

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 915.305

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, 2000, an assessment rate of \$0.19 per 55-pound bushel container or equivalent is established for avocados grown in South Florida.

[65 FR 35563, June 5, 2000]

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 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

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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.

[63 FR 37480, July 13, 1998, as amended at 64 FR 69383, Dec. 13, 1999; 65 FR 15205, Mar. 22, 2000]

§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: *Provided*, That during the period November 2, 1992, through March 31, 1993, avocados may be handled to destinations within the production area in containers other than those authorized under §915.305 affected by serious damage, but not very serious damage, caused by *Cercospora* Spot.

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

(3) Such avocados are packed in accordance with standard pack, when handled in containers authorized under §915.305.

(4) Such avocados are in containers marked with a Federal-State Inspec-

tion Service lot stamp number, when handled in containers authorized under §915.305: *Provided*, That when inspection occurs after palletization, only all exposed or outside containers of avocados must be plainly marked with the lot stamp number corresponding to the lot inspection conducted by an authorized inspector.

(5) Such avocados are in containers marked with a Federal-State Inspection Service (FSIS) lot stamp number applied to an adhesive tape seal affixed to the container in a manner to prevent the container from being opened and/or the fruit being removed without breaking the seal, when handled in containers other than those authorized under §915.305. The stamp and tape shall be affixed to the container by the FSIS or by the handler under the supervision of the FSIS. Only stamps and tape which have been approved by the Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, may be used for purposes of stamping and sealing containers to meet these requirements.

(6) Such avocados when handled in containers authorized under §915.305, except for those to export destinations, are marked once with the grade of fruit in letters and numbers at least one inch in height on the top or one side of the container, not to include the bottom, effective each fiscal year from the first Monday after July 15 until the first Monday after January 1.

(7) Notwithstanding the provisions in this section, such avocados may be handled not subject to the grade requirements specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section when they are shipped in containers other than those authorized under §915.305 to destinations within the production area.

(b) The provisions of paragraphs (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), (a)(5), and (a)(6) of this section shall not apply to individual packages of avocados weighing four pounds or less, net weight, in master containers.

(c) Terms pertaining to grades and standard pack mean the same as those defined in the United States Standards