



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

Poultry
Programs

United States Classes, Standards, and Grades for Poultry

AMS 70.200 *et seq.*

Effective September 5, 2002

FOREWORD

These classes, standards, and grades have been developed and are promulgated pursuant to the authorities contained in the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*). The voluntary USDA poultry grading program operates under these classes, standards, and grades as well as the poultry grading regulations. The voluntary program provides for interested parties a national grading service based on official U.S. classes, standards, and grades for poultry. The costs involved in furnishing this grading program are paid by the user of the service.

The grading program, regulations, classes, standards, and grades establish a basis for quality and price relationship and enable more orderly marketing. Consumers can purchase officially graded product with the confidence of receiving quality in accordance with the official identification.

The Regulations Governing the Voluntary Grading of Poultry Products and Rabbit Products are printed in the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) as 7 CFR Part 70. The regulations are also available on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/poultry/regulations.

The United States Classes, Standards, and Grades for Poultry were removed from the CFR on December 4, 1995. They are maintained by the Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, as AMS 70.200 *et seq.* This document contains the classes, standards, and grades that are the most current to date. Past changes are enumerated in the bracketed footnotes following the applicable sections. The classes, standards, and grades are also available on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/poultry. Look under Publications

For printed copies of the regulations or the classes, standards, and grades:

Call: (202) 720-2356

Fax: (202) 690-2930

Write: USDA, AMS, Poultry Programs
STOP 0259, Room 3944-South
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-0259

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

AMS 70.200 et seq.
United States Classes, Standards, and Grades for Poultry

Section	Page
---------	------

United States Classes of Ready-to-Cook Poultry

70.200	General.....	3
70.201	Chickens.....	3
70.202	Turkeys	3
70.203	Ducks	4
70.204	Geese.....	4
70.205	Guineas	4
70.206	Pigeons.....	5

United States Standards for Quality of Ready-to-Cook Poultry and Specified Poultry Food Products

70.210	General.....	5
--------	--------------	---

Standards for Quality of Ready-to-Cook Poultry

70.220	A Quality.....	8
70.221	B Quality.....	13
70.222	C Quality.....	15

Standards for Quality of Specified Poultry Food Products

70.230	Poultry roast -- A Quality	17
70.231	Boneless poultry breasts, drumsticks, thighs, and legs -- A Quality	18
70.232	Skinless poultry carcasses and parts -- A Quality	19
70.233	Poultry tenderloins and boneless, skinless parts -- A Quality	19
70.234	Size-reduced poultry products -- A Quality.....	20

United States Grades for Ready-to-Cook Poultry and Specified Poultry Food Products

70.240	General.....	20
--------	--------------	----

United States Consumer Grades for Ready-to-Cook Poultry and Specified Poultry Food Products

70.250	U.S. Grade A.....	21
70.251	U.S. Grade B.....	21

70.252 U.S. Grade C	21
---------------------------	----

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Source: 41 FR 23681, June 11, 1976, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981; and amended 63 FR 15174, March 30, 1998.

Summary of Specifications for Standards of Quality for Individual Carcasses and Parts of Ready-to-Cook Poultry

A Quality.....	22
B Quality	23
C Quality	24

United States Classes of Ready-to-Cook Poultry

§70.200 General.

The provisions of AMS §§70.200 through 70.206 apply to individual carcasses of ready-to-cook poultry in determining the kind of poultry and its class. The kinds of poultry are as follows: Chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, guineas, and pigeons.

§70.201 Chickens.

The following are the various classes of chickens:

(a) *Rock Cornish game hen or Cornish game hen.* A Rock Cornish game hen or Cornish game hen is a young immature chicken (usually 5 to 6 weeks of age), weighing not more than 2 pounds ready-to-cook weight, which was prepared from a Cornish chicken or the progeny of a Cornish chicken crossed with another breed of chicken.

(b) *Rock Cornish fryer, roaster, or hen.* A Rock Cornish fryer, roaster, or hen is the progeny of a cross between a purebred Cornish and a purebred Rock chicken, without regard to the weight of the carcass involved; however, the term "fryer," "roaster," or "hen," shall apply only if the carcasses are from birds with ages and characteristics that qualify them for such designation under paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section.

(c) *Broiler or fryer.* A broiler or fryer is a young chicken (usually under 13 weeks of age), of either sex, that is tender-meated with soft, pliable, smooth-textured skin and flexible breastbone cartilage.

(d) *Roaster or roasting chicken.* A bird of this class is a young chicken (usually 3 to 5 months of age), of either sex, that is tender-meated with soft, pliable, smooth-textured skin and breastbone cartilage that may be somewhat less flexible than that of a broiler or fryer.

(e) *Capon.* A capon is a surgically unsexed male chicken (usually under 8 months of age) that is tender-meated with soft, pliable, smooth-textured skin.

(f) *Hen, fowl, or baking or stewing chicken.* A bird of this class is a mature female chicken (usually more than 10 months of age) with meat less tender than that of a roaster or roasting chicken and nonflexible breastbone tip.

(g) *Cock or rooster.* A cock or rooster is a mature male chicken with coarse skin, toughened and darkened meat, and hardened breastbone tip.

§70.202 Turkeys.

The following are the various classes of turkeys:

(a) *Fryer-roaster turkey.* A fryer-roaster turkey is a young immature turkey (usually under 16 weeks of age), of either sex, that is tender-meated with soft, pliable, smooth-textured skin, and flexible breastbone cartilage.

(b) *Young turkey.* A young turkey is a turkey (usually under 8 months of age) that is tender-meated with soft, pliable smooth-textured skin, and breastbone cartilage that is somewhat less flexible than in a fryer-roaster turkey. Sex designation is optional.

(c) *Yearling turkey.* A yearling turkey is a fully matured turkey (usually under 15 months of age) that is reasonably tender-meated and with reasonably smooth-textured skin. Sex designation is optional.

(d) *Mature turkey or old turkey (hen or tom).* A mature or old turkey is an old turkey of either sex (usually in excess of 15 months of age), with coarse skin and toughened flesh.

(e) For labeling purposes, the designation of sex within the class name is optional, and the two classes of young turkeys may be grouped and designated as "young turkeys."

§70.203 Ducks.

The following are the various classes of ducks:

(a) *Broiler duckling or fryer duckling.* A broiler duckling or a fryer duckling is a young duck (usually under 8 weeks of age), of either sex, that is tender-meated and has a soft bill and a soft windpipe.

(b) *Roaster duckling.* A roaster duckling is a young duck (usually under 16 weeks of age), of either sex, that is tender-meated and has a bill that is not completely hardened and a windpipe that is easily dented.

(c) *Mature duck or old duck.* A mature duck or an old duck is a duck (usually over 6 months of age), of either sex, with toughened flesh, hardened bill, and hardened windpipe.

§70.204 Geese.

The following are the various classes of geese:

(a) *Young goose.* A young goose may be of either sex, is tender-meated, and has a windpipe that is easily dented.

(b) *Mature goose or old goose.* A mature goose or old goose may be of either sex and has toughened flesh and hardened windpipe.

§70.205 Guineaes.

The following are the various classes of guineas:

(a) *Young guinea*. A young guinea may be of either sex, is tender-meated, and has a flexible breastbone cartilage.

(b) *Mature guinea or old guinea*. A mature guinea or an old guinea may be of either sex has toughened flesh, and a hardened breastbone.

§70.206 Pigeons.

The following are the various classes of pigeons:

(a) *Squab*. A squab is a young, immature pigeon of either sex, and is extra tender-meated.

(b) *Pigeon*. A pigeon is a mature pigeon of either sex, with coarse skin and toughened flesh.

United States Standards for Quality of Ready-to-Cook Poultry and Specified Poultry Food Products

§70.210 General.

(a) The United States standards for quality contained herein are applicable to individual carcasses of ready-to-cook poultry, to parts of ready-to-cook poultry as described in paragraph (f) of this section, and to individual units of specified poultry food products.

(b) Carcasses, parts, or poultry food products found to be unsound, unwholesome, or otherwise unfit for human food in whole or in part, shall not be given any of the quality designations specified in the United States standards for quality contained herein.

(c) Clear to semi-clear marinades or sauces may be added to the ready-to-cook poultry products, provided the ingredients do not alter the applicable grade factors or detract from the appearance of the product.

(d) In interpreting the respective requirements specified in AMS §§70.210 through 70.222 for A quality, B quality, and C quality, the intensity, aggregate area involved, quantity, and locations of:

- (1) feathers;
- (2) exposed flesh (resulting from cuts, tears, and missing skin);
- (3) discolorations (whether or not caused by dressing operations and bruises);

(4) disjointed and broken bones; and

(5) freezing defects, as such defects individually, or in combination, detract from the general appearance, shall be considered in determining the particular quality of an individual carcass or part.

(e) A ready-to-cook carcass which has a defect may be graded after the defective portion has been removed. The fact that a portion has been removed, will not be considered in determining the quality of the balance of the carcass, if the remaining portion of the carcass is to be disjointed and packed as parts or used in the fabrication of poultry food products. Poultry parts which have been properly cut as described in paragraph (f) of this section may be graded after they have been cut from the carcass, if the class is known and the parts are not misshapen or have nearly the same appearance as prior to cutting from the carcass.

(f) The standards of quality are applicable to poultry parts cut in the manner described in this section. Similar parts cut in a manner other than described in this section may be grade identified only when approved by the Administrator upon a determination that the labeling for such parts accurately describes the product. Requests for such approval shall be made to the national supervisor.

(1) "Backs" that are officially identified shall meet the applicable provisions of AMS §§70.220, 70.221, and 70.222.

(2) "Breasts" shall be separated from the back at the shoulder joint and by a cut running backward and downward from that point along the junction of the vertebral and sternal ribs. The

ribs may be removed from the breasts, and the breasts may be cut along the breastbone to make two approximately equal halves; or the wishbone portion, as described in paragraph (f)(20) of this section, may be removed before cutting the remainder along the breastbone to make three parts. Pieces cut in this manner may be substituted for lighter or heavier pieces for exact weight-making purposes, and the package may contain two or more of such parts without affecting the appropriateness of the labeling as e.g., "chicken breasts." Neck skin shall not be included with the breasts, except that "turkey breasts" may include neck skin up to the whisker.

(3) "Breasts with ribs" shall be separated from the back at the junction of the vertebral ribs and back. Breasts with ribs may be cut along the breastbone to make two approximately equal halves; or the wishbone portion, as described in paragraph (f)(20) of this section, may be removed before cutting the remainder along the breastbone to make three parts. Pieces cut in this manner may be substituted for lighter or heavier pieces for exact weight-making purposes, and the package may contain two or more of such parts without affecting the appropriateness of the labeling as "breasts with ribs." Neck skin shall not be included, except that "turkey breasts with ribs" may include neck skin up to the whisker.

(4) "Drumsticks" shall be separated from the thigh by a cut through the knee joint (femorotibial and patellar joint) and from the hock joint (tarsal joint).

(5) "Halves" are prepared by making a full-length back and breast split of an eviscerated poultry carcass so as to produce approximately equal right and left sides.

(6) "Front poultry halves" shall include the full breast with corresponding back portion, and may or may not include wings, wing meat, or portions of wing.

(7) "Rear poultry halves" shall include both legs and adjoining portion of the back attached.

(8) "Legs" shall include the whole leg, i.e., the thigh and the drumstick, whether jointed or disjointed. Back skin shall not be included.

(9) "Legs with pelvic bone" consists of a poultry leg with adhering meat and skin and pelvic bone.

(10) "Quarters" consist of the entire eviscerated poultry carcass, which has been cut into four equal parts, but excluding the neck.

(11) "Breast quarter" consists of half a breast with the wing and a portion of the back attached.

(12) "Breast quarter without wing" consists of a front quarter of a poultry carcass, from which the wing has been removed.

(13) "Leg quarter" consists of a poultry thigh and drumstick, with a portion of the back attached.

(14) "Tenderloin" shall consist of the inner pectoral muscle which lies alongside the sternum (breast bone) of the poultry carcass.

(15) "Thighs" shall be disjointed at the hip joint and may include the pelvic meat, but shall not include the pelvic bones. Back skin shall not be included.

(16) "Thigh with back portion" consists of a poultry thigh with back portion attached.

(17) "Wings" shall include the entire wing (consisting of three segments) with all muscle and skin tissue intact, except that the wing tip (third segment) may be removed.

(18) "Wing drumette" consists of the humerus (first segment) of a poultry wing with adhering skin and meat attached.

(19) "Wing portion" consists of a poultry wing with adhering skin and meat attached, except that the drumette (first segment) has been removed. The wing portion may consist of the second segment only, or the second and third segment.

(20) "Wishbones" (Pulley Bones), with covering muscle and skin tissue, shall be severed from the breast approximately halfway between the end of the wishbone (hypocledium) and from point of the breastbone (cranial process of the sternal crest) to a point where the wishbone joins the shoulder. Neck skin shall not be included with the wishbone.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB control number 0581-0128.)

[41 FR 23681, June 11, 1976; 41 FR 24694, June 18, 1976. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977 and at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981, and amended at 51 FR 17281, May 9, 1986; 60 FR 6640, Feb. 2, 1995, 63 FR 15174, March 30, 1998]

Standards for Quality of Ready-to-Cook Poultry

§70.220 A Quality.

(a) *Conformation.* The carcass or part is free of deformities that detract from its appearance or that affect the normal distribution of flesh. Slight deformities, such as slightly curved or dented breastbones and slightly curved backs, may be present.

(b) *Fleshing.* The carcass has a well developed covering of flesh considering the kind, class, and part.

(1) The breast is moderately long and deep, and has sufficient flesh to give it a rounded appearance with the flesh carrying well up to the crest of the breastbone along its entire length.

(2) The leg is well fleshed and moderately thick and wide at the knee and hip joint area, and has a well-rounded, plump appearance with the flesh carrying well down toward the hock and upward to the hip joint area.

(3) The drumstick is well fleshed and moderately thick and wide at the knee joint, and has a well-rounded, plump appearance with the flesh carrying well down toward the hock.

(4) The thigh is well to moderately fleshed.

(5) The wing is well to moderately fleshed.

(c) *Fat covering.* The carcass or part, considering the kind, class, and part, has a well-developed layer of fat in the skin. The fat is well distributed so that there is a noticeable amount of fat in the skin in the areas between the heavy feather tracts.

(d) *Defeathering.* The carcass or part shall have a clean appearance, especially on the breast and legs, and shall be free of protruding feathers and hairs as defined in 7 CFR §70.1. A carcass or part shall be considered free from protruding feathers when it complies with the tolerances specified in the following table:

Grade A	Feathers Permitted		
	Length	Carcass	Part
Turkeys	less than or equal to 3/4 in.	4	2
Ducks and geese ¹	less than or equal to 1/2 in.	8	4
All other poultry	less than or equal to 1/2 in.	4	2

¹ Hair or down is permitted on the carcass or part, provided the hair or down is less than 3/16 inch in length, and is scattered so that the carcass or part has a clean appearance, especially on the breast and legs.

(e) *Exposed flesh.* The requirements contained in this section are applicable to exposed flesh resulting from cuts, tears, and missing skin.

(1) The carcass may have exposed flesh due to cuts, tears, and missing skin, provided the aggregate area of all exposed flesh does not exceed an area equivalent to the area of a circle of the diameter specified in the following table:

Carcass weight		Maximum aggregate area permitted	
Minimum	Maximum	Breast and legs	Elsewhere
None	2 lb	1/4 in	1 in.
Over 2 lb	6 lb	1/4 in	1 1/2 in.
Over 6 lb	16 lb	1/2 in	2 in.
Over 16 lb	None	1/2 in	3 in.

(2) Large carcass parts, specifically halves, front halves, or rear halves, may have exposed flesh due to cuts, tears, and missing skin, provided the aggregate area of all exposed flesh does not exceed an area equivalent to the area of a circle of the diameter specified in the following table:

Carcass weight		Maximum aggregate area permitted	
Minimum	Maximum	Breast and legs	Elsewhere
None	2 lb	1/4 in	1/2 in.
Over 2 lb	6 lb	1/4 in	3/4 in.
Over 6 lb	16 lb	1/2 in	1 in.
Over 16 lb	None	1/2 in	1 1/2 in.

(3) Other parts may have exposed flesh due to cuts, tears, and missing skin, provided the aggregate area of all exposed flesh does not exceed an area equivalent to the area of a circle of the diameter specified in the following table:

Carcass weight		Maximum aggregate area permitted
Minimum	Maximum	Parts
None	2 lb	1/4 in.
Over 2 lb	6 lb	1/4 in.
Over 6 lb	16 lb	1/2 in.
Over 16 lb	None	1/2 in.

(4) For all parts, trimming of the skin along the edge is allowed, provided that at least 75 percent of the normal skin cover associated with the part remains attached, and further provided that the remaining skin uniformly covers the outer surface in a manner that does not detract from the appearance of the part.

(5) In addition, the carcass or part may have cuts or tears that do not expand or significantly expose flesh, provided the aggregate length of all such cuts and tears does not exceed a length tolerance using the dimensions listed in the following table:

Carcass weight		Maximum aggregate area permitted	
Minimum	Maximum	Breast and legs, and parts	Elsewhere
None	2 lb	1/4 in	1 in.
Over 2 lb	6 lb	1/4 in	1 1/2 in.
Over 6 lb	16 lb	1/2 in	2 in.
Over 16 lb	None	1/2 in	3 in.

(f) *Disjointed and broken bones and missing parts.*

(1) Parts are free of broken bones. Parts are free of disjointed bones except that thighs with back portions, legs, or leg quarters may have the femur disjointed from the hip joint. The carcass is free of broken bones and has not more than one disjointed bone.

(2) The wing tips may be removed at the joint, and in the case of ducks and geese, the parts of the wing beyond the second joint may be removed, if removed at the joint and both wings are so treated. The tail may be removed at the base.

(3) Cartilage separated from the breastbone is not considered as a disjointed or broken bone.

(g) *Discolorations.* The requirements contained in this section are applicable to discolorations of the skin and flesh of poultry, and the flesh of skinless poultry, as defined in the definitions in the regulations 7 CFR §70.1.

(1) The carcass, parts derived from the carcass, or large carcass parts may have slight discolorations, provided the discolorations do not detract from the appearance of the product.

(2) The carcass may have lightly shaded areas of discoloration, provided the aggregate area of all discolorations does not exceed an area equivalent to the area of a circle of the diameter specified in the following table. Evidence of incomplete bleeding, such as more than an occasional slightly reddened feather follicle, is not permitted.

Carcass weight		Maximum aggregate area permitted	
Minimum	Maximum	Breast and legs	Elsewhere
None	2 lb	3/4 in	1 1/4 in.
Over 2 lb	6 lb	1 in	2 in.
Over 6 lb	16 lb	1 1/2 in	2 1/2 in.
Over 16 lb	None	2 in	3 in.

(3) The carcass may have moderately shaded areas of discoloration and discolorations due to flesh bruising, provided:

- (i) They are not on the breast or legs, except for the area adjacent to the hock joint;
- (ii) They are free of clots; and
- (iii) They may not exceed an aggregate area equivalent to the area of a circle of the diameter specified in the following table:

Carcass weight		Maximum aggregate area permitted	
Minimum	Maximum	Hock area of legs	Elsewhere
None	2 lb	1/4 in	5/8 in.
Over 2 lb	6 lb	1/2 in	1 in.
Over 6 lb	16 lb	3/4 in	1 1/4 in.
Over 16 lb	None	1 in	1 1/2 in.

(4) Parts, other than large carcass parts, may have lightly shaded areas of discoloration, provided the aggregate area of all discolorations does not exceed an area equivalent to the area of a circle of the diameter specified in the following table. Evidence of incomplete bleeding, such as more than an occasional slightly reddened feather follicle, is not permitted.

Carcass weight		Maximum aggregate area permitted
Minimum	Maximum	Parts
None	2 lb	1/2 in.
Over 2 lb	6 lb	3/4 in.
Over 6 lb	16 lb	1 in.
Over 16 lb	None	1 1/4 in.

(5) Parts, other than large carcass parts, may have moderately shaded areas of discoloration and discolorations due to flesh bruising, provided:

- (i) They are not on the breast or legs, except for the area adjacent to the hock joint;
- (ii) They are free of clots; and
- (iii) They may not exceed an aggregate area equivalent to the area of a circle of the diameter specified in the following table:

Carcass weight		Maximum aggregate area permitted
Minimum	Maximum	Parts
None	2 lb	1/4 in.
Over 2 lb	6 lb	3/8 in.
Over 6 lb	16 lb	1/2 in.
Over 16 lb	None	5/8 in.

(6) Large carcass parts, specifically halves, front halves, or rear halves, may have lightly shaded areas of discoloration, provided the aggregate area of all discolorations does not exceed an area equivalent to the area of a circle of the diameter specified in the following table:

Carcass weight		Maximum aggregate area permitted	
Minimum	Maximum	Breast and legs	Elsewhere
None	2 lb	1/2 in	1 in.
Over 2 lb	6 lb	3/4 in	1 1/2 in.
Over 6 lb	16 lb	1 in	2 in.
Over 16 lb	None	1 1/4 in	2 1/2 in.

(7) Large carcass parts, specifically halves, front halves, or rear halves, may have moderately shaded areas of discoloration and discolorations due to flesh bruising, provided:

- (i) They are not on the breast or legs, except for the area adjacent to the hock joint;
- (ii) They are free of clots; and
- (iii) They may not exceed an aggregate area equivalent to the area of a circle of the diameter specified in the following table:

Carcass weight		Maximum aggregate area permitted	
Minimum	Maximum	Hock area of legs	Elsewhere
None	2 lb	1/4 in	1/2 in.
Over 2 lb	6 lb	3/8 in	3/4 in.
Over 6 lb	16 lb	1/2 in	1 in.
Over 16 lb	None	5/8 in	1 1/4 in.

(h) *Freezing defects.* With respect to consumer packaged poultry, parts, or specified poultry food products, the carcass, part, or specified poultry food product is practically free from defects which result from handling or occur during freezing or storage. The following defects are permitted if they, alone or in combination, detract only very slightly from the appearance of the carcass, part, or specified poultry food product:

- (1) Slight darkening over the back and drumsticks, provided the frozen bird or part has a generally bright appearance;

(2) Occasional pockmarks due to drying of the inner layer of skin (derma) (however, none may exceed the area of a circle 1/8 inch in diameter for poultry weighing 6 pounds or less and 1/4 inch in diameter for poultry weighing over 6 pounds);

(3) Occasional small areas of clear, pinkish, or reddish colored ice.

(4) Occasional small areas of dehydration, white to light gray in color, on the flesh of skinless carcasses, parts, or specified poultry food products not to exceed the permitted aggregate area for discolorations as provided in AMS §70.220(g).

(i) *Backs.* A-quality backs shall meet all applicable provisions of this section pertaining to parts, and shall include the meat contained on the ilium (oyster), pelvic meat and skin and vertebral ribs and scapula with meat and skin.

[41 FR 23681, June 11, 1976. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981, and amended at 51 FR 17281, May 9, 1986; 60 FR 6640, Feb. 2, 1995, 63 FR 15174, March 30, 1998]

§70.221 B Quality.

(a) *Conformation.* The carcass or part may have moderate deformities, such as a dented, curved, or crooked breast, crooked back or misshapen legs or wings, which do not materially affect the distribution of flesh or the appearance of the carcass or part.

(b) *Fleshing.* The carcass has a moderate covering of flesh considering the kind, class, and part.

(1) The breast has a substantial covering of flesh with the flesh carrying up to the crest of the breastbone sufficiently to prevent a thin appearance.

(2) The leg is fairly thick and wide at the knee and hip joint area, and has sufficient flesh to prevent a thin appearance.

(3) The drumstick has a sufficient amount of flesh to prevent a thin appearance with the flesh carrying fairly well down toward the hock.

(4) The thigh has a sufficient amount of flesh to prevent a thin appearance.

(5) The wing has a sufficient amount of flesh to prevent a thin appearance.

(c) *Fat covering.* The carcass or part has sufficient fat in the skin to prevent a distinct appearance of the flesh through the skin, especially on the breast and legs.

(d) *Defeathering.* The carcass or part may have a few scattered protruding feathers and hairs. A carcass or part shall be considered to have not more than a few scattered protruding feathers when it complies with the tolerances specified in the following table:

Grade B	Feathers Permitted		
	Length	Carcass	Part
Turkeys	less than or equal to 3/4 in.	6	3
Ducks and geese ¹	less than or equal to 1/2 in.	10	5
All other poultry	less than or equal to 1/2 in.	6	3

¹ Hair or down is permitted on the carcass or part, provided the hair or down is less than 3/16 inch in length, and is scattered so that the carcass or part has a clean appearance, especially on the breast and legs.

(e) *Exposed flesh.* A carcass may have exposed flesh provided that no part on the carcass has more than one-third of the flesh exposed. A part may have no more than one-third of the flesh normally covered by skin exposed.

(f) *Disjointed and broken bones, missing parts, and trimming.*

(1) Parts may be disjointed, but are free of broken bones. The carcass may have two disjointed bones, or one disjointed bone and one nonprotruding broken bone.

(2) Parts of the wing beyond the second joint may be removed at a joint. The tail may be removed at the base.

(3) Slight trimming of the carcass is permitted provided the meat yield of any part on the carcass is not appreciably affected. A moderate amount of meat may be trimmed around the edge of a part to remove defects. The back may be trimmed in an area not wider than the base of the tail to the area halfway between the base of the tail and the hip joints.

(g) *Discolorations of the skin and flesh.*

(1) Discolorations are limited to moderately shaded areas and the carcass or part is free of serious defects. Evidence of incomplete bleeding shall be no more than slight. Discolorations due to flesh bruising shall be free of clots and may not exceed one-half the total aggregate area of permitted discoloration.

(2) For a carcass, the aggregate area of all discolorations shall not exceed an area equivalent to the area of a circle of the diameter specified in the following table:

Carcass weight		Maximum aggregate area permitted	
Minimum	Maximum	Breast and legs	Elsewhere
None	2 lb	1 1/4 in	2 1/4 in.
Over 2 lb	6 lb	2 in	3 in.
Over 6 lb	16 lb	2 1/2 in	4 in.
Over 16 lb	None	3 in	5 in.

(3) For a part, the aggregate area of all discolorations for a part shall not exceed an area equivalent to the area of a circle having a diameter specified in the following table:

Carcass weight		Maximum aggregate area permitted
Minimum	Maximum	Breast, legs, and parts
None	2 lb	3/4 in.
Over 2 lb	6 lb	1 in.
Over 6 lb	16 lb	1 1/2 in.
Over 16 lb	None	1 3/4 in.

(4) Large carcass parts, specifically halves, front halves, or rear halves, may have areas of discoloration, provided the aggregate area does not exceed an area equivalent to the area of a circle of the diameter specified in the following table:

Carcass weight		Maximum aggregate area permitted	
Minimum	Maximum	Breast and legs	Elsewhere
None	2 lb	1 in	1 1/4 in.
Over 2 lb	6 lb	1 1/2 in	1 3/4 in.
Over 6 lb	16 lb	2 in	2 1/2 in.
Over 16 lb	None	2 1/2 in	3 in.

(h) *Freezing defects.* With respect to consumer packaged poultry, parts, or specified poultry food products, the carcass, part or specified poultry food product may have moderate defects which result from handling or occur during freezing or storage. The skin and flesh shall have a sound appearance, but may lack brightness. The carcass or part may have a few pockmarks due to drying of the inner layer of skin (derma). However, no single area of overlapping pockmarks may exceed that of a circle 1/2 inch in diameter. Moderate areas showing layers of clear pinkish or reddish colored ice are permitted.

(i) *Backs.* B-quality backs shall meet all applicable provisions of this section pertaining to parts, and shall include either the meat contained on the ilium (oyster) and meat and skin from the pelvic bones or the vertebral ribs and scapula with meat and skin.

[41 FR 23681, June 11, 1976. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981, and amended at 51 FR 17281, May 9, 1986; 51 FR 18875, May 23, 1986; 51 FR 26224, July 22, 1986; 60 FR 6641, Feb. 2, 1995, 63 FR 15174, March 30, 1998]

§70.222 C Quality.

A carcass or part that does not meet the requirements for A or B quality may be of C quality, provided the flesh is substantially intact and the carcass or part complies with the following:

(a) *Conformation.* The carcass or part may have abnormal deformities that detract from the appearance of the product and affect the normal distribution of flesh, such as seriously curved, or crooked breast, seriously crooked back, or misshapen legs and wings.

(b) *Fleshing.* The carcass or part may have a poor covering of flesh considering the kind, class, and part.

(c) *Fat covering.* The carcass or part, considering the kind, class, and part, may have insufficient fat covering in the skin that allows the appearance of flesh through the skin.

(d) *Defeathering.* The carcass or part may have a scattering of protruding feathers and hairs. A carcass or part shall be considered to have not more than a scattering of protruding feathers when it complies with the tolerances specified in the following table:

Grade C	Feathers Permitted		
	Length	Carcass	Part
Turkeys	less than or equal to 3/4 in.	8	4
Ducks and geese ¹	less than or equal to 1/2 in.	12	6
All other poultry	less than or equal to 1/2 in.	8	4

¹ Hair or down is permitted on the carcass or part, provided the hair or down is less than 3/16 inch in length, and is scattered so that the carcass or part has a clean appearance, especially on the breast and legs.

(e) *Exposed flesh.* The carcass or part may have unlimited exposed flesh.

(f) *Disjointed and broken bones, and missing parts.*

(1) The carcass or part may have disjointed and broken bones.

(2) The carcass may have the tail and any portion of both wings removed. Parts, which may normally have the tail present, may have the tail removed. Parts with wings may have the wing tip(s) removed at the joint.

(g) *Discolorations.* The carcass or part may have areas of discolorations and flesh bruises that do not render the carcass or part unfit for food.

(h) *Trimming.* Trimming of the breast and legs is permitted, but not to the extent that the normal meat yield is materially affected. The back may be trimmed in an area not wider than the base of the tail and extending from the tail to the area between the hip joints.

(i) *Backs.* C-quality backs shall meet all applicable provisions of this section pertaining to parts. Backs shall include all the meat and skin from the pelvic bones, except that the meat contained in the ilium (oyster) may be removed. The vertebral ribs and scapula with meat and skin and the backbone located anterior (forward) of the ilia bones may also be removed (front half of back).

(j) *Freezing defects.* The carcass or part may have severe defects resulting from handling or occur during freezing or storage. The carcass or part may have numerous pockmarks and large dried areas due to drying of the outer layer of flesh. No limit on the amount or color of ice present.

[41 FR 23681, June 11, 1976; 41 FR 26565, June 28, 1976. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977 and at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981; 51 FR 17282, May 9, 1986; and amended 63 FR 15174, March 30, 1998 and 67 FR 56527, Sept. 4, 2002]

Standards for Quality of Specified Poultry Food Products

§70.230 Poultry roast -- A Quality.

The standard of quality contained in this section is applicable to raw poultry products labeled in accordance with 9 CFR Part 381 as ready-to-cook "Roasts" or similar descriptive terminology.

(a) The deboned poultry meat used in the preparation of the product shall be from young poultry.

(b) Bones, tendons, cartilage, bruises, and blood clots shall be removed from the meat.

(c) The roast has a clean appearance and is free of protruding feathers and hairs as defined in 7 CFR §70.1. A roast shall be considered free from protruding feathers provided it complies with the tolerances specified in AMS §70.220(d) for an A-quality poultry part.

(d) Skin for covering a roast may include the skin covering the crop area and the neck skin up to the whisker if the fatty blubber, spongy fat, and membranes have been removed from these areas.

(e)(1) Slight discolorations are permitted on the skin or flesh provided the discoloration does not detract from the appearance of the product. Other discolorations are limited to lightly shaded areas of discolorations that do not exceed the total aggregate area of permitted discoloration as described in this section.

(2) The aggregate area of all lightly shaded discolorations for a poultry roast shall not exceed an area equivalent to the area of a circle of the diameter specified in the following table:

Roast weight		Maximum aggregate area permitted
Minimum	Maximum	
None	2 lb	3/4 in.
Over 2 lb	6 lb	1 in.
Over 6 lb	16 lb	1 1/2 in.
Over 16 lb	None	2 in.

(f) Fifty percent or more of the outer surface of the product shall be covered with skin, whether attached to the meat or used as a wrap. Skin covering may overlap without limit in all areas provided the fatty tissue has been removed from the sternal and pectoral feather tracts. The combined weight of the skin and fat used to cover the outer surface and used as a binder shall not exceed 15 percent of the total net weight of the product.

(g) The product shall be fabricated in such a manner that it can be sliced after cooking and each slice can be served with minimal separation.

- (h) Seasoning or flavor enhancers, if used, shall be uniformly distributed.
- (i) Product shall be fabricated or tied in such a manner that it will retain its shape after defrosting and cooking.
- (j) Packaging shall be neat and attractive.
- (k) Product shall be practically free of weepage after packaging and/or freezing, and if frozen, shall have a bright, desirable color.
- (l) Product packaged in an oven-ready container shall meet all the requirements of the paragraphs in this section, except that with respect to skin covering, the exposed surface of the roast need not be covered with skin. If skin is used to cover the exposed surface, it may be whole or emulsified. Additionally, for roasts packaged in oven-ready containers, comminuted (mechanically separated) meat may be substituted in part for skin, but may not exceed 8 percent of the total weight of the product.

[41 FR 23681, June 11, 1976. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981, and amended at 51 FR 17282, May 9, 1986; 60 FR 6642, Feb. 2, 1995, 63 FR 15174, March 30, 1998]

§70.231 Boneless poultry breasts, drumsticks, thighs, and legs -- A Quality.

The standards of quality contained in this section are applicable to raw poultry products labeled as ready-to-cook "boneless (kind) breasts," "boneless (kind) drumsticks," "boneless (kind) thighs," "boneless (kind) legs," or with words of similar import. The product shall consist of poultry meat of the kind specified (such as chicken or turkey).

(a) The breasts, drumsticks, thighs, or legs shall be cut as specified in AMS §70.210(f) (1), (2), (4), (5), or (6), respectively.

(b) The bone or bones shall be removed in a neat manner without undue mutilation of adjacent muscle.

(c) The boneless breasts, drumsticks, thighs, or legs shall meet A-quality requirements for ready-to-cook poultry parts in AMS §70.220(c), (d), (e), (g), and (h), and shall be free of cartilage and holes. Holes in the meat resulting from the removal of the patella (knee cap) are permitted in boneless legs, provided the bulk of the thigh and drumstick remains intact and connected. Boneless thighs or breasts (excluding the attached tenderloin) shall be free of tendons. Boneless drumsticks or legs shall be free of tendons extending more than 1/2 inch beyond the meat tissue.

(d) Trimming of the skin along the edge is permitted, provided at least 75 percent of the normal skin cover remains attached to the part and uniformly covers the outer surface in a manner that does not detract from the appearance of the part. Trimming of the meat and skin is permitted along the outer edges of boneless parts provided at least one-half of the part remains

intact, and further, the normal symmetrical shape and appearance of the part is retained. Trimming of the inner muscle surface is permitted, provided it results in a smooth appearance.

[41 FR 23681, June 11, 1976. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981, and amended at 51 FR 17282, May 9, 1986; 60 FR 6642, Feb. 2, 1995, 63 FR 15174, March 30, 1998]

§70.232 Skinless poultry carcasses and parts -- A Quality.

The standards of quality contained in this section are applicable to raw poultry products labeled as ready-to-cook "skinless (kind) carcasses" or "skinless (kind) (parts)." The product shall consist of the specific poultry part (such as breast, thigh, etc.) indicated.

(a) The parts shall be cut as specified in AMS §70.210.

(b) The skin shall be removed in a manner without undue mutilation of the muscle. Minor flesh abrasions due to preparation techniques are permitted.

(c) Skinless carcasses or parts shall meet ready-to-cook A-quality requirements as outlined in AMS §70.220(a), (b), (f), (g), and (h).

[60 FR 6642, Feb. 2, 1995, 63 FR 15174, March 30, 1998]

§70.233 Poultry tenderloins and boneless, skinless parts--A Quality.

The standards of quality contained in this section are applicable to raw poultry products labeled as ready-to-cook "(kind) tenderloins" or "boneless, skinless (kind) (parts)."

(a) The part shall be cut as specified in AMS §70.210.

(b) The tenderloin shall be removed from the sternum in a neat manner without undue mutilation of the muscle. For all other parts, the bone(s) and skin shall be removed from the part in a neat manner without undue mutilation of the muscle. Minor flesh abrasions due to preparation techniques are permitted.

(c) Boneless, skinless breasts, legs, thighs, or drumsticks shall be free of cartilage. Boneless, skinless thighs or breasts (excluding the attached tenderloin) shall be free of tendons. Boneless, skinless drumsticks or legs shall be free of tendons extending more than 1/2 inch beyond the meat tissue. Tendons normally associated with tenderloins are permitted.

(d) Tenderloins or boneless, skinless parts shall be free of blood clots, bruises, cuts, tears, and holes in the muscle tissue. For boneless, skinless legs, holes in the meat resulting from the removal of the patella (knee cap) are permitted, provided the bulk of the thigh and drumstick remains intact and connected. Slight discolorations and separation of the muscle tissue is permitted on boneless, skinless parts, provided it does not detract from the appearance of the product.

(e) Trimming of the meat along the outer edges of tenderloins or boneless, skinless parts is permitted, provided at least one-half of the tenderloin or part remains intact, and the normal symmetrical shape and appearance of the part is retained. Trimming of the inner muscle surface is permitted, provided it results in a smooth appearance.

(f) For tenderloins, separation running parallel to the muscle fibers is permitted, provided it does not detract from the appearance of the product. Strands of tenderloin tissue not attached to the tendon may be present, provided they do not detract from the appearance of the product.

[63 FR 15174, March 30, 1998]

§70.234 Size-reduced poultry products--A Quality.

The standards of quality contained in this section are applicable to raw poultry products labeled as ready-to-cook boneless, skinless "sliced (kind) (parts)," "(part) slices," "diced (kind)," "diced (kind) (parts)," or words of similar import.

(a) Boneless, skinless parts may be subdivided by cutting, slicing, dicing, or similarly reducing the size prior to grading.

(b) The reduction process shall result in size-reduced portions of meat that are intact, not mutilated, and with surfaces relatively smooth in appearance. Individual size-reduced portions of meat shall be relatively uniform in size and shape, and consistent with the size reduction process. Variations in shape of the outer edges of the individual portions of meat are permitted.

(c) The size-reduced boneless, skinless poultry products shall be free of cartilage, blood clots, bruises, cuts, tears, and holes in the muscle tissue. Slight discolorations, minor flesh abrasions, and separation of muscle tissue are permitted, provided they do not detract from the appearance of the product. Size-reduced boneless, skinless thighs and breasts (excluding the attached tenderloin) shall be free of tendons. Size-reduced boneless, skinless drumsticks and legs shall be free of tendons extending more than 1/2 inch beyond the meat tissue.

(d) In addition to the requirements outlined in AMS §70.234 (a) through (c), individual slices from boneless, skinless products labeled as "sliced (kind) (parts)" shall: (1) originate from the slicing of a boneless, skinless (part), and (2) collectively approximate the shape of the (part) prior to slicing. Slices need not originate from the same (part).

[63 FR 15174, March 30, 1998]

United States Grades for Ready-to-Cook Poultry and Specified Poultry Food Products

§70.240 General.

(a) All terms in the United States standards for quality set forth in AMS §§70.210 through 70.239 shall, when used in AMS §§70.240 through 70.252, have the same meaning as when used in said standards.

(b) The United States Grades for ready-to-cook poultry and specified poultry food products are applicable to poultry of the kinds and classes set forth in AMS §§70.200 through 70.206 when used as described in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section.

(c) United States Consumer Grades for ready-to-cook poultry and specified poultry food products may be assigned only when:

(1) each carcass, part, or poultry food product, including those used in preparing a poultry food product, has been graded in an unfrozen state on an individual basis by a grader or by an authorized person pursuant to 7 CFR §70.20(c) and thereafter checkgraded by a grader;

(2) applicable poultry food product has been prepared under the supervision of a grader; and

(3) identified in an unfrozen state.

[51 FR 17282, May 9, 1986; 60 FR 6642, Feb. 2, 1995, and amended 63 FR 15174, March 30, 1998]

United States Consumer Grades for Ready-to-Cook Poultry and Specified Poultry Food Products

§70.250 U.S. Grade A.

A lot of ready-to-cook poultry, parts, or poultry food products consisting of one or more ready-to-cook carcasses or parts, or individual units of poultry food products of the same kind and class, each of which conforms to the requirements for A quality may be designated as U.S. Grade A.

§70.251 U.S. Grade B.

A lot of ready-to-cook poultry or parts consisting of one or more ready-to-cook carcasses or parts of the same kind and class, each of which conforms to the requirements for B quality or better may be designated as U.S. Grade B.

§70.252 U.S. Grade C.

A lot of ready-to-cook poultry or parts consisting of one or more ready-to-cook carcasses or parts of the same kind and class, each of which conforms to the requirements for C quality or better, may be designated as U.S. Grade C.

Ready-to-Cook Poultry - A Quality

Summary of Specifications for Standards of Quality for Individual Carcasses and Parts

Effective April 29, 1998 (Not All Inclusive -- Minimum Requirements and Maximum Defects Permitted)

		Minimum Requirements and Maximum Defects Permitted					
		A Quality					
Conformation:		Normal					
Breastbone		Slight curve or dent					
Back		Slight curve					
Legs and Wings		Normal					
Fleshing:		Well fleshed, considering kind and class					
Fat Covering:		Well developed layer -- especially between heavy feathers tracts					
Defeathering:		Turkeys (feathers less than 3/4 in.)		Ducks and Geese ¹ (feathers less than 1/2 in.)		All Other Poultry (feathers less than 1/2 in.)	
Free of protruding feathers and hairs		Carcass	Parts	Carcass	Parts	Carcass	Parts
		4	2	8	4	4	2
Exposed Flesh: ²		Carcass		Large Carcass Parts ³ (halves, front and rear halves)		Other Parts ³	
Weight Range							
Minimum Maximum		Breast and Legs	Elsewhere	Breast and Legs	Elsewhere		
None	2 lbs.	1/4 in.	1 in.	1/4 in.	1/2 in.	1/4 in.	
Over 2 lbs.	6 lbs.	1/4 in.	1 1/2 in.	1/4 in.	3/4 in.	1/4 in.	
Over 6 lbs.	16 lbs.	1/2 in.	2 in.	1/2 in.	1 in.	1/2 in.	
Over 16 lbs.	None	1/2 in.	3 in.	1/2 in.	1 1/2 in.	1/2 in.	
Discolorations:		Lightly Shaded				Moderately Shaded ⁴	
Carcass		Breast and Legs	Elsewhere	Hock of leg		Elsewhere	
None	2 lbs.	3/4 in.	1 1/4 in.	1/4 in.		5/8 in.	
Over 2 lbs.	6 lbs.	1 in.	2 in.	1/2 in.		1 in.	
Over 6 lbs.	16 lbs.	1 1/2 in.	2 1/2 in.	3/4 in.		1 1/4 in.	
Over 16 lbs.	None	2 in.	3 in.	1 in.		1 1/2 in.	
Discolorations:		Lightly Shaded				Moderately Shaded ⁴	
Large Carcass Parts (halves, front and rear halves)		Breast and Legs	Elsewhere	Hock of leg		Elsewhere	
None	2 lbs.	1/2 in.	1 in.	1/4 in.		1/2 in.	
Over 2 lbs.	6 lbs.	3/4 in.	1 1/2 in.	3/8 in.		3/4 in.	
Over 6 lbs.	16 lbs.	1 in.	2 in.	1/2 in.		1 in.	
Over 16 lbs.	None	1 1/4 in.	2 1/2 in.	5/8 in.		1 1/4 in.	
Discolorations:		Lightly Shaded				Moderately Shaded ⁴	
Other Parts							
None	2 lbs.	1/2 in.				1/4 in.	
Over 2 lbs.	6 lbs.	3/4 in.				3/8 in.	
Over 6 lbs.	16 lbs.	1 in.				1/2 in.	
Over 16 lbs.	None	1 1/4 in.				5/8 in.	
Disjointed and Broken Bones:		Carcass--1 disjointed and no broken bones. Parts--Thighs with back portion, legs, or leg quarters may have femur disjointed from the hip joint. Other parts--none.					
Missing Parts:		Wing tips and tail. In ducks and geese, the parts of the wing beyond the second joint may be removed if removed at the joint and both wings are so treated. Tail may be removed at the base.					
Freezing Defects:		Slight darkening on back and drumstick. Overall bright appearance. Occasional pock-marks due to drying. Occasional small areas of clear, pinkish, or reddish-colored ice.					

¹ Hair or down is permitted on the carcass or part, provided the hair or down is less than 3/16 inch in length, and is scattered so that the carcass or part has a clean appearance, especially on the breast and legs.

² Maximum aggregate area of all exposed flesh. In addition, the carcass or part may have cuts or tears that do not expand or significantly expose flesh, provided the aggregate length of all such cuts and tears does not exceed a length tolerance equal to the permitted dimensions listed above.

³ For all parts, trimming of skin along the edge is allowed, provided at least 75 percent of the normal skin cover associated with the part remains attached, and the remaining skin uniformly covers the outer surface and does not detract from the appearance of the part.

⁴ Moderately shaded discolorations and discolorations due to flesh bruising are free of clots and limited to areas other than the breast and legs except for the area adjacent to the hock.

Ready-to-Cook Poultry - B Quality

Summary of Specifications for Standards of Quality for Individual Carcasses and Parts

Effective April 29, 1998 (Not All Inclusive --Minimum Requirements and Maximum Defects Permitted)

		B Quality					
Conformation:		Moderate deformities					
Breastbone		Moderately dented, curved, or crooked					
Back		Moderately crooked					
Legs and Wings		Moderately misshapen					
Fleshing:		Moderately fleshed, considering kind and class					
Fat Covering:		Sufficient fat layer--especially on breast and legs					
Defeathering:		Turkeys (feathers less than 3/4 in.)		Ducks and Geese ¹ (feathers less than 1/2 in.)		All Other Poultry (feathers less than 1/2 in.)	
A few scattered protruding feathers and hairs		Carcass	Parts	Carcass	Parts	Carcass	Parts
		6	3	10	5	6	3
Exposed Flesh:		Carcass				Parts	
Weight Range Minimum: Maximum:							
None	2 lbs.	No part on the carcass (wings, legs, entire back, or entire breast) has more than 1/3 of the flesh exposed				No more than 1/3 of the flesh normally covered by skin exposed	
Over 2 lbs.	6 lbs.						
Over 6 lbs.	16 lbs.						
Over 16 lbs.	None						
Discolorations: ²		Carcass Lightly or Moderately Shaded Discolorations					
Carcass		Breast and Legs				Elsewhere	
None	2 lbs.	1 1/4 in.				2 1/4 in.	
Over 2 lbs.	6 lbs.	2 in.				3 in.	
Over 6 lbs.	16 lbs.	2 1/2 in.				4 in.	
Over 16 lbs.	None	3 in.				5 in.	
Discolorations: ²		Large Carcass Parts Lightly or Moderately Shaded Discolorations					
Large Carcass Parts (halves, front and rear halves)		Breast and Legs				Elsewhere	
None	2 lbs.	1 in.				1 1/4 in.	
Over 2 lbs.	6 lbs.	1 1/2 in.				1 3/4 in.	
Over 6 lbs.	16 lbs.	2 in.				2 1/2 in.	
Over 16 lbs.	None	2 1/2 in.				3 in.	
Discolorations: ²		Other Parts Lightly or Moderately Shaded Discolorations					
Other Parts		Breasts, Legs, and Parts					
None	2 lbs.	3/4 in.					
Over 2 lbs.	6 lbs.	1 in.					
Over 6 lbs.	16 lbs.	1 1/2 in.					
Over 16 lbs.	None	1 3/4 in.					
Disjointed and Broken Bones:		Carcass--2 disjointed and no broken bones, or 1 disjointed and 1 non-protruding broken bone. Parts--may be disjointed, no broken bones; wing beyond second joint may be removed at a joint.					
Missing Parts:		Wing tips, 2nd wing joint, and tail.					
Trimming:		Carcass				Parts	
		Slight trimming of the carcass is permitted provided the meat yield of any part on the carcass is not appreciably affected. The back may be trimmed in an area not wider than the base of the tail to the area halfway between the base of the tail and the hip joints.				A moderate amount of meat may be trimmed around the edge of a part to remove defects.	
Freezing Defects:		May lack brightness. Few pockmarks due to drying. Moderate areas showing a layer of clear, pinkish, or reddish colored ice.					

¹ Hair or down is permitted on the carcass or part, provided the hair or down is less than 3/16 inch in length, and is scattered so that the carcass or part has a clean appearance, especially on the breast and legs.

² Discolorations due to flesh bruising shall be free of clots and may not exceed one-half the total aggregate area of permitted discoloration

¹ Hair or down is permitted on the carcass or part, provided the hair or down is less than 3/16 inch in length, and is scattered so that the carcass or part has a clean appearance, especially on the breast and legs.

² Discolorations due to flesh bruising shall be free of clots and may not exceed one-half the total aggregate area of permitted discoloration.

Ready-to-Cook Poultry - C Quality

Summary of Specifications for Standards of Quality for Individual Carcasses and Parts

Effective April 29, 1998 (Not All Inclusive) (Minimum Requirements and Maximum Defects Permitted)

		C Quality					
Conformation: Breastbone Back Legs and Wings		Abnormal Seriously curved or cooked Seriously crooked Misshapen					
Fleshing:		Poorly fleshed					
Fat Covering:		Lacking in fat covering over all parts of carcass					
Defeathering: Scattering of protruding feathers and hairs		Turkeys (feathers less than 3/4 in.)		Ducks and Geese ¹ (feathers less than 1/2 in.)		All Other Poultry (feathers less than 1/2 in.)	
		Carcass	Parts	Carcass	Parts	Carcass	Parts
		8	4	12	6	8	4
Exposed Flesh: Weight Range		Carcass				Parts	
Maximum	Minimum	No limit					
None	2 lbs.						
Over 2 lbs.	6 lbs.						
Over 6 lbs.	16 lbs.						
Over 16 lbs.	None						
Discolorations: Carcass		Carcass					
		Breast and Legs			Elsewhere		
None	2 lbs.	No limit on size, number of areas, or intensity of discolorations and flesh bruises if such areas do not render any part of the carcass unfit for food.					
Over 2 lbs.	6 lbs.						
Over 6 lbs.	16 lbs.						
Over 16 lbs.	None						
Discolorations: Parts (includes large carcass parts)		Parts Breasts, Legs, and Parts					
None	2 lbs.	No limit on size, number of areas, or intensity of discolorations and flesh bruises if such areas do not render any part unfit for food.					
Over 2 lbs.	6 lbs.						
Over 6 lbs.	16 lbs.						
Over 16 lbs.	None						
Disjointed and Broken Bones:		No limit					
Missing Parts:		Wing tips, wings, and tails. Backs shall include all meat and skin from pelvic bones, except that the meat contained in the ilium (oyster) may be removed. The vertebral ribs and scapula with meat and skin and the backbone located anterior (forward) of ilia bones may also be removed (front half of back).					
Trimming:		Carcass				Parts	
		Trimming of the breast and legs is permitted, but not to the extent that the normal meat yield is materially affected. The back may be trimmed in an area not wider than the base of the tail and extending from the tail to the area between the hip joints.					
Freezing Defects:		Numerous pockmarks and large dried areas.					

¹ Hair or down is permitted on the carcass or part, provided the hair or down is less than 3/16 inch in length, and is scattered so that the carcass or part has a clean appearance, especially on the breast and legs.

¹ Hair or down is permitted on the carcass or part, provided the hair or down is less than 3/16 inch in length, and is scattered so that the carcass or part has a clean appearance, especially on the breast and legs.