

§ 996.72

showing the results of milling, re-milling, blanching and roasting of peanuts for human consumption and the records of the disposition of peanuts not certified as meeting Outgoing quality standards, specified in §996.31(a) of this part. Such records shall be maintained for at least 2 years after the crop year of their applicability. Such recordkeeping shall be sufficient to document and substantiate the handler or importer's compliance with this part.

(c) USDA shall maintain copies of grade and aflatoxin certificates on all peanut lots inspected and chemically tested. USDA and USDA-approved laboratories shall file copies of all aflatoxin certificates completed by such laboratories with the DC Marketing Field Office, Marketing Order Administration Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS, USDA, 4700 River Road, Suite 2A04, Unit 155, Riverdale, Maryland 20737; Telephone (301) 734-5243, Fax: (301) 734-5275, or other address as determined by USDA.

§ 996.72 Confidential information.

All reports and records furnished or submitted by handlers and importers to USDA which include data or information constituting a trade secret or disclosing a 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 control of one or more employees of USDA, and, except as provided in §996.74 or otherwise provided by law, such information shall not be disclosed to any person outside USDA.

§ 996.73 Verification of reports.

For the purpose of checking and verifying reports filed by handlers and importers and the operation of handlers and importers under the provisions of this Part, the officers, employees or duly authorized agents of USDA shall have access to any premises where peanuts may be held and at any time during reasonable business hours and shall be permitted to inspect any peanuts so held by such handler or importer and any and all records of such handler with respect to the acquisition, holding, or disposition of all peanuts

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which may be held or which may have been disposed by the handler.

§ 996.74 Compliance.

(a) A handler or importer shall be subject to withdrawal of inspection services, for a period of time to be determined by USDA, if the handler or importer:

(1) Acquires farmers stock peanuts without official incoming inspection, pursuant to §996.30;

(2) Fails to obtain outgoing inspection on shelled or cleaned-inshell peanuts, pursuant to §996.31, and ships such peanuts for human consumption use;

(3) Ships failing quality peanuts, pursuant to §996.31, for human consumption use;

(4) Commingles failing quality peanuts with certified edible quality peanuts and ships the commingled lot for human consumption use;

(5) Fails to maintain positive lot identification, pursuant to §996.40(a), on peanut lots certified for human consumption use;

(6) Fails to maintain and provide access to records, pursuant to §996.71, on the reconditioning or disposition of peanuts acquired by such handler or importer; or

(7) Otherwise violates any provision of section 1308 of the Act or any provision of this part.

(b) Any peanut lot which fails to meet the Outgoing quality standards specified in §996.31, and is not reconditioned to meet such standards, or is not disposed to non-human consumption outlets as specified in §996.50, shall be reported by USDA to the Food and Drug Administration and listed on an Agricultural Marketing Service Web site.

§ 996.75 Effective time.

The provisions of this part, as well as any amendments, shall apply to the remainder of the 2002 crop year peanuts and subsequent crop year peanuts, to 2001 crop year peanuts not yet inspected, and to 2001 crop year failing peanuts that have not met disposition standards, and shall continue in force and effect until modified, suspended, or terminated. Indemnification payments for the 2001 crop peanuts will continue

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

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through December 31, 2002, under the terms and conditions of 7 CFR part 998.

**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.

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 601-674; 7 U.S.C. 1445c-3, and 7 U.S.C. 7271.

§ 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 packaging* means whole or pitted dates in bulk containers which are to be repacked, in whole or part, in the United States as dates in retail packages.

(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