

AMS NoAMS No. 112-07

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USDA WITHDRAWS NOTICE TO REVISE U.S. STANDARDS FOR GRADES OF TABLE GRAPES

WASHINGTON, June 29, 2007 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has decided to withdraw the proposal to revise the U.S. Standards for Grades of Table Grapes (European or Vinifera Type).

On Sept. 22, 2006, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) published a notice in the Federal Register soliciting comments on a proposal which would add an additional 10 percent allowance for shattered berries in consumer containers for shipments that are en route or at destination. Due to the comments received, AMS has decided not to proceed further with this action.

AMS works with industry representatives and others to establish or revise U.S. standards for nearly 240 agricultural products. The industry uses the standards in the marketplace to specify the quality of commodities. Standards facilitate commerce by providing a common language for trade and a means of measuring value in the marketing of agricultural products.

The notice of withdrawal will be published in the June 29, 2007, Federal Register. More information is available from: Vincent J. Fusaro, Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250-0240, or by e-mail to Vinny.Fusaro@usda.gov.

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