

Concise Explanatory Statement

Proposed Adoption of Permanent Rule Amendments for Chapter 16-406 WAC,
Washington Standards for Apricots

The department held public hearings in Wenatchee and Yakima, Washington on May 26 and 27, 2015 to accept testimony on the proposed changes to Chapter 16-406 WAC, Washington Standards for Apricots.

Identifying the Agency's Reasons for Adopting the Rule

WSDA Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Program reviewed chapter 16-406 WAC and determined changes were needed to provide a clear and up-to date chapter for industry to use and understand.

New definitions were added and the standards were re-formatted into plain talk version to create a more user friendly version of the standards for industry to use.

Nature of Service:

The fruit and vegetable industry has gone through many changes over the last 10 years. With the increase in volume in almost every commodity being grown the industry has had to adapt their marketing practices to conform to the buyers' and consumers' needs. The apricot crop in the State of Washington has remained steady with a slight increase volume over the years. Market demand dictates the volume of product grown and the type of packages used to market the product. The grade standards must be kept current with industry practices to allow for the ever changing marketing schemes that assist in the movement of the product.

Summary of the Public Comment Process

Chapter 34.05.325 (1) RCW requires the department to accept written comments on the proposed amendments to 16-406 WAC, Washington Standards for Apricots, if received no later than the time and date specified in the department's notice of proposed rule-making (CR-102). The stated public comment period ran from April 20, 2015 until 5:00 PM on May 27, 2015. Chapter 34.05.325 (2) requires the department to provide interested parties an opportunity to present oral comments on the proposed rules in a public hearing. The department held two public hearings on the proposal to amend chapter 16-406 WAC. The first public hearing was held on May 26, 2015 in Wenatchee,

Washington at 11:00 AM at the Washington State Department of Agriculture, 270 9th street N.E. Wenatchee, WA 98801. The second hearing was held on May 27, 2015 in Yakima, Washington at 11:00 AM at the Washington State Department of Agriculture, 21 North First Avenue, Yakima, WA. 98902. No members of the public attended either hearing. There were no written comments submitted for this proposal.

Differences between the Text of the Proposed Rules and the Text of the Rule as Adopted

There are no changes between the proposed and the adopted rule.

Summary of Public Comments Received and WSDA Responses

No public comments received.