



KIWIFRUIT ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

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2025/2026 SEASON

CALIFORNIA KIWIFRUIT

PACKING REGULATIONS BULLETIN

This bulletin sets forth regulations for the 2025/2026 marketing season for all varieties of kiwifruit grown within the State of California.

No handler shall ship any kiwifruit unless such kiwifruit meet the following requirements:

GRADE

Fresh shipments of kiwifruit shall be at least KAC No.1 quality. "KAC No.1 quality" means that kiwifruit meets the requirements of the U.S. No. 1 grade as defined in the United States Standards for Grades of Kiwifruit, except that kiwifruit meeting the KAC No. 1 quality requirement shall be subject to the basic requirement of the U.S. No. 2 grade that the kiwifruit be "not badly misshapen," and an additional tolerance of 16% is provided for kiwifruit that is "badly misshapen".

SIZE

Size requirements. Kiwifruit, except for varieties of the *Actinidia chinensis* species, shall be at least a minimum **Size 45**, defined as a maximum of 55 pieces of fruit in an 8-pound sample. Varieties of the *Actinidia chinensis* species shall be at least a minimum **Size 49**, defined as a maximum of 64 pieces of fruit in an 8-pound sample. (Addendum #2)

MATURITY

Such kiwifruit shall have an average minimum maturity of **6.2%** soluble solids content at the time of inspection.

PACK REQUIREMENTS

1. **Size Variation** - Kiwifruit packed in all types of containers may not vary more in diameter between the smallest and largest fruit than:
 - ▶ 1/2 inch in sizes 30 or larger
 - ▶ 3/8 inch in sizes 31 through 42
 - ▶ 1/4 inch in size 45

Except that all varieties of the *Actinidia chinensis* species are exempt from the fairly uniform in size (size variation) requirement.
2. **Size Variation Tolerance** - Not more than 10%, by count, of the containers in any lot and not more than 5%, by count, of kiwifruit in any container may fail to meet the requirements of this section. Except that for sizes 45 and 42 the tolerance, by count, in any one container may not be more than 25%.
3. **Size Designation Chart** - For all packages requiring size marking, size will be determined by the Size Designation Chart expressed in terms of the maximum number of kiwifruit per 8-pound sample. The Size Designation Chart is shown in Addendum #2.
4. **Volume Fill** - All volume fill containers of kiwifruit designated by weight shall hold 9 kilograms (19.8-pounds) net weight of kiwifruit unless such containers hold less than 15-pounds or more than 35-pounds net weight of kiwifruit.
5. **Standard Pack** - Kiwifruit packed in cell compartments or molded trays are **not** required to meet the Standard Pack requirement for tightly filled cups as defined in the US Standards for Grades of Kiwifruit.

CONTAINER MARKING REGULATIONS

1. **Identity** - Each package or container of kiwifruit shall bear on at least one outside principal display panel in plain sight and in plain letters, the word “kiwifruit,” the name of the variety (if other than the Hayward variety), if known or, when the variety is not known, the words “unknown variety.”
2. **Responsibility** - Each package or container of kiwifruit shall bear on one outside principal display panel in plain sight and in plain letters the name and address (including the city, state and zip code) of the shipper.
3. **Quantity** - Each package or container of kiwifruit shall bear on one outside principal display panel in plain sight and in plain letters the following information regarding the quantity of kiwifruit packed within the container:
 - a) For kiwifruit packed in cell compartments, cardboard fillers, or molded trays, the quantity shall be indicated in terms of **count and size**, and the contents shall conform to the count. (i.e., Trays and 3 layers must be marked with count and size and must meet the requirements for size in the Size Designation Chart - see Addendum #2).

- b) For volume-fill containers packed by weight, the quantity shall be indicated in terms of size and net weight; for volume-fill containers packed by count, the quantity shall be indicated in terms of size and count. (Volume-fill containers can be marked with "9 kg" or "19.8 lbs" or both.)
 - c) For bulk containers or individual consumer packs not within a master container, the quantity shall be indicated in terms of the size designation and net weight; or in terms of the size designation and count.
 - d) Master containers, which hold more than one individual package, must be properly marked with the quantity of the contents. The size designation must also be indicated.
 - e) For individual consumer packages within a master container, the quantity shall be indicated in terms of either net weight or count (or both). If count is used, it must be accompanied by the size designation.
 - f) Designation of size, count, and net weight on each container shall be accompanied by the words "size," "count," or "net weight" as applicable.
4. **Lot Stamping** - All exposed or outside containers of kiwifruit, but not less than 75 percent of the total containers on a pallet, shall be plainly marked with the lot stamp number corresponding to the lot inspection conducted by an authorized inspector, **except for**:
- Individual consumer packages not within a master container. Such containers shall be plainly marked with the lot stamp on all exposed containers or by attaching four placards to each pallet.
 - Reusable plastic containers placed on a pallet. Such containers shall be positive lot identified (PLI) in accordance with approved Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service procedures.
 - Kiwifruit that has been previously inspected and certified that is restyled into new containers and marked with an authorized restyle verification number. (Details for the restyle verification option are listed on pages 4-5.)
 - Kiwifruit shipped under a Waiver number as detailed on page 5.
 - Containers that are being directly loaded into a vehicle for export shipment under the supervision of the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service.
5. **Principal Display Panel** - As used in this section, the term "principal display panel" means that part of the package or container most likely to be display, presented, shown or examined under normal or customary conditions of display and purchase.

INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION

Each handler who handles kiwifruit shall, prior thereto, cause such kiwifruit to be inspected by the Federal or Federal-State Inspection Service and certified as meeting the applicable requirements. A listing of Inspection Service offices is provided on Addendum #1.

Inspection and certification shall not be required for kiwifruit which previously have been inspected providing the original inspection remains valid.

1. **Inspection Method** – All fresh kiwifruit shipments, wherever marketed, must be inspected under the Block inspection method at time of shipment, the In-Line method at the time of packing, or any one of the USDA approved inspection methods (i.e.; PIQ, CAIP).
2. **Inspection Life** – Inspections remain valid until changes are made to grade, size, pack-style or container markings.
3. **Reinspection's** – Reinspection's are voluntary, except in the case where the original inspection becomes invalid. All handlers within the production area (State of California) are required to have fruit reinspected when the original inspection becomes invalid. Handlers may utilize the restyle verification option providing conditions of the requirement are met. Reinspection's are full inspections for grade, size variation, weight, etc.
4. **Restyle Verification Option** – 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 to ship kiwifruit under this option from the Federal-State Inspection Service. Full details of the restyle verification option are listed on pages 4-5 of this regulation bulletin.
5. **Positive Lot Identification** – All shipments of California kiwifruit are required to be stamped with a valid SPI-USDA, Positive Lot Identification (PLI) stamp, authorized Waiver number or authorized restyle verification number. The only way to acquire a valid PLI stamp is by having a valid inspection linking the PLI stamp to an official USDA inspection certificate and supporting note sheets.

RESTYLE VERIFICATION

A handler may ship previously inspected kiwifruit that has been restyled without obtaining an additional inspection if all shipments made under the restyle verification option comply with all regulations in effect, and all of the following conditions are met:

1. All kiwifruit was restyled from kiwifruit which previously have been inspected and certified as meeting KAC requirements.
2. The marked size on the restyled product is the same as the marked size on the original product.
3. The grade on the restyled product is the same as the grade on the original product.

4. The handler notifies the Federal-State Inspection Service at least 4 hours in advance of when the product will be shipped.
5. The handler provides the Federal-State Inspection Service with the number and type of restyled containers.
6. The Federal-State Inspection Service furnishes the handler with a restyle verification number which links the restyled product to the original PLI stamp, and to an official USDA inspection certificate and supporting note sheets.
7. The handlers shall plainly and conspicuously mark one end of each container with the letter "R" and the restyle number assigned by the Federal-State Inspection Service. The letter "R" and the number shall not be less than one-half inch in height.
8. The Federal-State Inspection Service shall notify KAC upon issuing a restyle verification number.
9. Handlers will be subject to random spot-checks to verify compliance.

EXEMPTIONS

1. **Waivers** - A handler may handle kiwifruit without inspection and certification if all shipments made under such waivers comply with all regulations in effect, and all the following conditions are met:
 - a) The handler requests the Federal-State Inspection Service to provide inspection during its regular working hours at least 4 hours in advance of the time when inspection is needed. The request need not be in writing but it shall be confirmed immediately in writing by the inspection service.
 - b) The Federal-State Inspection Service advises the handler that it is not practicable to provide inspection at the time and place designated by the handler. This advice may be verbal but it shall be confirmed in writing by the Federal-State Inspection Service. A confirmed copy thereof shall be forwarded by the inspection service to the office of the Kiwifruit Administrative Committee.
 - c) The Federal-State Inspection Service furnishes the handler with the waiver number which shall cover the kiwifruit on which inspection is requested.
 - d) When instructed to do so, the handler plainly and conspicuously marks the end of each container with the letter "W" and the waiver number assigned by the Federal-State Inspection Service. The letter "W" and the number shall not be less than one-half inch in height.
2. **Minimum Quantities** – Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, kiwifruit may be handled without regard to the certification, assessment, regulatory and reporting provisions of the Marketing Order under the following conditions:
 - a) Such kiwifruit are for home use and not for resale.
 - b) The total weight of such kiwifruit sold to all persons collectively in any one vehicle during any one day does not exceed 200 pounds.

- c) Such kiwifruit are handled by the person who produced them and the handling takes place: (i) On the premises where grown, (ii) at a packing house, or retail stand (roadside stand, flea market or any other outlet approved by the committee) which is operated by said handler, or (iii) at a Certified Farmers Market.

3. **Special Purpose Shipments** – Notwithstanding any other provision of this section any person may handle kiwifruit without regard to the certification, assessment and regulatory provisions of the Marketing Order under the following conditions:
- a) Such kiwifruit is for consumption by charitable institutions.
 - b) Such kiwifruit is for distribution by relief agencies.
 - c) Such kiwifruit is for commercial processing into products. For the purpose of this section, “commercial processing into products” means that the kiwifruit is physically altered in form or chemical composition through freezing, canning, dehydrating, pulping, juicing or heating of the product. The act of slicing, dicing or peeling shall not be considered commercial processing into products.

KAC ASSESSMENTS

The assessment rate for the 2025/26 season is \$0.035 per 9 kilo (19.8 lb.) volume fill container or equivalent.

Handler assessments are billed on an annual or biannual basis.

Assessments are determined based on reports submitted by the handler of kiwifruit sold. If the Year End FOB Sales report is not received by May 10th, the handler will be assessed based on shipments reported to KAC from the beginning of the season through April 30th.

Once the handler has completed all sales for the season and submitted their Year End FOB Sales Report, KAC will calculate the total assessments due for the entire season. Assessments already paid will be deducted and a final invoice will be sent to the handler for the remaining balance.

Payment is due within 30 days of the invoice date.

Payments not received within this 30 day period will be charged interest on a daily basis at the rate of 1.5%, beginning with the first day of delinquency. If an assessment payment is more than 30 days delinquent (60 days past invoice date), a 10% late charge will be assessed. Interest and late payment charges are applied only to the overdue assessment.

INSPECTION FEES

IN-LINE INSPECTION FEES: The fee charged by Shipping Point Inspection (SPI) for in-line inspection will be \$54.00 per hour. This is to be charged for all travel time as well as for the time needed to complete paperwork. There will be no additional overtime or mileage charges. Certificates will be written/billed directly to the shipper or packer.

BLOCK AND REINSPECTION INSPECTION FEES: Block and reinspection fees will be charged in accordance with the basic fee schedule (by the container rate or time + mileage) whichever is greater.

BLOCK & REINSPECTION FEES

(1) Container Rate	OR	(2) Time + Mileage Rate
Trays - \$0.046/tray VF, CF, 3-Layer, Bag Masters - \$0.064/cntr Bulk Bins - \$0.008/pound		\$54.00 per hour for inspection/travel time.

Mileage will be charged at a rate in accordance with the Department of Personnel Administration. An \$9.50 per hour overtime charge will be assessed on work after 5:00 p.m. or after eight (8) hours, as appropriate. Minimum charge per certificate is \$35.00. Certificates will be written/billed directly to the shipper or packer.

OTHER USDA APPROVED INSPECTION METHOD FEES: You must contact Shipping Point Inspection (SPI) to be approved to use and get the fee rates for other Inspection methods (i.e.; PIQ, CAIP).

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Handler reporting requirements are determined by the volume of kiwifruit handled per season. Please contact the KAC office for a complete breakdown of reporting requirements. The following is a list of reports collected by the KAC.

1. **Shipment Report** - Monthly shipment by destination report.
2. **KISS (Kiwifruit Inventory Shipment System) Reports** - Keeps track of inventory by container type and fruit size. Inventory includes all fruit packed at harvest with inventory changes and shipments reported once a month.

3. **KISS Price/Shipment Report** - Includes data on gross f.o.b. sales and the total number of containers shipped by pack, fruit size, grade, and market destination. Handlers submitting the KISS Price/Shipment report do not need to submit the monthly Shipment Report by destination or the KISS/Shipment report.
4. **Year End Sales Report** –Used to report annual Gross FOB sales by container style and size and for end of season handler reconciliations.
5. **Final Packout Report** – Annual report used to report individual grower production/acreage information.
6. **Return Receipt of Kiwifruit to Grower** - Used by shippers to report any kiwifruit that was not inspected but was returned to the grower from the packinghouse or cold storage at the grower's request.

COMPLIANCE

For the purpose of checking and verifying reports filed by handlers, the committee, through its duly authorized representatives shall have access to any handler's premises during regular business hours, and shall be permitted at any such times to inspect such premises and any kiwifruit held by such handler, and any and all records of the handler with respect to his or her acquisition, sales, uses and shipments of kiwifruit. Each handler shall furnish all labor and equipment necessary to make such inspections.

ILLEGAL SALES

Sales or gifts of uninspected kiwifruit to those who will resell it or transport it for resale are in violation of the Federal Marketing Order.

KAC agents make unannounced visits at packinghouses, fields, fruit stands and other retail outlets to enforce Marketing Order regulations. Throughout the season, KAC may implement a controlled buy program. Buyers, working as agents for KAC, will call on shippers and attempt to buy off-grade fruit for resale. Shippers should review these regulations with their packinghouse managers, cold storage operators, forklift drivers, night watchmen and cull fruit disposal staff. It is the responsibility of the grower and/or the packinghouse to maintain control over their off-grade product to ensure it does not enter illegal marketing channels.

Failure to comply with the conditions of the Marketing Order Regulations can subject the violator to fines up to \$5,000 per count. KAC urges handlers, growers, inspectors and other associated with the industry to advise them of any suspected violations of Marketing Order Regulations.

KAC/USDA CONTACTS

KAC

Contacts: Chris Zanobini, Manager
 Jeremy Toews, Assist. Manager
 Jeremy: (916) 621-9799
 Jeremy@agamsi.com
 Office: (916) 441-0678
 Email: Calkiwi@agamsi.com
 Kiwifruit Administrative Committee
 1521 "I" Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814

USDA/AMS (Fresno, CA)

Contact: Bianca Bertrand, Agricultural
 Marketing Specialist
 Phone: (559) 356-8202
 Email: Biancam.bertrand@usda.gov
 U.S Department of Agriculture
 Agricultural Marketing Service
 2202 Monterey St., Suite 102B
 Fresno, CA, 93721

KAC BOARD MEMBERS

DISTRICT	MEMBER	ALTERNATE MEMBER
1	Desta Bechtol Gridley, CA	Jeff Fox Gridley, CA
1	Dave Dulai Gridley, CA	Mike Noland Marysville, CA
1	Jatinder Kullar Gridley, CA	Luke Wilson Gridley, CA
2	Doug Phillips Ivanhoe, CA	Melissa Heinrich Pasadena, CA
2	Vacant	Vacant
2	Norman Evans Visalia, CA	Adam Smith Pasadena, CA
2	Al Bates Exeter, CA	Gary Romoff Bakersfield, CA
2	Jerin Kliewer Reedley, CA	Martin Guzman Reedley, CA
3	Ben Povey Marysville, CA	John Fagundes, IV Hanford, CA
3	Jerry Kliewer Reedley, CA	Mike Jackson Kingsburg, CA
3	Kyle Jackson Kingsburg, CA	Ryan Young Bakersfield, CA
Public Member	Jon Phillips	Jill Apok

Addendum #1 – Inspection and Compliance Branch

INSPECTION AND COMPLIANCE BRANCH		
<u>INSPECTION AND COMPLIANCE</u> Marcee Yount Branch Chief (916) 900-5030 marcee.yount@cdfa.ca.gov	<u>SPI PROGRAM SUPERVISOR</u> Kevin Batchelor Program Supervisor (559) 707-9522 kevin.batchelor@cdfa.ca.gov	<u>SPI PROGRAM SUPERVISOR</u> Roxann Bramlage (831) 484-3313 roxann.bramlage@cdfa.ca.gov
<u>SPI COMMODITY PROGRAM SUPERVISOR</u> (Cherries, Kiwifruit, and Onions) Theresa Stewart, Program Supervisor theresa.stewart@cdfa.ca.gov Cell: (916) 204-3939	<u>SPI COMMODITY PROGRAM SUPERVISOR</u> (Olive Oil Sampling, Processed Pears & Olives, Cling Peach) Laurel Rudolph, Program Supervisor laurel.rudolph@cdfa.ca.gov Cell: (916) 710-0362	<u>SPI COMMODITY PROGRAM SUPERVISOR</u> (Almonds, Table Grapes, Avocados) Mitch Randhawa, Program Supervisor mitch.randhawa@cdfa.ca.gov Cell: (209) 405-1043
<u>DINUBA DISTRICT</u> Enrique Cobarrubias District Supervisor (559) 595-8000 dinubaspi@cdfa.ca.gov	<u>CHICO DISTRICT</u> Stephania Delgado District Supervisor (530) 898-8427 chicospi@cdfa.ca.gov	<u>KERMAN DISTRICT</u> Jose Zavala District Supervisor (559) 846-7323 kermanspi@cdfa.ca.gov
<u>TURLOCK DISTRICT</u> Lidia Cervantes District Supervisor (209) 632-7304 turlockspi@cdfa.ca.gov	<u>LODI DISTRICT</u> Jonathan Aburto District Supervisor (209) 333-5300 lodispi@cdfa.ca.gov	<u>FOOD SAFETY AUDITING SERVICES</u> Karla Rodriguez (559) 595-8000 krdriguez@agsupport.org
<u>USDA FEDERAL PROGRAM MANAGERS</u> (209) 477-0124	Alex Wladyszewski - alexander.wladyszewski@ams.usda.gov James Leggett - james.leggett@usda.gov	

Addendum #2

SIZE DESIGNATION CHART

Size Requirements for all Packages Requiring Size Marking

Size Designation	Maximum Number of Kiwifruit in a 8-Pound Sample	Size Variation tolerance (diameter) ¹
18 or larger	25	1/2"
20	27	1/2"
23	30	1/2"
25	32	1/2"
27/28	35	1/2"
30	39	1/2"
33	43	3/8"
36	46	3/8"
39	49	3/8"
42	53	3/8"
45	55	1/4"
49 ²	64	Not applicable

¹ Not applicable to *Actinidia chinensis* species varieties

² Applicable only to *Actinidia chinensis* species varieties

The minimum size for kiwifruit of the *Actinidia chinensis* species, generally referred to as *gold and red varieties*, is **Size 49**. For all other varieties of kiwifruit, including *Hayward*, the minimum size is **Size 45**.

The appropriate size designation must be marked on molded tray packs along with the count marking. The size designation marking may differ from the marked count.

8-Pound Sample Tolerance – The average weight of all sample units in a lot must weigh at least 8 pounds, but no sample unit may be more than 4 ounces less than 8 pounds.

Size Variation Tolerance - Not more than 10%, by count, of the containers in any lot and not more than 5%, by count, of kiwifruit in any container may fail to meet the diameter range specified. Except that for sizes 45 and 42 the tolerance, by count, in any one container may not be more than 25%. (*Actinidia chinensis* species are exempt from the fairly uniform in size (size variation) requirement.)