

SUBPART K. SOYBEANS

Established effective November 20, 1940

Standards for soybeans were recommended by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1925. These standards were revised in 1935 and brought under the U.S. Grain Standards Act by an amendment to the Act in 1940.

Revised effective September 1, 1941

1. Increased the percentage of splits in grades No. 1 and No. 2 from 1.0 and 10.0 percent to 10 and 15 percent.
2. Reduced the maximum moisture limits from 15.0, 15.0, and 16.5 percent in grades Nos. 1, 2, and 3 to 13, 14, and 16 percent.
3. Established a dockage system based on an 8/64-inch round hole sieve and expressed on the certificate in terms of whole percent. A fraction of a percent was disregarded.
4. Increased the maximum percentage of foreign material from 0.5, 2.0, 4.0, and 6.0 percent in grade Nos. 1 through 4 to 1, 2, 3, and 5 percent.
5. Increased the maximum percentage of damaged kernels permitted in grade No. 1 from 1.5 to 2 percent.
6. The factor "other colors" was eliminated in the grade table. A footnote was added which applied to the No. 1 and No. 2 grade, providing that grade No. 1 of each of the classes Yellow Soybeans and Green Soybeans may contain not more than 2 percent and that grade No. 2 of each of these classes may contain not more than 3 percent of black, brown, or bicolored soybeans singly or combined.
7. Limits for other classes were changed. Brown and black soybeans may contain not more than 10 percent of soybeans of other colors and yellow and green soybeans may contain not more than 10 percent of other colors, including not more than 5 percent of brown, black, or bicolored soybeans.
8. Established a special grade Weevily soybeans.

Amended effective September 1, 1942

Changed the method of determining moisture from the water-oven to the air-oven.

Revised effective September 1, 1949

1. Classifying a part of the foreign material as dockage was eliminated.
2. The maximum limits of splits were increased from 15, 20, and 30 percent for grades Nos. 2, 3, and 4 to 20, 30, and 40 percent.
3. The maximum limits for foreign material were increased from 1, 2, 3, and 5 percent for grades Nos. 1 through 4 to 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, and 6.0 percent. This change was necessary due to elimination of the dockage factor.
4. The definitions for the classes Yellow Soybeans and Green Soybeans were changed to provide that all soybeans with yellow or green seedcoats which were yellow in cross section be classified as yellow soybeans and only soybeans that were green in cross section and had green seedcoats be classified as green soybeans.
5. Established a special grade Garlicky soybeans.

Revised effective September 1, 1955

1. Reduced the foreign material in the numerical grades from 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, and 6.0 percent to 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, and 5.0 percent.
2. Fixed special limits on heat damage of 0.2, 0.5, 1.0, and 3.0 percent in the numerical grades.
3. Redefined splits as pieces of soybeans that are not damaged.
4. Required that purple mottled and stained soybeans be graded not higher than No. 3.

Amended effective February 8, 1961

Provided that the term D.L.Q. (Distinctly low quality) be construed to include soybeans which contain more than two crotalaria seeds in 1,000 grams.

Amended effective October 30, 1963

Provided that the term purple mottled or stained includes soybeans which are discolored by a fungus. Purple mottled or stained soybeans would be graded not higher than No. 3.

Amended effective March 22, 1966

Provided that the term bicolored soybeans be construed to include soybeans with seedcoats of two colors, one of which is black or brown, when the black and/or brown color covers 50 percent or more of the seedcoat. The hilum of a soybean is not considered a part of the seedcoat.

Amended effective September 1, 1969 (34 FR 7282, 5/3/69)

Stinkbug-stung kernels considered damaged kernels at the rate of one-fourth of the actual percentage of the stung kernels.

Amended effective February 28, 1970 (34 FR 3591, 2/28/69)

Provided that the prefix U.S. be shown on all official grain grades.

Amended effective January 8, 1974

The name of the soybean standards changed from “Official Grain Standards of the United States for Soybeans” to “United States Standards for Soybeans.”

Amended effective September 8, 1977 (42 FR 30146, 6/13/77)

Certification requirements changed so that a lot would be certificated:

1. As being of a specific U.S. grade, or
2. As being equal to or better in quality, as defined by the U.S. Standards for Soybeans, than the grade specified by the contract; i.e., U.S. No. 2 or better, U.S. No. 3 or better, etc.

Revised effective September 9, 1985 (50 FR 18455, 5/1/85)

1. Updated the format of the standards to conform to other grain standards.
2. Deleted the classes Green, Black, and Brown soybeans and included them under the definition of Soybeans of other colors.
3. Included in the definition of Sample grade specific limits for stones, pieces of glass, castor beans, particles of an unknown foreign substance(s) or a commonly recognized harmful or toxic substance(s), rodent pellets, bird droppings, and other animal filth.
4. Deleted soybeans from § 810.901 Interpretation with respect to the term D.L.Q. (Distinctly low quality) and included the numerical limit for crotalaria seeds in the Sample grade definition.
5. Deleted § 810.902 Interpretation with respect to the term “Purple mottled or stained” and included a definition for the term under Terms Defined.
6. Deleted moisture content as a grade-determining factor.

Revised effective June 30, 1987 (52 FR 24418, 6/30/87)

Removed rounding procedures for inclusion into Subpart A, General Provisions.

Amended effective May 1, 1988 (52 FR 24441, 6/30/87)

1. Redesignated the special grade “weevily” to “infested” to more appropriately describe grain containing live insects injurious to stored grain.
2. Revised tolerances for “infested.”

Revised effective September 1, 1994 (59 FR 10569, 3/7/94)

1. Revised the reporting requirements to report the percentage of splits in tenths percent.
2. Reduced the U.S. Sample grade criteria for stones from eight or more to four or more and reduce the U.S. Sample grade aggregate weight criteria for stones from more than 0.2 percent by weight to more than 0.1 percent by weight.
3. Reduced the U.S. Sample grade criteria for pieces of glass from two to zero.
4. Eliminated the grade limitation on purple mottled or stained soybeans and establish a special grade, Purple Mottled or Stained.
5. Eliminated the grade limitation on soybeans that are materially weathered.
6. Clarified the reference to Mixed soybeans.
7. Established a cumulative total for factors which may cause a sample to grade U.S. Sample grade.

Revised effective September 1, 2007 (71 FR 52403,9/6/06)

1. Changed the minimum test weight per bushel (TW) from a grade determining factor to an informational factor.
2. Revised the reporting requirements for TW from whole and half pounds with a fraction of a half pound disregarded to reporting to the nearest tenth of a pound.