
**Federal-State Inspection Service
Department of Food and Agriculture
Division of Inspection Services
Shipping Point Inspection Program**

**1220 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814**

**Shipping Point Inspection Program
Inspection Fees and Charges**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF INSPECTION FEES AND CHARGES

The following instructions will assist Shipping Point Inspectors in determining how and what fees apply to the various methods utilized by the service. In most cases, applicants utilizing our service have a choice of which type of service will fit their needs. Each commodity (not variety) will be figured as a separate fee. Sometimes the commodity will be packed under different U.S. standards, such as celery under Consumer Standards and Regular or Wholesale U.S. Standards, and both will be included in the same certificate. In such cases, it would be considered as one commodity for fee purposes.

Mixed containers of one commodity will be figured as a single commodity, even though each type of container appears on the schedule with a different fee.

For commodities not covered, the Time Charges shall prevail.

When more than one commodity appears on a certificate, there will be a minimum fee of \$28.50 for each commodity certified.

TIME CHARGES/MINIMUM HOURLY RATE

For any work to which the Regular Charges are not properly adapted, or for which they are not adequate, a time charge shall be made at the rate of \$41.00 per hour for all time required, including travel and check-in time. Time will be charged to the nearest one-tenth (1/10) hour. The minimum charge in this connection shall be \$28.50.

Time charges shall be in lieu of regular fees, but shall not be used when the time charge would be less than the regular fees.

In cases of inspections covering small lots, or different commodities, charges shall be either on a time basis of \$41.00 per hour, or \$28.50 per certificate/commodity, whichever is greater.

CONTAINER RATES VS. MINIMUM HOURLY RATES

Container rates are established by commodity at a rate that reflects many possible variables. These may include normal inspection location, inspection complexity, container sizes, sample size, normal packing speed, etc.

The container rate is used if it equals or exceeds the minimum hourly rate.

Minimum hourly and container fees do not include travel and/or overtime. Those charges will be assessed in addition to the regular charges.

EXPENSE GUARANTEES

When inspection is requested that will require the assignment of inspectors at a point where the volume of work, at Regular Charges, would not be adequate to pay the expense of handling the work, an expense guarantee may be required. This will include:

1. Travel time covering the transfer of the inspector to the inspection station and mileage may be charged at the discretion of the district supervisor.
2. An average of eight (8) hours per day at \$41.00 per hour for a minimum of five (5) workdays each week during the assignments, exclusive of overtime charges.
3. When Regular Charges equal or exceed the expense Guarantee for a period or season involved, the Regular Charges shall apply.
4. Charges will not be made for nonworking holidays or Sundays when work is not performed.
5. Credit will be given toward this guarantee for any work performed for other applicants.
6. Charges on this basis may be made for an entire season's operation or any specified period of time during season of operation.

* Note: The above Expense Guarantees are not applicable when an Application for Blanket Inspection is in effect. See Contractual Agreements.

CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS

Charges for inspection (a) for an industry group or organization on a cost basis, or (b) a combination hourly and package charge, may be made by application with the approval of the Sacramento Headquarters Office of the Shipping Point Inspection Program. Mileage charges will be made in connection with other charges at the discretion of the supervising inspector.

PARTNERS IN QUALITY (PIQ) FEES

Partners In Quality is an inspection program. All commodities that participate in the PIQ program will be charged the following fees regardless of commodity.

"Mock" Validation Audits

\$560.00 per audit

Mock audits are performed at the request of the applicant for purposes of evaluation.

USDA does not require these audits for program compliance.

Validation Audits

\$560.00 per audit

Validation audits are required for program compliance. This is the process that enables the applicant to participate in the PIQ program.

Verification Audits

\$72.00 per auditor per hour

This rate is per audit hour. The only exception is when more than one auditor is used to facilitate the audit. Then the rate should be per auditor.

The above rates apply to the actual audits only. Travel time and mileage charges, when appropriate, shall be charged at the basic hourly and mileage rates.

GOOD HANDLING PRACTICES/GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GHP/GAP) AUDITS

\$92.00 per audit hour

This rate is per audit hour. The only exception is when more than one auditor is used to facilitate the audit. Then the rate should be per auditor.

CUSTOMER ASSISTED INSPECTION PROGRAM (CAIP)

CAIP is an inspection program. All commodities/applicants that participate in the CAIP will be charged the rate of **\$50.50 per hour**. Additional overtime and mileage charges when applicable will be charged in accordance to the published rates herein.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND HOLIDAY CHARGES

No inspection work will be performed on the following legal holidays: New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Work on Sunday will be performed to comply with religious groups who consider Sunday a working day when Saturday has been observed as their Sabbath. In these cases, charges shall be the same as for any other regular workday.

Work on Sundays, other than explained above, will be performed when it is necessary to ensure compliance with Federal or State Marketing Orders. In these cases, charges shall be the same as any other regular workday.

Work on Sundays, other than explained in the two preceding paragraphs, will be performed only in cases of actual emergency, but only with permission from the Sacramento Headquarters Office or a Program Supervisor.

The minimum charges for work under these conditions shall be \$164.00, exclusive of overtime charges. This cost may be divided between two or more applicants.

Work on Saturdays will be performed when requested. The minimum charge for Saturday work will be \$164.00, exclusive of overtime charges. This cost may be divided between two or more applicants.

On all other legal holidays work will be performed as requested and fees charged on the same basis as any regular workday.

MINIMUM FEE PER CERTIFICATE

A minimum of \$28.50 shall be charged for each certificate.

MILEAGE CHARGE

An additional charge for mileage at a rate in accordance with the Department of Personnel Administration will be made, in connection with other charges.

Future mileage charges shall be adjusted each July 1 to conform to the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate that Branch employees may claim as reimbursement.

OVERTIME CHARGES

In addition to the (1) Regular Container Fee Charge, (2) Time Charges, (3) Expense Guarantee, or (4) Sunday and Holiday Charges, an additional charge of \$7.50 per hour will be made for all work performed after eight (8) hours worked or after 5:00 P.M., whichever occurs first. The overtime rate does not apply to shift work, unless the shift exceeds eight (8.0) hours.

If an inspector works for two or more applicants, the total overtime charges shall be equitably prorated between those applicants.

NOTE: No time or overtime shall be charged during the time taken off by the inspector for meals or for other personal business.

STANDBY TIME

When an applicant requests an inspection at a specific time the applicant will be responsible for waiting time which is not reasonable.

Example: An inspector is requested for 8:00 A.M. and the product is not made available for inspection until 9:00 A.M. In addition to the regular container rate, the applicant must pay for an additional one (1) hour at the established hourly rate.

CERTIFYING NET WEIGHT

When requested to certify net weight, in addition to the regular inspection fee, the regular hourly rate will apply. It will normally take a minimum of two (2) hours to certify net weight on any lot regardless of the number of containers. The minimum number of samples to be taken is thirty-six (36). Refer to the General Shipping Point Inspection Handbook.

CERTIFYING PRODUCT TEMPERATURES

For all commodities (in addition to the regular inspection fee) - - \$.023 per container, or \$41.00 per hour, whichever is the greater amount, will apply.

SANITARY INSPECTION

The issuance of USDA Form 294, in connection with the inspection of apples and pears, for certification with respect to quarantine restrictions for foreign countries, \$4.20 will be charged for each lot requiring Form 294, when this work is handled in conjunction with grade certification. When not handled in conjunction with grade certification, the regular hourly rate shall apply, including travel and mileage charges.

LOST ORIGINAL OR SPLIT CERTIFICATE

This requires superseding the original certificate. The cost under these circumstances will be \$28.50 per superseded certificate.

EXTRA CERTIFICATE COPIES

When it is necessary to issue certificate copies that cannot be obtained from the issuing field office, a charge of \$5.25 for each certificate shall be made. There shall be no additional charge for the number of copies made.

CONFIRMATION COMMUNIQUE

There will be a service charge of \$12.50 per Confirmation Communiqué. When this is necessary, due to errors on the part of the Inspection Service, no service charge shall

be made. In this case, the cost of the Confirmation Communiqué shall be borne by the Inspection Service.

FACSIMILE CHARGES

A service charge of \$12.50 shall be made for each long distance facsimile requested by an applicant.

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

NOTE: (Authority cited: Section 40531, Food & Agriculture Code).

*All fees for inspection and certification services performed by the Shipping Point Inspection Branch are due and payable at the time the inspection and certification is completed, unless the fees are covered by a Surety Bond procured by the applicant in the name of the Department, in which case the applicant shall be billed by the Department at the end of the billing period in which the charges were accrued.

*Billing periods: There shall be twelve monthly billing periods during each fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30. Any amounts for which payment is not received within (15) calendar days after mailing of invoices shall be subject to late payment penalty charges which shall begin to accrue the 16th calendar day after the initial invoice is mailed. Late payment charges shall be billed as part of the invoice for the subsequent billing period.

*Late Payment Penalty: A late payment penalty of 1.5% per month shall be charged on the delinquent portion of each invoice and shall be compounded utilizing the above procedure at the completion of the invoicing process. The above penalties apply to all delinquent accounts after the effective date of this subsection.

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COMMODITY	CONTAINER	FEE	IN-LINE/ FIELD FEE
Almonds	(CWT)	\$0.190	
Almonds Incoming (Meats)	(CWT)	\$36.00 Per Hour + .51 Per Ton	
Minimum Fee:		\$51.00	
Almonds Incoming (Inshell)	(CWT)	\$36.00 Per Hr. + \$1.04 Per Ton	
Minimum Fee:		\$51.00	
Almond Disposition	(CWT)	\$37.00 Per Hr. + .69 Per Ton	
Minimum Fee:		\$51.00	
Almond Pasteurization Reviews		\$72.00 Per Hr.	
Apples	Carton	\$0.050	
Apricots	Lug/Carton	\$0.041	
Asparagus	Full Pyramid	\$0.058	
	1/2 Pyramid	\$0.035	
Broccoli	Carton	\$0.050	
	25 LB Carton	\$0.058	
	10 LB Carton	\$0.049	
Brussel Sprouts	25 lb. Carton	\$0.058	
	10 lb. Carton	\$0.049	
	12/12 oz. Cups	\$0.049	
Cabbage	Carton	\$0.058	
Cantaloupes	Carton	\$0.041	
	1/2 Carton	\$0.019	
Carrots	(CWT)	\$0.078	
	M/C Film Bags	\$0.058	
	50 lb. Container	\$0.051	
	25 lb. or Less Cont.	\$0.028	

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Cauliflower	Carton	\$0.039	
Celery	Carton/Crate	\$0.073	
	28 lb. M/C Film Bag	\$0.043	
	Full Size W/Slvs	\$0.085	
Cherries	Lug/Carton	\$0.045	
Corn	Carton/Crate	\$0.046	0.034
Cucumbers	Lug/Crate/CTN	\$0.049	
	16 lb. Flat	\$0.028	
Garlic	(CWT)	\$0.115	
	Carton	\$0.055	
Grapefruit	CTN/CTN Equiv.	\$0.039	0.033
Table Grapes	20 lb. Lug/CTN	\$0.032	
	21 lb. Lug/CTN	\$0.041	
	15 lb. Lug/CTN or More w/Bags or WRPS	\$0.041	
	14 lb. or Less/CTN	\$0.024	
Juice Grapes	Lug	\$0.045	
Bulk Grapes	(CWT)	\$0.096	
COMMODITY	CONTAINER	FEE	IN-LINE/ FIELD FEE
Honeydews or other Melons	Carton	\$0.037	
Kiwifruit	1 layer	\$0.037	43.75 Per Hr.
	V/F, C/F, 3 Layer	\$0.052	
	Tray and Bags	\$0.052	
	Bulk Bins (per lb.)	\$0.0056	
Lemons	Carton	\$0.045	0.039
Lettuce	Carton	\$0.058	0.041
	32-38 head CTN	\$0.066	0.049
	Bulk bins	\$1.15	
Mangos	Flat	\$0.014	
Peaches/Nectarines	2 Layer Lug/CTN	\$0.049	
	1 Layer Lug/CTN	\$0.037	
	M/C or V/F cont.	\$0.056	
Olives	Per Hour.	\$42.25	
Onions	50 lb. Sack/CTN	\$0.051	
	Less than 50 lbs.	\$0.049	
	Sack/Carton (CWT)	\$0.096	
Green Onions	Carton	\$0.032	
Oranges	Carton	\$0.045	0.039
Pears	Std. 4/5 Bu. Box	\$0.041	

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	36 lb. Carton	\$0.035	
	½ or LA Lug	\$0.030	
Peppers	Carton	\$0.049	
Plums	2 Layer Carton	\$0.045	
	1 Layer Flat	\$0.045	
	V/F Lug/CTN	\$0.045	
Potatoes	(CWT)	\$0.090	
	50 lb. CTN/M/C	\$0.045	
Fresh Strawberries	Flat	\$0.027	
Mandarins, Tangerines or Tangelos	4/5 Carton	\$0.039	0.034
	30 lb. M/C	\$0.032	
	48 lb. M/C	\$0.035	
	25 lb. Carton	\$0.028	
Tomatoes	3 Layer/40 lb. CTN	\$0.033	
	2 Layer Lug	\$0.028	
	25 lb. Carton	\$0.029	
	18-20 lb. Carton	\$0.023	
Watermelons	(CWT)	\$0.122	
Pistachios	(CWT)	\$0.212	
Walnuts	(CWT)	\$0.212	