

onions due to the restrictions imposed by the application of tolerances.

A specified sample size would provide more uniform sampling when certifying various sizes of smaller packages. Also, to apply tolerances more accurately to these smaller packages in conjunction with the change in sample size the application of tolerances would need to be applied to the sample as opposed to the package.

Therefore, this proposal would add new sections (§ 51.2839 in Other Than and 51.3201 in BGG), Samples For Grade And Size Determination, to each standard. The addition of sample size requirements, §§ 51.2839 in Other Than and 51.3201 in BGG, will read as follows in both standards: "Individual samples shall consist of at least 20 pounds. When individual packages contain 20 pounds or more and the onions are packed for Large or Jumbo size or larger the package shall be the sample. When individual packages contain less than 20 pounds, a sufficient number of adjoining packages are opened to provide at least a 20 pound sample." For onions smaller than Large or Jumbo size (3 inches), a 20 pound sample would be sufficient regardless of the package size because the onions are small. Defects are determined by weight and therefore smaller onions provide ample numbers of units for inspection purposes, whereas the larger onions provide fewer specimens in the same size sample. With this proposed addition of sample sizes a more uniform determination of defect percentages will be applied to the various sizes of onions in both small and large packages.

To further enhance the uniform determination of defect tolerances this proposal would also modify the Application of Tolerances section in each standard, §§ 51.2840 & 51.3202.

Currently each standard limits the individual package from exceeding certain tolerances. Each standard now reads, in part, as follows: "* * * the contents of individual packages in the lot, based on sample inspection, are subject to the following limitations * * *."

This proposal would change those limits from the package to the sample. The modified sections as proposed would read, in part: "Individual samples are subject to the following limitations: * * *." Of course, in some instances the package still remains the sample.

This proposed change in the application of tolerances is intended to enhance clarity, simplicity and uniformity of inspection procedure. Since the sample would be the unit of

inspection the tolerances should apply to that unit. A single package could be just one part of the unit of inspection (in a combined 20 pound sample) and applying the limits of tolerances to that package would confuse and complicate the inspection process.

—Currently each standard contains sections entitled "Damage" and "Serious Damage." The paragraphs within each of these sections list defects and the definitions of damage or serious damage by these defects. The following proposed revisions would affect some of these defect definitions in the interest of providing clear language, uniformity of application and consistency with current marketing and handling practices.

Currently Dry sunscald is a defect listed under damage in both standards and also under serious damage in the BGG standard. Over the years there has been some confusion surrounding the identification of this defect because dirt clod bruising of the onions may cause an area similar looking to dry sunscald. To eliminate confusion and to standardize inspection procedures the term Dry sunken areas is proposed as a replacement for the term Dry sunscald. This definition is more objective and precise. (Sections 51.2850(f) and 51.3209(c).)

The proposed definition for serious damage by dry sunken areas would remain the same in the BGG standard as it currently reads (51.3211(b)). The same definition would be added to the Other Than Standard (51.2853(f)). This would maintain uniformity and clarity in each of the standards.

Some of the defects currently listed in the damage and serious damage sections are defined in terms of when materially or seriously detracting from the appearance of the lot. Hence, these defects are scored as damage or serious damage when the lot is affected to a certain degree as opposed to when the individual onions are affected. The method of judging when the appearance of the lot is to be scored should be more precise and objective.

In the Other Than standard damage and serious damage by dirt or staining, and damage by dry roots, tops and sunburn are defined this way. In the BGG standard damage and serious damage by staining, dirt or other foreign material is also defined this way.

This proposed rule would set percentage allowances for when the lot is damaged or seriously damaged by individual defective specimens. For example the current definition for damage by dry roots in the Other Than

standard reads: "when detracting from the appearance of the lot more than the presence of 20 percent of the onions having all roots 2 inches in length." The proposed revision would read: "when more than 20 percent of the onions in a lot have practically all roots 2 inches or more in length." The new definition should be more objective and precise. "Practically all" was added to be more realistic in determining the number of roots. This term means 95 percent or more as defined in the General Inspection Instructions of the Fresh Products Branch. Each of the defects listed above would be clarified in this way while keeping the intent of the scoring guidelines intact. See §§ 51.2850(c), (e), (g), (l) and 51.2853(b) in Other Than and §§ 51.3209(f), (h) and 51.3211(d) in BGG.

The Other Than standard currently contains definitions for damage by new roots, dry roots, tops, and watery scale. The BGG standard does not currently contain definitions for any of these defects. In an effort to promote uniformity and clarity these definitions would be added to the BGG standard.

The current definition for damage by watery scale in the Other Than standard reads: "when more than the equivalent of the entire outer fleshy scale is affected by an off-color, watersoaked condition." To distinguish this defect from another condition called translucent scale an additional clarification is proposed. The following words would be added to the watery scale definition: "* * * The off-color must be of some shade of brown or yellow." The serious damage definition would also be modified. The BGG standard as mentioned above would also have these definitions included for uniformity. (Sections 51.2850(k) & 51.2853(a) and 51.3209(l) and 51.3211(f).)

Neither standard currently has a definition for damage by translucent scales. To provide clear language that is consistent with current marketing practices a definition would be provided as follows: "when more than the equivalent of two entire outer fleshy scales have a watersoaked condition." To provide uniformity each standard would be affected. (Sections 51.2850(n) and 51.3209(k).)

The BGG standard currently contains definitions for damage and serious damage by mechanical means. The Other Than standard does not contain these definitions. To be consistent with current handling practices for both types of onions and to provide uniformity between the standards, the current BGG definitions for mechanical damage and serious damage would be