

ELEMENTS OF QUALITY

§ 29.6081 Elements of quality and degrees of each element.

These standardized words or terms are used to describe tobacco quality and to assist in interpreting grade specifications. Tobacco attributes or

characteristics which constitute quality are designated as elements of quality. The range within each element is expressed by the use of words or terms designated as degrees. These degrees are arranged to show their relative value, but the actual value of each degree varies with type and group.

Elements	Degrees		
Body	Heavy	Medium	Thin.
Maturity	Immature	Mature	Ripe.
Leaf structure	Close	Firm	Open.
Elasticity	Inelastic	Semielastic	Elastic.
Strength (tensile)	Weak	Normal	Strong.
Width	Narrowdo	Spready.
Length	(1)	(1)	(1)
Uniformity	(2)	(2)	(2)
Injury tolerance	(2)	(2)	(2)

¹ Expressed in inches.
² Expressed in percentages.

RULES

§ 29.6086 Rules.

The application of these official standard grades shall be in accordance with the following rules.

§ 29.6087 Rule 1.

Each grade shall be treated as a subdivision of a particular type. When the grade is stated in an inspection certificate, the type also shall be stated.

§ 29.6088 Rule 2.

The determination of grade shall be based upon a representative sample or a thorough examination of a packing of tobacco.

§ 29.6089 Rule 3.

The grade of unsorted tobacco shall be based upon a representative sample of the packing. A minimum of 10 percent of the bundles or bales shall be selected at random for sampling; a higher percentage may be sampled at the discretion of the inspector. To obtain the sample, a sufficient amount of tobacco shall be drawn to be representative of each selected bale. In determining the grade, the inspector shall consider the quality of all samples. The grade assigned shall represent the quality of the lot as a whole.

§ 29.6090 Rule 4.

Standard grades shall be assigned to clean and sound tobacco only.

§ 29.6091 Rule 5.

Tobacco leaves shall be placed straight in bundles or bales of normal weight, size, and shape with the butts out and tips overlapping from 6 to 8 inches or sufficiently to make a level, solid, and uniform pack. The sides of the bundles shall be completely covered with paper, or other suitable protective material, and tightly bound with not less than three large twines spaced so that the tobacco will be held securely together. Improperly packed tobacco shall be designated as "No—G."

§ 29.6092 Rule 6.

The grade assigned to any lot of tobacco shall be a true representation of the tobacco at the time of inspection and certification. If, at any time, it is found that a lot of tobacco does not comply with the specifications of the grade previously assigned, it shall not thereafter be represented as such grade.

§ 29.6093 Rule 7.

Any lot of tobacco which meets the specifications of two grades shall be placed in the higher grade. Any lot of

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tobacco on the marginal line between two grades shall be placed in the lower grade.

§ 29.6094 Rule 8.

A lot of tobacco meets the specifications of a grade when it is not lower in any degree of any element of quality than the minimum specifications of such grade.

§ 29.6095 Rule 9.

In determining the grade of a lot of tobacco, the lot as a whole shall be considered. Minor irregularities which do not affect over one percent of the tobacco shall be overlooked.

§ 29.6096 Rule 10.

Interpretations, the use of specifications, and the meaning of terms shall be in accordance with determinations or clarifications made by the Chief of the Standardization Branch and approved by the Director of the Tobacco Division, Agricultural Marketing Service.

§ 29.6097 Rule 11.

The use of any grade may be restricted by the Director during any marketing season when it is found that the grade is not needed or appears in insufficient volume to justify its use.

§ 29.6098 Rule 12.

Uniformity shall be expressed in percentages. These percentages shall govern the portion of a lot which must meet each specification of the grade; the remaining portion must be related. Grade specifications state the minimum acceptable degree of each element of quality. Specified percentages of uniformity shall not affect limitations established by other rules.

§ 29.6099 Rule 13.

Injury tolerance shall be expressed in percentages. The appraisal of injury shall be based upon the percentage of affected leaf surface or the degree of injury, and consideration shall be given

to the kinds of injury normal to the group or grade.

§ 29.6100 Rule 14.

Stem rot shall not exceed 40 percent of the specified injury tolerance for any grade.

§ 29.6101 Rule 15.

In grade specifications the tolerance of crude shall apply to the entire leaf surface of the lot.

§ 29.6102 Rule 16.

In grade specifications frozen shall be treated as a separate kind of injury and the tolerance shall apply to the entire leaf surface of the lot.

§ 29.6103 Rule 17.

Tobacco shall be designated as No Grade, using the grademark "No—G," when it is damaged, dirty, nested, offtype, semicured, wet, improperly packed, contains foreign matter, or has an odor foreign to the type.

§ 29.6104 Rule 18.

Burn shall be determined as the average burning time of leaves selected at random from the sample. A minimum of 10 leaves shall be selected as representative regardless of the number of bundles or bales in the lot. All burn tests shall be made in the bindercutting area on the same side of the leaf. The leaf shall be punctured to permit quick ignition when placed over a candle, alcohol lamp, or electrical-lighting device. Good burn shall average 6 seconds or longer; fair burn, 3 to 5 seconds; and poor burn, under 3 seconds. B1 and B2 shall require good burn and B3, fair burn.

GRADES

§ 29.6126 Binder (B Group).

Tobacco of this group is of cigar-binder quality from which trash and trashy Farm Fillers have been removed.

U.S. grades	Grade names, minimum specifications, and tolerances
B1	Fine Quality Binder. Thin, ripe, open, elastic, strong, spready, and 19 inches or over in length. Uniformity, 90 percent; injury tolerance, 10 percent.
B2	Fair Quality Binder. Medium body, ripe, open, semielastic, strong, normal width, and 19 inches or over in length. Uniformity, 80 percent; injury tolerance, 20 percent.