

tolerances, application of tolerances, definitions, and a table of defects. This proposal would establish the following grades as well as a tolerance for each grade: U.S. Fancy, U.S. No. 1 and U.S. No. 2. In addition, a proposed "Application of Tolerances" section and "Size Requirements" section with a table listing size designations would also be established. AMS is proposing to define "Injury," "Damage," "Serious damage," along with specific basic requirements and other defects. Also proposed is a "Classification of Defects" section, in a table format, which would list some of the various defects affecting mangos and proposed scoring guides for the particular grade involved. AMS is soliciting comments on the proposed U.S. Standards for Grades of Mangos and the probable impact on growers, processors, and distributors.

According to AMS' Market News Branch Summaries referenced in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Shipments Report, from 1993 through 2003 mango importation continued to steadily increase in the U.S. Recently, the mango industry stressed the need for U.S. standards which would provide a uniform basis for trading mangos that are imported, exported, or marketed domestically.

The adoption of these proposed standards would provide the rapidly growing mango industry with U.S. grade standards similar to those extensively in use by the fresh produce industry to assist in orderly marketing of other commodities.

The official grade of a lot of mangos covered by these standards will be determined by the procedures set forth in the Regulations Governing Inspection, Certification, and Standards of Fresh Fruits, Vegetables and Other Products (Sec. 51.1 to 51.61).

This notice provides for a 60 day comment period for interested parties to comment on the proposed U.S. Standards for Grades of Mangos.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Dated: March 7, 2005.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 05–4811 Filed 3–10–05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket Number FV–04–309]

United States Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), is soliciting comments on its proposal to revise the United States Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes. Specifically, AMS is proposing to revise the color and juice requirements. The proposed revision would simplify the two requirements in the standards which are complex and difficult to apply. These changes would bring the lime standards in line with other citrus standards, thereby, improving the usefulness in serving the industry.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 10, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250–0240, fax (202) 720–8871, E-mail FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov. Comments should make reference to the dates and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours. The U.S. Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes are available either from the above address or the Fresh Products Branch Web site page at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/limes.pdf>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David L. Priester, at the above address or call (202) 720–2185, E-mail David.Priester@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627), as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices * * *." AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the

marketing of agricultural commodities and makes copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Grades of Fruits and Vegetables that are not requirements of Federal Marketing Orders or U.S. Import Requirements, no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations, but are maintained by USDA, AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

AMS is proposing to revise the voluntary U.S. Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes using the procedures that appear in Part 36 Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR Part 36). These standards were last revised in 1958.

Background

Prior to undertaking research and other work associated with revision of the grade standards, AMS decided to seek public comments on the petition. A notice requesting comments on the possible revision of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes was published in the June 25, 2004, **Federal Register** (69 FR 35572).

In response to the request for comments, AMS received two comments. One comment from a private individual which did not support the revision. One comment from a national association of produce receivers favored the revision.

Based on the comments received and information gathered, AMS is proposing to revise the standards for limes following the standard format for U.S. Grade Standards. The proposed revisions would remove the requirements related to color which specify the percentage of the lime surface that shall have good green color. The standard also specifies that limes which fail to meet a grade due to blanching shall be designated as "Mixed Color" and limes that fail to meet a grade because of turning yellow due to ripening shall be designated as "Turning." Also, the proposed revision would remove the juice content requirement. This will result in limes with lesser color and juice content to be scored as defects using the existing "Damage" and "Serious Damage" definitions for "Blanching," "Yellow Color" and "Dryness or Mushy Condition." Therefore, when individual limes fail to meet the above requirements, they will be scored as defects against a given U.S. grade, and if the number of defects exceeds the total grade tolerance, the limes would fail to meet the U.S. grade. This proposal will bring the standards for limes in line with the other U.S. standards for citrus. AMS believes that

changing these requirements is warranted to better serve the industry. The official grades of limes covered by these standards are determined by procedures set forth in the Regulations Governing Inspection, Certification and Standards of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and Other Products (Sec. 51.1 to 51.61).

This notice provides for a 60-day comment period for interested parties to comment on the proposed revision of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Persian (Tahiti) Limes.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Dated: March 7, 2005.

Kenneth C. Clayton,
Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 05–4815 Filed 3–10–05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket Number FV–05–302]

United States Standards for Grades of Snap Beans

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), prior to undertaking research and other work associated with revising official grade standards, is soliciting comments on the possible revisions to the United States Standards for Grades of Snap Beans. At a 2003 meeting with the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, AMS was asked to review all the fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry. As a result, AMS has identified that the standard may need to be modified to allow percentages to be determined by count and not weight. Additionally, AMS is seeking comments regarding any other revisions that may be necessary to better serve the industry.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 10, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250–0240; Fax (202) 720–8871, E-mail FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov. Comments should make reference to the dates and page number of this issue of the **Federal**

Register and will be made available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours. The United States Standards for Grades of Snap Beans is available either through the address cited above or by accessing the Fresh Products Branch Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/stanfrfv.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David L. Priester, at the above address or call (202) 720–2185; E-mail David.Priester@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627), as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture “to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices * * *.” AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities and makes copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Grades of Fruits and Vegetables not connected with Federal Marketing Orders or U.S. Import Requirements, no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations, but are maintained by USDA/AMS/Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

AMS is proposing to revise the voluntary United States Standards for Grades of Snap Beans using procedures that appear in Part 36 Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR Part 36). These standards were last revised in 1990.

Background

At a 2003 meeting with the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, AMS was asked to review all the fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry. AMS has identified the United States Standards for Grades of Snap Beans for a possible revision. As a result, AMS has identified that the standard may need to be modified to allow percentages to be determined by count and not weight. However, prior to undertaking detailed work to develop proposed revisions to the standards, AMS is soliciting comments on the possible revision to the standards and the probable impact on distributors, processors, and growers. Additionally, AMS is seeking comments regarding any other revisions that may be necessary to better serve the industry.

This notice provides for a 60-day comment period for interested parties to

comment on changes to the standards. Should AMS conclude that there is a need for the revisions of the standards, the proposed revisions will be published in the **Federal Register** with a request for comments in accordance with 7 CFR Part 36.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Dated: March 7, 2005.

Kenneth C. Clayton,
Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 05–4816 Filed 3–10–05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket Number FV–05–301]

United States Standards for Grades of Strawberries

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), of the Department of Agriculture, is soliciting comments on a proposal to revise the United States Standards for Grades of Strawberries. AMS has received a petition from the California Strawberry Commission (CSC), requesting that the current standards be modified to allow percentages be determined on the basis of count and not volume. Additionally, AMS is seeking comments regarding any other revisions that may be necessary to better serve the industry.

DATES: Comments must be received by May 10, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250–0240; Fax (202) 720–8871, E-mail

FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov. Comments should make reference to the dates and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours. The United States Standards for Grades of Strawberries are available either through the address cited above or by accessing the Fresh Products Branch Web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/stanfrfv.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David L. Priester, at the above address