



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

**Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service**

**Fruit and  
Vegetable  
Division**

**Fresh  
Products  
Branch**

# **United States Standards for Grades of Cabbage for Processing**

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# United States Standards for Grades of Cabbage for Processing <sup>1</sup>

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## **General**

### **§51.4120 General.**

(a) The accompanying grades for cabbage are intended to facilitate transactions between growers and processors who may wish to use a purchasing system based upon the quality of cabbage delivered. These grades are an outgrowth of the widely accepted principle that price should be directly proportional to quality. The grower who delivers high quality cabbage deserves a premium price because such cabbage enables the processor to pack a better quality product.

(b) In the application of these standards it is assumed that in most instances sellers will not sort their cabbage into separate lots of U.S. No. 1 and U.S. No. 2 grades before delivery to the buyer, and that the buyer will pay a certain price for the percentage of each in the lot as determined by inspection. Upon delivery, the inspector will simply sort representative samples taken from each lot, and determine the percentage of each grade. Final settlement would then be made by applying the percentage of each grade to the total weight of the lot, and then applying the contract prices established for each grade. Under such a procedure, there is no need for tolerances.

(c) It will be noted, however, that the standards provide tolerances but these apply only when a grower or shipper has actually sorted his cabbage into separate lots of U.S. No. 1 and U.S. No. 2 grades before delivery to the buyer.

## **Grades**

### **§51.4121 U.S. No. 1.**

"U.S. No. 1" consists of heads of cabbage which are firm, and well trimmed; which are free from

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<sup>1</sup>Packing of the product in conformity with the requirements 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.

soft rot, seedstems, and from damage caused by bursting, discoloration, freezing, disease, birds, insects, mechanical or other means. Unless otherwise specified, the weight of each head of cabbage shall be not less than 3 pounds. (See §51.4124.)

**§51.4122 U.S. No. 2.**

"U.S. No. 2" consists of heads of cabbage which are not soft; which are fairly well trimmed, free from soft rot, seedstems, and from serious damage caused by bursting, discoloration, freezing, disease, birds, insects, mechanical or other means. Unless otherwise specified, the weight of each head shall be not less than 2 pounds. (See §51.4124.)

**Culls**

**§51.4123 Culls.**

"Culls" are heads of cabbage which do not meet the requirements of either of the foregoing grades.

**Tolerances**

**§51.4124 Tolerances.**

(a) For the purpose of determining compliance with one of the foregoing grades the following tolerances, by weight, are provided in order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling:

(1) **For defects.** Ten percent for cabbage in any lot which fails to meet the requirements of the grade, including therein not more than 3 percent for cabbage which is affected by soft rot and including in this latter amount not more than 1 percent for cabbage which is seriously damaged by soft rot.

(2) **For size.** Ten percent for cabbage in any lot which fails to meet the specified minimum size.

(b) In the application of these standards to determine the percentages of cabbage in any lot which meet the requirements of the respective grades no tolerances apply.

**Definitions**

**§51.4125 Well trimmed.**

"Well trimmed" means that the head shall be free from loose leaves and the stems shall be not longer than one-half inch. Loose leaves shall be considered those leaves which do not closely enfold the head. Heads of cabbage which show evidence of having been well trimmed in the field shall be considered as meeting the trimming requirements although they may have some leaves which have become loose in the process of ordinary handling.

**§51.4126 Seedstems.**

"Seedstems" means those heads which have seed stalks showing or in which the formation of seed stalks has plainly begun.

**§51.4127 Damage.**

"Damage" means any defect, or any combination of defects, which materially detracts from the processing quality of the cabbage, or which cannot be removed in the ordinary process of trimming without a loss of more than 5 percent, by weight, in excess of that which would occur if the head of cabbage were perfect.

**§51.4128 Soft.**

"Soft" means loosely formed or lacking compactness.

**§51.4129 Serious damage.**

"Serious damage" means any defect, or any combination of defects, which seriously detracts from

the processing quality of the cabbage, or which cannot be removed in the ordinary process of trimming without a loss of more than 15 percent, by weight, in excess of that which would occur if the head of cabbage were perfect.