

California Walnut Board

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GRADES & STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2011

The California Walnut Board Grades & Standards Committee held a meeting on Thursday September 8, 2011, at the Valley Brew Restaurant, Stockton, CA. Committee Chairperson Bill Carriere called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Mr. Eidsath called the roll and established a quorum. The following Committee members were present:

Bill Carriere, Chairperson
Steve Lindsay, Vice Chairperson
Chuck Crain
Frank Guerra
Sam Keiper (non-voting)
Gus Mariani
Pete Turner

Also present were: CWB staff members Dennis Balint and Carl Eidsath.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the last Grades & Standards Committee meeting held on June 9, 2011. Mr. Guerra made motion to approve the minutes as mailed, Mr. Crain seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Chairperson Carriere moved on to the agenda item, Proposed Adjacent Size Tolerances for Inshell Walnuts. Mr. Keiper started the discussion by reviewing the proposed changes that would allow adjacent inshell sizes to be declared on the label. Two examples were reviewed; Jumbo/Large and Large/Medium. The USDA grade size standards would be maintained and kept at current specifications. Mr. Crain then discussed concerns that there needs to be careful consideration not to allow an unlimited range of sizes within each of the adjacent sizes that would negatively impact the visual appearance of the product. The California walnut product has always demonstrated a uniform size appearance and if unlimited sizes would now be allowed, the quality may be negatively impacted and begin to resemble non California walnuts that have always had a less uniform look.

Chairperson Carriere asked Mr. Crain to make a suggestion on how to prohibit the non uniform appearance yet still provide the adjacent sizes to be accepted in the industry. Mr. Crain proposed establishing a minimum percentage of the larger of the 2 adjacent sizes at 70% minimum. For example, the Jumbo/Large size would require a minimum of 70% Jumbo and the Large/Medium would contain 70% minimum Large walnuts. Mr. Lindsay discussed the method of obtaining these percentages to include blending in known sized walnuts and/or to use mixed

lots of walnuts as long as the 70% minimum are maintained. Mr. Crain commented that the fewer changes to the spec, the more protection California walnuts uniform sizes that are so accepted by our consumers. Mr. Crain further stated that most customers are used to seeing Jumbo/Large walnuts with 70% minimum Jumbo and opening up to a limitless size control would also make it very easy for handlers to produce the Jumbo/Large; Large/Medium product. Mr. Carriere agreed with these comments.

Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the Adjacent size proposal with the 70/30 guidelines to the committee. Mr. Guerra seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The time and place of the next meeting will be determined by the Chairperson and staff. There was no need for Executive Session. Hearing no further business, Chairperson Carriere adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.