

**§ 996.17**

capacity in the production of peanuts for market.

**§ 996.17 Quota year.**

*Quota year* means the 12-month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31 of the same year for peanuts produced in Mexico and the 12-month period beginning April 1 and ending March 31 of the following year for Argentina and other countries, or other such periods as may be prescribed by the U.S. Customs Service.

**§ 996.18 Secretary.**

*Secretary* means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States or any officer, employee, or agent of the United States Department of Agriculture who is, or who may hereafter be authorized to act in the Secretary's stead.

**§ 996.19 Shelled peanuts.**

*Shelled peanuts* means the kernels or portions of kernels of peanuts after the shells are removed.

**§ 996.20 USDA.**

*USDA* means the United States Department of Agriculture, including any officer, employee, service, program, or branch of the Department of Agriculture, or any other person acting as the Secretary's agent or representative in connection with any provisions of this part.

**§ 996.21 USDA laboratory.**

*USDA laboratory* means laboratories of the Science and Technology Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, which chemically analyze peanuts for aflatoxin content.

**§ 996.22 USDA-approved laboratory.**

*USDA-approved laboratory* means laboratories approved by the Science and Technology Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, that chemically analyze peanuts for aflatoxin content.

**7 CFR Ch. IX (1-1-03 Edition)**

**QUALITY AND HANDLING STANDARDS**

**§ 996.30 Incoming quality standards.**

(a) All farmers stock peanuts received or acquired by a handler shall be officially inspected by the Inspection Service, and certified as to segregation, moisture content, and foreign material.

(b) *Moisture.* No handler or importer shall receive or acquire farmers stock peanuts for subsequent disposition to human consumption outlets containing more than 10.49 percent moisture: *Provided,* That peanuts of a higher moisture content may be received and dried to not more than 10.49 percent moisture prior to storing or milling.

(c) *Foreign material.* No handler or importer shall receive or acquire farmers stock peanuts for subsequent disposition to human consumption outlets containing more than 10.49 percent foreign material, except that peanuts having a higher foreign material content may be received or acquired if they are held separately until milled, or moved over a *sand-screen* before storage, or shipped directly to a plant for prompt shelling. The term *sand-screen* means any type of farmers stock cleaner which removes sand and dirt.

(d) A handler may receive or acquire any peanuts from other persons for edible and non-edible use: *Provided,* That such peanuts intended for human consumption are inspected and certified pursuant to § 996.31 prior to such disposition. Non-edible uses may include, but are not limited to, seed, oilstock, animal feed, bird seed, or for export.

**§ 996.31 Outgoing quality standards.**

(a) *Shelled peanuts:* No handler or importer shall ship or otherwise dispose of shelled peanuts for human consumption unless such peanuts are positive lot identified, chemically analyzed by a USDA laboratory or USDA-approved laboratory and certified "negative" as to aflatoxin, and certified by the Inspection Service as meeting the following quality standards:

MINIMUM QUALITY STANDARDS: PEANUTS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION—WHOLE KERNELS AND SPLITS: MAXIMUM LIMITATIONS

Type and grade category	Unshelled peanuts and damaged kernels (percent)	Unshelled peanuts, damaged kernels and minor defects (percent)	Fall through			Foreign materials (percent)	Moisture (percent)
			Sound split and broken kernels	Sound whole kernels	Total		
<b>Excluding lots of "splits"</b>							
Runner .....	1.50	2.50	3.00%; 17/64 inch round screens.	3.00%; 16/64 × 3/4 inch slot screen.	4.00% Both screen .....	.20	9.00
Virginia (except No. 2) .....	1.50	2.50	3.00%; 17/64 inch round screen	3.00%; 15/64 × 1 inch slot screen.	4.00% Both screens .....	.20	9.00
Spanish and Valencia .....	1.50	2.50	3.00%; 16/64. inch round screen.	3.00%; 15/64 × 3/4 inch slot screen.	4.00% Both screens .....	.20	9.00
No. 2 Virginia .....	1.50	3.00	6.00%; 17/64 inch round screen	6.00%; 15/64 × 1 inch slot screen.	6.00% Both screens .....	.20	9.00
Runner with splits (not more than 15% sound splits).	1.50	2.50	3.00%; 17/64 inch roundscreen	3.00%; 16/64 × 3/4 inch slot screen.	4.00% Both screens .....	.20	9.00
Virginia with splits (not more than 15% sound splits).	1.50	2.50	3.00%; 17/64 inch round screen	3.00%; 15/64 × 1 inch slot screen.	4.00% Both screens .....	.20	9.00
Spanish and Valencia with splits (not more than 15% sound splits).	1.50	2.50	3.00%; 16/64 inch round screen	2.00%; 15/64 × 3/4 inch slot screen.	4.00% Both screens .....	.20	9.00
<b>Lots of "splits"</b>							
Runner (not more than 4% sound whole kernels).	2.00	2.50	3.00%; 17/64 inch round screen	3.00%; 14/64 × 3/4 slot screen ..	4.00% Both screens .....	.20	9.00
Virginia (not less than 90% splits).	2.00	2.50	3.00%; 17/64 inch round screen	3.00%; 14/64×1 inch slot screen.	4.00% Both screens .....	.20	9.00
Spanish and Valencia (not more than 4% sound whole kernels).	2.00	2.50	3.00%; 16/64 inch round screen	3.00%; 13/64 × 3/4 inch slot screen.	4.00% Both Screens .....	.20	9.00

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(b) *Cleaned-inshell peanuts*: No handler or importer shall ship or otherwise dispose of cleaned-inshell peanuts for human consumption unless such peanuts are Positive lot identified and are determined by the Inspection Service to contain:

(1) Not more than 1.00 percent kernels with mold unless a sample of such peanuts, drawn by an inspector of the Inspection Service, is analyzed chemically by a USDA laboratory or a USDA-approved laboratory and certified "negative" as to aflatoxin;

(2) Not more than 2.00 percent peanuts with damaged kernels;

(3) Not more than 10.00 percent moisture; or

(4) Not more than 0.50 percent foreign material.

[67 FR 57140, Sept. 9, 2002; 67 FR 63503, Oct. 11, 2002]

**§ 996.40 Handling standards.**

(a) *Identification*: Each lot of shelled or cleaned inshell peanuts intended for human consumption shall be identified by positive lot identification prior to being shipped or otherwise disposed of. Positive lot identification (PLI) methods are tailored to the size and containerization of the lot, by warehouse storage or space requirements, or, by necessary further movement of the lot prior to certification. Positive lot identification is established by the Inspection Service and includes the following methods of identification. For domestic lots and repackaged import lots, PLI includes PLI stickers, tags or seals applied to each individual package or container in such a manner that is acceptable to the Inspection Service and maintains the identity of the lot. For imported lots, PLI tape may be used to wrap bags or boxes on pallets, PLI stickers may be used to cover the shrink-wrap overlap, doors may be sealed to isolate the lot, bags or boxes may be stenciled with a lot number, or any other means that is acceptable to the Inspection Service. The crop year or quota year shown on the positive lot identification tags shall be the year in which the peanuts in the lot were produced domestically or imported into the U.S., as appropriate. All lots of shelled and cleaned-inshell peanuts shall be handled, stored, and shipped

under positive lot identification procedures, except those lots which are reconstituted and/or commingled at the request of the buyer: *Provided*, That the reconstituted or commingled lots were previously positive lot identified and certified as meeting the outgoing standards of § 996.31.

(b) *Sampling and testing shelled peanuts for outgoing inspection*: Prior to shipment, the following sampling and inspection procedures shall be conducted on each lot of shelled peanuts intended for human consumption. The lot size of shelled or cleaned-inshell peanuts presented for outgoing inspection in bags or bulk shall not exceed 200,000 pounds.

(1) Each handler or importer shall cause appropriate samples, based on a sampling plan approved by the Inspection Service, of each lot of shelled peanuts intended for human consumption to be drawn by the Inspection Service. The gross amount of peanuts drawn shall be large enough to provide for a grade analysis, for a grading check-sample, and for three 48-pound samples for aflatoxin chemical analysis. The three 48-pound samples shall be designated by the Inspection Service as "Sample 1," "Sample 2," and "Sample 3" and each sample shall be placed in a suitable container and positive lot identified by means acceptable to the Inspection Service. Sample 1 may be prepared for immediate testing or Sample 1, Sample 2, and Sample 3 may be returned to the handler or importer for testing at a later date. Imported peanuts shall be labeled "Sample 1IMP," "Sample 2IMP," and "Sample 3IMP" and handled accordingly.

(2) Before shipment of a lot of shelled peanuts to a buyer, the handler or importer shall cause Sample 1 to be ground by the Inspection Service, a USDA laboratory or a USDA-approved laboratory, in a "subsampling mill." The resultant ground subsample from Sample 1 shall be of a size specified by the Inspection Service and shall be designated as "Subsample 1-AB" and at the handler's, importer's or buyer's option, a second subsample may also be extracted from Sample 1. It shall be designated as "Subsample 1-CD." Subsample 1-CD may be sent as requested by the handler or buyer, for aflatoxin