

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 915.305

than that in which his handling facilities are located. Such report shall be on forms prescribed by the committee and shall include: (1) The name of the handler; (2) the quantity of avocados received; (3) date received; (4) name and address of the person from whom the avocados were purchased; (5) the district from which the avocados were transferred; and (6) the district to which the avocados were transferred. Each such report shall cover the period Sunday through Saturday and shall be placed in the mail not later than one week after the close of business of the Saturday ending the period covered by the report.

(d) Each handler shall, at the end of the day's operation, report to the committee the number of containers of avocados sold and delivered in the State of Florida in the following containers: (1) ¼ Bushel, (2) ½ Bushel, and (3) ¾ Bushel. Upon request by the committee, such reports shall be confirmed in writing on a weekly basis on a form prescribed by the committee.

(e) At the time of inspection, each handler shall provide to the Federal-State Inspection Service the quantity and size of containers being packed and inspected for the fresh avocado market. In addition, each handler shall provide the number of avocados packed per container (count per container).

[21 FR 6695, Sept. 6, 1956, as amended at 21 FR 7368, Sept. 27, 1956. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, as amended at 53 FR 1743, Jan. 22, 1988; 70 FR 36470, June 24, 2005]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTES: 1. At 61 FR 17552, Apr. 22, 1996, in §915.150, paragraph (d) was suspended indefinitely.

2. At 71 FR 76899, Dec. 22, 2006, in §915.150, paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) were suspended indefinitely, effective Dec. 26, 2006.

§ 915.155 Delinquent assessments.

Each handler shall pay interest of one percent per month on any unpaid assessment balance beginning 30 days after date of billing. Such interest charge is to apply to any unpaid assessments which become due the Avocado Administrative Committee after the effective date of this section.

[40 FR 50024, Oct. 28, 1975]

§ 915.160 Public member eligibility requirements and nomination procedures.

(a) Public member and alternate member candidates shall not represent an agricultural interest, and shall not have a financial interest in, or be associated with the production, processing, financing, or marketing of avocados.

(b) Public member and alternate member candidates should be able to devote sufficient time to attend committee activities regularly and to familiarize themselves with the background and economics of the avocado industry.

(c) The public member and alternate member shall be a resident of the production area.

(d) The public member and alternate member should be nominated by the Avocado Administrative Committee, and shall serve a one-year term which coincides with the term of the producer and handler members of the committee.

[44 FR 9370, Feb. 13, 1979]

NOTE: After January 1, 1979, "Budget of Expenses and Rate of Assessment" regulations (e.g. sections .200 through .299) and "Handling" regulations (e.g. sections .310 through .399) which are in effect for a year or less, will not be carried in the Code of Federal Regulations. For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting these regulations, see the "List of CFR Sections Affected", which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and on GPO Access.

Assessment Rates

§ 915.235 Assessment rate.

On and after April 1, 2005, an assessment rate of \$0.27 per 55-pound container or equivalent is established for avocados grown in South Florida.

[70 FR 36812, June 27, 2005]

Subpart—Container and Pack Regulations

§ 915.305 Florida Avocado Container Regulation 5.

(a) No handler shall handle any avocados for the fresh market from the production area to any point outside thereof in containers having a capacity

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of more than 4 pounds of avocados unless the containers meet the requirements specified in this section: *Provided*, That the containers authorized in this section shall not be used for handling avocados for commercial processing into products pursuant to §915.55(c). All avocados shall be packed in containers of 33, 31, 24, 12, and 8.5 pounds designated net weights and shall conform to all other applicable requirements of this section:

(1) Containers shall not contain less than 33 pounds net weight of avocados, except that for avocados of unnamed varieties, which are avocados that have not been given varietal names, and for Booth 1, Fuchs, and Trapp varieties, such weight shall be not less than 31 pounds. Not more than 10 percent, by count, of the individual containers in any lot may fail to meet the applicable specified weight. No container in any lot may contain a net weight of avocados exceeding 2 pounds less than the specified net weight; or

(2) Containers shall not contain less than 24 pounds net weight of avocados: *Provided*, That not to exceed 5 percent, by count, of such containers in any lot may fail to meet such weight requirement. All avocados packed at this designated net weight shall be placed in two layers and the net weight of all avocados in any such container shall not be less than 24 pounds: *Provided*, That the requirement as to placing avocados in two layers only shall not apply to such container if each of the avocados therein weighs 14 ounces or less; or

(3) Containers shall not contain less than 12 pounds net weight of avocados: *Provided*, That not to exceed 5 percent, by count, of such containers in any lot may fail to meet such weight requirement. All avocados packed at this designated net weight shall be placed in one layer only and the net weight of all avocados in any such container shall not be less than 12 pounds; or

(4) Containers shall not contain less than 8.5 pounds net weight of avocados: *Provided*, That not to exceed 5 percent, by count, of such containers in any lot may fail to meet such weight requirement. All avocados packed at this designated net weight shall be placed in one layer only and the net weight of all avocados in any such container shall

not be less than 8.5 pounds. Such containers shall be for export shipments only.

(5) Such other types and sizes of containers as may be approved by the Avocado Administrative Committee, with the approval of the Secretary, for testing in connection with a research project conducted by or in cooperation with said committee: *Provided*, That the handling of each lot of avocados in such test containers shall be subject to prior approval, and under the supervision of, the Avocado Administrative Committee.

(b) The limitations set forth in paragraph (a) of this section shall not apply to master containers for individual packages of avocados: *Provided*, That the markings or labels, if any, on the individual packages within such master containers do not conflict with the markings or labels on the master container.

(c) No handler shall handle any avocados for the fresh market in 20 bushel plastic field bins to destinations inside the production area.

(d) Avocados handled for the fresh market in containers other than those authorized under §915.305(a) and shipped to destinations within the production area must be packed in 1-bushel containers.

(e) All containers in which the avocados are packed must be new, and clean in appearance, without marks, stains, or other evidence of previous use.

[63 FR 37480, July 13, 1998, as amended at 64 FR 69383, Dec. 13, 1999; 65 FR 15205, Mar. 22, 2000; 70 FR 36470, June 24, 2005; 73 FR 66719, Nov. 12, 2008]

§915.306 Florida avocado grade, pack, and container marking regulation.

(a) No handler shall handle any variety of avocados grown in the production area unless:

(1) Such avocados grade at least U.S. No. 2, except that avocados handled to destinations within the production area may be placed in containers with avocados of dissimilar varietal characteristics.

(2) Such avocados are in containers authorized under §915.305, when handled to points outside the production area.