

**Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA**

**§ 52.3184**

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION, VARIETAL  
TYPES, SIZES, GRADES

**§ 52.3181 Product description.**

Dried prunes are prepared from sound, properly matured prune plums from which the greater portion of moisture is removed by drying. The dried prunes are cleaned to assure a wholesome product; they may be treated with water or steam; and a safe and suitable preservative may be added.

[30 FR 11596, Sept. 10, 1965. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977 and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981]

**§ 52.3182 Varietal types of dried prunes.**

- (a) *Type I.* French; or Robe; or a mixture of French and Robe.
- (b) *Type II.* Italian.
- (c) *Type III.* Imperial; or Sugar; or a mixture of Imperial and Sugar.
- (d) *Type IV.* Any other types; or mixtures of any types other than mixtures in Type I and Type III of this section.

**§ 52.3183a Styles of dried prunes.**

- (a) Whole Unpitted—from which pits have not been removed.
- (b) Whole Pitted—from which pits have been removed.

[30 FR 11596, Sept. 10, 1965. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977 and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981]

**§ 52.3183b Count-sizes of whole unpitted dried prunes.**

(a) *Count-sizes.* Except for U.S. Grade A or U.S. Fancy, the count-sizes of dried prunes are not incorporated in the grades of dried prunes. The count-sizes of dried prunes in this subpart refer to the count (or number) of prunes per pound of dried prunes. The various sizes of dried prunes for the respective varietal types are commonly designated as follows, but may be designated by other numerical expressions:

- (1) *Type I; Type IV.* 30/40, 40/50, 50/60, 60/70, 70/80, 80/90, 90/100, 100/120, 120 and over.
- (2) *Type II.* 25/35, 35/45, 30/40, 40/50, 50/60, 60/70, 70/80, 80/90, 90/100.
- (3) *Type III.* 15/20, 18/24, 20/30, 30/40, 40/50, 50/60, 60/70.

(b) *Recommended size nomenclature.* The following size nomenclature is rec-

ommended for the respective "countsizes" of dried prunes:

Extra large ...	Average: Not more than 43 prunes per pound.
Large .....	Average: Not more than 53 prunes per pound.
Medium .....	Average: Not more than 67 prunes per pound.
Small .....	Average: Not more than 85 prunes per pound.

[21 FR 8177, Oct. 25, 1956. Redesignated at 30 FR 11596, Sept. 10, 1965, and further redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977 and 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981]

**§ 52.3184 Grades of dried prunes.**

(a) "U.S. Grade A" or "U.S. Fancy" is the quality of dried prunes that, except for mixed types, possess similar varietal characteristics; that are fairly uniform in size and average 85 prunes or less per pound; that meet the applicable moisture limits in Table IV of this subpart but regardless of size and kind of packaging are reasonably uniform in moisture; and that do not exceed the total allowances and limitations for defects shown in Table I of this subpart.

(b) "U.S. Grade B" or "U.S. Choice" is the quality of dried prunes that, except for mixed types, possess similar varietal characteristics; that are fairly uniform in size; that meet the applicable moisture limits in Table IV of this subpart but regardless of size and kind of packaging are reasonably uniform in moisture; and that do not exceed the total allowances and limitations for defects shown in Table II of this subpart.

(c) "U.S. Grade C" or "U.S. Standard" is the quality of dried prunes that, except for mixed types, possess similar varietal characteristics; that are fairly uniform in size; that meet the applicable moisture limits in Table IV of this subpart but regardless of size and kind of packaging are reasonably uniform in moisture; and that do not exceed the total allowances and limitations for defects shown in Table III of this subpart.

(d) "Substandard" is the quality of dried prunes that meet the applicable moisture limits in Table IV of this subpart but regardless of size and kind of packaging are reasonably uniform in moisture; and that may fail to meet

other requirements for U.S. Grade C or U.S. Standard, but not more than 5 percent, by weight, of the dried prunes may be affected by mold, dirt, foreign material, insect infestation, or decay: *Provided*, That not more than 1 percent, by weight, of the dried prunes may be affected by decay.

TABLE I—U.S. GRADE A OR U.S. FANCY; ALLOWANCES FOR DEFECTS

Total allowance		Limitations	
Not more than a total of 10 percent, by weight, may be damaged or affected by: Off-color. Poor texture. End cracks. Skin or flesh damage. <sup>2</sup> Fermentation. Scars. Heat damage. Insect injury. Other means. Mold. Dirt. Foreign material. Insect infestation. Decay.	Not more than 6 percent, by weight, may be damaged or affected by:  Poor texture. End cracks. Skin or flesh damage. <sup>2</sup> Fermentation. Scars. Heat damage. Insect injury. Other means. Mold. Dirt. Foreign material. Insect infestation. Decay.	Not more than 3 percent, by weight, may be affected by:  Mold. Dirt. Foreign material. Insect infestation. Decay.	Not more than 1 percent, by weight, may be affected by:  Decay.

TABLE II—U.S. GRADE B OR U.S. CHOICE; ALLOWANCES FOR DEFECTS

Total allowance		Limitations	
Not more than a total of 15 percent, by weight, may be damaged or affected by: Off-color. Poor texture. End cracks. Skin or flesh damage. <sup>2</sup> Fermentation. Scars. Heat damage. Insect injury. Other means. Mold. Dirt. Foreign material. Insect infestation. Decay.	Not more than 8 percent, by weight, may be damaged or affected by:  Poor texture. End cracks. Skin or flesh damage. <sup>2</sup> Fermentation. Scars. Heat damage. Insect injury. Other means. Mold. Dirt. Foreign material. Insect infestation. Decay.	Not more than 4 percent, by weight, may be affected by:  Mold Dirt. Foreign material. Insect infestation. Decay.	Not more than 1 percent, by weight, may be affected by:  Decay.

TABLE III—U.S. GRADE C OR U.S. STANDARD ALLOWANCES FOR DEFECTS

Total allowance		Limitations	
Not more than a total of 20 percent, by weight, may be damaged or affected by: Off-color. Poor texture. End cracks. <sup>1</sup> Skin or flesh damage. <sup>2</sup> Fermentation. Scars. Heat damage. Insect injury. Other means.	Not more than 10 percent, by weight, may be damaged or affected by:  End cracks. <sup>1</sup> Skin or flesh damage. <sup>2</sup> Fermentation. Scars.  Heat damage. Insect injury. Other means. Mold.	Not more than 8 percent, by weight, may be damaged or affected by:  Skin or flesh damage. <sup>2</sup> Fermentation. Scars. Heat damage.  Insect injury. Other means. Mold. Dirt.	Not more than 5 percent, by weight, may be affected by:  Mold. Dirt. Foreign material. Insect infestation. Decay.  <i>Provided</i> , That not more than 1 percent, by weight, may be affected by decay.

TABLE III—U.S. GRADE C OR U.S. STANDARD ALLOWANCES FOR DEFECTS—Continued

Total allowance		Limitations	
Mold. Dirt. Foreign material. Insect infestation. Decay.	Dirt. Foreign material. Insect infestation. Decay.	Foreign material. Insect infestation. Decay.	

<sup>1</sup> Except that each 1 percent of end cracks to, and including, 8 percent, by weight, shall be considered as ½ percent damaged by end cracks; and any additional end cracks shall be calculated as true percentage, by weight.  
<sup>2</sup> Not applicable to "Whole Pitted" style.

TABLE IV—MOISTURE ALLOWANCES FOR DRIED PRUNES

[Non-hermetically sealed containers; 10 pounds or more]

Grades	Maximum moisture limits (percent)	
	Counts averaging 60 or less per pound	Counts averaging 61 or more per pound
U.S. Grade A or U.S. fancy .....	25	24
U.S. Grade B or U.S. choice .....	25	24
U.S. Grade C or U.S. standard .....	25	24
Substandard .....	25	24

[21 FR 8177, Oct. 25, 1956, as amended at 30 FR 11596, Sept. 10, 1965. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981]

MOISTURE, UNIFORMITY OF SIZE, DEFECTS

§ 52.3185 Moisture limits.

Dried prunes shall not exceed the moisture limits for the applicable grades and kind and size of packaging as designated in Table IV of this subpart except there is no moisture limit when safe and suitable preservatives have been added. "Moisture" means the percentage by weight of the finished dried prunes, exclusive of pits, that is moisture when determined by the Dried Fruit Moisture Tester Method or in accordance with methods that give equivalent results. The moisture limits in Table IV apply only to so-called "bulk packs" of dried prunes packaged in non-hermetically sealed containers holding 10 pounds or more of dried prunes when safe and suitable preservatives have not been added. Such containers include, but are not limited to, wood boxes or fiber boxes.

[30 FR 11596, Sept. 10, 1965. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981]

§ 52.3186 Definitions for uniformity of size.

(a) *Fairly uniform in size.* "Fairly uniform in size" means that in a sample of 100 ounces:

(1) For prunes that average 53 prunes or less per pound, the count per pound of 10 ounces of the smallest prunes does not vary from the count per pound of 10 ounces of the largest prunes by more than 25 points; or

(2) For prunes that average 54 prunes or more per pound, the count per pound of 10 ounces of the smallest prunes does not vary from the count per pound of 10 ounces of the largest prunes by more than 45 points.

§ 52.3187 Definitions and explanations of defects.

Dried prunes damaged or affected by the following are scorable as defects:

(a) *Off-color.* "Off-color" means a skin color different from characteristic black, blue-black, reddish-purple, or other characteristic skin color for the type.

(b) *Poor texture.* "Poor texture" means porous, woody, or fibrous flesh or immature prunes or prunes possessing flesh interspersed with excessive air pockets in which the texture of the flesh is noticeably different from the flesh of mature prunes which have been properly dried, handled, and processed. "Excessive air pockets" means that the prunes are affected by air pockets to the extent that the appearance and eating quality is seriously affected.

(c) *End cracks.* "End cracks" means callous apex-end cracks which, singly or in the aggregate on a prune, are more than 3/8 inch in length but not more than 1/2 inch in length.

(d) *Skin or flesh damage.* "Skin or flesh damage" in the case of "Whole Unpitted" style means: