

part, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the Secretary or of any other person with respect to any such violation.

§916.67 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this part shall cease upon its termination, except with respect to acts done under and during the existence of this part.

§916.68 Agents.

The Secretary may, by designation in writing, name any officer or employee of the United States, or name any agency or division in the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

§916.69 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States (a) to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or (b) in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§916.70 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee and no employee or agent of the committee shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in judgment, mistaken, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate, employee, or agent, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct, or gross negligence.

§916.71 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability thereof to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

§916.110 Exemptions.

(a) *Waivers.* A handler may handle nectarines without inspection and certification, as prescribed under §916.55, if all the following conditions are met:

(1) The handler requests the Federal-State Inspection Service to provide inspection during its regular working hours at least 2 hours in advance of the time when inspection is needed. The request need not be in writing but it shall be confirmed immediately in writing on a waiver form to be supplied by the inspection service;

(2) The Federal-State Inspection Service advises the handler that it is not practicable to provide inspection at the time and place designated by the handler. This advice may be verbal but it shall be confirmed in writing by the Federal-State Inspection Service by execution of the waiver form on which the handler submitted his written request. A confirmed copy thereof shall be forwarded by the inspection service to the office of the Nectarine Administrative Committee.

(3) The Federal-State Inspection Service furnishes the handler with the number of the waiver which shall cover the nectarines on which inspection is requested;

(4) When instructed to do so, the handler plainly and conspicuously marks one end of each container with the letter "W" and the waiver number supplied by the Federal-State Inspection Service. The letter W and the number shall not be less than one-half inch in height.

(b) *Minimum quantities.* Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, nectarines may be handled without regard to the provisions of §§916.41, 916.52, 916.53, 916.55, and 916.60 under the following conditions:

(1) Such nectarines meet the grade requirements set forth in Article 30 of the Food and Agriculture Code of California.

(2) Such nectarines are for home use and not for resale.

(3) The net weight of such nectarines to any one vehicle during any one day does not exceed 200 pounds.

(4) Such nectarines are handled by the person who produced them; and the

§916.115

handling takes place (i) on the premises where grown, (ii) at a packing-house or retail stand nearby which is operated by said handler, or (iii) at a certified farmers market in compliance with section 1392 of the regulations of the California Department of Food and Agriculture: *Provided*, That the exemption for certified farmers markets shall not apply to nectarines sorted out by a handler unless the nectarines are packed in containers clearly and legibly marked to show that the nectarines contained therein are only to be sold at certified farmers markets, and the handler complies with regulations established under §§916.41, 916.52(a)(1), 916.55, and 916.60 except that nectarines may be handled to such markets if the nectarines fail to meet the U.S. No. 1 grade only on account of being soft and overripe.

[31 FR 7474, May 24, 1966, as amended at 41 FR 22071, June 1, 1976; 42 FR 23157, May 6, 1977; 47 FR 30452, July 14, 1982; 49 FR 28541, July 13, 1984; 53 FR 15194, Apr. 28, 1988]

§916.115 Lot stamping.

Except when loaded directly into railway cars, exempted under §916.110, or for nectarines mailed directly to consumers in consumer packages, all exposed or outside containers of nectarines marked "CA WELL MAT" or "California Well Matured", and not less than 75 percent of the total containers on a pallet, shall be plainly stamped, prior to shipment, with a Federal-State Inspection Service lot stamp number, assigned by such Service, showing that such fruit has been USDA inspected in accordance with §916.55: *Provided*, That pallets of returnable plastic containers shall have the lot stamp numbers affixed to each pallet with a USDA-approved pallet tag, in addition to the lot stamp numbers and other required information on cards on the individual containers.

[72 FR 18853, Apr. 16, 2007]

EDITORIAL 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 .357 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

7 CFR Ch. IX (1-1-08 Edition)

appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and on GPO Access.

Subpart—Assessment Rates

§916.234 Assessment rate.

On and after March 1, 2007, an assessment rate of \$0.06 per 25-pound container or container equivalent of nectarines is established for California nectarines.

[72 FR 44728, Aug. 9, 2007]

§916.235 Delinquent assessments.

(a) The Nectarine Administrative Committee shall impose a late payment charge on any assessment that has not been received in the Nectarine Administrative Committee's office, or legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, within 60 days of the invoice date shown on the handler's assessment statement. The late payment charge shall be 10 percent of the unpaid balance.

(b) In addition to that specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the Nectarine Administrative Committee shall impose an interest charge on any assessment payment that has not been received in the committee's office, or legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, within 60 days of the invoice date. The interest charge shall be 1.5 percent per month and shall be applied to the unpaid balance and late payment charge for the number of days all or any part of the assessment specified in the handler's assessment statement is delinquent beyond the 60 day payment period.

[72 FR 25947, May 8, 2007]

Subpart—Container and Pack Regulation

§916.350 California Nectarine Container and Pack Regulation.

(a) During the period beginning April 1 and ending October 31, no handler shall ship any package or container of any variety of nectarines marked "CA WELL MAT" or "California Well Matured" except in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

(1) Such nectarines, when packed in any closed package or container, except master containers of consumer