



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

**Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service**

**Fruit and  
Vegetable  
Division**

**Fresh  
Products  
Branch**

# **United States Standards for Grades of Southern Peas for Processing**

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

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## **General**

### **§51.3585 Application.**

These standards are intended to apply only to the seed pods of plants of the species *Vigna sinensis*, generally known as "southern peas" or "field peas" which are to be used for processing into frozen or canned products. The standards will serve as a basis for grading the quality of loads of peas delivered to processing plants, and thus establish a basis for a more equitable pricing structure. Pricing, for example, could be based upon either of the following formulas:

(a) A stated price per pound gross weight for loads meeting U.S. No. 1 grade, another price for loads meeting U.S. No. 2 grade, etc.

(b) A stated price per pound for the recoverable seeds in loads grading U.S. No. 1, another price for seeds in loads grading U.S. No. 2, etc.

Under this system the recoverable percentage of seeds would be determined from the inspection sample by use of a sample sheller.

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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.

**§51.3586 Method of inspection.**

In determining the grade of a load of peas, a composite sample should be obtained by drawing small amounts from numerous locations in the load. The sample should be thoroughly mixed, and an even-weighted portion of it inspected and analyzed for quality. Percentages of pod defects shall be calculated on the basis of the weight of the sample analyzed. Percentages of defective peas shall be calculated on the basis of the weight of recoverable peas shelled out of the sample.

**Grades**

**§51.3587 U.S. No. 1.**

"U.S. No. 1" consists of southern peas which are free from extraneous material. The pods are at least fairly well matured but not excessively mature, and are fairly fresh and free from decay. The seeds are of similar varietal characteristics, free from sting scars, insects, insect eggs and decay, and free from damage caused by discoloration, splits, cracked skins or other means. Fifty percent or more, by weight, of the seeds of light colored seeded varieties in this grade have at least a tinge of green (see §51.3590).

**§51.3588 U.S. No. 2.**

"U.S. No. 2" consists of southern peas which are free from extraneous material. The pods are at least fairly well matured and free from decay. The seeds are of similar varietal characteristics, free from sting scars, insects, insect eggs and decay, and free from damage caused by discoloration, splits, cracked skins or other means (see §51.3590).

**Off Grade**

**§51.3589 Off grade.**

"Off grade" consists of lots of southern peas which fail to meet the requirements of either of the foregoing grades.

**Tolerances**

**§51.3590 Tolerances.**

In order to allow for variations incident to proper harvesting and handling, the following tolerances, by weight, are provided in each of the grades as specified:

<b>Tolerances for Grade Defects</b>				
<b>Grade</b>	<b>Extraneous material</b>	<b>External (pod) defects</b>	<b>Internal (seed) defects</b>	<b>Seed color</b>
U.S. No. 1	2 percent	5 percent not fairly well matured. 5 percent excessively mature. 1 percent decay.	5 percent for seeds of dissimilar variety. 5 percent total for other defects including therein not more than 2 percent for serious defects, but not more than one-half of the latter amount or 1 percent for decay. No tolerance for seeds containing insects or insect eggs.	No tolerance to reduce the required 50 percent of seeds of light colored seeded varieties having a tinge of green.

U.S. No. 2	5 percent	25 percent not fairly well matured. 3 percent decay.	5 percent for seeds of dissimilar variety. 8 percent total for other defects, including therein not more than 4 percent for serious defects, but not more than one-half of the latter amount or 2 percent for decay or seeds containing insect eggs. No tolerance for seeds containing insects.	No requirements.
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## Definitions

### §51.3591 Extraneous material.

"Extraneous material" means all substances other than southern peas in pods and loose peas. Included are pieces of vine, leaves, dirt, sticks, stones and other foreign material.

### §51.3592 Fairly well matured.

"Fairly well matured" means that the pea has reached the stage of development at which the seeds generally separate cleanly from the lining of the pods as they are shelled.

### §51.3593 Excessively mature.

"Excessively mature" means that the pea has reached an advanced stage of maturity at which the pod is dry or almost dry and the seeds are shrunken and doughy to hard in texture.

### §51.3594 Fairly fresh.

"Fairly fresh" means that the lot as a whole is not materially heated and the pods are not becoming mushy.

### §51.3595 Decay.

"Decay" means that the pod or the seed is affected by decomposition or rot.

### §51.3596 Recoverable seeds.

"Recoverable seeds" means the seeds free from adhering pod tissue which are shelled out of the sample by the customary sample shelling machine method.

### §51.3597 Similar varietal characteristics.

"Similar varietal characteristics" means that the seeds in any lot of peas are of one variety, or are of two or more varieties having seeds of similar size and color.

### §51.3598 Insects.

- (a) "Insects" means insects or insect larvae inside the seed.
- (b) "Sting scars" means scars on the seed caused by insect punctures of the seed coat.
- (c) "Insect eggs" means eggs embedded in or attached to the seed.

### §51.3599 Damage.

"Damage" means any specific defect mentioned in this section; or an equally objectionable variation of any one of these defects, any other defect, or any combination of defects which materially detracts from the processing quality of the individual seed or of the seeds in the lot as a whole. The following specific defects shall be considered as damage:

- (a) Discoloration when the seed coat is so stained or discolored that it will be conspicuously noticeable after blanching;
- (b) Splits when the two halves of the seed separate in the usual shelling operation; and,

(c) Cracked skins when the seed coat is split open exposing the inner portion of the seed.

**§51.3600 Tinge of green.**

"Tinge of green" means that the seed of retains at least a faintly greenish cast over part or all the surface.

**§51.3601 Serious defects.**

"Serious defects" means seeds affected by decay, insects, sting scars, insect eggs or dark brown or black discoloration.