

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 966.323

(c) District 3—four members and their alternates.

(d) District 4—four members and their alternates.

[50 FR 3738, Jan. 28, 1985, as amended at 60 FR 5560, Jan. 30, 1995]

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§ 966.234 Assessment rate.

On and after August 1, 1999, an assessment rate of \$0.025 per 25-pound container is established for Florida tomatoes.

[64 FR 57363, Oct. 25, 1999]

Subpart—Handling Regulations

§ 966.323 Handling regulation.

From October 10 through June 15 of each season, except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (d) of this section, no person shall handle any lot of tomatoes produced in the production area for shipment outside the regulated area unless it meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section.

(a) *Grade, size, container, and inspection requirements*—(1) *Grade.* Tomatoes shall be graded and meet the requirements specified for U.S. No. 1, U.S. Combination, or U.S. No. 2 of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Fresh Tomatoes. When not more than 15 percent of the tomatoes in any lot fail to meet the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade and not more than one-third of this 15 percent (or 5 percent) are comprised of defects causing very serious damage including not more than 1 percent of tomatoes which are soft or affected by decay, such tomatoes may be shipped and designated as at least 85 percent U.S. No. 1 grade.

(2) *Size.* (i) All tomatoes packed by a registered handler shall be at least 2⁹/₃₂ inches in diameter and shall be sized with proper equipment in one or more of the following ranges of diameters. Tomatoes shipped outside the regulated area shall also be sized with proper equipment in one or more of the following ranges of diameters. Measurements of diameters shall be in accordance with the methods prescribed in §51.1859 of the U.S. Standards for Grades of Fresh Tomatoes.

Size designation	Inches minimum diameter	Inches maximum diameter
6×7	2 ⁹ / ₃₂	2 ¹⁹ / ₃₂
6×6	2 ¹⁷ / ₃₂	2 ²⁹ / ₃₂
5×6	2 ²⁵ / ₃₂	

(ii) Tomatoes of designated sizes may not be commingled, and each container or lid shall be marked to indicate the designated size.

(iii) Only 6×7, 6×6, or 5×6, may be used to indicate the above listed size designations or containers of tomatoes.

(iv) To allow for variations incident to proper sizing, not more than a total of ten (10) percent, by count, of the tomatoes in any lot may be smaller than the specified minimum diameter or larger than the maximum diameter.

(3) *Containers.* (i) All tomatoes packed by a registered handler shall be packed in containers of 10, 20, and 25 pounds designated net weights. The net weight of the contents shall not be less than the designated net weight and shall not exceed the designated net weight by more than two pounds. Section 51.1863 of the U.S. Tomato Standards shall apply to all containers.

(ii) Each container or lid shall be marked to indicate the designated net weight and must show the name and address of the registered handler (as defined in §966.7) in letters at least one-fourth (1/4) inch high, and such containers must be packed at the registered handler's facilities.

(iii) The container in which the tomatoes are packed must be clean and bright in appearance without marks, stains, or other evidence of previous use.

(4) *Inspection.* Tomatoes shall be inspected and certified pursuant to the provisions of §966.60. Each handler who applies for inspection shall register with the committee pursuant to §966.113. Persons not certified by the committee as a registered handler shall be issued inspection certificates on shipments handled by such persons stating "Fails to meet the requirements of Marketing Order No. 966 because the handler is not a registered handler." Evidence of inspection must accompany truck shipments.