

1 Department of Agriculture

2

3 Adopted Emergency Amendments to Permanent Rules Relating to

4 Certified Seed Potato Grades

5

6 Rule as Adopted

7 1555.6950 MINNESOTA CERTIFIED SEED POTATO GRADES AND TOLERANCES.

8 Subpart 1. **Minnesota certified seed potato grades.** Before
9 potatoes are eligible for grading as certified seed potatoes,
10 the requirements of parts 1555.6750 to 1555.6840 must be met.
11 In addition, Primary Foundation certified seed potatoes must
12 meet the requirements of part 1555.6850, Foundation certified
13 seed potatoes must meet the requirements of parts 1555.6860 to
14 1555.6900, and Generation certified seed potatoes must meet the
15 requirements of parts 1555.6851 to 1555.6852.

16 Subp. 2. **Minnesota blue tag certified seed potato grade.**
17 To be graded as Minnesota blue tag certified seed potatoes, the
18 potatoes must meet the following requirements:

19 A. The potatoes must be, at the time of final
20 inspection, of one variety, unwashed, fairly well-shaped, free
21 from bacterial ring rot, powdery scab, late blight, freezing,
22 black heart, and soft rot or wet breakdown, and free from injury
23 by surface or pitted scab, and from damage caused by soil or
24 other foreign matter, second growth, growth cracks, air cracks,
25 cuts, shriveling, sprouts, pitted scab, surface scab, russet
26 scab, dry rot, other diseases, insects or worms, mechanical or
27 other means, flattened or depressed areas with underlying flesh
28 discoloration, and from serious damage caused by hollow heart or
29 internal discoloration other than hollow heart. Sunburn is not
30 a factor.

31 B. **Size.** For round or intermediate shaped varieties,
32 the maximum size shall be not more than 12 ounces (340.2 grams)
33 and, unless otherwise specified, the minimum size shall be not
34 less than 1-7/8 inches (47.6 millimeters) in diameter. For long
35 varieties, the maximum size shall be not more than 14 ounces

1 (396.9 grams) and, unless otherwise specified, the minimum size
2 shall be not less than 1-3/4 inches (44.5 millimeters) in
3 diameter. For all varieties, size "B," the minimum diameter
4 shall be not less than 1-1/2 inches (38.1 millimeters) and the
5 maximum size shall be not more than 2-1/4 inches (57.1
6 millimeters) in diameter.

7 C. Lot tolerances. In order to allow for variations
8 incident to proper grading and handling, the following
9 tolerances, by weight, are provided:

10 (1) For defects:

11 (a) ten percent for potatoes seriously
12 damaged by hollow heart;

13 (b) five percent for potatoes seriously
14 damaged by internal discoloration (other than hollow heart);

15 (c) eight percent for potatoes injured by
16 (slight) scab;

17 (d) ten percent for potatoes damaged by soil
18 or other foreign matter;

19 (e) 20 percent for potatoes damaged by
20 sprouts; and

21 (f) six percent for potatoes which fail to
22 meet the remaining requirements of the grade, provided that
23 included in that amount not more than the following percentages
24 are allowed for the following defects:

25 i. soft rot, frozen, or wet breakdown,
26 0.5 percent;

27 ii. damage by surface or pitted scab,
28 2.0 percent;

29 iii. damage by dry rot, 2.0 percent;

30 iv. bacterial ring rot, 0.0 percent;

31 v. powdery scab, 0.0 percent; and

32 vi. late blight tuber rot, 1.0
33 percent; and

34 (g) the following do not affect seed quality
35 and must not be scored against the grade:

36 i. brown discoloration following

1 skinning;

2 ii. dried stems;

3 iii. flattened or depressed areas

4 showing no underlying flesh discoloration;

5 iv. greening;

6 v. sunburn; and

7 vi. skin checks.

8 (2) For offsize:

9 (a) five percent for potatoes which fail to
10 meet the required or specified minimum size; and

11 (b) ten percent for potatoes which fail to
12 meet the required maximum size.

13 Subp. 3. **Minnesota yellow tag certified seed potato**
14 **grade.** To be graded as Minnesota yellow tag certified seed
15 potatoes, the potatoes must meet the requirements of blue tag
16 with the exceptions in items A and B.

17 A. Lot tolerances:

18 (1) For defects:

19 (a) 20 percent for potatoes seriously
20 damaged by hollow heart; and

21 (b) 20 percent for potatoes that fail to
22 meet the remaining requirements of the grade, with not more than
23 six percent serious damage.

24 (2) The following do not affect seed quality and
25 must not be scored against the grade:

26 (a) sprouts;

27 (b) injury by slight scab; and

28 (c) flattened or depressed areas with or
29 without underlying flesh discoloration.

30 B. Size. For all varieties, the maximum size must be
31 not more than 14 ounces (396.9 grams).

32 Subp. 4. **Minnesota white tag certified seed potato grade.**

33 Minnesota white tag certified seed potato grade consists of

34 Primary Foundation certified, Foundation certified, or

35 Generation certified seed potatoes that meet blue tag

36 requirements, but are graded according to agreement between the

1 seller and the purchaser as to size and defects, except that not
2 more than one-half percent of soft rot, frozen, or wet breakdown
3 and two percent dry rot is allowed.

4 The use of the white tag certified seed potato grade must
5 be restricted to intrastate shipments.

6 Subp. 5. **Application of tolerance.** The contents of
7 individual containers, other than bulk conveyances, in the lot
8 are subject to the following limitations provided that the
9 averages for the entire lot are within the tolerances specified
10 for the grade. An individual container in any lot may contain
11 not more than double the tolerance specified except for sprouts
12 and except that at least one defective specimen, other than
13 bacterial ring rot or powdery scab, and one offsize specimen may
14 be permitted in any container.

15 Subp. 6. [Unchanged.]

16 Subp. 7. **Definitions.** For the purpose of part 1555.6950,
17 the following terms have the meanings given them unless the
18 context clearly indicates otherwise:

19 A. to H. [Unchanged.]

20 I. "Damage" means any defect or combination of
21 defects which materially affects the appearance of the
22 individual potato or which cannot be removed without a loss of
23 more than five percent of the total weight of the potato
24 including the peel covering the defective area. Any one of the
25 following defects or any combination of defects, the seriousness
26 of which exceeds the maximum allowed for any one defect, shall
27 be considered as damage:

28 (1) to (6) [Unchanged.]

29 (7) soil if the individual potato has more than
30 50 percent of its surface affected by lightly caked soil which
31 is scattered, or more than 15 percent of its surface badly caked
32 with soil.

33 J. [Unchanged.]