



**United States
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**Agricultural
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Service**

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Vegetable
Division**

**Fresh
Products
Branch**

United States Standards for Grades of Fresh Peas

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United States Standards for Grades of Fresh Peas¹

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Introduction

§51.1375 Introduction.

(a) The tolerances for the standards are on a container basis. However, individual containers in any lot may vary from the specified tolerances as stated below, provided the averages for the entire lot, based on sample inspection, are within the tolerances specified.

(b) For a tolerance of 10 percent, individual containers in any lot may have not more than one and one-half times the tolerance.

(c) For a tolerance of less than 10 percent, individual containers in any lot may have not more than double the tolerance.

Grades

§51.1376 U.S. No. 1.

"U.S. No. 1" shall consist of pods of peas of similar varietal characteristics which are not overmature or excessively small, not badly misshapen or watersoaked, and which are fairly well filled, fresh, firm, free from decay, and from damage caused by black calyxes, freezing, splitting, hail, dirt, leaves, or other foreign matter, mildew, or other diseases, insects, or mechanical or other means. The peas shall be at least fairly tender, free from decay, and from damage caused by split skins, disease, insects or mechanical or other means.

¹ Compliance with the provisions of these standards shall not excuse failure to comply with the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, or with applicable State laws and regulations.

(a) Peas may be specified as "U.S. No. 1 Green Calyxes" when they meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade and an average of three-fourths or more, by weight, of the pods in any lot, but not less than one-half of the pods in each container, have calyxes which are of a fairly good green color.

§51.1377 U.S. Fancy.

U.S. Fancy shall consist of pods of peas which are well filled and have an average of three-fourths or more by weight, of the pods in any lot, but not less than one-half of the pods in each container with calyxes which are of a fairly good green color, and which meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade in all other respects.

Tolerances

§51.1378 Tolerances.

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, not more than 10 percent, by weight, of the pods of peas in any container may be below the requirements of the grade, but not more than one-half of this tolerance, or 5 percent, shall be allowed for defects causing serious damage, and not more than one-tenth of this tolerance, or 1 percent, shall be allowed for soft decay. When peas are specified as "U.S. No. 1 Green Calyxes" or "U.S. Fancy" no part of any tolerance shall be allowed to reduce for the lot as a whole, or for the individual container the percentage of pods which are required to have calyxes of a fairly good green color.

Unclassified

§51.1379 Unclassified.

Unclassified shall consist of peas which have not been classified in accordance with the foregoing grades. The term "unclassified" is not a grade within the meaning of these standards but is provided as a designation to show that no definite grade has been applied to the lot.

Definitions

§51.1380 Similar varietal characteristics.

"Similar varietal characteristics" means that the pods of peas in any container are of the same general type.

§51.1381 Overmature.

"Overmature" means that the pod has developed beyond the stage at which it is desirable as a fresh product. The pod is usually wrinkled and the green is faded, having a noticeably whitish or yellowish cast.

§51.1382 Excessively small.

"Excessively small" means that the pod is so short that there is space for only two peas which are at least fairly well developed.

§51.1383 Badly misshapen.

"Badly misshapen" means that the pod is badly constructed, crooked, or badly twisted.

§51.1384 Fairly well filled.

"Fairly well filled" means that more than one-half of the pod contains peas which are at least fairly well developed.

§51.1385 Well filled.

"Well filled" means that more than two-thirds of the pod contains peas which are at least fairly well developed.

§51.1386 Damage.

"Damage" means any injury or defect which materially affects the appearance, edible or shipping quality.

§51.1387 Serious damage.

"Serious damage" means any injury or defect which seriously affects the appearance, edible or shipping quality. Badly misshapen pods or pods seriously affected with downy mildew injury shall be considered as being seriously damaged.