funds, may be used to defray expenses for no more than the ensuing four months, and thereafter within a reasonable time the committee shall credit the aforesaid administrative excess to handlers who contributed to such excess: Provided, That the excess due any handler shall be applied, in whole or in part, by the committee to any outstanding obligation due the committee from such handler. Should any handler discontinue handling peanuts, such excess shall be refunded to him. A handler’s share of such excess funds shall be the amount of such assessments he paid in excess of his actual pro rata share of the administrative expenses of the committee. Upon termination of this agreement any indemnification money in possession of the committee shall be turned over to any successor committee or disposed of, with the approval of the Secretary, for projects of benefit to the peanut industry and any residual together with any administrative money shall be distributed in such manner as the Secretary may direct: Provided, That, to the extent practicable, such residual funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom collected.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
§ 998.50 Rights of the Secretary.
The members of the committee (including successors or alternates) and any agent or employee appointed or employed by the committee, shall be subject to removal or suspension by the Secretary, in his discretion, at any time. Each and every decision, determination, or other act of the committee shall be subject to the continuing right of the Secretary to disapprove of the same at any time, and upon such disapproval, shall be deemed null and void.

§ 998.51 Personal liability.
No member or alternate member of the committee, nor any employee, representative, or agent of the committee shall be held personally responsible to any handler, either individually, or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person, for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate member, employee, representative, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty.

§ 998.52 Separability.
If any provision of this agreement is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder, or the applicability thereof
§ 998.53 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this agreement is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 998.54 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this agreement shall cease upon its termination, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence thereof.

§ 998.55 Agents.

The Secretary may, by a designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the United States Government, or name any service, division or branch in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this agreement.

§ 998.56 Effective time.

The provisions of this agreement, as well as any amendments, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare, and shall continue in force until terminated or suspended in one of the ways specified in §998.57.

§ 998.57 Suspension or termination.

(a) Failure to effectuate policy of act. The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this agreement, whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act. Moreover, if the provisions of the CCC price support program relating to purchases from shellers are discontinued, or change appreciably, consideration shall be given to termination of this agreement.

(b) Referendum. The Secretary shall terminate, in accordance with section 8c(16)(B) of the Act, the provisions of this agreement at the end of any crop year whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of the producers of peanuts who during the crop year have been engaged in the production of peanuts for market: Provided, That such majority have during such period produced for market more than 50 percent of the volume of such peanuts produced for market within the area, but such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before June 1 of the then current crop year.

(c) Termination of Act. The provisions of this agreement shall terminate, in any event, whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.

§ 998.58 Procedure upon termination.

Upon the termination of this agreement, the members of the committee then functioning shall continue as joint trustees, for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the committee. Action by such trustees shall require the concurrence of a majority of said trustees. Such trustees shall continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary, and shall account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the committee and the joint trustees, to such persons as the Secretary may direct, and shall upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person full title and right to all the funds, properties, and claims vested in the committee or the joint trustees, pursuant to this agreement. Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered by the committee or the joint trustees, pursuant to this section, shall be subject to the same obligations imposed upon the members of said committee and upon said joint trustees.

§ 998.59 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this agreement or of any regulation issued pursuant thereto, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not:

(a) Affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter
arise, in connection with any provisions of this agreement or any regulation issued thereunder, or
(b) Release or extinguish any violation of this agreement or any regulation issued thereunder, or
(c) Affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary, or of any other persons, with respect to such violation.

§ 998.60 Counterparts.
This agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts and, when one counterpart is signed by the Secretary, all such counterparts shall constitute, when taken together, one and the same instrument as if all signatures were contained in one original.

§ 998.61 Additional parties.
After the effective date of this agreement, any handler may become a party hereto if a counterpart is executed by him and delivered to the Secretary. This agreement shall take effect as to such new contracting party at the time such counterpart is delivered to the Secretary and such party has complied with assessment obligations and the quality regulations applicable to the current crop. The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred by this agreement shall then be effective as to such new contracting party.

IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS

§ 998.100 Incoming quality regulation for 1996 and subsequent crop peanuts.
The following modify §998.5 of the peanut marketing agreement and modify or are in addition to the restrictions of section 31 on handler receipts or acquisitions of peanuts:
(a) Modification of §998.5, paragraphs (b), (c), and (d). Paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of §998.5 of the peanut marketing agreement are modified for the purposes of this section as to farmers stock peanuts to read respectively as follows:
(b) Segregation 1. Segregation 1 peanuts means farmers stock peanuts with not more than 2 percent damaged kernels nor more than 1.00 percent concealed damage caused by rancidity, mold, or decay and which are free from visible Aspergillus flavus.

(c) Segregation 2. Segregation 2 peanuts means farmers stock peanuts with more than 2 percent damaged kernels or more than 1.00 percent concealed damage caused by rancidity, mold, or decay and which are free from visible Aspergillus flavus.
(d) Segregation 3. Segregation 3 peanuts means farmers stock peanuts with visible Aspergillus flavus.

(b) Moisture and foreign material—(1) Moisture. Except as provided under paragraph (d) of this section, no handler shall receive or acquire peanuts containing more than 10.49 percent moisture. Provided, That peanuts of a higher moisture content may be received and dried to not more than 10.49 percent moisture prior to storing or milling. On farmers stock, such moisture determinations shall be rounded to the nearest whole number, on shelled peanuts, the determinations shall be carried to the hundredths place and shall not be rounded to the nearest whole number.
(2) Foreign material. No handler shall receive or acquire farmers stock peanuts containing more than 10.49 percent foreign material, except that peanuts having a higher foreign material content may be received or acquired if they are held separately until milled, or moved over a sand-screen before storage, or shipped directly to a plant for prompt shelling. The term sand-screen means any type of farmers stock cleaner which, when in use, removes sand and dirt.
(c) Damage. For the purpose of determining damage, other than concealed damage, on farmers stock peanuts, all percentage determinations shall be rounded to the nearest whole number.
(d) Seed peanuts. A handler may acquire and deliver for seed purposes farmers stock peanuts which meet the requirements of Segregation 1 peanuts. If the seed peanuts are produced under the auspices of a State agency which regulates or controls the production of seed peanuts, they may contain up to 3 percent damaged kernels and have visible Aspergillus flavus, and, in addition, the following moisture content, as applicable:
(1) Seed peanuts produced in the Southeastern and Virginia-Carolina areas, may contain up to 10.49 percent moisture except Virginia type peanuts which are not stacked at harvest time.
may contain up to 11.49 percent moisture; and

(2) Seed peanuts produced in the Southwestern area may contain up to 10.49 percent moisture.

Any seed peanuts produced under the auspices of a State agency which contain up to 3 percent damaged kernels and are free from visible Aspergillus flavus, may be stored and shelled with Segregation 1 seed peanuts which are also produced under the auspices of the State agency. Any seed peanuts with visible Aspergillus flavus shall be stored and shelled separate from other peanuts, and any residuals not used for seed shall not be used or disposed of for human consumption unless it is determined to be wholesome by chemical assay for aflatoxin. A handler whose operations include custom shelling may receive, custom shell, and deliver for seed purposes farmers stock peanuts, and such peanuts shall be exempt from the Incoming Quality Regulation requirements, and, therefore, shall not be required to be inspected and certified as meeting the Incoming Quality Regulation requirements, and the handler shall report to the Committee, as requested, the weight of each lot of farmers stock peanuts received on such basis on a form furnished by the Committee. Handlers who acquire seed peanut residuals from their custom shellings of uninspected (farmers stock) seed peanuts or from another handler or producer or sheller may mill such residuals with other receipts or acquisitions of the handler, and such residuals which meet the Outgoing Quality Regulation requirements, may be disposed of by sale to human consumption outlets.

(e) Oilstock. Handlers may acquire for disposition to domestic crushing or export farmers stock peanuts of a lower quality than Segregation 1 or grades or sizes of shelled peanuts or cleaned inshell peanuts which fail to meet the requirements for human consumption. The provision of §998.31 of the marketing agreement restricting acquisitions of such peanuts to handlers who are crushers is hereby modified pursuant to §998.34, to authorize all handlers to act as accumulators and acquire, from other handlers or non-handlers, Segregation 2 or 3 farmers stock peanuts. Handlers may also acquire for crushing or export from other handlers peanuts originating from Segregation 2 or 3 farmers stock or the entire mill production of shelled peanuts from Segregation 1 farmers stock or lots of peanuts originating from Segregation 1 peanuts and which have been positive lot identified as specified in paragraph (d) of §998.200, Outgoing quality regulation, which failed to meet the requirements for human consumption pursuant to paragraph (a) of §998.200, Outgoing quality regulation: Provided, That all such acquisitions are held separate from Segregation 1 peanuts acquired for milling or from edible grades of shelled or milled peanuts. Handlers may commingle the Segregation 2 and 3 peanuts or keep them separate and apart. Handlers who acquire farmers stock peanuts of a lower quality than Segregation 1 or grades or sizes of shelled peanuts or cleaned inshell peanuts which fail to meet the requirements for human consumption shall report such acquisitions as prescribed by the Committee. To be eligible to receive or acquire Segregation 2 or 3 farmers stock peanuts and shelled peanuts originating therefrom, a handler shall pay to the Area Association a fee for the purpose of covering cost of supervision of the disposition of such peanuts.

(f) Segregation 2 and 3 control. To assure the removal from edible outlets of any lot of peanuts determined by Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service to be Segregation 2 or Segregation 3, each handler shall inform each employee, country buyer, commission buyer, or like person through whom the handler receives peanuts of the need to receive and withhold all lots of Segregation 2 and Segregation 3 peanuts from milling for edible use. If any lot of Segregation 2 or Segregation 3 farmers stock peanuts is not withheld but returned to the producer, the handler shall cause the Inspection Service to forward immediately a copy of the inspection certificate on the lot to the designated office of the handler and a copy to the Committee which shall be used only for information purposes.

(g) Farmers stock storage and handling facilities. Handlers shall report to the Committee, on a form furnished by the Committee, all storage facilities or
contract storage facilities which they will use to store acquisitions of current crop Segregation 1 farmers stock peanuts, and all such storage facilities must be reported prior to storing of any such handler acquisitions. Handlers shall also report to the Committee the locations at which they will receive or acquire current crop farmers stock peanuts. All such storage facilities shall have reasonable and safe access to allow for inspection of the facility and its contents. All such storage facilities must be of sound construction, in good repair, and built and equipped so as to provide suitable storage and sufficient safeguards to prevent moisture condensation and provide adequate protection for farmers stock peanuts. All breaks or openings in the walls, floors, or roofs of the facilities shall have been repaired so as to keep out moisture. Elevator pits and wells must be kept dry and free of moisture at all times. Insect control procedures must be carried out in such a manner as to prevent undesirable moisture in the storage facilities. Any conditions in warehouses, elevators, pits, transportation equipment, including trucks and hopper cars, and other farmers stock handling equipment conducive to the growth or spread of Aspergillus flavus mold shall be corrected to the satisfaction of the Committee. The Committee may make periodic inspections of farmers stock storage and handling facilities and farmers stock peanuts stored in such facilities to determine if handlers are adhering to these requirements.

(h) Shelled peanuts. Handlers may acquire shelled peanuts, which originated from “Segregation 1 peanuts,” from other handlers, for remilling and subsequent disposition to human consumption outlets.

(i) Segregation 2 and Segregation 3 farmers stock peanuts held separate and apart or commingled, and disposed of to domestic or export crushing are exempt from assessments under this section.

[62 FR 1265, Jan. 9, 1997]

§ 998.200 Outgoing quality regulation for 1996 and subsequent crop peanuts.

The following modify or in addition to the peanut marketing agreement restrictions of §998.32 on handler disposition of peanuts:

(a) Shelled peanuts. (1) No handler shall ship or otherwise dispose of shelled peanuts for human consumption unless such peanuts are positive lot identified, certified “negative” as to aflatoxin, and certified as meeting the requirements in the following “Other Edible Quality * * *” grades:

``TABLE 1—“OTHER EDIBLE QUALITY” (NON-INDEMNIFIABLE) GRADES—WHOLE KERNELS AND SPLITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and grade category</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts and damaged kernels (percent)</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts damaged kernels and minor defects (percent)</th>
<th>Fall through</th>
<th>Foreign materials (percent)</th>
<th>Moisture (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sound split and broken kernels</td>
<td>Sound whole kernels</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excluding lots of “splits”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runner ........................</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>3.00%; 17 ¾ inch round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 14 ¾ inch round screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia (except No. 2)</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>3.00%; 17 ¾ inch round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 14 ¾ inch round screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish and Valencia.</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>6.00%; 17 ¾ inch round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 14 ¾ inch round screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 2 Virginia ..........</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 14 ¾ inch round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%; 14 ¾ inch round screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lots of “splits”

<p>| Runner (not more than 4% sound whole kernels). | 1.50 | 2.50 | 3.00%; 17 ¾ inch round screen. | 3.00%; 14 ¾ inch round screen. | 4.00%; both screens. | .20 | 9.00 |
| Virginia (not less than 90% splits). | 1.50 | 2.50 | 3.00%; 17 ¾ inch round screen. | 3.00%; 14 ¾ inch round screen. | 4.00%; both screens. | .20 | 9.00 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and grade category</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts and damaged kernels (percent)</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts, damaged kernels and minor defects (percent)</th>
<th>Fall through</th>
<th>Moisture (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish and Valenciana (not more than 4% sound whole kernels)</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>3.00%; 1/4 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) Prior to disposition to human consumption outlets, peanuts which have been certified as meeting the requirements for Indemnifiable Grades must also be certified “negative” as to aflatoxin. Maximum limitations for Indemnifiable Grades are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and grade category</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts and damaged kernels (percent)</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts, damaged kernels and minor defects (percent)</th>
<th>Fall through</th>
<th>Moisture (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Runner U.S. No.1 and better</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 1/4 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia U.S. No.1 and better</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 1/4 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runner U.S. Splits (not more than 4% sound, whole kernels)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 1/4 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia U.S. Splits (not less than 90% splits and not more than 3.00% sound whole kernels and portions passing through 5/8 inch round screen)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 1/4 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish and Valenciana U.S. Splits (not more than 4% sound, whole kernels)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>2.00%; 1/4 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runner with splits (not more than 15% sound splits)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 1/4 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia with splits (not more than 15% sound splits)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 1/4 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish and Valenciana with splits (not more than 15% sound splits)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.00%; 1/4 inch; round screen.</td>
<td>4.00%; both screens.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(3) The term “fall through,” as used herein, shall mean sound split and broken kernels and whole kernels which pass through specified screens.

(b) Cleaned inshell peanuts. No handler shall ship or otherwise dispose of cleaned inshell peanuts for human consumption:

(1) With more than 1.00 percent kernels with mold present unless a sample of such peanuts, drawn by an inspector of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, was analyzed chemically by laboratories approved by the Committee or by a U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratory (hereinafter referred to as “USDA laboratory”) and found to be wholesome relative to aflatoxin;

(2) with more than 2.00 percent peanuts with damaged kernels;

(3) with more than 10.00 percent moisture; or

(4) with more than 0.50 percent foreign material. The lot size of such peanuts in bags or bulk shall not exceed 200,000 pounds.

(c) Sampling and testing shelled peanuts. (1) Prior to shipment, each handler shall cause appropriate samples of each lot of edible quality shelled peanuts to be drawn by an inspector of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service. The gross amount of peanuts drawn shall be large enough to provide for a grade analysis, for a grading check-sample, and for three 48-pound samples for aflatoxin assay. The three 48-pound samples shall be designated by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service as “Sample #1,” “Sample #2,” and “Sample #3” and each sample shall be placed in a suitable container and “positive lot identified” by means acceptable to the Inspection Service and the Committee. Sample #1 may be prepared for immediate testing or Sample #1, Sample #2, and Sample #3 may be returned to the handler for testing at a later date. However, before shipment of the lot to the buyer (receiver), the handler shall cause Sample #1 to be ground by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service or a USDA or designated laboratory in a “subsampling mill” approved by the Committee. The resultant ground subsample from Sample #1 shall be of a size specified by the Committee and be designated as “Subsample 1-AB” and at the handler’s or buyer’s option, a second subsample may also be extracted from Sample #1. It shall be designated as “Subsample 1-CD.” Subsample 1-CD may be sent as requested by the handler or buyer, for aflatoxin assay, to a laboratory listed on the most recent Committee list of approved laboratories that can provide analyses results on such samples in 36 hours. Subsample 1-AB shall be analyzed only in USDA or designated laboratories. Both Subsamples 1-AB and 1-CD shall be accompanied by a notice of sampling signed by the inspector containing, at least, identifying information as to the handler (shipper), the buyer (receiver), if known, and the positive lot identification of the shelled peanuts. A copy of such notice covering each lot shall be sent to the Committee office.

(2) The samples designated as Sample #2 and Sample #3 shall be held as aflatoxin check-samples by the Inspection Service or the handler and shall not be included in the shipment to the buyer until the analyses results from Sample #1 are known. Upon call from the USDA or designated laboratory or the Committee, the handler shall cause Sample #2 to be ground by the Inspection Service in a “subsampling mill.” The resultant ground subsample from Sample #2 shall be of the size specified by the Committee and it shall be designated as “Subsample 2-AB.” Upon call from the USDA or designated laboratory or the Committee, the handler shall cause Sample #3 to be ground by the Inspection Service in a “subsampling mill.” The resultant ground subsample from Sample #3 shall be of the size specified by the Committee and it shall be designated as “Subsample 3-AB.” Subsamples 2-AB and 3-AB shall be analyzed only in USDA or designated laboratories and each shall be accompanied by a notice of sampling. A copy of each such notice shall be sent to the Committee office and the cost of delivery of Subsamples 2-AB and 3-AB to the laboratory and the cost of assay on them shall be at the Committee’s expense.

(3) All costs involved in sampling and testing Subsample 1-CD shall be for the account of the buyer of the lot and at
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the buyer’s expense. However, if the handler elects to pay any portion of these cost the handler shall charge the buyer accordingly. Aflatoxin sampling and testing cost for the AB subsamples shall be included as a separate item on the handler's invoice to the buyer at the rate of $0.0027 per pound or $0.27 per hundredweight of the peanuts covered by the invoice. When any of the samples or subsamples have been lost, misplaced, or spoiled and replacement samples are needed, the entire cost of drawing the replacement samples shall be for the account of the handler. The results of each assay shall be reported to the buyer listed on the notice of sampling and, if the handler desires, to the handler. If a buyer is not listed on the notice of sampling, the results of the assay shall be reported to the handler, who shall promptly cause notice to be given to the buyer of the contents thereof, and such handler shall not be required to furnish additional samples for assay.

(4) For the current crop year, “negative” aflatoxin content means 15 parts per billion (ppb) or less for peanuts which have been certified as meeting edible quality grade requirements as determined by the Committee’s sampling plan applicable to the respective grade categories.

(d) Identification. Each lot of shelled or cleaned inshell peanuts, in lot sizes not exceeding 200,000 pounds, shall be identified by positive lot identification procedures prior to being shipped or otherwise disposed of. For the purpose of this regulation, “positive lot identification” of a lot of shelled or inshell peanuts is a means of relating the inspection certificate to the lot which has been inspected so that there can be no doubt that the peanuts are the same ones described on the inspection certificate. The crop year that is shown on the positive lot identification tags, or other means of positive lot identification, shall accurately describe the crop year in which the peanuts in the lot were produced. Such procedure on bagged peanuts shall consist of attaching a lot numbered tag bearing the official stamp of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service to each filled bag in the lot. The tag shall be sewed (machine sewed if shelled peanuts) into the closure of the bag except that in plastic bags the tag shall be inserted prior to sealing so that the official stamp is visible. Any peanuts moved in bulk or bulk bins shall have their lot identity maintained by sealing the conveyance and if in other containers by other means acceptable to the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service and to the Committee. All lots of shelled or cleaned inshell peanuts shall be handled, stored, and shipped under positive lot identification procedures, except those lots which have been reconstituted and/or commingled at the request of the receiver. All such reconstituted and/or commingled lots will no longer be considered positive lot identified and, therefore, no longer be eligible for indemnification or for appeal inspection. Handlers shall keep and maintain records of the quantities involved in each reconstituting and/or commingling procedure, whether in single or multiple lots, and such records shall be available to the Committee on request.

(e) Reinspection. Whenever the Committee has reason to believe that peanuts may have been damaged or deteriorated while in storage, the Committee may reject the then effective inspection certificate and may require the owner of the peanuts to have a reinspection to establish whether or not such peanuts may be disposed of for human consumption.

(f) Further modification of §998.32. (1) The provisions of §998.32(a) restricting the disposition of peanuts which fail to meet the requirements specified herebefore in this section to the Commodity Credit Corporation or in such manner as may be prescribed by the Committee with the approval of the Secretary, is hereby modified to specify that only peanuts which have been certified as meeting the requirements specified in paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section, which have been sampled pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section, and which have been identified pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section are eligible for disposition to human consumption outlets.

(2) Lots of peanuts which have not been certified as meeting the requirements for disposition to human consumption outlets, may be disposed for
non-human consumption uses which are not regulated or limited by the provisions specified hereinafter in this section: Provided, That each such lot is positive lot identified, using red tags, and certified as to aflatoxin content (actual numerical count). However, on the shipping papers covering the disposition of each such lot of inedible quality peanuts, the handler shall cause the following statement to be shown: "The peanuts covered by this bill of lading (or invoice, etc.) are not to be used for human consumption."

(3) Except for inedible quality peanuts disposed of under the provisions of paragraph (f)(2) of this section and peanuts derived from the milling for seed of Segregation 2 and 3 farmers stock peanuts, peanuts which have not been certified as meeting the standards set forth in paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section shall be disposed of as prescribed hereinafter in this section.

(g) Sheller oil stock residuals—for crushing or export. Peanuts and portions of peanuts which are separated from edible quality peanuts by screening or sorting or other means during the milling process, may be segregated into categories or commingled as sheller oil stock residuals. Such sheller oil stock residuals shall be identified pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section, but using a red tag, and such peanuts may be disposed of domestically or to the export market in bulk or bags or other suitable containers. Disposition to crushing may be to handlers who are crushers or to domestic crushers who are not handlers under the Agreement only on the condition that they agree to comply with the terms of this paragraph and all other applicable requirements of the Agreement. The movement of such peanuts shall be reported to the Committee by the shipping handler and the crusher, as requested by the Committee.

(1) If the peanuts have not been tested and certified as to aflatoxin content, as prescribed in paragraph (c) of this section, the handler shall cause the following statement to be shown on the shipping papers: "The peanuts covered by this bill of lading (or invoice, etc.) are limited to crushing only and may contain aflatoxin."

(2) If the peanuts are certified as 301 ppb or more aflatoxin content, disposition shall be limited to crushing or export.

(h) Blanching and remilling peanuts failing quality requirements. (1) Handlers may blanch or cause to have blanched positive lot identified shelled peanuts, which originated from Segregation 1 peanuts, that fail to meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section because of excessive damage, minor defects, moisture, or foreign material or are positive as to aflatoxin. Prior to movement of such peanuts to a blancher, handlers shall report to the Committee, on a form furnished by the Committee, and receive authorization from the Committee for movement and blanching of each such lot. Lots of peanuts which are moved under these provisions must be accompanied by a valid grade inspection certificate and the title shall be retained by the handler until the peanuts are blanched and certified by an inspector of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service as meeting the requirements for disposal into human consumption outlets. To be eligible for disposal into human consumption outlets, such peanuts after blanching, must meet specifications for unshelled peanuts, damaged kernels, minor defects, moisture, and foreign material as listed in paragraph (a) of this section and be accompanied by an aflatoxin certificate determined to be negative by the Committee. The residual peanuts, excluding skins and hearts, resulting from blanching under these provisions, shall be bagged and red tagged and disposition shall be that such peanuts are returned to the handler for further disposition; or, in the alternative, such residuals shall be positive lot identified by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, and shall be disposed of, by the blancher, to handlers who are crushers, or to domestic crushers who are not handlers under the Agreement only on the condition that they agree to procedures acceptable to the Committee and who are approved
by the Committee to do such blanching.

(2) Handlers may contract with Committee-approved remillers for remilling shelled peanuts, which originated from Segregation 1 peanuts, that fail to meet the requirements for disposition to human consumption outlets herefore specified in paragraph (a) of this section: Provided, That such lots of peanuts contain not in excess of 10 percent fall through. Prior to movement of such peanuts under these provisions to a Committee-approved remiller, handlers shall report to the Committee, on a form furnished by the Committee, and receive authorization from the Committee for movement and remilling of each such lot. Lots of peanuts moved under these provisions must be accompanied by a valid grade inspection certificate and must be positive lot identified and the title of such peanuts shall be retained by the handler until the peanuts have been remilled and certified by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service as meeting the requirements for disposition to human consumption outlets specified in paragraph (a) of this section, and be accompanied by an aflatoxin certificate determined to be negative by the Committee. Remilling under these provisions may include composite remilling of more than one such lot of peanuts owned by the same handler. However, such peanuts owned by one handler shall be held and remilled separate and apart from all other peanuts. The residual peanuts resulting from remilling under these provisions, shall be bagged and red tagged and disposition shall be that such peanuts are returned to the handler for further disposition; or, in the alternative, such residuals shall be positive lot identified by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service, and shall be disposed of, by the remiller, to handlers who are crushers, or to domestic crushers who are not handlers under the Agreement only on the condition that they agree to comply with the terms of paragraph (g) of this section and all other applicable requirements of the Agreement. Remilling under the provisions of this paragraph shall be performed only by those firms who agree to procedures acceptable to the Committee and who are approved by the Committee to do such remilling.

(i) Documentation of compliance. Each handler shall keep and maintain records of all receipts and acquisitions and all milling, remilling, blanching, use and disposition of peanuts which have not been certified as meeting the requirements for disposition to human consumption, pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, as will document and substantiate compliance and performance under this agreement.

[62 FR 1266, Jan. 9, 1997]

§ 998.300 Terms and conditions of indemnification for 1996 and subsequent crop peanuts.

(a) For the purpose of paying indemnities on a uniform basis pursuant to §998.36 of the peanut marketing agreement, each handler shall promptly notify or arrange for the buyer to notify the Manager, Peanut Administrative Committee, of any lot of cleaned inshell or shelled peanuts, milled into one of the categories listed in paragraph (a) of the Outgoing quality regulation (7 CFR 998.200) or paragraph (j) of this section, on which the buyer, including the user division of a handler, has withheld usage due to a finding as to aflatoxin content as shown by the results of further chemical assay, after shipment.

(b) To be eligible for indemnification, such a lot of peanuts shall have been inspected and certified as meeting the quality requirements for Indemnifiable Grades as specified in paragraph (a) of the Outgoing quality regulation (7 CFR 998.200), shall have met all other applicable regulations issued pursuant thereto, including the pretesting requirements in paragraphs (a) and (c) of the Outgoing quality regulation (7 CFR 998.200) and the lot identification shall have been maintained. If the Committee concludes, based on further assays, that the lot is so high in aflatoxin that it should be handled pursuant to this section, and such is concurred in by the Agricultural Marketing Service, the lot shall be accepted for indemnification.

(c) The indemnification payment shall be transportation expenses (excluding demurrage, loading and unloading charges, custom fees, border re-
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 998.300

entry fees, etc.) from the handler's plant or storage to the point within the Continental United States or Canada where the rejection occurred and from such point to a delivery point specified by the Committee if the lot is found by the Committee to be unwholesome as to aflatoxin after such lot had been certified negative as to aflatoxin prior to being shipped or otherwise disposed of for human consumption by the handler pursuant to requirements of the Outgoing quality regulation (7 CFR 998.200).

(d) Claims for indemnification may be filed by any handler sustaining a loss as a result of a buyer withholding from human consumption a portion or all of the product made from a lot of peanuts which has been determined to be unwholesome due to aflatoxin. The Committee shall pay such claims as it determines to be valid, to the extent of the equivalent indemnification value applicable to the peanuts used in the product so withheld. On products manufactured from edible quality grades of peanuts, such claims may be filed with the Committee no later than November 1 of the second year following the year in which the peanuts were produced.

(e) Notice of claims for indemnification can be made on peanuts of the current crop year shall be received by the Committee (by mail or legible facsimile) no later than the close of the business day on November 1, following the end of the crop year. For the purpose of this paragraph, “notice” shall be defined as the covering (executed and signed) Form PAC-5, accompanied by a copy of the applicable valid grade inspection certificate and the lab certificate showing the aflatoxin assay results which caused the request for rejection.

(f) Each handler shall include, directly or by reference, in the handler’s sales contract, the following provisions:

(1) Buyer shall give the Peanut Administrative Committee (Committee) notice of any request made to the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service for an “appeal” inspection for aflatoxin. Results of the “appeal” inspection will be reported by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service or other designated lab to Committee management. If the Committee management determines that the test results of the “appeal” sample show the lot to be high in aflatoxin, Committee management shall inform the buyer and handler of the results. In this case, the buyer may apply to reject the lot and return it to the handler by filing a rejection letter with Committee management. Upon a determination of the Committee, confirmed by the Agricultural Marketing Service, authorizing rejection, such peanuts, and title thereto, if passed to the buyer, shall be returned to the seller. Buyer must return the rejected lot to the seller within 45 days of the date on which Committee management informs buyer of the “appeal” sample test results, otherwise the buyer agrees that he/she forfeits the right to reject the lot and return it to the seller.

(2) Seller shall, prior to shipment of a lot of shelled peanuts covered by this sales contract, cause appropriate samples to be drawn by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service from such lot, shall cause the sample(s) to be sent to a USDA laboratory or if designated by the buyer, a laboratory listed on the most recent Committee list of approved laboratories to conduct such assay, for an aflatoxin assay and cause the laboratory, if other than the buyer’s, to send one copy of the results of the assay to the buyer. A portion of the costs of aflatoxin sampling and testing, as provided in § 998.200(c)(3), shall be for the account of the buyer and the buyer agrees to pay such costs.

(g) Any handler who fails to include such provisions in his/her sales contract shall be ineligible for indemnification payments with respect to any claim filed with the Committee on current crop year peanuts covered by the sales contract.

(h)(1) Any handler who fails to conform to the requirements of paragraph (g) of the incoming quality regulation (7 CFR 998.100) shall be ineligible for any indemnification payments until such condition or conditions are corrected to the satisfaction of the Committee.

(2) Any handler who fails to comply with the requirements of paragraph (h)(1) or (h)(2) of the Outgoing quality regulation (7 CFR 998.200) shall be ineligible for any indemnification payments
§ 998.409

until such non-compliance is corrected to the satisfaction of the Committee.

(i) Any handler who fails to cause positive lot identification on any lot of peanuts to accurately reflect the crop year in which such peanuts were produced, pursuant to paragraph (d) of the Outgoing quality regulation (7 CFR 998.200), shall be ineligible for any indemnification payments until such non-compliance is corrected to the satisfaction of the Committee.

(j) Categories of cleaned inshell peanuts eligible for indemnification are as follows:

(1) Cleaned inshell peanuts
   (i) U.S. Jumbos
   (ii) U.S. Fancy Handpicks
   (iii) Valencia-Roasting Stock

(2) [Reserved]

(k) The indemnification value for peanuts indemnified shall be 35 cents per pound.

[61 FR 5540, Oct. 28, 1996]

EDITORIAL NOTE: After January 1, 1979, “Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment” regulations (e.g., sections .200 through .299) and “Handling” regulations (e.g., sections .300 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For Federal Register citations affecting these regulations, see the “List of CFR Sections Affected” in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

Assessment Rates

§ 998.409 Assessment rate.

On and after July 1, 1997, an administrative assessment rate of $0.35 per net ton of farmers’ stock peanuts received or acquired other than those described in §§ 998.31 (c) and (d) is established for handlers signatory to the agreement. Assessments are due on the 15th of the month following the month in which the farmers’ stock peanuts are received or acquired.


PART 999—SPECIALTY CROPS; IMPORT REGULATIONS

Sec.

999.1 Regulation governing the importation of dates.

999.100 Regulation governing imports of walnuts.

999.200 Regulation governing the importation of prunes.

999.300 Regulation governing importation of raisins.

999.400 Regulation governing the importation of filberts.

999.500 Safeguard procedures for walnuts and certain dates exempt from grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements.

999.600 Regulation governing imports of peanuts.


§ 999.1 Regulation governing the importation of dates.

(a) Definitions. (1) Dates in retail packages means whole or pitted dates, other than dates prepared or preserved, wrapped or packaged for sale at retail.

(2) Dates for processing means any dates for use in a bakery, confectionery, or other product and includes dates coated with a substance materially altering their color.

(3) Bulk container means any container of dates which, together with the dates therein, weighs more than ten pounds.

(4) Dates for processing means any dates for use in a bakery, confectionery, or other product and includes dates coated with a substance materially altering their color.

(5) Dates prepared or preserved means dates processed into a confection or other product, dates coated with a substance materially altering their color, or dates prepared for incorporation into a product by chopping, slicing, or other processing which materially alters their form.

(6) Person means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other business unit.
(7) Fruit and Vegetable Division means the Fruit and Vegetable Division of the Consumer and Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

(8) USDA inspector means an inspector of the Processed Products Standardization and Inspection Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division or any other duly authorized employee of the USDA.

(9) Inspection certificate means a written statement or memorandum report issued by a USDA inspector setting forth in addition to appropriate descriptive information the quality and condition of the product inspected, and in the case of imported dates, a statement of meeting or failing, as applicable, the U.S. import requirements under section 8e of the AMA Act of 1937.

(10) Importation means release from custody of United States Bureau of Customs.

(b) Grade requirements. (1) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the importation into the United States of any lot of dates for packaging or dates in retail packages is prohibited unless the dates are wholesome and unadulterated and meet the following grade requirements which are determined to be comparable to those imposed upon domestic dates handled pursuant to Order No. 987, as amended (part 987 of this chapter): The whole or pitted dates in the lot are of one variety, and are of such quality and condition that upon inspection on the basis of a representative sample thereof, with hydration (of the sample) in accordance with good commercial practice or without any hydration, the dates possess a reasonably good color, are reasonably uniform in size, are reasonably free from defects, possess a reasonably good character, and score not less than 80 points when scored in accordance with the scoring system applicable to U.S. Grade B dates, as prescribed in the U.S. Standards for Grades of Dates (§§ 52.1001 through 52.1011 of this chapter): Provided, That not more than 25 percent, by weight, of the dates may possess semidry or dry calyx ends except that not more than 5 percent, by weight, of the dates may possess dry calyx ends: And provided further, That in determining the grade for pitted dates, the pitted dates shall not be scored as damaged because of the longitudinal slit caused by removing the pit or the mashing resulting therefrom unless the flesh is seriously torn or mangled.

(2) Compliance with the grade requirements shall be determined on the basis of an inspection and certification by a USDA inspector.

(c) Inspection and certification requirements. (1) Inspection. Inspection shall be performed by USDA inspectors in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Inspection and Certification of Processed Fruits and Vegetables and Related Products (part 52 of this title). The cost of each such inspection and related certification shall be borne by the applicant. Applications for inspection shall be made at least 10 days in advance and be accompanied by, or shall be submitted promptly thereafter, either an onboard bill of lading designating the lots to be inspected by USDA inspectors and those to be entered as dates for processing, or a list of such lots and their identifying marks.

(2) Certification. Each lot of dates inspected in accordance with paragraph (c)(1) of this section shall be covered by an inspection certificate. Each such certificate shall set forth, among other things, the following:

(i) The date and place of inspection.

(ii) The name of the applicant.

(iii) The variety, quantity, and identifying marks of the lot inspected.

(iv) The statement, if applicable: “Meets U.S. import requirements under section 8e of the AMA Act of 1937.”

(v) If the lot fails to meet the import requirements, a statement to that effect and the reasons therefor.

(d)(1) Exemptions. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, any lot of dates for importation which in the aggregate does not exceed 70 pounds and any dates that are so denatured as to render them unfit for human consumption may be imported exempt from the provisions of this section.

(2) Exemptions. The grade, size, quality and maturity requirements of this
section shall not apply to dates which are donated to needy persons, prisoners or Native Americans on reservations, but such dates shall be subject to the safeguard provisions contained in §999.500.

(e) Importation. No person may import dates into the United States unless he first files with the Collector of Customs at the port at which the customs entry is filed, as a condition of each such importation, either an inspection certificate or an executed “Dates—Section 8e Entry Declaration,” prescribed in paragraph (e)(2) of this section as Date Form No. 1. (1) Dates for packaging and dates in retail packages. No person may import any lot of dates for packaging or dates in retail packages unless the dates are covered by an inspection certificate containing the statement as to meeting the requirements set forth in paragraph (c)(2)(iv) of this section.

(2) Dates for processing and dates prepared or preserved—importation. Any person may import dates for processing and dates prepared or preserved exempt from the grade, inspection, and certification requirements of this section if the importer first files as a condition of such importation an executed Date Form No. 1 “Dates—Section 8e Entry Declaration.” The importer shall promptly transmit a copy of the executed Date Form No. 1 to the Fruit and Vegetable Division. The following is prescribed as Date Form No. 1:

DATE FORM NO. 1

Dates—Section 8e Entry Declaration

I certify to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Customs that none of the dates being imported and which are identified below are dates for packaging or dates in retail packages.

1. Name of vessel:
2. Country of origin of dates:
3. Date of arrival:
4. City of arrival:
5. Unloading pier:
6. Entered as dates for processing—

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<th>Lot or chop mark</th>
<th>Number of containers</th>
<th>Total net weight</th>
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I agree to obtain from each person to whom any of the dates listed under item 6 are delivered, an executed Date Form No. 2 “Dates for Processing—Section 8e Certification of Processor or Reseller” and to file the same with the Fruit and Vegetable Division, Consumer and Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, DC, not later than the fifth day of the month following the month in which the dates were delivered.

Dated ______

Name of firm ____________________________

Address ________________________________

Signature _______________________________

Title _____________________________

Distribution

Original—Collector of Customs.
Copy—Fruit and Vegetable Division.
Copy—Food and Drug Administration.

(3) Dates for processing—Sale by importer. No importer or other person may import, sell, or use any dates for processing other than for use as set forth in paragraph (a)(4) of this section or as otherwise permitted by this section. Each importer of dates for processing shall obtain from each purchaser, no later than the time of delivery to such purchaser, and file with the Fruit and Vegetable Division not later than the fifth day of the month following the month in which the dates were delivered, an executed “Dates for Processing—Section 8e Certification of Processor or Reseller,” prescribed in this paragraph as Date Form No. 2, which form is as follows:

DATE FORM NO. 2

Dates for Processing—Section 8e Certification of Processor or Reseller

I hereby certify to the U.S. Department of Agriculture that I have acquired the dates covered by this certification; that I will use or sell them for use only in bakery, confectionery, or other products as permitted by the Regulation Governing Importation of Dates (7 CFR 999.1); and that I am: (check one)

— processor (user of dates for processing)
— reseller (dealer in dates for processing)
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA  § 999.1

1. Date of purchase —
2. Place of purchase —
3. Name and address of importer or seller —
4. Dates acquired:

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Dated —
Name of firm —
Address —
Signature —

Distribution

Original—Fruit and Vegetable Division.
Copy—Purchaser.

(4) Dates for processing—sale by other than importer. Each wholesaler or other reseller of dates for processing should, for his protection, obtain from each purchaser and hold in his files a Date Form No. 2 certification covering each sale or all sales of a calendar year.

(5) Filing and retention of certificates. The executed Date Form No. 2 "Dates for Processing—Section 8e Certification of Processor or Reseller" required to be filed pursuant to this section shall be executed in not less than three copies, of which one shall be filed with the Fruit and Vegetable Division not later than the fifth day of the month immediately following the month of delivery of the dates covered thereby, one shall be retained by the importer and one shall be retained by the person accepting delivery.

(6) Reclassification. Any dates submitted for importation as dates for packaging or dates in retail packages that fail to meet the import requirements of this section may, upon execution of Date Form No. 1 "Dates—Section 8e Entry Declaration," be resubmitted for importation as dates for processing subject to the limitations of paragraph (j) of this section. Subsequent to importation, (1) any dates for processing other than dates that were resubmitted for importation in accordance with the preceding sentence and (2) any dates for packaging which through unintentional error were submitted for importation as dates for processing, either category having been covered by an executed Date Form No. 1, may if still held by the importer and if certified by a USDA inspector as meeting the requirements of this section for dates for packaging, be so reclassified and used. The reclassification to dates for packaging shall not be applicable to any dates that were falsely classified, other than through unintentional error, as dates for processing and submitted as such for importation.

(7) Reconditioning. Nothing contained in this section shall preclude the reconditioning of failing lots of dates, prior to importation, so that such dates may be made eligible to meet the grade requirements prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(8) Books and records. Each person subject to this section shall maintain true and complete records of his transactions with respect to imported dates. Such records and copies of executed forms shall be retained for not less than three years subsequent to the calendar year of acquisition. The Secretary, through his duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any such person's premises during regular business hours and shall be permitted at any such times to inspect such records and any dates held by such person.

(9) Other restrictions. The provisions of this section do not supersede any restrictions or prohibitions on the importation of dates under the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or any other applicable laws or regulations or the need to comply with applicable food and sanitary regulations of city, county, State, or Federal agencies.

(k) Compliance. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be subject to a forfeiture in the amount prescribed in section 8a(5) of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (sections 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601-674), or, upon conviction, a penalty in the amount prescribed in section 8c(14) of said act, or to both such forfeiture and penalty. False representations to an agency of the United States on any matter within its jurisdiction, knowing it to be false, is a violation of 18 U.S.C.
§ 999.100 Regulation governing imports of walnuts.

(a) Definitions. (1) Walnuts means all walnuts commonly known as English or Persian walnuts (Juglans regia).
(2) Inshell walnuts means walnuts, the kernels or edible portions of which are contained in the shell.
(3) Shelled walnuts means the kernels of walnuts after the shells are removed.
(4) Person means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other business unit.
(5) USDA Inspector means any Federal or Federal-State inspector of the Fresh Products Standardization and Inspection Branch of the Fruit and Vegetable Division, Consumer and Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

(b) Grade and size regulations. No person may import walnuts (Juglans regia) into the United States unless such walnuts have been inspected and certified by a USDA inspector as meeting the following requirements:

1. Inshell walnuts. All inshell walnuts shall be of a quality equal to or better than the requirements of U.S. No. 2 and “baby” size as prescribed in the United States Standards for Walnuts (Juglans regia) in the Shell (§§51.2945 through 51.2966 of this title); or

2. Shelled walnuts. All shelled walnuts shall be of a quality equal to or better than the requirements for U.S. Commercial Grade as prescribed in the United States Standards for Shelled Walnuts (Juglans regia) (§§51.2275 through 51.2294 of this title excluding §§51.2278(b), 51.2284 and 51.2285) effective January 25, 1959, except that the minimum size shall be pieces not more than five percent of which will pass through a round opening ¾ inch in diameter and no other size requirements shall apply.

(c) Inspection and certification. (1) All inspections and certifications required by paragraph (b) of this section shall be made by USDA inspectors in accordance with the regulations governing the inspection and certification of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other products (Part 51 of this title). The cost of inspection and certification shall be borne by the applicant.

(2) Each inspection certificate shall set forth among other things the following:

(i) The date and place of inspection;
(ii) The name of the applicant;
(iii) The name of the importer;
(iv) The quantity and identifying marks of the container; and
(v) The statement, if applicable, “Meets U.S. import requirements under section 8e of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937”.

(3) Whenever walnuts are offered for inspection, the applicant shall furnish any labor and pay any costs incurred in moving and opening containers as may be necessary for proper sampling and inspection. The applicant shall also furnish the USDA inspector the entry number and such other identifying information for each lot as he may request.

(4) Inspection must be completed prior to the importation of walnuts. To avoid delay the applicant should make advance arrangements with the USDA inspection office.

(d) Reconditioning prior to importation. Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to preclude reconditioning walnuts prior to importation, in order that such walnuts may be made eligible to meet the grade and size regulations prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(e)(1) Minimum quantity. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the importation of any lot of walnuts which does not exceed, in net weight, 60 pounds of shelled walnuts or 115 pounds of inshell walnuts shall be exempt from the requirements of this section.

(2) Exemptions. The grade, size, quality and maturity requirements of this section shall not apply to walnuts which are: green walnuts (so immature that they cannot be used for drying and sale as dried walnuts); walnuts used in
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 999.200

non-competitive outlets such as use by charitable institutions, relief agencies, governmental agencies for school lunch programs, and diversion to animal feed or oil manufacture, but such walnuts shall be subject to the safeguard provisions contained in § 999.500.

(f) Other import requirements. The provisions of this section do not supersede any restrictions or prohibitions on walnuts under the Federal Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, or any other applicable laws or regulations of city, county, State, or Federal Agencies including the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

(g) Compliance. Any person violating any of the provisions of this regulation is subject to a forfeiture in the amount prescribed in section 608a(5) of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601-674), or, upon conviction, a penalty in the amount prescribed in section 608c(14) of said act, or to both such forfeiture and penalty. False representations in any matter within the jurisdiction of any agency of the United States, knowing it to be false, is a violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001 which provides for a fine or imprisonment or both.

§ 999.200 Regulation governing the importation of prunes.

(a) Definitions. (1) Prunes means and includes all sun-dried or artificially dehydrated plums, of any type of variety, produced from plums, except: Sulfur-bleached prunes which are produced from yellow varieties of plums and are commonly known as silver plums; (ii) plums which have not been dried or dehydrated to a point where they are capable of being stored prior to packing, without material deterioration or spoilage unless refrigeration or other artificial means of preservation are used, and so long as they are treated by a process which is in conformity with, or generally similar to, the processes for treatment of plums of that type which have been developed or recommended by the Food Technology Division, College of Agriculture, University of California, for the specialty pack known as “high moisture content prunes”, but this exception shall not apply if and when such plums are dried to the point where they are capable of being stored without material deterioration or spoilage, refrigeration or other artificial means of preservation; and (iii) brine dried prunes that have been impregnated with brine or salt during the dehydration process to the extent that they have lost their form and character as prunes, and cannot be reconstituted to permit economic use of the individual fruits as prunes, and are imported under International Harmonized Tariff Schedule No. 0813.20.100.

(2) Pitted prunes means prunes with the pit removed that are characterized by a uniform depression and minimal skin break where the pit has been removed.

(3) Macerated prunes means dried prunes with the pit removed that are characterized by a flattened appearance with slightly more skin break where the pit has been removed than with pitted prunes.

(4) Standard prunes means any lot of prunes meeting the grade and size requirements prescribed in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(5) Standard pitted prunes means any lot of pitted prunes meeting the grade requirements prescribed in paragraphs (b)(2) and (b)(3) of this section.

(6) Standard pitted macerated prunes means any lot of pitted macerated prunes meeting the grade requirements in paragraphs (b)(2) and (b)(4) of this section.

(7) Manufacturing grade substandard prunes means any lot of prunes which meets the grade requirements prescribed in paragraph (b)(5) of this section but fails to meet the requirements for standard prunes, standard pitted prunes and standard pitted macerated prunes.

(8) Size means the number of prunes contained in a pound.

(9) Person means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other business unit.

(10) Fruit and Vegetable Division means the Fruit and Vegetable Division of the Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.
§ 999.200

(11) USDA inspector means an inspector of the Processed Products Standardization and Inspection Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, or any other duly authorized employee of the USDA.

(12) Importation means release from custody of the U.S. Bureau of Customs.

(13) Undersized prunes means those prunes that pass freely through a round opening 23/32 of an inch in diameter.

(b) Grade and size requirements. (1) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(5) or paragraph (d) of this section, no person may import any lot of prunes into the United States unless the prunes are inspected and an inspection certificate issued with respect thereto, and the lot meets the applicable grade requirements specified in exhibit A of this section and the average count (i.e., number) of the prunes in such lot is 100 or less per pound. In determining whether any lot conforms to the size requirement, the following tolerance shall apply: In a sample of 100 ounces, the count per pound of 10 ounces of smallest prunes may not vary from the count per pound of 10 ounces of the largest prunes by more than 45 points.

(2) No person may import any lot of pitted prunes or pitted macerated prunes for human consumption as pitted or pitted macerated prunes unless the lot meets the applicable minimum grade requirements set forth in §999.200 (exhibit A), except that skin or flesh damage shall not be scored as a defect in determining whether the prunes meet the grade requirements. Pitted and pitted macerated prunes shall not be subject to size and undersized requirements.

(3) No person may import any lot of pitted prunes for human consumption as pitted prunes unless the lot does not exceed an average of 0.5 percent by count of prunes with whole pits and/or pit fragments 2 mm or longer and four of ten subsamples examined have no more than 0.5 percent by count of prunes with whole pits and/or pit fragments 2 mm or longer.

(4) No person may import any lot of pitted macerated prunes for human consumption as pitted macerated prunes unless the lot does not exceed an average of 2 percent by count of prunes with whole pits and/or pit fragments 2 mm or longer; and four of ten subsamples examined have no more than 2 percent by count with whole pits and/or pit fragments 2 mm or longer.

(5) Any person may import any lot of prunes, except any lot containing undersized prunes, pitted prunes or pitted macerated prunes, into the United States for use in human consumption outlets as prune products in which the prunes lose their form and character as prunes by conversion prior to consumption if the prunes are inspected and an inspection certificate issued with respect thereto, and each lot meets the grade requirements set forth in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of exhibit A of this section, and the importer first files as a condition of such importation an executed "Prune Form No. 1 Prunes-Section 8e Entry Declaration".

(c) Inspection and certification requirements. (1) Inspection. Inspection shall be performed by a USDA inspector in accordance with the regulations governing inspection and certification of processed fruits and vegetables, processed products thereof, and certain other processed food products (part 52 of this title). The cost of each such inspection and related certification shall be borne by the applicant.

(2) Certification. Each lot of prunes inspected in accordance with paragraph (c)(1) of this section shall be covered by an inspection certificate. Each such certificate shall set forth, among other things, the following:

(i) The date and place of inspection.
(ii) The name of the applicant.
(iii) The quantity and identifying marks of the lot inspected.
(iv) The statement, as applicable: "Meets U.S. import requirements for standard prunes, standard pitted and standard pitted macerated prunes under section 8e of the AMA Act of 1937"; "Meets U.S. import requirements for manufacturing grade substandard prunes under section 8e of the AMA Act of 1937"; or "Fails to meet U.S. import requirements for prunes under section 8e of the AMA Act of 1937".
(v) If the lot fails to meet the import requirements, a statement of the reason therefor.
(d) Exemptions. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, the importation of any lot of prunes which in the aggregate does not exceed 150 pounds, net weight, and any prunes that are so denatured as to render them unfit for human consumption shall be exempt from the requirements of this section.

(e) Additional requirements. (1) General. Prior to importation of any prunes, the person importing such prunes shall file an inspection certificate with the Collector of Customs at the port at which the customs entry is filed. In addition, if such prunes are manufacturing grade substandard prunes, such person shall also file with the Collector of Customs an executed "Prunes—Section 8e Entry Declaration," prescribed in paragraph (e)(2) of this section as Prune Form No. 1.

Promptly after such filing, such person shall transmit a copy of this form to the Fruit and Vegetable Division. No person may import, sell, or use any manufacturing grade substandard prunes other than for use as set forth in paragraph (b)(5) of this section. Each person importing manufacturing grade substandard prunes shall obtain from each purchaser, no later than the time of delivery to such purchaser, and file with the Fruit and Vegetable Division not later than the 5th day of the month following the month in which the prunes were delivered, an executed Prune Form No. 2 (Prunes—Section 8e Certification of Processor or Reseller) and to file the same with the Fruit and Vegetable Division, Consumer and Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, not later than the 5th day of the month following the month in which the prunes were delivered.

Dated: ____________________________
Name of firm: ____________________
Address: ________________________
Signature: ________________________
Title: ____________________________

(3) Prune Form No. 2. The following is prescribed as Prune Form No. 2:

**PRUNE FORM NO. 2
PRUNES—SECTION 8e CERTIFICATION OF PROCESSOR OR RESELLER**

I hereby certify to the U.S. Department of Agriculture that I have acquired the manufacturing grade substandard prunes covered by this certification; that I will use or sell them for use only in manufacturing in which the prunes lose their form and identity as prunes as permitted by the Regulation Governing the Importation of Prunes (7 CFR 999.200); and that I am: (check one or both if applicable)

--processor (user of prunes for manufacturing).
--reseller (dealer in prunes for manufacturing).

1. Date of purchase: _____________
2. Place of purchase: _____________
3. Name and address of importer or seller: _____________
4. Prunes acquired: _____________

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Dated: ____________________________
Name of firm: ____________________

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(4) Manufacturing Grade Substandard Prune—sale by other than importer. Each wholesaler or other reseller of manufacturing grade substandard prunes should, for his protection, obtain from each purchaser and hold in his files an executed Prune Form No. 2 covering each sale during the calendar year.

(f) Reconditioning. Nothing contained in this section shall preclude the reconditioning of failing lots of prunes, prior to importation, so that such prunes may be made eligible to meet the requirements prescribed pursuant to paragraphs (b)(1) through (5), as applicable, of this section.

(g) Books and records. Each person subject to this section shall maintain true and complete records of his transactions with respect to imported prunes. Such records and copies of executed forms shall be retained for not less than 2 years subsequent to the calendar year of acquisition. The Secretary, through his duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any such person’s premises during regular business hours and shall be permitted at any such times to inspect such records and any prunes held by such person.

(h) Other restrictions. The provisions of this section do not supersede any restrictions or prohibitions on the importation of prunes under the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, or any other applicable laws or regulations or the need to comply with applicable food and sanitary regulations of city, State, or Federal agencies.

(i) Compliance. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be subject to a forfeiture in the amount prescribed in section 8a(5) of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (sections 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601-674), or, upon conviction, a penalty in the amount prescribed in section 8c(14) of said act, or to both such forfeiture and penalty. False representations to an agency of the United States on any matter within its jurisdiction, knowing it to be false, is a violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001 which provides for a fine or imprisonment or both.

EXHIBIT A

GRADE REQUIREMENTS

A. Defects. Defects are: (1) Off-color; (2) inferior meat condition; (3) end cracks; (4) fermentation; (5) skin or flesh damage; (6) scab; (7) burned; (8) mold; (9) imbedded dirt; (10) insect infestation; (11) decay.

B. Explanation of terms. (1) Off-color means a dull color or skin differing noticeably in appearance from that which is characteristic of mature, properly handled fruit of a given variety or type.

(2) Inferior meat condition means flesh which is fibrous, woody, or otherwise inferior due to immaturity to the extent that the characteristic texture of the meat is substantially affected.

(3) End cracks means callous growth cracks, at the blossom end of prunes, aggregating more than three-eighths of one inch (3/8″) but not more than one-half of one inch (1/2″) in length.

(4) Fermentation means damage to the flesh by fermentation to the extent that the characteristic appearance or flavor is substantially affected.

(5) Skin or flesh damage means growth cracks, splits, breaks in skin or flesh of the following descriptions:

(a) Callous growth cracks, except end cracks as defined in this section, aggregating more than three-eighths of one inch (3/8″) in length;

(b) Splits or skin breaks exposing flesh and materially affecting the normal appearance of the prunes;

(c) Any cracks, splits, or breaks open to the pit;

(d) Healed or unhealed surface or flesh blemishes caused by insect injury and which materially affect appearance, edibility or keeping quality.

(6) Scab means tough or thick scab exceeding in the aggregate the area of a circle three-fourths of one inch (3/4″) in diameter or by unsightly scab of another character exceeding in the aggregate the area of a circle three-fourths of one inch (3/4″) in diameter.

(7) Burned means injury by sunburn or excessive heat in dehydration to the extent that the characteristic appearance, flavor or edibility of the fruit is noticeably affected.

(8) Mold means a characteristic fungus growth and is self-explanatory.

(9) Imbedded dirt means the presence of dirt or other extraneous material so imbedded in, or adhering to, the prune that it cannot readily be removed in washing the fruit.

(10) Insect infestation means the presence of insects, insect fragments or insect remains.
C. Maximum tolerances. Tolerance allowances shall be on a weight basis and shall not exceed the following:

1. There shall be no tolerance allowance for live insect infestation.
2. The tolerance allowances for decay shall not exceed one percent (1%).
3. The combined tolerance allowance for mold, brown rot, imbedded dirt, insect infestation, and decay shall not exceed five percent (5%), and, within such tolerance, brown rot shall not exceed three percent (3%).
4. The combined tolerance allowance for fermentation, skin or flesh damage, scab, burned, mold, imbedded dirt, insect infestation, and decay shall not exceed eight percent (8%).
5. The combined tolerance allowance for end cracks, fermentation, skin or flesh damage, scab, burned, mold, imbedded dirt, insect infestation, and decay shall not exceed ten percent (10%), except that the first eight percent (8%) of end cracks shall be given one-half value and any additional percentage of end cracks shall be given full value.

§ 999.300 Regulation governing importation of raisins.

(a) Definitions. For purposes of this section:

1. Raisins means grapes from which a part of the natural moisture has been removed.
2. Varietal type means the applicable one of the following: Thompson Seedless raisins, Muscat raisins, Layer Muscat raisins, Currant raisins, Monukka raisins, Other Seedless raisins, and Golden Seedless raisins.
3. Thompson Seedless Raisins includes those raisins commonly referred to in international trade as Sultana raisins and means raisins made from Thompson Seedless (Sultana) grapes and from grapes with characteristics similar to Thompson Seedless (Sultana) grapes.
4. Person means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other business unit.

(b) Grade and size requirements. The importation of raisins into the United States is prohibited unless the raisins are inspected and certified as provided in this section. Except as provided in paragraph (e)(2) of this section, no person may import raisins into the United States unless such raisins have been inspected and certified by a USDA inspector as to whether or not the raisins are of a varietal type, and if a varietal type, as at least meeting the following applicable grade and size requirements, which requirements are the same as those imposed upon domestic raisins handled pursuant to Order No. 989, as amended (part 989 of this chapter):

1. With respect to Thompson Seedless raisins—the requirements of U.S. Grade C as defined in the effective United States Standards of Grades of Processed Raisins (§§ 52.1841 through 52.1858 of this title): Provided, That at least 70 percent, by weight, of the raisins shall be well-matured or reasonably well-matured. With respect to select-sized and mixed-sized raisin lots, the raisins shall at least meet the U.S. Grade B tolerances for pieces of stem, and undeveloped and substandard raisins, and small (midget) sized raisins shall meet the U.S. Grade C tolerances for those factors;
2. With respect to Muscat raisins—the requirements of U.S. Grade C as defined in said standards;
3. With respect to Layer Muscat raisins—the requirements of U.S. Grade B
§ 999.300

as defined for “Layer or Cluster Raisins with Seeds” in said standards, except for the provisions therein relating to moisture content;

(4) With respect to Currant raisins—the requirements of U.S. Grade B as defined in said standards;

(5) With respect to Monukka and Other Seedless raisins—the requirements for Thompson Seedless Raisins prescribed in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, except that the tolerance for moisture shall be 19 percent rather than 18 percent;

(6) With respect to Golden Seedless raisins—the requirements prescribed in paragraph (b)(1) of this section for Thompson Seedless raisins and the color requirements for “colored” as defined in said standards.

(c) Inspection and certification requirements. (1) All inspections and certifications required by paragraph (b) of this section shall be made by USDA inspectors in accordance with the regulations governing inspection and certification of processed fruits and vegetables, processed products thereof, and certain other processed food products (part 52 of this title). The cost of each such inspection and certification shall be borne by the applicant.

(2) Each lot of raisins inspected in accordance with paragraph (c)(1) of this section shall be covered by an inspection certificate. Each such certificate shall set forth, among other things, the following:

(i) The date and place of inspection;

(ii) The name of the applicant;

(iii) The name of the importer;

(iv) The quantity and identifying marks of the lot inspected;

(v) The statement, as applicable, “Meets U.S. import requirements under section 8e of the AMA Act of 1937” or “Fails to meet U.S. import requirements under section 8e of the AMA Act of 1937”; and

(vi) If the lot fails to meet the import requirements, a statement of the reasons therefor.

(3) Whenever raisins are offered for inspection, the applicant shall furnish any labor and pay any costs incurred in moving and opening containers as may be necessary for proper sampling and inspection. The applicant shall also furnish the USDA inspector the entry number and such other identifying information for each lot as he may request. “To avoid delay in scheduling the inspection the applicant should make advance arrangements with the USDA inspection office.”

(d) Reconditioning. Nothing contained in this section shall preclude the reconditioning of failing lots of raisins prior to importation of raisins in order that such raisins may be made eligible to meet the applicable grade and size requirements in paragraph (b) of this section.

(e) Exemptions. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any lot of raisins which in the aggregate does not exceed 100 pounds, net weight, may be imported without regard to the restrictions of this section.

(2) Any person may import any lot of raisins which does not meet the applicable grade and size requirements of paragraph (b) of this section for use in the production of alcohol, syrup for industrial use, or which does not meet such requirements with respect to mechanical damage or sugaring for use in the production of raisin paste. Prior to such importation, such person shall file with the Customs Service Regional Commissioner or District Director, as applicable, at the port at which the customs entry is filed an executed “Raisins—Section 8e Entry Declaration” prescribed in paragraph (e)(2)(i) of this section as “Raisin Form No. 1”. Promptly after such filing, such person shall transmit a copy of this form to the Fruit and Vegetable Division. No person may import, sell, or use any raisins which do not meet the applicable grade and size requirements of paragraph (b) of this section other than for use as set forth in this paragraph. Each person importing raisins, which do not meet the applicable grade and size requirements of paragraph (b) of this section, for use in the production of alcohol, syrup for industrial use, or raisin paste shall obtain from each purchaser, not later than the time of delivery to such purchaser, and file with the Fruit and Vegetable Division not later than the fifth day of the month following the month in which the raisins were delivered, an executed “Raisins—Section 8e Certification of Processor or Reseller,” prescribed in paragraph.
(e)(2)(ii) of this section as “Raisin Form No. 2.” One copy of this executed form shall be retained by the importer and one copy shall be retained by the purchaser. Each reseller of raisins imported pursuant to this subparagraph should, for his protection, obtain from each purchaser and hold in his files an executed Raisin Form No. 2, covering such sales of such raisins during the calendar year. One copy of this executed form shall be retained by the reseller and one copy shall be retained by the purchaser.

(i) Raisin Form No. 1. The following is prescribed as Raisin Form No. 1.

**RAISIN FORM NO. 1**

I certify to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Customs that none of the raisins being imported and which are identified below will be used other than in the production of alcohol, syrup for industrial use, or raisin paste.

1. Name of vessel: ____________________________
2. Country of origin of raisins: ____________________________
3. Date of arrival: ____________________________
4. City of arrival: ____________________________
5. Unloading pier: ____________________________
6. USDA Certificate of Quality and Condition Number: ____________________________
7. Raisins entered:

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I agree to obtain from each person to whom any of the raisins listed above are delivered, an executed Raisin Form No. 2 “Raisins—Section 8E Certification of Processor or Reseller” and to file the same with the same and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, not later than the fifth day of the month following the month in which the raisins were delivered.

Dated: ____________________________
Name of firm: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Signature: ____________________________
Title: ____________________________

(ii) Raisin Form No. 2. The following is prescribed as Raisin Form No. 2.

**RAISIN FORM NO. 2**

I hereby certify to the U.S. Department of Agriculture that I have acquired the raisins covered by this certification; that I will use or sell them for use only in production of alcohol, syrup for industrial use, or raisin paste, as permitted by the Regulation Governing the Importation of Raisins (7 CFR 999.300; 37 FR 5252; 13634) and I am (check one or more if applicable):

---Producer of alcohol. ---Producer of syrup for industrial use. ---Reseller.

1. Date of purchase: ____________________________
2. Place of purchase: ____________________________
3. Name and address of importer or seller: ____________________________
4. USDA Certificate of Quality and Condition Number: ____________________________
5. Raisins acquired:

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Dated: ____________________________
Name of firm: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
Signature: ____________________________
Title: ____________________________

(f) Books and records. Each person subject to this section shall maintain true and complete records of his transactions with respect to imported raisins. Such records shall be retained for not less than 2 years subsequent to the calendar year of importation. The Secretary, through his duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any such person’s premises during regular business hours and shall be permitted at any such time to inspect such records and any imported raisins held by such person.

(g) Other restriction. The provisions of this section do not supersede any restrictions or prohibitions on the importation of raisins under the Federal Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, or any other applicable laws or regulations, or the need to comply with applicable food and sanitary regulations of city, county, State, or Federal agencies.

(h) Compliance. Any person violating any of the provisions of this regulation...
§ 999.400 Regulation governing the importation of filberts.

(a) Definitions.

(1) Filberts means filberts or hazelnuts.

(2) Inshell filberts means filberts, the kernels or edible portions of which are contained in the shell.

(3) Shelled filberts means the kernels of filberts after the shells are removed.

(4) Person means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other business unit.

(5) USDA inspector means a Federal or Federal-State inspector, Food Safety and Quality Service, United States Department of Agriculture, or any other duly authorized employee of the USDA.

(6) Importation means release from custody of the United States Bureau of Customs.

(b) Grade and size requirements. Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, no person shall import into the United States any lot of filberts unless the filberts meet the following requirements, which are identical to those for filberts grown in Oregon and Washington and handled pursuant to Order No. 982, as amended (7 CFR part 982): (1) Inshell filberts. All inshell filberts shall be of a quality equal to or better than the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade and medium size as defined in the U.S. Standards for Filberts in the Shell (7 CFR part 51), except that the tolerance for insect injury shall be two percent. With this modification, the U.S. No. 1 grade, medium size is identical to the Oregon No. 1 grade, medium size (as defined in the Oregon Grade Standards Filberts in Shell) and prescribed for inshell filberts under Order No. 982, as amended. (2) Shelled filberts. All shelled filberts shall be of a quality equal to or better than the requirements prescribed in exhibit A of this section.

(c) Inspection and certification requirements. (1) General. Compliance with the grade and size requirements of paragraph (b) of this section shall be determined on the basis of an inspection and certification by a USDA inspector.

(2) Inspection. Inspection shall be performed by USDA inspectors in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Inspection and Certification of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and Related Products (7 CFR part 51). The cost of each such inspection and related certification shall be borne by the applicant. Whenever filberts are offered for inspection, the applicant shall furnish any labor and pay any costs incurred in moving and opening containers as may be necessary for proper sampling and inspection. The applicant shall also furnish the USDA inspector the entry number and such other identifying information for each lot as he may request. Inspection must be completed prior to the importation of filberts. The applicant should make advance arrangements with the USDA inspection office to avoid delay in scheduling the inspection.

(3) Certification. Each lot of filberts inspected in accordance with paragraph (c)(1) of this section shall be covered by an inspection certificate. Each such certificate shall set forth, among other things, the following:

(i) The date and place of inspection.

(ii) The name of the applicant.

(iii) The name of the importer.

(iv) The quantity, and identifying marks of the lot inspected.

(v) The statement, if applicable: ‘‘Meets U.S. import requirements under section 8e of the AMA Act of 1937’’.

(vi) If the lot fails to meet the import requirements, a statement to that effect and the reasons therefor.
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

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(d) Exemptions. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, the importation of any lot of filberts which does not exceed 115 pounds in net weight shall be exempt from the requirements of this section.

(e) Reconditioning prior to importation. Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to preclude reconditioning filberts prior to importation, in order that such filberts may be made eligible to meet the applicable grade and size regulations prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(f) Other restrictions. The provisions of this section do not supersede the Federal Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or any other applicable laws or regulations or the need to comply with applicable food and sanitary regulations of city, county, State or Federal agencies.

(g) Compliance. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be subject to a forfeiture in the amount prescribed in section 8a(5) of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (sections 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601-674), or, upon conviction, a penalty in the amount prescribed in section 8c(14) of said act, or to both such forfeiture and penalty. False representations to any agency of the United States on any matter within its jurisdiction, knowing it to be false, is a violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001 which provides for a fine or imprisonment or both.

EXHIBIT A

GRADE REQUIREMENTS FOR SHELLED FILBERTS

Filbert kernels or portions of filbert kernels shall meet the following requirements:

1. Well dried and clean;
2. Free from foreign material, mold, rancidity, decay or insect injury; and
3. Free from serious damage caused by serious shriveling, or other means.

DEFINITIONS

TOLERANCES

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling the following tolerances, by weight, are permitted as specified:

1. For Foreign Material: 0.02 of one percent, for foreign material.
2. For Defects: Five percent for kernels or portions of kernels which are below the requirements of this grade, including not more than the following: Two percent for mold, rancidity, decay or insect injury: Provided, that not more than one percent shall be for mold, rancidity, or insect injury.

Sierra Nevada F.O.R.D.sql, USDA § 999.500

Tolerances

(1) For Foreign Material: 0.02 of one percent, for foreign material.
(2) For Defects: Five percent for kernels or portions of kernels which are below the requirements of this grade, including not more than the following: Two percent for mold, rancidity, decay or insect injury: Provided, that not more than one percent shall be for mold, rancidity, or insect injury.

Sierra Nevada F.O.R.D. sql, USDA § 999.500

† on reservations; or

§ 999.500 Safeguard procedures for walnuts and certain dates exempt from grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements.

(a) Each person who imports:

1. Dates which are donated to needy persons, prisoners or Native Americans on reservations; or
2. Walnuts which are: green walnuts (so immature that they cannot be used for drying and sale as dried walnuts); walnuts used in non-competitive outlets such as use by charitable institutions, relief agencies, governmental agencies for school lunch programs, and diversion to animal feed or oil manufacture shall obtain an "Importer's Exempt Commodity Form" (FV-6)
§ 999.600 Regulation governing imports of peanuts.

(a) Definitions. (1) Peanuts means the seeds of the legume Arachis hypogaea and includes both inshell and shelled peanuts produced in countries other than the United States, other than those marketed in green form for consumption as boiled peanuts.

(2) Farmers stock peanuts means picked and threshed raw peanuts which have not been shelled, crushed, cleaned or otherwise changed (except for removal of foreign material, loose shelled kernels, and excess moisture) from the form in which customarily marketed by producers.

(3) Inshell peanuts means peanuts, the kernels or edible portions of which are contained in the shell.

(4) Incoming inspection means the sampling and inspection of farmers stock peanuts to determine Segregation quality.

(5) Segregation 1 peanuts, unless otherwise specified, means farmers stock peanuts with not more than 2.00 percent damaged kernels nor more than 1.00 percent concealed damage caused by rancidity, mold, or decay and which are free from visible Aspergillus flavus mold.

(6) Segregation 2 peanuts, unless otherwise specified, means farmers stock peanuts with more than 2.00 percent damaged kernels or more than 1.00 percent concealed damage caused by rancidity, mold, or decay and which are free from visible Aspergillus flavus mold.

(7) Segregation 3 peanuts, unless otherwise specified, means farmers stock peanuts with visible Aspergillus flavus mold.

(8) Shelled peanuts means the kernels of peanuts after the shells are removed.

(9) Outgoing inspection means the sampling and inspection of either: shelled peanuts which have been cleaned, sorted, sized and otherwise prepared for human consumption markets; or inshell peanuts which have...
been cleaned, sorted and otherwise pre-
pared for inshell human consumption
markets.
(10) Negative aflatoxin content means
15 parts-per-billion (ppb) or less for
peanuts which have been certified as
meeting edible quality grade require-
ments.
(11) Person means an individual, part-
nership, corporation, association, or
any other business unit.
(12) Secretary means the Secretary of
Agriculture of the United States or any
officer or employee of the United
States Department of Agriculture (De-
partment or USDA) who is, or who may
hereafter be, authorized to act on be-
half of the Secretary.
(13) Inspection service means the Fed-
eral or Federal-State Inspection Serv-
ice, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agri-
cultural Marketing Service, USDA.
(14) USDA laboratory means labora-
tories of the Science and Technology
Division, Agricultural Marketing Serv-
ice, USDA, that chemically analyze
peanuts for aflatoxin content.
(15) PAC approved laboratories means
laboratories approved by the Peanut
Administrative Committee, pursuant
to Peanut Marketing Agreement No.
146 (7 CFR part 998), that chemically
analyze peanuts for aflatoxin content.
(16) Conditionally released means re-
leased from Customs Service custody
for further handling (sampling, inspec-
tion, chemical analysis, or storage) be-
fore final release.
(17) Importation means the arrival of a
peanut shipment at a port-of-entry
with the intent to enter the peanuts
into channels of commerce of the
United States.
(b) Incoming regulation. (1) Farmers
stock peanuts presented for consump-
tion must undergo incoming inspec-
tion. Only Segregation 1 peanuts may
be used for human consumption. All
foreign produced farmers stock peanuts
for human consumption must be sam-
ped and inspected at a buying point or
other handling facility capable of per-
forming incoming sampling and inspec-
tion. Sampling and inspection shall be
conducted by the inspection service.
Only Segregation 1 peanuts certified as
meeting the following requirements
may be used in human consumption
markets:

(i) Moisture. Except as provided under
paragraph (b)(2) Seed peanuts, of this
section, peanuts may not contain more
than 10.49 percent moisture: Provided,
That peanuts of a higher moisture con-
tent may be received and dried to not
more than 10.49 percent moisture prior
to storage or milling.
(ii) Foreign material. Peanuts may not
contain more than 10.49 percent foreign
material, except that peanuts having a
higher foreign material content may be
held separately until milled, or moved
over a sand-screen before storage, or
shipped directly to a plant for prompt
shelling. The term sand-screen means
any type of farmers stock cleaner
which, when in use, removes sand and
dirt.
(iii) Damage. For the purpose of de-
termining damage, other than con-
cealed damage, on farmers stock pea-
nuts, all percentage determinations
shall be rounded to the nearest whole
number.
(2) Seed peanuts. Farmers stock pea-
nuts determined to be Segregation 1
quality, and shelled peanuts certified
negative to aflatoxin (15 ppb or less),
may be imported for seed purposes. Re-
siduals from the shelling of Segrega-
tion 1 seed peanuts may be milled with
other imported peanuts of the im-
porter, and such residuals meeting
quality requirements specified in para-
grah (c)(1) of this section may be dis-
posed to human consumption channels.
Any portion not meeting such quality
requirements shall be disposed to ined-
ible peanut channels pursuant to para-
graphs (f) and (g) of this section. All
disposition of seed peanuts and residu-
als from seed peanuts, whether com-
mingled or kept separate and apart,
shall be reported to the Secretary pur-
suant to paragraphs (f)(2) and (f)(3) of
this section. The receiving seed outlet
must retain records of the transaction,
pursuant to paragraph (g)(7) of this sec-
tion.
(3) Oilstock and exportation. Farmers
stock peanuts of lower quality than
Segregation 1 (Segregation 2 and 3 pea-
nuts) shall be used only in inedible out-
lets. Segregation 2 and 3 peanuts may
be commingled but shall be kept sepa-
rate and apart from edible quality pea-
nut lots. Commingled Segregation 2
§ 999.600

and 3 peanuts and Segregation 3 peanuts shall be disposed only to oilstock or exported. Shelled peanuts and cleaned-inshell peanuts which fail to meet the requirements for human consumption in paragraphs (c)(1) or (c)(2), respectively, of §997.600, may be crushed for oil or exported.

(c) Outgoing regulation. No person shall import peanuts for human consumption into the United States unless such peanuts are lot identified and certified by the inspection service as meeting one of the following requirements:

1) Shelled peanuts. (i) No importer shall ship or otherwise dispose of shelled peanuts to human consumption markets unless such peanuts are lot identified, certified as “negative” to aflatoxin, and meet the requirements specified in table 1.

**Table 1—Minimum Grade Requirements—Peanuts for Human Consumption**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and grade category</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts and damaged kernels (percent)</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts, damaged kernels and minor defects (percent)</th>
<th>Fall through</th>
<th>Foreign materials (percent)</th>
<th>Moisture (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sound split and broken kernels</td>
<td>Sound whole kernels</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Excluding lots of “splits”**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1.50</th>
<th>2.50</th>
<th>3.00%</th>
<th>15/64 inch</th>
<th>3.00%</th>
<th>15/64 x 1 inch</th>
<th>4.00%</th>
<th>both screens.</th>
<th>.20</th>
<th>9.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Runner...................</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 inch</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 x 1 inch</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
<td>both screens.</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia (except No. 2)</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 inch</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 x 1 inch</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
<td>both screens.</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish and Valencia.</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 inch</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 x 1 inch</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
<td>both screens.</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 2 Virginia.........</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>6.00%</td>
<td>15/64 inch</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 x 1 inch</td>
<td>6.00%</td>
<td>both screens.</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lots of “splits”**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1.50</th>
<th>2.50</th>
<th>3.00%</th>
<th>15/64 inch</th>
<th>3.00%</th>
<th>15/64 x 1 inch</th>
<th>4.00%</th>
<th>both screens.</th>
<th>.20</th>
<th>9.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Runner (not more than 4% sound whole kernels).</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 inch</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 x 1 inch</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
<td>both screens.</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia (not less than 90% splits), Spanish and Valencia (not more than 4% sound whole kernels).</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 inch</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 x 1 inch</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
<td>both screens.</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(ii) Shelled peanuts which are lot identified, certified as “negative” to aflatoxin pursuant to paragraph (d)(4)(v) of this section, and meet requirements specified in the table 2, may be shipped to human consumption markets prior to the importer receiving such aflatoxin certification.

**Table 2—Superior Quality Requirements—Peanuts for Human Consumption**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and grade category</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts and damaged kernels and minor defects (percent)</th>
<th>Sound split and broken kernels (percent)</th>
<th>Sound whole kernels (percent)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Foreign materials (percent)</th>
<th>Moisture (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 inch</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 x 1 inch</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
<td>both screens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runner U.S. No. 1 and better.</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 inch</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 x 1 inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia U.S. No. 1 and better.</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 inch</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 x 1 inch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 2—SUPERIOR QUALITY REQUIREMENTS—PEANUTS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION—Continued

[Whole Kernels and Splits]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and grade category</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts and damaged kernels (percent)</th>
<th>Unshelled peanuts, damaged kernels and minor defects (percent)</th>
<th>Fall through</th>
<th>Foreign materials (percent)</th>
<th>Moisture (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sound split and broken kernels (percent)</td>
<td>Sound whole kernels (percent)</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish and Valencia U.S. No. 1 and better</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>15/64 inch, round screen.</td>
<td>2.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runner U.S. Splits (not more than 4% sound, whole kernels)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>2.00%</td>
<td>17/64 inch, round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia U.S. Splits (not less than 90% splits and not more than 3.00% sound whole kernels and portions passing through 35/64 inch round screen)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>17/64 inch, round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish and Valencia U.S. Splits (not more than 4% sound, whole kernels)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>2.00%</td>
<td>16/64 inch, round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runner with splits (not more than 15% sound splits)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>17/64 inch, round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia with splits (not more than 15% sound splits)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>17/64 inch, round screen.</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish and Valencia with splits (not more than 15% sound splits)</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>16/64 inch, round screen.</td>
<td>2.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(iii) The term fall through, as used herein, shall mean sound split and broken kernels and whole kernels which pass through specified screens. Prior to shipment, appropriate samples for pre-testing shall be drawn in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section from each lot of Superior Quality peanuts.

(2) Cleaned-inshell peanuts. Peanuts declared as cleaned-inshell peanuts may be presented for sampling and outgoing inspection in bags at the port-of-entry. Alternatively, peanuts may be conditionally released as cleaned-inshell peanuts but shall not subsequently undergo any cleaning, sorting, sizing or drying process prior to presentation for outgoing inspection as cleaned-inshell peanuts. Cleaned-inshell peanuts which fail outgoing inspection may be reconditioned or re-delivered to the port-of-entry, at the option of the importer. Cleaned-inshell peanuts determined to be unprepared farmers stock peanuts must be inspected against incoming quality requirements and determined to be Segregation 1 peanuts prior to outgoing inspection for cleaned-inshell peanuts. Cleaned-inshell peanuts intended for human consumption may not contain more than:

(i) 1.00 percent kernels with mold present, unless a sample of such peanuts is drawn by the inspection service and analyzed chemically by a USDA or PAC approved laboratory and certified “negative” as to aflatoxin.
(ii) 2.00 percent peanuts with damaged kernels;
(iii) 10.00 percent moisture (carried to the hundredths place); and
(iv) 0.50 percent foreign material.

(d) Sampling and inspection. (1) All sampling and inspection, quality certification, chemical analysis, and lot identification, required under this section, shall be done by the inspection service, a USDA laboratory, or a PAC-approved laboratory, as applicable, in accordance with the procedures specified herein. The importer shall make arrangements with the inspection service for sampling, inspection, lot identification and certification of all peanuts accumulated by the importer. The importer also shall make arrangements for the appropriate disposition of peanuts failing edible quality requirements of this section. All costs of sampling, inspection, certification, identification, and disposition incurred in meeting the requirements of this section shall be paid by the importer.

(2) Whenever peanuts are offered for inspection, the importer shall furnish any labor and pay any costs incurred in moving and opening containers as may be necessary for proper sampling and inspection.

(3) Procedures for sampling and testing peanuts for incoming and outgoing inspections of peanuts presented for consumption into the United States will be conducted as follows:

(i) Application for sampling. The importer shall request inspection and certification services from one of the following inspection service offices convenient to the location where the peanuts are presented for incoming and/or outgoing inspection. To avoid possible delays, the importer should make arrangements with the inspection service in advance of the inspection date. A copy of the Customs Service entry document specific to the peanuts to be inspected shall be presented to the inspection official prior to sampling of the lot.

(A) The following offices provide incoming farmers stock inspection:

- Dothan, AL, tel: (334) 792-5185
- Graceville, FL, tel: (904) 263-3204
- Winter Haven, FL, tel: (941) 291-5820, ext 260
- Albany, GA, tel: (912) 432-7505
- Williamston, NC, tel: (919) 792-1672
- Columbia, SC, tel: (803) 253-4597
- Suffolk, VA, tel: (804) 925-2286
- Portales, NM, tel: (505) 356-8363
- Oklahoma City, OK, tel: (405) 521-3864
- Gorman, TX, tel: (817) 734-3006
- Yuma, AZ, tel: (602) 344-3869

(B) The following offices, in addition to the offices listed in paragraph (A), provide outgoing sampling and/or inspection services, and certify shelled and cleaned-inshell peanuts as meeting or failing the quality requirements of this section:

- Mobile, AL, tel: (205) 690-6154
- Jacksonville, FL, tel: (904) 359-6430
- Miami, FL, tel: (305) 592-1375
- Tampa, FL, tel: (813) 272-2470
- Presque Isle, ME, tel: (207) 744-2100
- Baltimore/Washington, tel: (301) 344-3860
- Boston, MA, tel: (617) 349-2480
- Newark, NJ, tel: (201) 649-2670
- New York, NY, tel: (212) 738-7665
- Buffalo, NY, tel: (716) 524-1565
- Philadelphia, PA, tel: (215) 338-0845
- Norfolk, VA, tel: (804) 441-6218

(2) For farmers stock inspection, the importer shall cause the inspection service to perform an incoming inspection and to issue an CFSA-1007, "Inspection Certificate and Sales Memorandum" form designating the lot as Segregation 1, 2, or 3 quality peanuts. For shelled and cleaned-inshell peanuts, the importer shall cause the inspection service to perform an outgoing inspection and issue an FV-184-9A, "Milled Peanut Inspection Certificate" reporting quality and size of the shelled or cleaned-inshell peanuts, whether the lot meets or fails to meet quality requirements for human consumption of this section, and that the lot originated in a country other than the United States. The importer shall provide to the Secretary copies of all CFSA 1007 and FV-184-9A applicable to each peanut lot conditionally released to the importer. Such reports shall be submitted as provided in paragraphs (f)(2) and (f)(3) of this section.

(3) Procedures for sampling and testing peanuts. Sampling and testing of peanuts for incoming and outgoing inspections of peanuts presented for consumption into the United States will be conducted as follows:

(i) Application for sampling. The importer shall request inspection and certification services from one of the following inspection service offices convenient to the location where the peanuts are presented for incoming and/or outgoing inspection. To avoid possible delays, the importer should make arrangements with the inspection service in advance of the inspection date. A copy of the Customs Service entry document specific to the peanuts to be inspected shall be presented to the inspection official prior to sampling of the lot.

(A) The following offices provide incoming farmers stock inspection:

- Dothan, AL, tel: (334) 792-5185
- Graceville, FL, tel: (904) 263-3204
- Winter Haven, FL, tel: (941) 291-5820, ext 260
- Albany, GA, tel: (912) 432-7505
- Williamston, NC, tel: (919) 792-1672
- Columbia, SC, tel: (803) 253-4597
- Suffolk, VA, tel: (804) 925-2286
- Portales, NM, tel: (505) 356-8363
- Oklahoma City, OK, tel: (405) 521-3864
- Gorman, TX, tel: (817) 734-3006
- Yuma, AZ, tel: (602) 344-3869

(B) The following offices, in addition to the offices listed in paragraph (A), provide outgoing sampling and/or inspection services, and certify shelled and cleaned-inshell peanuts as meeting or failing the quality requirements of this section:

- Mobile, AL, tel: (205) 690-6154
- Jacksonville, FL, tel: (904) 359-6430
- Miami, FL, tel: (305) 592-1375
- Tampa, FL, tel: (813) 272-2470
- Presque Isle, ME, tel: (207) 744-2100
- Baltimore/Washington, tel: (301) 344-3860
- Boston, MA, tel: (617) 349-2480
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- Buffalo, NY, tel: (716) 524-1565
- Philadelphia, PA, tel: (215) 338-0845
- Norfolk, VA, tel: (804) 441-6218

(2) For farmers stock inspection, the importer shall cause the inspection service to perform an incoming inspection and to issue an CFSA-1007, "Inspection Certificate and Sales Memorandum" form designating the lot as Segregation 1, 2, or 3 quality peanuts. For shelled and cleaned-inshell peanuts, the importer shall cause the inspection service to perform an outgoing inspection and issue an FV-184-9A, "Milled Peanut Inspection Certificate" reporting quality and size of the shelled or cleaned-inshell peanuts, whether the lot meets or fails to meet quality requirements for human consumption of this section, and that the lot originated in a country other than the United States. The importer shall provide to the Secretary copies of all CFSA 1007 and FV-184-9A applicable to each peanut lot conditionally released to the importer. Such reports shall be submitted as provided in paragraphs (f)(2) and (f)(3) of this section.

(3) Procedures for sampling and testing peanuts. Sampling and testing of peanuts for incoming and outgoing inspections of peanuts presented for consumption into the United States will be conducted as follows:

(i) Application for sampling. The importer shall request inspection and certification services from one of the following inspection service offices convenient to the location where the peanuts are presented for incoming and/or outgoing inspection. To avoid possible delays, the importer should make arrangements with the inspection service in advance of the inspection date. A copy of the Customs Service entry document specific to the peanuts to be inspected shall be presented to the inspection official prior to sampling of the lot.
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Western U.S.

Nogales, AZ, tel: (602) 283-0783,
Los Angeles, CA, tel: (213) 894-2489,
San Francisco, CA, tel: (415) 876-9313,
Honolulu, HI, tel: (808) 973-9566,
Salem, OR, tel: (503) 986-4620,
Seattle, WA, tel: (206) 859-9801.

(C) Questions regarding inspection services or requests for further assistance may be obtained from: Fresh Products Branch, P.O. Box 96456, room 2049-S, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, telephone (202) 690-0604, fax (202) 720-0393.

(ii) Sampling. Sampling of bulk farmers stock lots shall be performed at a facility that utilizes a pneumatic sampler or approved automatic sampling device. The size of farmers stock lots, shelled lots, and cleaned-inshell lots, in bulk or bags, shall not exceed 200,000 pounds. For farmers stock, shelled and cleaned-inshell lots not completely accessible for sampling, the applicant shall be required to have lots made accessible for sampling pursuant to inspection service requirements. The importer shall cause appropriate samples of each lot of edible quality shelled peanuts to be drawn by the inspection service. The amount of such peanuts drawn shall be large enough to provide for a grade and size analysis, for a grading check-sample, and for three 48-pound samples for aflatoxin assay. Because there is no acceptable method of drawing official samples from bulk conveyances of shelled peanuts, the importer shall arrange to have bulk conveyances of shelled peanuts sampled during the unloading process. A bulk lot sampled in this manner must be positive lot identified by the inspector containing identifying information as to the importer, the lot identification of the shelled peanut lot, and other information deemed necessary by the inspection service. Subsamples 1-ABIMP and 1-CDIMP shall be analyzed only in a USDA or PAC-approved laboratory. The methods prescribed by the Instruction Manual for Aflatoxin Testing, SD Instruction-1, August 1994, shall be used to assay the aflatoxin level. The cost of testing and notification of Subsamples 1-ABIMP and 1-CDIMP shall be borne by the importer.

(iii) The samples designated as Sample 2MP and Sample 3MP shall be designated as “Subsample 2-ABIMP.” Upon further call from the laboratory, the importer shall cause Subsamples 2-ABIMP and 3-ABIMP to be sent to and analyzed only in a USDA or PAC-approved laboratory. Each subsample shall be accompanied by a notice of sampling. The results of each assay shall be reported by the laboratory to the importer. All costs involved
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in the sampling, shipment and assay analysis of subsamples required by this section shall be borne by the importer.

(iv)(A) Importers should contact one of the following USDA or PAC-approved laboratories to arrange for chemical analysis.

Science and Technology Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 279, 301 West Pearl St., Aulander, NC 27805, Tel: (919) 345-1661 Ext. 156, Fax: (919) 345-1991.

Science and Technology Division, AMS, USDA, 1211 Schley Ave., Albany, GA 31707, Tel: (912) 430-8490 / 8491, Fax: (912) 430-8534.

Science and Technology Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 488, Ashburn, GA 31714, Tel: (912) 567-3703.

Science and Technology Division, AMS, USDA, 610 North Main St., Blakely, GA 31723, Tel: (912) 723-4500, Fax: (912) 723-3294.

Science and Technology Division, AMS, USDA, 1557 Reeves St., Dothan, AL 36303, Tel: (334) 794-5070, Fax: (334) 671-7984.

Science and Technology Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 272, 715 N. Main Street, Dawson, GA 31742, Tel: (912) 995-7257, Fax: (912) 995-3268.

Science and Technology Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 1130, 308 Culloden St., Suffolk, VA 23434, Tel: (804) 925-2286, Fax: (804) 925-2285.

ABC Research, 3437 SW 24th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32607-4502, Tel: (904) 376-6483.

J. Leek Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 50395, 1200 Wyandotte (31705), Albany, GA 31703, Tel: (912) 889-8293, Fax: (912) 888-1166.

J. Leek Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 368, 675 East Pine, Colquitt, GA 31737, Tel: (912) 758-3722, Fax: (912) 758-2538.

J. Leek Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 6, 502 West Navarro St., DeLeon, TX 76444, Tel: (817) 693-3653, Fax: (817) 693-3640.

Pert Laboratories, P.O. Box 267, Peanut Drive, Edenton, NC 27932, Tel: (919) 482-4456, Fax: (919) 482-5370.

Professional Service Industries, Inc., 3 Burwood Lane, San Antonio, TX 78216, Tel: (210) 304-5242, Fax: (210) 304-5242.

Southern Cotton Oil Company, 600 E. Nelson Street, P.O. Box 180, Quanah, TX 79252, Tel: (817) 663-5232, Fax: (817) 663-5001.

Quanta Lab, 9330 Corporate Drive, Suite 703, Selma, TX 78154-1257, Tel: (210) 651-5799, Fax: (210) 651-9271.

(v) Reporting aflatoxin assays. A separate aflatoxin assay certificate, Form CSSD-3, “Certificate of Analysis for Official Samples” or equivalent PAC approved laboratory form, shall be issued by the laboratory performing the analysis for each lot. The assay certificate shall identify the importer, the volume of the peanut lot assayed, date of the assay, and numerical test result of the assay. The results of the assay shall be reported as follows.

(A) For the current peanut quota year, “negative” aflatoxin content means 15 parts per billion (ppb) or less aflatoxin content for peanuts which have been certified as meeting edible quality grade requirements. Such lots shall be certified as “Meets U.S. import requirements for edible peanuts under §999.600 with regard to aflatoxin.”

(B) Lots containing more than 15 ppb aflatoxin content shall be certified as “Fails to meet U.S. import requirements for edible peanuts under §999.600 with regard to aflatoxin.” The certificate of any inedible peanut lot also shall specify the aflatoxin count in ppb. The importer shall file USDA Form CSSD-3, or equivalent form, with the Secretary, regardless of the test result.

(e) Disposition of peanuts failing edible quality requirements. Peanuts shedded, sized and sorted in another country prior to arrival in the U.S. and shedded peanuts which originated from imported Segregation 1 peanuts that fail quality requirements of table 1 (excessive damage, minor defects, moisture, or foreign material) or are positive to
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA § 999.600

Aflatoxin may be reconditioned by re-milling and/or blanching. After such re-conditioning, peanuts meeting the quality requirements of table 1 and which are negative to aflatoxin (15 ppb or less) may be disposed for edible peanut use. Residual peanut lots resulting from milling or reconditioning of such lots shall be disposed of as prescribed below:

(1) Failing peanut lots may be disposed for non-human consumption uses (such as livestock feed, wild animal feed, rodent bait, seed, etc.) which are not otherwise regulated by this section; Provided, that each such lot is lot identified and certified as to aflatoxin content (actual numerical count). On the shipping papers covering the disposition of each such lot, the importer shall cause the following statement to be shown: “The peanuts covered by this bill of lading (or invoice) are not to be used for human consumption.”

(2) Peanuts, and portions of peanuts which are separated from edible quality peanuts by screening or sorting or other means during the milling process (“sheller oilstock residuals”), may be sent to inedible peanut markets pursuant to paragraph (e)(1) of this section, crushed or exported. Such peanut may be commingled with other milled residuals. Such peanuts shall be positive lot identified, red tagged in bulk or bags or other suitable containers.

(i) If such peanuts have not been certified as to aflatoxin content, as prescribed in paragraph (d) of this section, disposition is limited to crushing and the importer shall cause the following statement to be shown on the shipping papers: “The peanuts covered by this bill of lading (or invoice, etc.) are limited to crushing only and may contain aflatoxin.”

(ii) If the peanuts are certified as 301 ppb or more aflatoxin content, disposition shall be limited to crushing or export.

(3) Shelled peanuts which originated from Segregation 1 peanuts that fail quality requirements of table 1, peanuts derived from the milling for seed of Segregation 2 and 3 farmers stock peanuts, and peanuts which are positive to aflatoxin may be remilled or blanched. Residuals of remilled and/or blanched peanuts which continue to fail quality requirements of table 1 shall be disposed of pursuant to paragraphs (e)(1) or (2) of this section.

(4) All certifications, lot identifications, and movement to inedible dispositions, sufficient to account for all peanuts in each consumption entry, shall be reported to the Secretary by the importer pursuant to paragraphs (f)(2) and (f)(3) of this section.

(f) Safeguard procedures. (1) Prior to arrival of a foreign produced peanut lot at a port-of-entry, the importer, or customs broker acting on behalf of the importer, shall mail or send by facsimile transmission (fax) a copy of the Customs Service entry documentation for the peanut lot or lots to the inspection service office that will perform sampling of the peanut shipment. More than one lot may be entered on one entry document. The documentation shall include identifying lot(s) or container number(s) and volume of the peanuts in each lot being entered, and the location (including city and street address), date and time for inspection sampling. The inspection office shall sign, stamp, and return the entry document to the importer. The importer shall present the stamped document to the Customs Service at the port-of-entry and send a copy of the document to the Secretary. The importer also shall cause a copy of the entry document to accompany the peanut lot and be presented to the inspection service at the inland destination of the lot.

(2) The importer shall file with the Secretary copies of the entry document and grade, aflatoxin, and lot identification certifications sufficient to account for all peanuts in each lot listed on the entry document filed by the importer. Positive lot identification of residual lots, transfer certificates, and other documentation showing inedible disposition or export, such as bills of lading and sales receipts, export declarations, or certificates of burying, which report the weight of peanuts being disposed and the name, address and telephone number of the inedible peanut receiver, must be sent to the Marketing Order Administration Branch, Attn: Report of Imported Peanuts. Facsimile transmissions and overnight mail may be used to ensure
timely receipt of inspection certificates and other documentation. Fax reports should be sent to (202) 720-5698. Overnight and express mail deliveries should be addressed to USDA, AMS, FV, Marketing Order Administration Branch, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Room: 2525-S, Washington, D.C., 20250, Attn: Report of Imported Peanuts. Regular mail should be sent to FV, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2525-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456, Attn: Report of Imported Peanuts. Telephone inquiries should be made to (202) 720-6862.

(3) Certificates and other documentation showing disposition of peanuts imported under 1997 import quotas, consistent with the requirements of this section, must be filed by November 1, 1997. Disposition of peanuts imported in excess of the 1997 peanut import quotas must be filed within 120 days of the peanuts' entry by the Customs Service. Extension of these reporting periods must be granted by the AMS on a case by case basis upon a showing that such extension would be justified. Requests for extension must be submitted in writing to the Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Room 2525-S, Washington, DC 20090-6456, Attn: Peanut Imports or faxing the request to (202) 720-5698. An extension request must include the Customs Service entry number, relevant grade and aflatoxin certificates (if any) issued on the outstanding peanuts, and the reasons for delay in obtaining final disposition of the peanuts.

(4) Failure to fully comply with quality and handling requirements or failure to notify the Secretary of disposition of all foreign produced peanuts, as required under this section, may result in a compliance investigation by the Secretary. Falsification of reports submitted to the Secretary is a violation of Federal law punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both.

(5) Reinspection. Whenever the Secretary has reason to believe that peanuts may have been damaged or deteriorated while in storage, the Secretary may reject the then effective inspection certificate and may require the importer to have the peanuts reinspected to establish whether or not such peanuts may be disposed of for human consumption.

(6) Early arrival and storage. Peanut lots sampled and inspected upon arrival in the United States, but placed in storage for more than one month prior to beginning of the quota year for which the peanuts will be entered, must be reported to AMS at the time of inspection. The importer shall file copies of the Customs Service documentation showing the volume of peanuts placed in storage and location, including any identifying number of the storage warehouse. Such peanuts should be stored in clean, dry warehouses and under cold storage conditions consistent with industry standards. Pursuant to paragraph (f)(5) of this section, the Secretary may require reinspection of the lot at the time the lot is declared for entry with the Customs Service.

(g) Additional requirements. (1) Nothing contained in this section shall preclude any importer from milling or reconditioning, prior to importation, any shipment of peanuts for the purpose of making such lot eligible for importation into the United States. However, all peanuts presented for entry for human consumption use must be certified as meeting the quality requirements specified in paragraph (c) of this section.

(2) Conditionally released peanut lots of like quality and belonging to the same importer may be commingled. Defects in an inspected lot may not be blended out by commingling with other lots of higher quality. Commingling also must be consistent with applicable Customs Service regulations. Commingled lots must be reported and disposed of pursuant to paragraphs (f)(2) and (f)(3) of this section.

(3) Inspection by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service shall be available and performed in accordance with the rules and regulations governing certification of fresh fruits, vegetables and other products (7 CFR part 51). The importer shall make each conditionally released lot available and accessible for inspection as provided herein. Because inspectors may not be stationed in the immediate vicinity of some ports-of-entry, importers must make arrangements for sampling, inspection, and certification through one
of the offices and laboratories listed in paragraphs (d)(3) and (d)(4) of this section, respectively.

(4) Imported peanut lots sampled and inspected at the port-of-entry, or at other locations, shall meet the quality requirements of this section in effect on the date of inspection.

(5) A foreign-produced peanut lot entered for consumption or for warehouse may be transferred or sold to another person: Provided, That the original importer shall be the importer of record unless the new owner applies for bond and files Customs Service documents pursuant to 19 CFR §§141.113 and 141.20; and Provided further, That such peanuts must be certified and reported to the Secretary pursuant to paragraphs (f)(2) and (f)(3) of this section.

(6) The cost of transportation, sampling, inspection, certification, chemical analysis, and identification, as well as remilling and blanching, and further inspection of remilled and blanched lots, and disposition of failing peanuts, shall be borne by the importer. Whenever peanuts are presented for inspection, the importer shall furnish any labor and pay any costs incurred in moving, opening containers, and shipment of samples as may be necessary for proper sampling and inspection. The inspection service shall bill the importer for fees covering quality and size inspections; time for sampling; packaging and delivering aflatoxin samples to laboratories; certifications of lot identification and lot transfer to other locations, and other inspection certifications as may be necessary to verify edible quality or inedible disposition, as specified herein. The USDA and PAC-approved laboratories shall bill the importer separately for fees for aflatoxin assay. The importer also shall pay all required Customs Service costs as required by that agency.

(7) Each person subject to this section shall maintain true and complete records of activities and transactions specified in these regulations. Such records and documentation accumulated during entry shall be retained for not less than two years after the calendar year of acquisition, except that Customs Service documents shall be retained as required by that agency. The Secretary, through duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any such person’s premises during regular business hours and shall be permitted, at any such time, to inspect such records and any peanuts held by such person.

(8) The provisions of this section do not supersede any restrictions or prohibitions on peanuts under the Federal Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, any other applicable laws, or regulations of other Federal agencies, including import regulations and procedures of the Customs Service.

FINDING AIDS

A list of CFR titles, subtitles, chapters, subchapters and parts and an alphabetical list of agencies publishing in the CFR are included in the CFR Index and Finding Aids volume to the Code of Federal Regulations which is published separately and revised annually.

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The Director of the Federal Register has approved under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR Part 51 the incorporation by reference of the following publications. This list contains only those incorporations by reference effective as of the revision date of this volume. Incorporations by reference found within a regulation are effective upon the effective date of that regulation. For more information on incorporation by reference, see the preliminary pages of this volume.

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7 CFR

Federal-State Inspection Service
Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Division of Marketing and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 22159, Honolulu, HI 96822
Standards of Hawaii grown Papaya, Title 4, subtitle 4, chapter 41, subchapter 7 (May 29, 1981). 928.313
Oregon Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Bldg., Salem, OR 97310.
Oregon Grade Standards Filberts in Shell (Aug. 25, 1975, Ed.) .......... 928.45; 982.51; 982.453
Oregon Grade Standards for Filberts (Hazelnut) Kernels (July 20, 1976, Ed.). 982.50; 982.101
Washington State Department of Agriculture, 406 General Administration Building, Olympia, Washington 98504
Washington Administrative Code Chapter 16-436, Standard for Peaches (effective October 18, 1971). 921.318
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All changes in this volume of the Code of Federal Regulations which were made by documents published in the Federal Register since January 1, 1986, are enumerated in the following list. Entries indicate the nature of the changes effected. Page numbers refer to Federal Register pages. The user should consult the entries for chapters and parts as well as sections for revisions.


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