

Concise Explanatory Statement

Proposed Adoption of Permanent Rule Amendments for Chapter 16-450 WAC, Controlled Atmosphere Storage Requirements for Washington Fruits and Vegetables.

The department held public hearings in Wenatchee and Yakima, Washington on April 21 and 22, 2015 to accept testimony on the proposed changes to Chapter 16-450 WAC, Controlled Atmosphere Storage Requirements for Washington Fruits and Vegetables.

Identifying the Agency's Reasons for Adopting the Rule

WSDA Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Program reviewed chapter 16-450 WAC and determined changes were needed to provide a practical chapter for industry to use and understand.

New sections were added, with consolidation and more definition provided to other sections to make a more useful resource for industry.

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. In the past the industry certified the majority of the apples and pears to meet the requirements for Controlled Atmosphere Storage and used that as a marketing tool. As new technology associated with the storage of fruit has emerged, as well as the change in marketing demands, the industry has chosen not to use the controlled atmosphere storage requirements any longer. This was a cost savings to industry and growers. This chapter is still a viable option for the industry if they choose to use it.

Summary of the Public Comment Process

Chapter 34.05.325 (1) RCW requires the department to accept written comments on the proposed amendments to the Controlled Atmosphere Storage 16-450 WAC 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 March 17, 2015 until 5:00 PM on April 22, 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 16-450 WAC. The first public hearing was held on April 21, 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 April 22, 2015 in Yakima, Washington at 11:00 AM at the Washington State Department of Agriculture, 21 North First Avenue in the main conference room. 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

The department received no comments on this rulemaking proposal.