



CONDITION OF CONTAINER EXAMINATION

Purpose

This instruction defines policies and procedures for examining products for condition of container requirements.

Policies

It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure products presented for certification meet the condition of container requirements before offering to Meat Grading and Certification (MGC) Branch personnel for certification.

Procedures

Lots containing less than 50 shipping containers or less than 300 primary containers are examined individually, and all defective units replaced. Using a double sampling plan, examine lots of greater size as follows:

1. Prepare sample plans according to the Handbook for Inspection of the Condition of Food Containers (HICFC).
2. Scan the lot for gross noncompliance. Gross noncompliance is defined as observable defects in such quantity it is readily apparent the lot would be rejected if examined according to the applicable statistical examination procedures. Presence of containers in gross noncompliance will cause rejection of the involved lot.
3. Sample the lot after it has been packaged, packed, marked, strapped, and palletized.
4. Examination for condition of container requirements should be performed at the same time as the examinations for product defects and net weight, and for USDA purchase at time of final acceptance.
5. Examinations for condition of containers will be according to the U.S. Standards for Condition of Food Containers, and the Institutional Meat Purchase Specifications (IMPS) General Requirements. Use the applicable Agricultural Marketing Service Visual Aids for Inspection of Containers to determine the severity of container defects.
6. Products for USDA purchase will be examined for condition of food container requirements at time of shipment, or transfer in storage. However, this examination will be limited to those defects occurring during handling and storage.

7. Seal boxes after the lot passes examination.
8. Lots of product rejected for condition of container defects may be reworked and reoffered one time only.
9. Maintain records as described in the HICFC.

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