

true and complete records of his transactions with respect to imported raisins. Such records shall be retained for not less than 2 years subsequent to the calendar year of importation. The Secretary, through his duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any such person's premises during regular business hours and shall be permitted at any such time to inspect such records and any imported raisins held by such person.

(g) *Other restriction.* The provisions of this section do not supersede any restrictions or prohibitions on the importation of raisins under the Federal Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, or any other applicable laws or regulations, or the need to comply with applicable food and sanitary regulations of city, county, State, or Federal agencies.

(h) *Compliance.* Any person violating any of the provisions of this regulation is subject to a forfeiture in the amount prescribed in section 8a(5) of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (sections 1–19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601–674), or, upon conviction, a penalty in the amount prescribed in section 8c(14) of said act, or to both such forfeiture and penalty. False representation to an agency of the United States in any matter within its jurisdiction, knowing it to be false, is a violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001 which provides for a fine or imprisonment or both.

[37 FR 5282, Mar. 14, 1972, as amended at 37 FR 13635, July 12, 1972; 37 FR 23820, Nov. 9, 1972; 41 FR 52646, Dec. 1, 1976; 43 FR 47972, Oct. 18, 1978; 43 FR 57863, Dec. 11, 1978; 45 FR 65513, Oct. 3, 1980; 47 FR 51731, Nov. 17, 1982; 50 FR 45808, Nov. 4, 1985; 53 FR 34715, Sept. 8, 1988; 67 FR 57505, Sept. 11, 2002; 74 FR 2809, Jan. 16, 2009; 80 FR 15678, Mar. 25, 2015; 81 FR 84403, Nov. 23, 2016; 85 FR 12296, Mar. 6, 2020]

§ 999.400 Regulation governing the importation of filberts.

(a) *Definitions.* (1) *Filberts* means filberts or hazelnuts.

(2) *Inshell filberts* means filberts, the kernels or edible portions of which are contained in the shell.

(3) *Shelled filberts* means the kernels of filberts after the shells are removed.

(4) *Person* means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other business unit.

(5) *USDA inspector* means a Federal or Federal-State inspector, Food Safety and Quality Service, United States Department of Agriculture, or any other duly authorized employee of the USDA.

(6) *Importation* means release from custody of the United States Bureau of Customs.

(b) *Grade and size requirements.* Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, no person shall import into the United States any lot of filberts unless the filberts meet the following requirements, which are identical to those for filberts grown in Oregon and Washington and handled pursuant to Order No. 982, as amended (7 CFR part 982):

(1) *Inshell filberts.* All inshell filberts shall be of a quality equal to or better than the requirements of U.S. No. 1 grade and medium size as defined in the U.S. Standards for Filberts in the Shell (7 CFR part 51), except that the tolerance for insect injury shall be two percent. With this modification, the U.S. No. 1 grade, medium size is identical to the Oregon No. 1 grade, medium size (as defined in the Oregon Grade Standards Filberts in Shell) and prescribed for inshell filberts under Order No. 982, as amended.

(2) *Shelled filberts.* All shelled filberts shall be of a quality equal to or better than the requirements prescribed in exhibit A of this section.

(c) *Inspection and certification requirements—*(1) *General.* Compliance with the grade and size requirements of paragraph (b) of this section shall be determined on the basis of an inspection and certification by a USDA inspector.

(2) *Inspection.* Inspection shall be performed by USDA inspectors in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Inspection and Certification of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and Related Products (7 CFR part 51). The cost of each such inspection and related certification shall be borne by the applicant. Whenever filberts are offered for inspection, the applicant shall furnish any labor and pay any costs incurred in moving and opening containers as may be necessary for proper sampling and inspection. The applicant shall also furnish the USDA inspector

the entry number and such other identifying information for each lot as the inspector may request. Inspection must be completed prior to the importation, unless imported by vessel, in which case for filberts, the date of release may be used.

(3) *Certification.* Each lot of filberts inspected in accordance with paragraph (c)(1) of this section shall be covered by an inspection certificate. Each such certificate shall set forth, among other things, the following:

- (i) The date and place of inspection.
- (ii) The name of the applicant.
- (iii) The name of the importer.
- (iv) The Customs entry number pertaining to the lot or shipment covered by the certificate;
- (v) The quantity, and identifying marks of the lot inspected.
- (vi) The statement, if applicable: "Meets U.S. import requirements under section 8e of the AMA Act of 1937".
- (vii) If the lot fails to meet the import requirements, a statement to that effect and the reasons therefor.

(d) *Exemptions.* Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, the importation of any lot of filberts which does not exceed 115 pounds in net weight shall be exempt from the requirements of this section.

(e) *Reconditioning prior to importation.* Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to preclude reconditioning filberts prior to importation, in order that such filberts may be made eligible to meet the applicable grade and size regulations prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(f) *Other restrictions.* The provisions of this section do not supersede the Federal Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or any other applicable laws or regulations or the need to comply with applicable food and sanitary regulations of city, county, State or Federal agencies.

(g) *Compliance.* Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be subject to a forfeiture in the amount prescribed in section 8a(5) of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (sections 1-19, 48 Stat. 31, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 601-674), or, upon conviction, a penalty in the amount prescribed in section 8c(14) of

said act, or to both such forfeiture and penalty. False representations to any agency of the United States on any matter within its jurisdiction, knowing it to be false, is a violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001 which provides for a fine or imprisonment or both.

EXHIBIT A

GRADE REQUIREMENTS FOR SHELLED FILBERTS

Filbert kernels or portions of filbert kernels shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) Well dried and clean;
- (2) Free from foreign material, mold, rancidity, decay or insect injury; and
- (3) Free from serious damage caused by serious shriveling, or other means.

TOLERANCES

In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling the following tolerances, by weight, are permitted as specified:

- (1) For Foreign Material: 0.02 of one percent, for foreign material.
- (2) For Defects: Five percent for kernels or portions of kernels which are below the requirements of this grade, including not more than the following: Two percent for mold, rancidity, decay or insect injury: *Provided*, That not more than one percent shall be for mold, rancidity, or insect injury.

DEFINITIONS

- (1) *Well dried* means that the kernels are firm and crisp, not containing more than 6 percent moisture.
- (2) *Clean* means practically free from plainly visible adhering dirt or other foreign material.
- (3) *Foreign material* means any substance other than the filbert kernels, or portions of kernels. (Loose skins, pellicles or corky tissue which have become separated from the kernels shall not be considered as foreign material, provided that this material does not exceed .02 of one percent by weight.)
- (4) *Serious damage* means any specific defect described in this section, or any equally objectionable variation of any one of these defects, or any other defects, or any combination of defects,

which seriously detracts from the appearance or the edible or marketing quality of the individual portion of the kernel or of the lot as a whole. The following defects shall be considered as serious damage.

(i) *Serious shriveling* means when the kernel is seriously shrunken, wrinkled and tough.

(ii) *Mold* means that there is a visible growth of mold either on the outside or inside of the kernel.

(iii) *Rancidity* means that the kernel is noticeably rancid to the taste. An oily appearance of the flesh does not necessarily indicate a rancid condition.

(iv) *Decay* means that any portion of the kernel is decomposed.

(v) *Insect injury* means that the insect, frass or web is present, or the kernel or portion of kernel show definite evidence of insect feeding.

[42 FR 64899, Dec. 29, 1977, as amended at 45 FR 63482, Sept. 25, 1980; 47 FR 12612, Mar. 24, 1982; 48 FR 34015, July 27, 1983; 74 FR 2809, Jan. 16, 2009; 85 FR 12296, Mar. 6, 2020]

§ 999.500 Safeguard procedures for walnuts, dates, pistachios, and raisins exempt from grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements.

(a) Each person who imports or receives any of the commodities listed in paragraphs (a)(1) through (4) of this section shall file (electronically or paper) an “Importer’s Exempt Commodity Form” (FV-6) with the Marketing Order and Agreement Division, Fruit and Vegetable Program, AMS, USDA. A “person who imports” may include a customs broker, acting as an importer’s representative (hereinafter referred to as “importer”). A copy of the form (electronic or paper) shall be provided to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. If a paper form is used, a copy of the form shall accompany the lot to the exempt outlet specified on the form. Any lot of any commodity offered for inspection or aflatoxin testing and, all or a portion thereof, subsequently imported as exempt under this provision shall also be reported on an FV-6. Such form (electronic or paper) shall be provided to the Marketing Order and Agreement Division in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section. The applicable commodities are:

(1) Dates which are donated to needy persons, prisoners or Native Americans on reservations; dates for processing; dates prepared or preserved; or dates for packaging or dates in retail packages that fail to meet grade, size, quality, and maturity requirements and are reclassified as dates for processing;

(2) Walnuts which are: Green walnuts (so immature that they cannot be used for drying and sale as dried walnuts); walnuts used in non-competitive outlets such as use by charitable institutions, relief agencies, governmental agencies for school lunch programs, and diversion to animal feed or oil manufacture;

(3) Substandard pistachios which are for non-human consumption purposes; or

(4) Raisins which do not meet grade and size requirements and are used in the production of alcohol, or syrup for industrial use, or which do not meet grade requirements with respect to mechanical damage or sugaring and are used in the production of raisin paste.

(b) *Certification of exempt use.* (1) Each importer of an exempt commodity as specified in paragraph (a) of this section shall certify on the FV-6 form (electronic or paper) as to the intended exempt outlet (*e.g.*, processing, charity, livestock feed). If certification is made using a paper FV-6 form, the importer shall provide a handwritten signature on the form.

(2) Each receiver of an exempt commodity as specified in paragraph (a) of this section shall also receive a copy of the associated FV-6 form (electronic or paper) filed by the importer. Within two days of receipt of the exempt lot, the receiver shall certify on the form (electronic or paper) that such lot has been received and will be utilized in the exempt outlet as certified by the importer. If certification is made using a paper FV-6 form, the receiver shall provide a handwritten signature on the form.

(c) It is the responsibility of the importer to notify the Marketing Order and Agreement Division of any lot of exempt commodity rejected by a receiver, shipped to an alternative exempt receiver, exported, or otherwise disposed of. In such cases, a second FV-6 form must be filed by the importer,