



September 19, 2007

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Fresh Products Branch
Fruit & Vegetable Programs
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240
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Dear Mr. Fusaro:

Re: United States Standards for Grades of Cantaloupes
Docket # AMS-FV-2006-0205-0003; FV-06-317
Federal Register, Vol. 72, No. 142, 05/25/07, page 40825

The North American Perishable Agricultural Receivers (NAPAR) is a national trade association located in Washington, DC, representing independent produce wholesale receivers. NAPAR members are predominantly small businesses with combined annual sales in excess of \$4 billion. NAPAR formed an operating alliance with the Food Marketing Institute in 1999, enabling it to function independently while expanding the services to its members.

On behalf of our members, I appreciate the opportunity to again submit comments to USDA on cantaloupes and hope our perspective is helpful. NAPAR surveyed its members, soliciting their input on the probable impact these changes would have on their business operations. Our members are in favor of the USDA, AMS decision to revise the "Application of Tolerances" section in the U.S. Grade Standards by replacing the phrase "The contents of individual packages ****" with "Samples * * * " and revising "(a) Samples may contain * * *".

Members also appreciate the AMS decision to make revisions to section 51.480 so that the tolerances may be applied to: Either samples of the entire contents of melons in cartons, or to samples consisting of at least twenty five melons for cantaloupes packed

in bulk bins or other packaging. We continue to hope that, in those cases where the package contains greater than 25 cantaloupes, such as bins, the sample should be taken from a variety of locations within the bin.

I hope these insights are helpful and please feel free to contact me directly if NAPAR can provide further assistance during this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick A. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick A. Davis
President