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RULES FOR CANNERS AND FREEZERS RECEIVING ONIONS WHICH FAIL TO MEET THE SOUTH TEXAS ONION RULES AND REGULATIONS 2026 SEASON

The South Texas Onion Committee administers Federal Marketing Order No. 959 (7 CFR Part 900) which regulates the handling of onions grown in South Texas. The following rules have been recommended to safeguard shipments of onions which fail to meet the grade, size, and container regulations (herein referred to as "SPECIAL PURPOSE" onions).

According to Section 959.126 of the Federal Marketing Order, special purpose onions can only be shipped to approved canners*, freezers, relief, charity, or approved subcontractors who peel and/or chop onions for canners or freezers. No special purpose onions can be shipped to brokers or to processors who process for fresh market.

***NOTE: Canning purposes: "ONIONS MUST BE COOKED TO WHERE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE ONIONS IS CHANGED."**

The consignee will be considered delinquent if the Report of Special Purpose Onion Shipment form is not in the Committee office within ten (10) days after the shipment. If delinquent, the committee will then notify the consignee by certified letter that they are delinquent and will be temporarily suspended until such paperwork is received. The committee will notify the consignee's handler that the consignee is no longer eligible to receive special purpose onions. A consignee who is habitually late (3 times) in returning their copy of the Special Purpose form will be suspended for the rest of the season.

Each receiver of special purpose onions shall read the following rules and certify on the enclosed certification to the South Texas Onion Committee and to the Secretary of Agriculture that onions received from March 1st through July 15th, for special purpose will be used for such purpose and not for fresh market.

UPON RECEIPT OF SPECIAL PURPOSE ONIONS, YOU MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING RULES:

- (1) Upon arrival of onions, require your receiving personnel to request from the driver the "CANARY" and "PINK" copy of the Special Purpose form. If the truck driver does not present a copy of the Special Purpose form, call the committee office immediately. This is most important.
- (2) If onions are in 50-pound turned inside out or unlabeled closed containers, certify the number of containers on the Special Purpose form which accompanies each load and return the report to the South Texas Onion Committee (again, instruct your personnel to request the Special

Purpose form from the truck driver). If onions are not in 50-pound containers, **WEIGH** the onions upon

- (3) receipt and record the actual net weight on the Special Purpose form which must accompany each load. **The signed completed report shall be returned promptly to the South Texas Onion Committee with a copy of the appropriate scale ticket.**
- (3) **IF ONIONS ARE SOLD TO AN APPROVED CONSIGNEE, BUT ARE TO BE SHIPPED FIRST TO A SUBCONTRACTOR TO PEEL AND/OR CHOP PRIOR TO SHIPMENT TO THE CANNER OR FREEZER, BOTH CONTRACTOR AND SUBCONTRACTOR WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE THE QUANTITY OF ONIONS EACH RECEIVED. NO SUBCONTRACTOR WILL BE APPROVED IF THE SUBCONTRACTOR PEELS AND/OR CHOPS FOR CONTRACTORS WHO USE THE ONIONS FOR ANY FRESH PRODUCT. THE SUBCONTRACTOR SHOULD COPY THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FORM AND SEND ONE COPY TO THE COMMITTEE OFFICE WITH THE WEIGHT OF THE ONIONS RECEIVED. AFTER PEELING THE ONIONS, WEIGH THE ONIONS AGAIN, AND SEND A COPY OF THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FORM AND WEIGHT TICKET OF THE PEELED ONIONS TO THE COMMITTEE OFFICE. THE CANNER OR FREEZER UPON RECEIPT OF THE PEELED ONIONS; MUST SEND A COPY OF THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FORM AND WEIGHT TICKET TO THE COMMITTEE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.**
- (4) Each canner or freezer who receives special purpose onions shall make available at its business office for examination by the USDA or by the committee at any reasonable time during its business hours, copies of all applicable purchase orders, sales contracts, or disposition documents, together with any other information which the USDA or the committee may deem necessary or desirable to enable it to determine the disposition of the onions which fail to meet the South Texas Onion Rules and Regulations.
- (5) If special purpose onions are rejected by a processor, upon approval of the committee's manager, onions may be reassigned to another approved canner, freezer, relief, charity, subcontractor, or dumped. If onions are dumped, a dump certificate must be sent to the committee office with the special purpose form. Notify the committee manager immediately.

RULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE