

**§951. Official standards**

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is authorized and empowered, after holding public hearings in a manner consistent with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, to establish and promulgate official definitions and standards for grading, or classifying, packing and labeling potatoes and to change such official standards from time to time. [PL 1977, c. 694, §89 (AMD); PL 1977, c. 694, §89 (AMD); PL 1979, c. 731, §19 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).]

Such official standards shall not be lower in their requirements than the minimum requirements of the official standards for corresponding grades or classifications as promulgated from time to time by the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, commonly known as U. S. Grades. [PL 1965, c. 219, §2 (RPR).]

Notwithstanding the provisions of article 4, the commissioner after consultation with the Maine Potato Board may require, by rules adopted pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, the inspection of all consumer packs of potatoes for conformity with the U.S. #1 grade or other grades. Inspection under any rule adopted pursuant to this section must be performed by a licensed federal-state potato inspector, state potato inspector or seed potato inspector. At the request of and in consultation with the Maine Potato Board, the commissioner shall initiate rulemaking to require inspection of consumer packs of potatoes. [PL 1997, c. 388, §2 (AMD).]

A person who violates rules adopted under this section commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed \$1,000 for the first offense and \$2,000 for any subsequent offense may be adjudged. [PL 1995, c. 298, §2 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1965, c. 219, §2 (RPR). PL 1977, c. 694, §89 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 731, §19 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 298, §2 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 388, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).

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