Chapter 16-390 WAC
FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INSPECTION FEES AND OTHER CHARGES

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WAC
16-390-005 Definitions. "Certificate" means an official document issued by the director which reports certification results.
"Certificate of compliance" means a shipping document issued by the fruit and vegetable industry attesting that the identified fruits or vegetables are known to be in full compliance with provisions of chapter 15.17 RCW. The member of the fruit and vegetable industry issuing the certificate of compliance has the sole responsibility of fairly and accurately representing the quality and quantity of fruits and vegetables listed on the certificate of compliance.

"Certification" means the complete service performed by the director, from inspection through the issuance of any applicable documentation of the results of the inspection.

"Customer assisted inspection program (CAIP)" means a quality or condition inspection performed by industry using the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) standards with verification and oversight by the director.

"CWT" means a hundredweight, a unit of measure equaling one hundred pounds.

"Director" means the director of the department of agriculture or the director's designated representative. As used in this chapter, WSDA refers to the director unless the context states otherwise.

"Grade and condition certificate" means an official note sheet issued by the director confirming the results of an inspection.

"Hourly fee" means the fee charged for services based on the hours documented by each WSDA inspector providing the service. Hourly fees are charged based on increments of fifteen minutes, with time rounded up or down to the next fifteen minute interval as follows: Eight minutes into a quarter hour is rounded up to the full quarter hour. Less than eight minutes into a quarter hour is rounded down and not billed.

"Inspection" means the inspection by the director of any fruits or vegetables for the purpose of certification at any time prior to, during, or subsequent to harvest.

"Inspection service notification" means customer notification to the director of any request for inspection services.

"Lot" means, unless otherwise stated in this chapter, a distinct unit of fruits or vegetables.

"Minimum operating fund balance" or "MOFB" means six months of projected apple maggot survey program operating expenses. The factors that the department considers when setting the MOFB under WAC 16-390-230 include the projected program staff salary and benefits; costs of the program's goods and services, including transportation; costs associated with the department's administrative support of the program; and any additional costs associated with the program. In addition to expected future costs, the department may consider previously incurred operating expenses to estimate projected operating expenses.

"Regular business hours" means the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Pacific time Monday through Friday except state holidays.

"Shipping permit" means a shipping document issued by the director attesting that the fruits or vegetables are known to be in compliance with the provisions of chapter 15.17 RCW and this chapter.
WAC 16-390-015 Minimum inspection fee. A minimum fee of one-
half hour under the applicable hourly fee specified in WAC
16-390-025(1) will be charged for any inspection service.

WAC 16-390-020 Certificate fee. There is a fee of twenty-five
dollars for each certificate issued, except that a grade and condition
certificate will be issued upon completion of a certification with no
additional fee beyond the applicable CWT or hourly fee.

WAC 16-390-025 Hourly inspection fee. (1) Effective January 1,
2015, the hourly inspection fee is $65.00 per hour for regular hours
and $97.50 for overtime and holiday hours for any inspection service
that is not covered by CWT fees.

(2) Effective January 1, 2019, the hourly inspection fee is
$75.00 per hour for regular hours and $112.50 per hour for overtime
and holiday hours for any inspection service that is not covered by
CWT fees.

(3) An additional fee amounting to three regular hours, plus the
inspection fees for time worked, at the applicable hourly fee speci-
fied in this section will be charged when inspection service notifica-
tion is not given prior to the end of normal business hours on the day
preceding any weekend or holiday inspection work.

WAC 16-390-030 Fruit and vegetable CWT fees. The following in-
spection and certification services are charged fees based on the sta-
ted CWT fee, provided that if the applied CWT fee would result in a
charge less than the applicable hourly fee under WAC 16-390-025 for
the staff hours worked, the applicable hourly fee will be assessed.

(1) Effective January 1, 2015, the fee for federal-state grade
and condition certification for all fresh and processing fruits, vege-
tables, and nuts, except in-state processing potatoes, is $0.175 per CWT or fraction thereof.

(2) Effective January 1, 2019, the fee for federal-state grade and condition certification for all fresh and processing fruits, vegetables, and nuts, except in-state processing potatoes, is $0.185 per CWT or fraction thereof.

(3) In-state processing potatoes are charged the following fees:
   (a) Effective January 1, 2015, the fee to determine the percentage of potatoes meeting U.S. No. 1 or U.S. No. 2 fresh potato grades as listed in the United States Grades for Potatoes (U.S. Potato Standards) is $0.038 per CWT or fraction thereof.
   (b) Effective January 1, 2019, the fee to establish a percentage of potatoes meeting U.S. No. 1 or U.S. No. 2 fresh potato grades as listed in the United States Grades for Potatoes (U.S. Potato Standards) is $0.043 per CWT or fraction thereof.
   (c) Effective January 1, 2015, the fee to establish a percentage of dirt, rot, and green is $0.021 per CWT or fraction thereof.
   (d) Effective January 1, 2019, the fee to determine the percentage of dirt, rot, and green is $0.023 per CWT or fraction thereof.
   (e) Contracts may be negotiated with the potato processing industry for inspection services to meet specific inspection requests, but not for less than the equivalent hourly fee specified in WAC 16-390-025 for the staff hours worked.

WAC 16-390-040 Customer assisted inspection program (CAIP) certification charges. The fees for federal-state grade and condition CAIP certification for all fresh market fruits and vegetables in any type of containers are one-half of the applicable CWT fees specified in WAC 16-390-030, but not less than the applicable equivalent hourly fee specified in WAC 16-390-025 for the staff hours worked.

WAC 16-390-150 Shipping permits and certificates of compliance for apples, apricots, asparagus, Italian prunes, peaches, pears, and sweet cherries. (1) Each shipment of apples, apricots, asparagus, Italian prunes, peaches, pears, and sweet cherries must be covered by
a shipping permit or certificate of compliance. No shipping permit or certificate of compliance will be issued unless the sweet cherries are determined to be free from live Western cherry fruit fly (Rhagoletis indifferens) larvae at the time of shipment.

(2) In-state shipments of apples, apricots, asparagus, Italian prunes, peaches, pears, and sweet cherries to processors do not require a shipping permit or certificate of compliance.

(3) A shipping permit or certificate of compliance may be issued without additional charge if the lot has been issued a grade and condition certificate.

(4) If a lot has not been issued a grade and condition certificate, a shipping permit or certificate of compliance will be issued only after the lot is in full compliance with chapter 15.17 RCW and will be subject to a charge of two-thirds the applicable CWT fee specified in WAC 16-390-030, but not less than $5.00.

(5) A shipping permit or certificate of compliance to ship a lot of apples or pears to a processing plant outside the state is five dollars.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 15.17.140(2), 15.17.040 [15.17.030], chapters 17.24 and 34.05 RCW. WSR 14-24-086, § 16-390-150, filed 12/1/14, effective 1/1/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 15.17.050, 2012 2nd sp.s. c 7, and chapter 34.05 RCW. WSR 12-19-040, § 16-390-150, filed 9/12/12, effective 10/13/12. Statutory Authority: Chapters 15.17, 34.05 RCW, and 2003 1st sp.s. c 25 § 309(2). WSR 05-12-054, § 16-390-150, filed 5/26/05, effective 6/26/05. Statutory Authority: Chapters 15.17, 34.05 RCW, and 2003 1st sp.s. c 25. WSR 04-11-078, § 16-390-150, filed 5/18/04, effective 6/18/04.]

WAC 16-390-230 Apple maggot survey fees. The fee for the apple maggot survey program on all apples grown or packed in Washington state and introduced into commerce for sale or shipment as fresh apples is $.020 per CWT, unless and until the program fund balance falls below the minimum operating fund balance. This fee is assessed by the director on all certificates of compliance and all shipping permits.

(1) The department shall establish the minimum operating fund balance amount on the first business day of February each year unless the fee has been previously set at $.025 per CWT.

(2) At the time the minimum operating fund balance amount is established, if the program fund balance is below the new minimum operating fund balance, the fee rate shall be set at $.025 per CWT beginning July 1st of that year.

(3) The department shall post notice of the minimum operating fund balance on the department's website by February 10th of each year unless the fee has been previously set at $.025 per CWT.

(4) The department shall post notice of the apple maggot survey fee by February 10th of each year.


Certified on 8/27/2020
WAC 16-390-240  USDA audit verification and terminal market inspection fees. WSDA performs audit and inspection services requested by customers under a "cooperative agreement" with the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA/AMS). Under USDA/AMS rules, WSDA provides these services as a "federal-state inspection agency." Under USDA/AMS regulations and the cooperative agreement, the fees that WSDA charges for these services must be no less than the current USDA/AMS fees for these services. The applicable current USDA/AMS fees were published in the Federal Register in Vol. 84, No. 83 on April 30, 2019, under the "Fresh Fruits, Vegetables, and Other Products (Inspection, Certification, and Standards)" table and, for the mileage fee related to terminal market inspection, for incorporation in the USDA/AMS "General Market Manual" at Appendix II, "Schedule of User Fees." In conformity with the cooperative agreement, WSDA adopts the same applicable fees for these services as set forth in this section.

(1) Mileage related to audit verification services is charged at the rate established by the Washington state office of financial management at the time the service was performed.

(2) Specialty crop fees/audit and terminal market fees:

| Quality and Condition Inspections for Whole Lots | $210.00 per lot |
| Quality and Condition Half Lot or Condition-Only Inspections for Whole Lots | $174.00 per lot |
| Condition Half Lot | $161.00 per lot |
| Quality and Condition or Condition-Only Inspections for Additional Lots of the Same Product | $96.00 per lot |
| Dockside Inspections - Each Package Weighing <30 lbs. | $0.044 per pkg. |
| Dockside Inspections - Each Package Weighing >30 lbs. | $0.068 per pkg. |
| Charge per Individual Product for Dockside Inspection | $210.00 per lot |
| Charge per Each Additional Lot of the Same Product | $96.00 per lot |

In conformity with the cooperative agreement, WSDA adopts the same applicable fees for these services as set forth in this section.

(3) The mileage fee related to terminal market inspection services is $1.96 per mile. Round trip mileage will be charged from an inspector's assigned location to the inspection site.

WAC 16-390-250  Other services and fees.  (1) Other services not involving certification services, provided to other agencies, commissions, growers, businesses, and organizations are charged at the applicable hourly fee specified in WAC 16-390-025.

(2) Other inspection and certification services, such as bean, pea, lentil, hay or straw certification provided to other programs in the department, other agencies, commissions, growers, businesses, and organizations are charged at the applicable hourly fee specified in WAC 16-390-025.

(3) The fee for facsimile or electronic transmission of inspection documents not provided with certification services is five dollars per transmission.

(4) The fee for a certified copy of an original certificate is five dollars.

WAC 16-390-260  Overtime and holiday charges.  All certification services performed outside of regular business hours are charged a fee equivalent to the applicable overtime fee specified in WAC 16-390-025 unless an applicable CWT fee meets or exceeds the overtime fee.

WAC 16-390-270  Waived fees.  Certificate of compliance fees may be waived for fruits and vegetables donated to bona fide nonprofit organizations. The shipping containers must be conspicuously labeled or marked "not for resale."

[Statutory Authority: RCW 15.17.140(2), 15.17.040 [15.17.030], chapters 17.24 and 34.05 RCW. WSR 14-24-086, § 16-390-250, filed 12/1/14, effective 1/1/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 15.17.050, 2012 2nd sp.s. c 7, and chapter 34.05 RCW. WSR 04-11-078, § 16-390-250, filed 5/18/04, effective 6/18/04.]
WAC 16-390-280  Payment and collection of fees and charges.  (1) All fees and charges for services rendered are due within thirty days after the date of the billing statement.
    (2) If payment is not received within thirty days, service may be withheld until the delinquent account is paid in full.
    (3) The director may assess a penalty of eighteen percent per annum on all unpaid account balances thirty days after billing.

Statutory Authority:  RCW 15.17.140 (2), 15.17.040 [15.17.030], chapters 17.24 and 34.05 RCW.  WSR 14-24-086, § 16-390-280, filed 12/1/14, effective 1/1/15.  Statutory Authority:  RCW 15.17.050, 2012 2nd sp.s. c 7, and chapter 34.05 RCW.  WSR 12-19-040, § 16-390-280, filed 9/12/12, effective 10/13/12.  Statutory Authority:  Chapters 15.17, 34.05 RCW, and 2003 1st sp.s. c 25.  WSR 04-11-078, § 16-390-270, filed 5/18/04, effective 6/18/04.]