

December 28, 2023

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Dear Ron Lemaire, Jan VanderHout and Luc Mougeot:

Thank you for your letter of December 19, 2023 regarding the Fresh Produce Alliance's request for an extension to the transition period for the changes to the Canadian Grade Compendium: Volume 2 - Fresh Fruit or Vegetables that were published on January 7, 2023.

This letter is to confirm that the request to extend the compliance timelines for updating the grades and labels for greenhouse long seedless cucumbers and greenhouse miniature seedless cucumbers has been approved. The transition period will now end on December 31, 2025. As of January 1, 2026, the previous grade requirements will cease to apply, and all regulated parties must comply with the new requirements. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will release a notice to industry on Friday, December 29, 2023 to advise of the extension.

The CFIA is granting this extension because it was part of the Agency's initial offering to industry when changes to the Canadian Grade Compendium - Volume 2: Fresh Fruit or Vegetables were published on July 7, 2023. At that time, the details of the Incorporation by Reference (IbR) requested changes were assessed against the [Food labelling coordination policy](#) and determined to be within scope, allowing for a 2-year transition period.

.../2

We note in your letter that you made reference to the IbR request to amend the [Grade Standard Requirements for Fresh Fruits or Vegetables Imported from the United States](#) document.

As discussed at our meeting on December 7, 2023, the CFIA will continue to work with the Fresh Produce Alliance on the IbR change request for 10" cucumbers separately.

I am happy to respond to any questions you may have concerning this information.

Sincerely,

Joanne (Jo) Butler
Executive Director, Food Safety and Consumer Protection Directorate
Policy and Programs Branch
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

c.c.:

Jay Holmes, Director, Consumer Protection and Market Fairness Division, CFIA
Michelle Stockton, National Manager, Compositional Standards and Grades, CFIA