

CALIFORNIA KIWIFRUIT INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

Initial Inspection

California kiwifruit is under Federal Marketing Order No. 920 which sets minimum standards for kiwifruit sold on the fresh market. All California kiwifruit must meet minimum grade, size, quality, pack and container requirements and must be inspected prior to sale to determine that these requirements have been met. The Marketing Order is administered by the Kiwifruit Administrative Committee (KAC).

Initial inspection must be obtained by the first handler prior to shipment. Inspected containers of California kiwifruit are required to be stamped with a valid USDA Positive Lot Identification (PLI) stamp.

This initial inspection remains valid until fruit reaches a final market destination providing the fruit has not been repacked at any time prior to reaching the final destination.

Reinspection

Federal Marketing Order requirements apply to all California kiwifruit handled within the state of California. If a first handler, or any subsequent handler, repacks California kiwifruit, the initial inspection becomes invalid and a new inspection, or reinspection, must take place.

USDA and KAC require that all handlers (first handlers, second handlers, wholesalers, etc.) of California kiwifruit must have fruit reinspected if it is repacked within California. Fruit must be reinspected if any changes are made to grade, size, pack style or container markings.

Previously inspected kiwifruit that has been restyled may be shipped under a Restyle Verification option, providing that the marked size and grade are unchanged from the original inspection. Handlers must receive prior authorization from the Federal-State Inspection Service to ship kiwifruit under this option.

Failure to Comply

The Federal Marketing Order has the effect of Federal law and is enforceable in U.S. District Courts. Failure to comply with the conditions of the Marketing Order can subject the violator to fines up to \$5,000 per count.

It is a violation of Federal law to sell fresh California kiwifruit that does not have a valid inspection.

If you have any questions regarding these inspection requirements, please call Jeremy Toews at (916) 621-0678, or the KAC office at (916) 441-0678.