United States Standards for Grades of Endive, Escarole or Chicory

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United States Standards for Grades of Endive, Escarole or Chicory[1]

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General
§51.3535 General.
These standards do not apply to French Endive or Chicory marketed for its roots.
Grade
§51.3536 U.S. No. 1.
"U.S. No. 1" consists of plants of endive, escarole or chicory of similar varietal characteristics which are fresh, well trimmed and fairly well blanched, and which are free from decay and free from damage caused by seedstems, broken, bruised, spotted, or discolored leaves, wilting, dirt, disease, insects or other means.
Unclassified
§51.3537 Unclassified.
"Unclassified" consists of plants of endive, escarole or chicory which have not been classified in accordance with the foregoing grade. The term "unclassified" is not a grade within the meaning of these standards but is provided as a designation to show that no grade has been applied to the lot.
Tolerances
§51.3538 Tolerances.
In order to allow for variations incident to proper grading and handling, the following tolerances, by count, shall be permitted in any lot:

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[1] Compliance with the provisions of these standards shall not excuse failure to comply with the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, or with applicable State laws and regulations.

(a) 10 percent for plants of endive, escarole or chicory which fail to meet the requirements of the grade: **Provided,** That included in this amount not more than 5 percent shall be allowed for defects causing serious damage, including in this latter amount not more than 2 percent for plants affected by decay.

Application of Tolerances

§51.3539 Application of tolerances.

The contents of individual packages in the lot, based on sample inspection, are subject to the following limitations: **Provided**, That the averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances specified for the grade:

(a) For a tolerance of 10 percent individual packages may contain not more than one and one-half times the specified tolerance, and for a tolerance of less than 10 percent individual packages may contain not more than double the specified tolerance, except that at least one defective plant may be permitted in any package.

Definitions

51.3540 Similar varietal characteristics.

"Similar varietal characteristics" means that the plants in any package are of the same type such as curly-leaved endive or broad-leaved escarole.

§51.3541 Fresh.

"Fresh" means that the plant as a whole has normal succulence and the outermost leaves are not more than slightly wilted.

§51.3542 Well trimmed.

"Well trimmed" means that the roots are neatly cut near the point of attachment of the outer leaf stems.

§51.3543 Fairly well blanched.

"Fairly well blanched" means that the plant has a yellowish-white to white heart formation with a spread averaging not less than four inches in diameter when the head is opened as far as possible without breaking the leaves or leaf stems.

§51.3544 Damage.

"Damage" means any defect, or any combination of defects, which materially detracts from the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the individual plant or the lot as a whole.

§51.3545 Serious damage.

"Serious" damage means any defect, or any combination of defects, which seriously detracts from the appearance or the edible or shipping quality of the individual plant or the lot as a whole.