

rules and regulations

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[3410-05]

Title 7—Agriculture

CHAPTER VII—AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE (AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT), DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SUBCHAPTER C—SPECIAL PROGRAMS

PART 760—INDEMNITY PAYMENT PROGRAMS

Subpart—Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (1977-81)

AGENCY: Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this rule is to amend the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program Regulations to incorporate provisions of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (September 29, 1977, Pub. L. 95-113, 91 Stat. 913). The objective of the program is to make indemnity payments to dairy farmers and manufacturers who, through no fault of their own, are required to remove their milk and dairy products from the commercial market because such products contain harmful residues. Prior legislation covered only contamination by pesticides. The new legislation extends the coverage of the program for dairy farmers to include residues of chemicals or toxic substances and contamination by nuclear radiation or fallout.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 14, 1978.

ADDRESSES: Emergency and Indemnity Payments Division, ASCS, USDA, Room 4095 South Building, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gerald Schiermeyer (ASCS), telephone 202-447-4428.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 extended the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program through September 30, 1981. The recent legislation also expanded the coverage to include payments to dairy farmers whose milk was destroyed because it contained harmful residues of chemicals or toxic substances, or because of the presence

of products of nuclear radiation or fallout. The expanded coverage was effective October 1, 1977, and does not include manufacturers of dairy products.

The proposed rules for administering the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program were published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on January 13, 1978, (43 FR 1958), and interested persons were invited to submit comments on the proposal by January 30, 1978.

Four written comments were received, all of which were favorable to the proposed rule. The only comment concerning a significant change was a suggestion to revise the definition for "Nuclear Radiation or Fallout." As originally defined the regulations would limit coverage to contamination from an atomic blast. It was suggested that this definition be expanded to include contamination as the result of leakage from a nuclear power plant or utility.

Having considered this recommendation and the language of the statute, it has been determined that the benefits of the program should not be limited according to any particular source of nuclear contamination. Accordingly, § 760.2(h) is changed as follows:

(h) "Nuclear Radiation or Fallout" means contamination from nuclear radiation or fallout from any source. It has also been determined that the provisions of § 760.31 concerning assignments should be made more explicit in order to prevent any attempted assignment from becoming effective.

Section 760.31 is changed to read as follows: No assignment shall be made of any indemnity payment due or to come due under the regulations in this subpart. Any assignment or attempted assignment of any indemnity payment due or to come due under this subpart shall be null and void.

Accordingly, with these changes, 7 CFR Part 760, Subpart—Dairy Indemnity Payment Program is revised as set forth below.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on March 3, 1978.

STEWART N. SMITH,
Acting Administrator, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

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AUTHORITY: Sec. 1, 2, 3, Pub. L. 90-484, 82 Stat. 750, as amended; Sec. 204, Pub. L. 91-524, 84 Stat. 1361; Sec. 5, Pub. L. 93-86, 87 Stat. 223; Sec. 205, Pub. L. 95-113, 91 Stat. 920. (7 U.S.C. 450 j, k, l).

Subpart—Dairy Indemnity Payment Programs

PROGRAM OPERATIONS

§ 760.1 Administration.

This indemnity payment program will be carried out by ASCS under the direction and supervision of the Deputy Administrator. In the field, the program will be administered by the State and county committees.

§ 760.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this subject, the following terms shall have the meanings specified:

(a) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States or any officer or employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to whom he has delegated, or to whom he may hereafter delegate, authority to act in his stead.

(b) "ASCS" means the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

(c) "Deputy Administrator" means the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, ASCS.

(d) "State committee" means the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation State committee.

(e) "County committee" means the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation county committee.

(f) "Pesticide" means an economic poison which was registered pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 135-135k), and approved for use by the Federal Government.

(g) "Chemicals or Toxic Substances" means any chemical substance or mixture as defined in the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2602).

(h) "Nuclear Radiation or Fallout" means contamination from nuclear radiation or fallout from any source.

(i) "Violating Substance" means one or more of the items defined in § g, and h above.

(j) "Public agency" means any Federal, State or local public regulatory agency.

(k) "Affected farmer" means a person who produces whole milk which is removed from the commercial market any time from:

(1) January 1, 1964, to September 30, 1981, pursuant to the direction of a public agency because of the detection of pesticide residues in such whole milk by tests made by a public agency or under a testing program deemed adequate for the purpose by a public agency, or

(2) October 1, 1977, to September 30, 1981, pursuant to the direction of a public agency because of the detection of other residues of chemicals or toxic substances residues, or contamination from nuclear radiation or fallout in such whole milk by tests made by a public agency or under a testing program deemed adequate for the purpose by a public agency.

(l) "Affected manufacturer" means a person who manufactures dairy products which are removed from the commercial market any time from November 30, 1970, to September 30, 1981, pursuant to the direction of a public agency because of the detection of pesticide residue in such dairy products by tests made by a public agency or under a testing program deemed adequate for the purpose by a public agency.

(m) "Milk handler" means the marketing agency to or through which the affected dairy farmer marketed his whole milk at the time he was directed by the public agency to remove his whole milk from the commercial market.

(n) "Person" means an individual, partnership, association, corporation, trust, estate, or other legal entity.

(o) "Application period" means any period beginning not earlier than Jan-

uary 1, 1964, and ending not later than September 30, 1981, during which an affected farmer's whole milk is removed from the commercial market pursuant to direction of a public agency for a reason specified in paragraph (k) of this section and for which application for payment is made.

(p) "Pay period" means (1) in the case of an affected farmer who markets his whole milk through a milk handler, the period used by the milk handler in settling with the affected farmer for his whole milk, usually bi-weekly or monthly, or (2) in the case of an affected farmer whose commercial market consists of direct retail sales to consumers, a calendar month.

(q) "Whole milk" means milk as it is produced by cows.

(r) "Commercial market" means (1) the market to which the affected farmer normally delivers his whole milk and from which it was removed because of detection therein of a residue of a violating substance(s) or (2) the market to which the affected manufacturer normally delivers his dairy products and from which they were removed because of detection therein of pesticide residue.

(s) "Removed from the commercial market" means (1) produced and destroyed or fed to livestock, (2) produced and delivered to a handler who destroyed it or disposed of it as salvage (such as separating whole milk, destroying the fat, and drying the skim milk), or (3) produced and otherwise diverted to other than the commercial market.

(t) "Payment subject to refund" means a payment which is made by a milk handler to an affected farmer, and which such farmer is obligated to refund to the milk handler.

PAYMENTS TO DAIRY FARMERS FOR MILK

§ 760.3 Indemnity payments on milk.

An indemnity payment for milk will be made to an affected farmer who is determined by the county committee to be in compliance with all the terms and conditions of this subpart in the amount of the fair market value of his normal marketings for the application period, as determined in accordance with §§ 760.4 and 760.5, less (a) any amount he received for whole milk marketed during the applications period, and (b) any payment not subject to refund which he received from a milk handler with respect to whole milk removed from the commercial market during the application period.

§ 760.4 Normal marketings of milk.

(a) The county committee shall determine the affected farmer's normal marketings which, for the purposes of this subpart, shall be the sum of the quantities of whole milk which such

farmer would have sold in the commercial market in each of the pay periods in the application period but for the removal of his whole milk from the commercial market because of the detection of a residue of a violating substance.

(b) Determination of normal marketings for each pay period shall be based upon: (1) The actual quantity of milk produced and removed from the market provided such quantity does not exceed the quantity estimated under paragraphs b(2) or b(3) of this section, (2) If the affected farmer or another person marketed whole milk from the farm during the period in the previous year equivalent to the pay period, the marketings of whole milk from the farm during such equivalent period, or (3) If the affected farmer or another person did not market whole milk from the farm during the period in the previous year equivalent to the pay period, the average of the affected farmer's marketings of whole milk from the farm per pay period during the three months immediately prior to removal of his whole milk from the commercial market.

(c) The base for normal marketings determined (1) under paragraph (b)(2) of this section shall be adjusted to reflect any change in the rate of the affected farmer's whole milk production from the production of the previous year due to factors such as changes in herd size both before and after removal of whole milk from the commercial market, and changes in management practices before such removal, or (2) under paragraph (b)(3) of this section shall be adjusted to reflect normal changes in the affected farmer's whole milk production during the pay period due to seasonal factors affecting production and changes in herd size.

(d) If only a portion of a pay period falls within the application period, normal marketings for such pay period shall be reduced so that they represent only that part of such pay period which is within the application period.

§ 760.5 Fair market value of milk.

(a) The county committee shall determine the fair market value of the affected farmer's normal marketings, which, for the purposes of this subpart, shall be the sum of the net proceeds such farmer would have received for his normal marketings in each of the pay periods in the application period.

(b) The county committee shall determine the net proceeds the affected farmer would have received in each of the pay periods in the application period (1) in the case of an affected farmer who markets his whole milk through a milk handler, by multiplying the affected farmer's normal mar-

ketings for each such pay period by the average net price per hundredweight of whole milk paid during the pay period by such farmer's milk handler in the same area for whole milk similar in quality and butterfat test to that marketed by the affected farmer in the base period used to determine his normal marketings, or (2) in the case of an affected farmer whose commercial market consists of direct retail sales to consumers, by multiplying the affected farmer's normal marketings for each such pay period by the average net price per hundredweight of whole milk, as determined by the county committee, which other producers in the same area who marketed their whole milk through milk handlers received for whole milk similar in quality and butterfat test to that marketed by the affected farmer during the base period used to determine his normal marketings.

(c) In determining the net price for whole milk, the county committee shall deduct from the gross price therefor any transportation, administrative, and other costs of marketing which it determines are normally incurred by the affected farmer but which were not incurred because of the removal of his whole milk from the commercial market.

§ 760.6 Information to be furnished.

The affected farmer shall furnish to the county committee complete and accurate information sufficient to enable it to make the determinations required in §§ 760.4 and 760.5. Such information shall include, but is not limited to:

(a) A copy of the notice from, or other evidence of action by, the public agency which resulted in the removal of the affected farmer's whole milk from the commercial market.

(b) The specific name of the violating substance causing the removal of his whole milk from the commercial market, if not included in the notice or other evidence of action furnished under paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) A record of the quantity and butterfat test of whole milk which he produced on his farm and marketed, (1) if the affected farmer is covered by the provisions of § 760.4(b) (1) and (2), during each pay period during the 15 months immediately prior to the time the whole milk was removed from the commercial market, or (2) if the affected farmer is covered by the provision of § 760.4(b)(3), during the three months immediately prior to the removal of his whole milk from the commercial market. This record shall be either a certified statement furnished by the affected farmer's milk handler, or such other evidence as the county committee determines accurately establishes the butterfat test and quantity of whole milk produced and marketed during such periods.

(d) The number of cows milked during each pay period in the application period, and during the pay periods within the three-month period immediately prior to the application period.

(e) If the affected farmer markets his whole milk through a milk handler, a statement from the milk handler showing, for each pay period in the application period, the average price per hundredweight of whole milk similar in quality to that marketed by the affected farmer during the base period used to determine his normal marketings. If the milk handler has information as to the transportation, administrative, and other costs of marketing which are normally incurred by producers who market through the milk handler but which the affected farmer did not incur because of removal of his whole milk from the market, the average price stated by the milk handler shall be the average gross price paid producers less any such costs. If the milk handler does not have such information, the affected farmer shall furnish a statement setting forth such costs, if any.

(f) The amount of proceeds, if any, received by the affected farmer from the marketing of whole milk produced during the application period.

(g) The amount of any payments not subject to refund made to the affected farmer by the milk handler with respect to the whole milk produced during the application period and remove from the commercial market.

(h) To the extent that such information is available to the affected farmer, the name of any pesticide, chemical, or toxic substance used on the farm within 24 months prior to the application period, the use made of the pesticide, chemical, or toxic substance, the approximate date of such use, and the name of the manufacturer and the registration number, if any, on the label on the container of the pesticide, chemical, or toxic substance.

(i) To the extent possible, the source of the pesticide, chemical, or toxic substance that caused the contamination of the whole milk, and the results of any laboratory tests on the feed supply.

(j) Such other information as the county committee may request to enable the committee to make the determinations required in this subpart.

§ 760.7 Other requirements for affected farmers.

An indemnity payment for milk will be made under this subpart to an affected farmer only under the following conditions:

(a) If the pesticide, chemical, or toxic substance, contaminating the milk was used by the affected farmer, he established each of the following:

(1) That the pesticide, chemical or toxic substance, when used, was registered (if applicable) and approved for use as provided in § 760.2(f);

(2) That the contamination of his milk was not the result of his failure to use the pesticide, chemical, or toxic substance, according to the directions and limitations stated on the label;

(3) That the contamination of his milk was not otherwise his fault.

(b) If the pesticide, chemical, or toxic substance contaminating the milk was not used by the affected farmer, he establishes each of the following:

(1) He did not know or have reason to believe that any feed which he purchased and which contaminated his milk contained a harmful residue of a pesticide, a chemical, or a toxic substance or was contaminated by nuclear radiation or fallout.

(2) None of the milk was produced by dairy cattle which he knew, or had reason to know at the time he acquired them, were contaminated with residues of pesticides, chemicals or toxic substances, or by nuclear radiation or fallout.

(3) The contamination of his milk was not otherwise his fault.

(c) The affected farmer has adopted recommended practices for eliminating residues of pesticides, chemicals, or toxic substances or contamination from nuclear radiation or fallout from his milk as soon as practicable following the discovery of the initial contamination.

§ 760.8 Application for payments for milk.

The affected farmer or his legal representative, as provided in §§ 760.25 and 760.29, must sign and file an application for payment on a form which is approved for that purpose by the Deputy Administrator. The form must be filed with the county ASCS office for the county where the farm headquarters are located no later than December 31, 1981, or such later date as the Deputy Administrator may specify. The application for payment shall cover application periods of at least 28 days, except that, if the entire application period, or the last application period, is shorter than 28 days, applications for payment may be filed for such shorter period. The application for payment shall be accompanied by the information required by § 760.6 as well as any other information which will enable the county committee to determine whether the making of an indemnity payment is precluded for any of the reasons set forth in § 760.7. Such information shall be submitted on forms approved for the purpose by the Deputy Administrator.

§ 760.9 Other legal recourse.

No indemnity payment may be made for contamination resulting from resi-

dues of chemicals or toxic substances if the Deputy Administrator determines within thirty days after the application for payment that other legal recourse, is available to the farmer. Notwithstanding such a determination, the Deputy Administrator may reopen the case at a later date and make a new determination on the merits of the case as may be just and equitable.

PAYMENTS TO MANUFACTURERS AFFECTED BY PESTICIDES

§ 760.20 Payments to manufacturers of dairy products.

An indemnity payment will be made to the affected manufacturer who is determined by the Deputy Administrator to be in compliance with all the terms and conditions of this subpart in the amount of the fair market value of the product removed from the commercial market because of pesticide residues, less any amount the manufacturer receives for the product in the form of salvage.

NOTE.—Manufacturers are not eligible for payment when dairy products are contaminated by chemicals, toxic substances (other than pesticides) or nuclear radiation or fallout.

§ 760.21 Application for payments by manufacturers.

The affected manufacturer, or his legal representatives, shall file an application for payment with the Deputy Administrator, ASCS, Washington, D.C., through the county office serving the county where the contaminated product is located. The application for payment may be in the form of a letter or memorandum. Such letter or memorandum, however, must be accompanied by acceptable documentation to support such application for payment.

§ 760.22 Information to be furnished by manufacturer.

The affected manufacturer shall furnish the Deputy Administrator, through the county committee, complete and accurate information sufficient to enable him to make the determination as to the manufacturer's eligibility to receive an indemnity payment. Such information shall include, but is not limited to:

(a) A copy of the notice or other evidence of action by the public agency which resulted in the product being removed from the commercial market.

(b) The name of the pesticide causing the removal of the product from the commercial market and, to the extent possible, the source of the pesticide.

(c) A record of the quantity of milk or butterfat used to produce the product for which an indemnity payment is requested.

(d) The identity of any pesticide used by the affected manufacturer.

(e) Such other information as the Deputy Administrator may request to enable him to make the determinations required in this subpart.

§ 760.23 Other requirements for manufacturers.

An indemnity payment will be made under this subpart to an affected manufacturer only under the following conditions:

(a) If the pesticide contaminating the product was used by the affected manufacturer, he establishes each of the following: (1) That the pesticide, when used, was registered and recommended for such use as provided in § 760.2(f); (2) that the contamination of his product was not the result of his failure to use the pesticide in accordance with the directions and limitations stated on the label of the pesticide; and (3) that the contamination of his product was not otherwise his fault.

(b) If the pesticide contaminating the product was not used by the affected manufacturer: (1) He did not know or have reason to believe that the milk from which the product was processed contained a harmful level of pesticide residue, and (2) the contamination of his product was not otherwise his fault.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 760.24 Limitation of authority.

(a) County executive directors and State and county committees do not have authority to modify or waive any of the provisions of the regulations in this subpart.

(b) The State committee may take any action authorized or required by the regulations in this subpart to be taken by the county committee when such action has not been taken by the county committee. The State committee may also: (1) Correct, or require a county committee to correct, any action taken by such county committee which is not in accordance with the regulations in this subpart, or (2) require a county committee to withhold taking any action which is not in accordance with the regulations in this subpart.

(c) No delegation herein to a State or county committee shall preclude the Deputy Administrator or his designee from determining any question arising under the regulations in this subpart or from reversing or modifying any determination made by a State or county committee.

§ 760.25 Estates and trusts; minors.

(a) A receiver of an insolvent debtor's estate and the trustee of a trust estate shall, for the purpose of this subpart, be considered to represent an

insolvent affected farmer or manufacturer and the beneficiaries of a trust, respectively, and the production of the receiver or trustee shall be considered to be the production of the person or manufacturer he represents. Program documents executed by any such person will be accepted only if they are legally valid and such person has the authority to sign the applicable documents.

(b) An affected dairy farmer or manufacturer who is a minor shall be eligible for indemnity payments only if he meets one of the following requirements: (1) The right of majority has been conferred on him by court proceedings or by statute; (2) a guardian has been appointed to manage his property and the applicable program documents are signed by the guardian; or (3) a bond is furnished under which the surety guarantees any loss incurred for which the minor would be liable had he been an adult.

§ 760.26 Appeals.

The appeal regulations issued by the Administrator, ASCS, Part 780 of this chapter, shall be applicable to appeals by dairy farmers or manufacturers from determinations made pursuant to the regulations in this subpart.

§ 760.27 Setoffs.

(a) If the affected farmer or manufacturer is indebted to any agency of the United States and such indebtedness is listed on the county debt record, indemnity payments due the affected farmer or manufacturer under the regulations in this part shall be applied, as provided in the Secretary's setoff regulations, Part 13 of this title, to such indebtedness.

(b) Compliance with the provisions of this section shall not deprive the affected farmer or manufacturer of any right he would otherwise have to contest the justness of the indebtedness involved in the setoff action, either by administrative appeal or by legal action.

§ 760.28 Overdisbursement.

If the indemnity payment disbursed to an affected farmer or to a manufacturer exceeds the amount authorized under the regulations in this subpart, the affected farmer or manufacturer shall be personally liable for repayment of the amount of such excess.

§ 760.29 Death, incompetency, or disappearance.

In the case of the death, incompetency, or disappearance of any affected farmer or manufacturer who is entitled to an indemnity payment, such payment may be made to the person or persons specified in the regulations contained in Part 707 of this chapter. The person requesting such payment shall file Form ASCS-325, "Applica-

tion for Payment of Amounts Due Persons Who Have Died, Disappeared, or Have Been Declared Incompetent," as provided in that part.

§ 760.30 Records and inspection thereof.

(a) The affected farmer, as well as his milk handler and any other person who furnished information to such farmer or to the county committee for the purpose of enabling such farmer to receive a milk indemnity payment under this subpart, shall maintain any existing books, records, and accounts supporting any information so furnished for 3 years following the end of the year during which the application for payment was filed. The affected farmer, his milk handler, and any other person who furnishes such information to the affected farmer or to the county committee shall permit authorized representatives of the Department of Agriculture and the General Accounting Office, during regular business hours, to inspect, examine, and make copies of such books, records, and accounts.

(b) The affected manufacturer or any other person who furnishes information to the Deputy Administrator for the purposes of enabling such manufacturer to receive an indemnity payment under this subpart shall maintain any books, records, and accounts supporting any information so furnished for 3 years following the end of the year during which the application for payment was filed. The affected manufacturer or any other person who furnishes such information to the Deputy Administrator shall permit authorized representatives of the Department of Agriculture and the General Accounting Office, during regular business hours, to inspect, examine, and make copies of such books, records, and accounts.

§ 760.31 Assignment.

No assignment shall be made of any indemnity payment due or to come due under the regulations in this subpart. Any assignment or attempted assignment of any indemnity payment due or to come due under this subpart shall be null and void.

§ 760.32 Instructions and forms.

The Deputy Administrator shall cause to be prepared such forms and instructions as are necessary for carrying out the regulations in this subpart. Affected farmers and manufacturers may obtain information necessary to make application for a dairy indemnity payment from the county ASCS office. The following forms may be obtained at the county ASCS office: ASCS-373—Application for Milk Indemnity Payment, ASCS-374—Marketing and Payment Report, Milk Indemnity Payment Program.

NOTE.—The reporting and/or recordkeeping requirements contained herein have

been approved by the Office of Management and Budget in Accordance with the Federal Reports Act of 1942.

[FR Doc. 78-6464 Filed 3-13-78; 8:45 am]

[3410-37]

CHAPTER XXVIII—FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SUBCHAPTER C—REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING ACT OF 1946

PART 2852—PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, PROCESSED PRODUCTS THEREOF, AND CERTAIN OTHER PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS

Regulations Governing Inspection and Certification of Processed Fruits and Vegetables

AGENCY: Food Safety and Quality Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this rule is to provide sampling plans for inspection by attributes under both lot inspection and on-line inspection situations. This rule is being adopted to provide uniform statistical sampling acceptance procedures for all U.S. standards for processed fruits and vegetables which utilize statistical sampling procedures. The effect of this rule will be to provide a master publication of all statistical sampling plans referenced in attributes standards, for use by the public and government agencies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 29, 1978.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William J. Franks, Acting Director, Statistics and Technical Support Staff, Food Safety and Quality Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, 202-447-7081.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The sampling plans currently in the Regulations Governing Inspection (7 CFR 2852.1) were adopted July 1, 1957. At that time, all of the grade standards for processed fruits and vegetables used a score point system—based on a scale of 0 to 100 points—to assign a grade to each sample unit. This system, which is still used extensively, was designed for the inspection of processed fruits and vegetables that have already been packaged and stored in warehouses (lot inspection).

The processing of fruits and vegetables has changed greatly in recent years. Much of the processing is done

in large, high-volume, semi-automated processing plants. To measure the quality of the product processed in these large plants, substantial inspection is done ahead of final packaging (on-line inspection). This system alerts the food processors to changes in quality so that lower quality food can be identified and isolated while it is being processed.

One of the advantages of the on-line inspection method is the reduction in the amount of food wasted. When inspections are performed after packaging, the food is usually destroyed through the act of opening the container. Other advantages include direct reading acceptance numbers for defects, elimination of percentage calculations, and more objective classification of defects.

Recently, several U.S. grade standards have been revised to incorporate on-line statistical sampling procedures based on inspection by attributes. Supplementary statistical sampling procedures have also been developed that will permit the use of inspection by attributes on lots of processed fruits and vegetables from established warehouse lots.

Suitable manuals giving detailed instructions in the applications and uses of these new statistical sampling procedures will be available to interested parties from:

Chief, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Quality Division, FSQS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

In all currently effective attributes standards for processed fruits and vegetables, the sampling plans have been published in each standard. Since many of the sampling plans are identical, this practice has required repetitive publication of these plans in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Much of this material was published in the format of columnar tables. It required extra time and expense to prepare, publish and proofread these tables.

This agency makes available to the public, upon request, single copies of each U.S. standard for processed fruits and vegetables. Last year—fiscal year 1977—approximately 28,000 copies of these standards were distributed exclusive of those for internal use.

A master reference to all sampling plans used in attributes standards would eliminate repetitive publication of these tables in the FEDERAL REGISTER, reduce the volume of material in each of these standards and lessen the time required to prepare standards for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER. It would also reduce the costs of publishing material.

Part 2852 is revised by adding three new sections—§§ 2852.38a, 2852.38b, and 2852.38c—which read as follows: