

Comment Info: =====

General Comment: March 26, 2008

Vincent J. Fusaro
Standardization Section
Fresh Products Branch-Fruit & Vegetable Programs
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 1661, South Building, Stop 0240
Washington, D.C. 20250-0240

Reference: February 26th, 2008; Federal Register Vol. 73, No. 38, pgs. 10185-10186
AMS Docket #FV-07-0140

Dear Mr. Fusaro:

I write to offer my support for the current proposal to add an additional 5% allowance for shatter. I believe the allowance will recognize advancements in fresh table grape packaging that provide for full product utilization.

A recent study commissioned by the California Table Grape Commission shows low levels of shatter, similar to what is being currently proposed, do not have a negative effect on consumer perception of table grape quality. In some instances, consumers demonstrated a preference to consume loose fresh table grapes before those remaining attached. Without such change to shatter allowance levels both advancements in product marketability and salability will be ignored.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ken Enns