


September 08, 2011

TO: Shell Egg Graders

FROM: Jason Julian 
Assistant National Supervisor, Shell Eggs

SUBJECT: Export Requirements for Shell Eggs Destined to Ghana

This instruction outlines specific certification requirements for shell eggs as prescribed by the Ministry of Food & Agriculture (MoFA) of Ghana. These requirements were negotiated with authorities of the Ministry following the implementation of initial regulations applicable to the import of shell eggs.

I. Export Verification and Processing Records

MoFA authorities require that shell eggs imported from the United States be processed, packaged, labeled, and certified as fit for human consumption in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Voluntary Grading of Shell Eggs (7 CFR Part 56).

II. Grade Requirements

The shell eggs processed under the supervision of the USDA grader must be graded and certified as meeting U.S. Grade A or better as outlined in the United States Standards, Grades, and Weight Classes for Shell Eggs (AMS 56).

III. Packaging, Packing, and Stamping

All packing and packaging material must be new, showing no evidence of previous use or damage. Each primary container and shipping container must be identified with the official plant number and date of packaging. Each shipping container must be stamped with the **USDA Graded for Export Stamp** bearing the appropriate certificate number.

- Labels must be printed, or stamped in a central location on the end of each shipping case.
- Handwritten or stenciled stamps are not acceptable.
- The official plant number assigned to the packer must be legibly printed on each shipping case.
- The words, "Keep Refrigerated", or other similar terminology must be declared on each shipping case.
- The Statement of Identity, "Eggs" must be on each shipping case.

- The “Safe Handling” statement must be on each shipping case, or the statement may accompany the shipping invoice.

IV. Transport Containers

Transport containers for the shipment of shell eggs to Ghana must be of sound construction, clean, and free of odors. The Grader will verify and document the cleanliness of the transport container on the PY-75 applicable to the product identified for shipment. When unsanitary conditions are observed in transport vehicles, the Grader will notify a responsible plant official of the conditions. When this occurs, the Grader will document the specific conditions and the name of the plant official notified on the applicable worksheet. Product is not to be loaded onto the transport unit until the unsanitary conditions have been corrected.

V. Certification

Plant management must notify the USDA Grader of the pending processing of a shipment of shell eggs for export to Ghana and provide the Grader with the following information:

- Name and address of producer.
- Size of the lot to be certified.
- Flock(s) identification and location information, including, if applicable, volume of eggs received from each flock.
- When product is scheduled to be graded and shipped.
- A statement from the hatchery verifying the layers originate from breeder flocks participating in the USDA, APHIS National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).

VI. Expiration Dating

The following statement will be printed in the remarks section of the Shell Egg Grading Certificate if the expiration date exceeds 30 days from date of pack:

“The expiration date declared on the product is the responsibility of the applicant.”

Individual eggs stamped with an expiration date exceeding 30 days from date of pack are not eligible to be certified by the USDA for domestic distribution.

See **Exhibit I** for an example of a completed on-line grading certificate. Note that Form PY-210S must be used for export shipments. The Grader will complete the remarks section as shown. The Grader will sign the certificate with a blue ink ballpoint pen. The original certificate must be provided to plant management to accompany export documents for presentation to foreign government officials at the point of entry to the country.

The Grader will complete the Disease Free Certification Statement for Other Countries (**Exhibit II**), place an impression of the export stamp on the document, and sign the statement with a blue ink ballpoint pen. The Disease Free Statement will be attached to the original certificate issued.

File these instructions with attached exhibits in E-22, Export in the Shell Egg Index (detailed filing instructions will follow in the next Shell Egg transmittal).

(See reverse side of form for OMB and EEO Statement)

FORM OMB APPROVED - NO. 0581-0127

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
 POULTRY PROGRAMS
**SHELL EGG
 GRADING CERTIFICATE**



This certificate is receivable in all courts of the United States as prima facie evidence of the truth of the statements therein contained. This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any of the regulatory laws enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture.

CERTIFICATE NO.
SEA- 0123456
 PLACE EXAMINED
 Charlotte, NC
 PLANT NUMBER
 P-XXXX

TO: APPLICANT (Name and address, including ZIP)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF SHIPPER OR SELLER 1/

NAME AND ADDRESS OF RECEIVER OR BUYER 1/

JJ Foods, LLC
 127 Nelson Street, North
 Charlotte, NC 28201

Tide Water Shipping, Inc.
 1025 Clarke Road
 Jetersville, VA 23083

Ova Foodstuff, LLC
 12RT8
 Ghana

LOT NO.	NO. OF CONTAINERS PER LOT 1/	NO. OF CONTAINERS EXAMINED	NET WT. 2/	PERCENTAGES							U.S. OFFICIAL GRADE AND SIZE	
				AA	A	B	B*	Dirty	Checks	Loss		Under Wt. 3/
1	750											US Grade A Medium

LOT NO.	EGGS	TYPE OF PACKING	TYPE OF PACKAGING	CASE QUALITY RANGE	CHARACTER OF LOSS	WHERE HELD AND TEMPERATURE	CASES STAMPED WITH	SAMPLES	
								Sample	All
1	Fresh White	New 30-Dz. Fiber, Taped	New Filler Flats			Cooler 43 F Transport Seal # 3456	US Graded for Export	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION

Product represented by this certificate meets specification requirements for:

Check each applicable box:

E-22, Ghana dated September 08, 2011

Product represented on this certificate meets the requirements for the stated grade and size as determined by online sampling on 09/25/2011

Disease Free Certification Statements attached.

REMARKS

The shell eggs covered by this certificate are fit for human consumption.

Based on information provided by the applicant and to the best of our knowledge, the product was stored and transported at an ambient temperature of 45 degrees Fahrenheit or less.

As stated by the applicant, production date(s) for product covered by this certificate are: 09/25/2011.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

In compliance with the Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture Governing the Grading of Shell Eggs issued pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, and any other Act of Congress conferring like authority, it is certified that the product(s) listed hereon were examined and that the class, quality, quantity, and/ or condition of the product(s) at the time and on the date shown, were as stated above.

Signature in Blue Ink

MM/DD/YYYY

OFFICIAL GRADER (Signature)

DATE

1/ As stated by applicant or contractor.

3/ Eggs reported as undersized are also reported under other headings according to their quality.

2/ Weights based on 30-dozen equivalent.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 3935-S, STOP 0258
Washington, DC 20250-0258

Disease Free Certification Statements for Other Countries

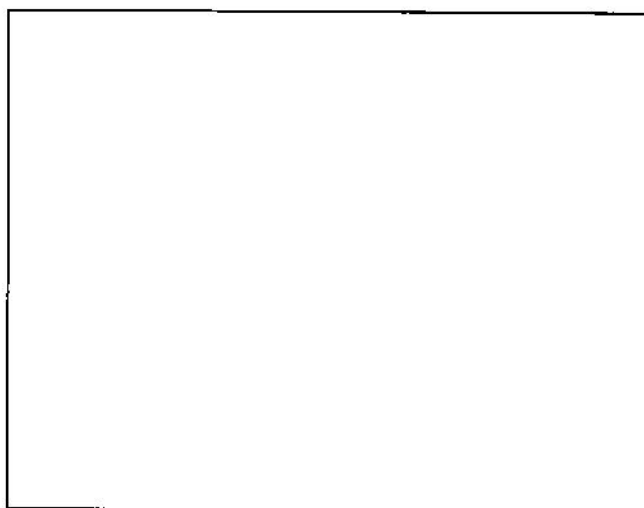
Shell Egg Grading Certificate No. SEA - _____ Dated: _____

“The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services certifies that:

No cases of lethal (highly pathogenic) avian influenza (fowl plague), including the highly pathogenic subtype H5N1, and no cases of velogenic Newcastle disease (VND) have been reported in commercial laying chicken flocks in the county(ies) of origin where the eggs originated for the 6 months preceding departure of this consignment. These eggs were produced in the county(ies) in the state of (state name) identified below:

The shell eggs covered by this certificate were produced by birds originating from Salmonella enteritidis (SE) -certified breeding flocks which have not been identified within 90 days before shipment by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, as being infected with SE, including SE phage type 4.”

Signature of Grader



Stamp Impression