



United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Specialty Crops Inspection Division

PATCH # 054

DOCUMENT: Tomatoes Shipping Point and Market Inspection Instructions, December 2005

REMARKS: The General section on page 1 is revised to read as follows:

“Tomatoes” as referenced in these instructions refers to all fresh field grown tomatoes unless specifically referred to as cherry, grape, Roma, plum or pear type tomatoes, heirloom tomatoes or other similar types. For these types there may be more specific instructions noted throughout the handbook.

Greenhouse tomatoes and tomatoes on the vine are covered by separate U.S. grade standards and are briefly referenced in this handbook. While the defects referenced in this handbook may not be specifically mentioned in the greenhouse or tomatoes on the vine standards they are applicable to all tomatoes regardless of production method.

Imported tomatoes are also regulated by the Marketing Order Administration Division (MOAD). Fresh tomatoes are subject to Section 8e of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, only during the period of time that the domestic commodity is also being shipped and regulated, (October 10th thru June 15th). The Act provides that when certain domestically produced commodities are regulated under a Federal marketing order, imports of the commodity must meet the same or comparable grade, size, quality and maturity requirements. For summaries of the Section 8e Import Requirements for Tomatoes, refer to Appendix II.

		Standard to Apply	
		Fresh (Field Grown)	Greenhouse
Markings/ Designations	Field Grown	✓	
	Greenhouse ¹		✓
	Hothouse ¹		✓
	Hydroponic		✓

¹ Except Tomatoes on the Vine (TOV), apply the TOV standard.

Any portion of the instructions in this section beginning with §51 and followed with bold print is material copied directly from the [U.S. Standards for Grades of Fresh Tomatoes](#).

This PATCH represents official guidance. This PATCH is scheduled to be incorporated into the document listed above. After incorporation into the document listed above this PATCH will become obsolete. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.