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 299 East Broward Boulevard, Federal Building, Room 410, Box 14, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33301
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 U.S. Courthouse Building, 601 West Broadway, Room 617, Louisville, Kentucky 40202
 1350 Euclid Avenue, Room 280, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1815
 1114 Commerce Street, Santa Fe Building, Suite 202, Dallas, Texas 75242
 650 North Sam Houston Parkway East, Room 540, Houston, Texas 77060
 700 West Capitol, Room 2528, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
 423 Canal Street, Room 331, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
 215 Dean A. McGee Street, Room 416, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102
 111 East Capitol Street, Suite 425, Jackson, Mississippi 39201
 522 N. Central Avenue, Room 202, Phoenix, Arizona 85004
 300 E. Main Street, Room 501, El Paso, Texas 79901
 12136 W. Bayaud Avenue, Suite 210, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-2115
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 140 N. Phillips Avenue, Suite 320, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101
 100 Centennial Mall North, Room 282, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
 304 East Broadway, Room 336, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501
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 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room S153, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850-0001
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Docket Number FV-05-305]

United States Standards for Grades of Globe Artichokes

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), prior to undertaking research and other work associated with revising official grade standards, is soliciting comments on the possible revisions to the United States Standards for Grades of Globe Artichokes. At a 2003 meeting with the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, AMS was asked to review all the fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry. As a result, AMS has identified that the standard may need to be revised to reflect current marketing practices. AMS is seeking comments regarding any revisions that may be necessary to better serve the industry.

DATES: Comments must be received by June 27, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to the Standardization Section, Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Room 1661 South Building, Stop 0240, Washington, DC 20250-0240; Fax (202) 720-8871, e-mail FPB.DocketClerk@usda.gov. Comments should make reference to the dates and page number of this issue of the **Federal Register** and will be made available for public inspection in the above office during regular business hours. The United States Standards for Grades of Globe Artichokes is available either at the above address or by accessing the Fresh Products Branch Web site at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/standards/stanfrfv.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David L. Priester, at the above address or call (202) 720-2185; e-mail David.Priester@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621-1627), as amended, directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture "To develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade and packaging and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency

in commercial practices." AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities and makes copies of official standards available upon request. The United States Standards for Grades of Fruits and Vegetables not connected with Federal Marketing Orders or U.S. Import Requirements no longer appear in the Code of Federal Regulations, but are maintained by USDA/AMS/Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

AMS is considering whether to revise the voluntary United States Standards for Grades of Globe Artichokes using procedures that appear in Part 36, Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR part 36).

Background

At a 2003 meeting with the Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, AMS was asked to review all the fresh fruit and vegetable grade standards for usefulness in serving the industry. As a result, AMS has identified the United States Standards for Grades of Globe Artichokes for possible revision. These standards were last revised in 1969. As a result, AMS has identified that the standard may need to be revised to reflect current marketing trends. However, prior to undertaking detailed work to develop proposed revisions to the standards, AMS is seeking comments on whether any revisions are necessary to better serve the industry and the probable impact of any revisions on distribution, processors, and growers.

This notice provides for a 60-day comment period for interested parties to comment on whether any changes are necessary to the standards. Should AMS conclude that there is a need for any revisions of the standards, the proposed revisions will be published in the **Federal Register** with a request for comments in accordance with 7 CFR part 36.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621-1627.

Dated: April 21, 2005.

Kenneth C. Clayton,

Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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