

## Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Certificate (Form FV-300)

An inspection certificate is completed for every inspection performed by AMS graders and AMS-licensed state personnel. This official document is accepted in all U.S. courts, and describes the quality and/or condition factors of product packed at shipping point locations or received at destination markets.

This page contains a typical inspection certificate, broken out by major sections. Click on each section of the inspection certificate to get a complete explanation of its content.

MINIMUM ON LOT IDENTIFICATION L 7   8   1   7   7   S   W			Loading Loaded - LO Not Loaded - PU Unloaded - UL Not Packed - U		
PREFIX	NUMBER	STATE	LOT ID		
Carrier / Lot ID Class by <b>INSPECTOR</b>		ASSIGNMENT NO. <b>B/2 34567</b>			
Carrier Type / Name <b>MECHANICALLY REFRIGERATED TRAILOR</b>					
Refrigeration Unit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On <input type="checkbox"/> Off <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open <input type="checkbox"/> Closed					

Applicant: <b>MY PRODUCE CO</b> Address: <b>SOMEWHERE, USA</b> Shipper: <b>THAT GROWER</b> Address: <b>ANYWHERE, USA</b> Prep. Site: <b>APPLICANT WAREHOUSE</b>
--

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE								
<b>INSPECTION CERTIFICATE</b>								
<b>K -</b>								
m	m	d	d	y	y	hour	min	A/P
0	4	0	1	0	2	0	7	15 A M

LOT	TEMPERATURES	Product	Brand / Markings	Origin	Lot ID:	Number of Containers:	Insp. count
A	50 to 53 °F	TOMATOES	"LABEL NAME" 5x6 25 lb NTWT	S   W	USDA/SW1234	800 CARTONS	Y
B	50 to 52 °F	SWEET PEPPERS	"LABEL NAME" 1 1/9 BL	S   W	LARGE	370 CARTONS	Y
C	/ to / °F	/	/	/	/	/	/
D	/ to / °F	/	/	/	/	/	/

O/T	AVERAGE DEFECTS			INCLUDING SER. DAM. (1/2-Damage)			OFFSIZE / DEFECTS		OTHER	
	%	%	%	%	%	%				
A	02	00	00	UNDERSIZE (-2 25/32)		LOT A: AVERAGE APPROXIMATELY				
	06	01	00	QUALITY DEFECTS (SCARS, NOT FAIRLY WELL FORMED) (3 TO 8%)		5% GREEN AND BREAKERS				
	08	02	00	SUNKEN DISCOLORED AREAS (4 TO 10%)		20% TURNING AND PINK				
	02	00	00	MOLDY STEMS		75% LIGHT RED AND RED				
	02	02	02	DECAY						
B	20	05	02	CHECKSUM		MEETS SIZE AS MARKED				
	04	00	X	QUALITY DEFECTS (NOT FAIRLY WELL SHAPED, SCARS)		LOT B: SIZE: 2 1/2 TO 2 INCHES IN				
	06	01	X	BRUISING (0 TO 8%)		DIAMETER 2 1/2 TO 3 1/2 INCHES IN				
	02	00	X	PITTED AREAS		LENGTH				
	03	03	X	DECAY (0 to 5%)		NO UNDERSIZE				
15	04	X	CHECKSUM		2% AFFECTING WALLS AND CALYX					
					1% AFFECTING STEMS					

GRADE: <b>EACH LOT: FAILS TO GRADE U.S. NO 1 ACCOUNT OF CONDITION</b>
REMARKS: <b>INSPECTION MADE DURING THE PROCESS OF UNLOADING</b>

<b>WARNING:</b> Any person who knowingly shall falsely make, issue, alter, forge, or counterfeit this certificate, or participate in any such actions, is subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.	I, the undersigned, a duly authorized inspector of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby certify that at the request of the applicant and on the date indicated, samples of the herein described product were inspected and the quality and/or condition as shown by said samples were as herein stated.	ESTIMATED TOTAL \$
	Inspector's Signature	Market Office: <b>SOMEWHERE, USA</b>

FORM FV-300 (11-91) Replaces FV-300 (4-86) and FV-306 (1-80) which are obsolete

CARRIER OR LOT IDENTIFICATION			Loading					
L	7	8	1	7	7	S	W	LO
PREFIX			NUMBER			STATE		
Carrier / Lot ID Stated By:						ASSIGNOR LOT ID:		
INSPECTOR						B/2 34567		
Carrier Type / Name:								
MECHANICALLY REFRIGERATED TRAILOR								
Refrigeration Unit:				Doors:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On <input type="checkbox"/> Off				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open <input type="checkbox"/> Closed				

**Carrier or Lot Identification:** The appropriate information in each portion of the "Carrier or Lot ID" block (prefix, number, state when applicable) is entered whenever a carrier or license number is available. This information is entered regardless of whether or not the conveyance number or license number was observed by the inspector.

In instances where the inspector did not see the conveyance number or license place number, the "Carrier No. Stated By:" section will be completed showing the name of the source providing the information.

**Loading:** In this block, one of the two-letter codes are to be entered, denoting whether the load or lot(s) being certified is loaded, partly loaded, unloaded, or is a lot inspection.

- **Loaded** (code **LO**) means that the entire lot or lots being certified are observed on the conveyance by the inspector. The load may or may not be in the process of being unloaded during the inspection, but the inspector must see the entire lot on the conveyance prior to the beginning of the unloading process.
- **Partly Unloaded** (code **PU**) means the lot(s) being certified has been partly unloaded. This will always indicate that there will be at least two sublots for certification purposes, a loaded lot and an unloaded lot. There may also be more than one loaded and/or unloaded lot. Such loaded and unloaded lots are to be identified separately in the "Lot ID" blocks.
- **Unloaded** (code **UL**) means that the lot(s) being certified is entirely unloaded at the time of inspection. This code is used only when a lot identification number or carrier number is entered in the "Carrier ID" block.

**Lot Inspection** (code **LI**) means that the lot(s) being certified is not on the conveyance at the time of inspection and no identification of the lot or load is available ("No ID" is entered in the Carrier ID block). Whenever there is any lot identification available for the lot(s), the LI code is never used.

Applicant:	MY PRODUCE CO
Address:	SOMEWHERE, USA
Shipper:	THAT GROWER
Address:	ANYWHERE, USA
Ship Site:	APPLICANT WAREHOUSE

**Applicant/Address:** The party requesting the inspection is the applicant regardless of whether it is a shipper, receiver, broker, carrier, or government agency. The applicant is always responsible for any inspection fees and expenses, regardless of what agreements he/she may have with other parties.

**Shipper/Address:** The company name and address (city and state) of the shipper should be entered on all certificates, if known. If for any reason it is not possible to obtain the name and address of the shipper, the notation "Unknown" should be made. The block is never to be left blank.

**Inspection Site:** The site is the actual location where the inspection was performed. If the inspection site is the same location as the "Applicant," then "Applicant's warehouse" or "Applicant's store", etc is entered. If an applicant has more than one facility, the locally accepted name of the facility is entered. If the product(s) being inspected are located at two or more sites, even though they may be part of the same shipment and for the same applicant, product at each separate site is treated as a separate inspection and certified on a separate certificate.



**Inspection Started:** The date and hour shown in these blocks of the certificate are the time at which the inspection process began. If necessary, leading zeros are included when completing each area of the date and time section so that all entries are two digits.

If the inspection is completed the following day or at a later date, the date and hour of completion are also shown under "Remarks." The exact local time is recorded on the certificate, and no references are made to standard or daylight saving time.

LOT	TEMPERATURES		Product	Brand / Markings	Origin	Lot ID	Number of Containers	Insp count
A.	50	to 53	TOMATOES	"LABEL NAME" 5X6 25 lb NTWT	S   W	USDA/SW1234	800 CARTONS	Y
B.	50	to 52	SWEET PEPPERS	"LABEL NAME" 1 1/3 BL	S   W	LARGE	370 CARTONS	Y
C.		to						
D.		to						

**Temperatures:** Whenever practical, pulp temperature of products are taken and reported on all lots inspected for quality and/or condition. This applies to fully or partly loaded conveyances as well as to unloaded lots located in cold storage, stacked on open docks, or in other locations without refrigeration. When two or more lots are being certified, a range of temperatures are determined separately for each lot and shown on the notesheet.

In this block of the certificate, only the lowest and highest temperature found in each lot is reported. When certifying multiple lots (A, B, C and/or D), it is incorrect to report the overall high and low temperatures for all of the lots combined as the high and low for each lot.

**Product:** The common name of the commodity is shown under this heading. The type, when applicable, may also be shown under this heading, or when clearer or more convenient, it may be shown in the "Brands/Marking," "Origin," or "Lot ID" blocks as appropriate. The type may be indicated in the "Product" block, but variety is not to be stated in this block as a general rule.

**Brand/Markings:** The brand name is the only marking on the inspection certificate enclosed in quotation marks. When the containers bear no brands, this fact should be stated so that those reading the certificate will know that it has not been overlooked. In these cases, the statement "No Brand" is recorded using quotation marks. Generic markings, such as Florida Vegetables and Fresh Vegetables, are not registered trademarks and are not brand; therefore, "No Brand" is entered for these types of packages unless they have a sticker, inserted label, or stamp otherwise indicating a brand.

**Origin:** The two-letter abbreviation of the state or country (if imported) is entered for each lot certified. If the origin is unknown, a line is drawn through this block.

**Lot ID:** This block is used to further add to the identification of the lot inspected, or to distinguish between lots or sublots for certification purposes. The certificate accommodates up to 4 lots, designated as lots A, B, C and D, with complete details on grade and condition factors for each. Whenever the "Product" and "Brand/Markings" entries are otherwise the same, the "Lot ID" block may be used to further separate and identify which lots or portions of lots are being certified as lots A, B, C and D. Once identified on this line, the A, B, C and/or D designations will be used throughout the remaining portions of the certificate and the data stub when referring to those lots. Whenever more than four lots are certified on one inspection, the lot designations A, B, C and D will be used on each continuation certificate, not E, F, G, etc.

Lot separations may be made at the applicant's request or by the inspector in the interest of formulating a clearer picture of the product being certified.

**Number of Containers/Inspector's Count:** The number of containers in the lot or portion of lot inspected (or weight for bulk loads) is entered in this block of the certificate. The type of package or container in which the produce was shipped is also entered. When containers are of the standard types commonly used for the product, the generally accepted descriptions of "lugs," "crates," "baskets," "sacks," "cartons," etc. are entered. When products are shipped in unusual containers or in variations of a common types of container, a further description is necessary.

When the product is inspected in a carrier and no record is available showing the definite quantity, the approximate amount is shown, provided the load is apparently intact and the inspector is able to see the number of rows, layers, stacks, etc. in order to made a reasonably accurate approximation. In partly unloaded carriers, the exact or approximate number of packages remaining at the time of inspection is shown, not the amount originally manifested.

G T	AVERAGE DEFECTS		WEIGHT DAMAGE -666-2444		WEIGHT SER. DAM 1-9-Damage		OFFSIZE / DEFECTS	OTHER
	%		%		%			
A	02	%	00	%	00	%	UNDERSIZE (-2 25/32)	LOT A: AVERAGE APPROXIMATELY 5% GREEN AND BREAKERS 20% TURNING AND PINK 75% LIGHT RED AND RED
	06	%	01	%	00	%	QUALITY DEFECTS (SCARS, NOT FAIRLY WELL FORMED) (3 TO 8%)	
	08	%	02	%	00	%	SUNKEN DISCOLORED AREAS (4 TO 10%)	
	02	%	00	%	00	%	MOLDY STEMS	
	02	%	02	%	02	%	DECAY	
20	%	05	%	02	%	CHECKSUM	MEETS SIZE AS MARKED	
B	04	%	00	%		%	QUALITY DEFECTS (NOT FAIRLY WELL SHAPED, SCARS)	LOT B: SIZE: 2 1/2 TO 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER 2 1/2 TO 3 1/2 INCHES IN LENGTH NO UNDERSIZE DECAY EARLY STAGES INCLUDING 2% AFFECTING WALLS AND CALYX 1% AFFECTING STEMS
	06	%	01	%		%	BRUISING (0 TO 9%)	
	02	%	00	%		%	PITTED AREAS	
	03	%	03	%		%	DECAY (0 to 5%)	
	15	%	04	%		%	CHECKSUM	

This portion of the certificate typically lists, from left to right:

- The lot designations from above when more than one lot is to be certified;
- The average percentage of each size factor and/or defect found;
- The simple name of the size factor or defect described on that line; and
- Any "Other" pertinent information relating to size, quality or condition.

**Lot:** Whenever more than one lot is certified on a certificate, all of the information for each lot is identified by a letter designation "A," "B," "C" or "D." This letter designation is written in the space provided under "Lot" next to the first line of the information for each lot. To separate additional lots, a solid line is drawn immediately under the last line entry for that lot.

**Average Defects:** Only percentages of defects or offsize are reported in these columns. Percentages for color classifications are not reported in this section. Exact, whole percentages are reported (fractional percentages may be reported on the certificate only when reporting small amounts of decay or soft rot or when reporting peanuts or tree nuts where greater accuracy is required).

**Checksum:** The last entry in the average defects columns for each lot is the checksum. The checksum does not represent the total defects in the lot and is not to be used for determining percentages of No. 1 quality or for determining whether or not a lot grades or fails to grade. The checksum is simply a total of the numbers in the column, and, when all defects, of tops and roots or external and internal when applicable, and offsize factors are totaled, it is possible and permissible that the checksum may exceed 100.

**Offsize/Defects:** This section identifies the Offsize/Defects by name only and, when necessary, to show ranges. Descriptions of defects, if needed, are written in the "Other" section. The proper line-by-line

sequence to follow when reporting Offsize/Defects is size first, then quality and finally condition. Permanent defects are referred to as "quality" defects.

Ranges are reported in parenthesis immediately to the right of the common name of the defect. If the applicant requests a further breakdown of the ranges, this is detailed in the "Other" section.

**Other:** This section is used for reporting non-defective factors of size, quality or condition. These non-destructive factors include size ranges, defect and decay description, and other factors, which do not affect grade but customarily have been reported on certificates because of their importance to applicants. This area is not to be used to report quality or condition defects, which are not serious enough to score.

GRADE:	EACH LOT: FAILS TO GRADE U.S. NO 1 ACCOUNT OF CONDITION
REMARKS:	INSPECTION MADE DURING THE PROCESS OF UNLOADING

**Grade:** In this section, a statement is shown whether or not the lot inspected meets the requirements of the grade or other specifications on which the application was based. When there is more than one grade statement, each statement is preceded by the letter of the applicable lot(s). If there are not U.S. grade standards for the product and a quality and condition inspection is performed, the words "No established U.S. Grade" is entered next to the applicable lot heading. If the lot passes, the grade or specification it passes is written next to the letter of the lot(s), which it identifies.

**Remarks:** Any explanatory or qualifying statement(s) that are necessary to complete the certificate are made under this heading. In many cases, it is not necessary to make any statement under "Remarks," and if all points have been sufficiently covered under the various other headings of the certificate, this heading is left blank.

<b>WARNING:</b> Any person who knowingly shall falsely make, issue, alter, forge, or counterfeit this certificate, or participate in any such actions, is subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.	I, the undersigned, a duly authorized inspector of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby certify that at the request of the applicant and on the date indicated, samples of the herein described product were inspected and the quality and/or condition as shown by said samples were as herein stated.	<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL</b> \$
	Inspector's Signature Market Office: SOMEWHERE, USA	

**Inspector's Signature:** Entered in this section is the signature of the inspector performing the inspection, or the supervising inspector authorizing the results of the inspection.

**Market Office:** The local duty office location (city and state) is entered in this block to identify which office the applicant can contact for more information. If there is no official office established at the duty location, the office location, which performs the billing and filing functions, is entered.

**Estimated Total:** The estimated total of all charges is entered in U.S. dollars and cents. Charges may include inspection fees, travel time, overtime charges, mileage charges and any other appropriate expenses incurred during the performance of the inspection.