




October 22, 2014

TO: Shell Egg Graders

FROM: Mark Perigen
National Supervisor, Shell Eggs 

SUBJECT: Export Requirements for Shell Eggs Destined to Panama

This instruction outlines specific animal health verification criteria, grading, certification, and shipping requirements prescribed for shell eggs to be exported to Panama.

I. Product Requirements

- All shell eggs must originate from the United States.
- Shell eggs must originate from breeder flocks that participate in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) administered by APHIS / USDA.
- Product must be in compliance with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) regulations for the Prevention of Salmonella Enteritidis in Shell Eggs during Production, Storage, and Transport.
- Product must be processed and packed under USDA supervision in shell egg facilities utilizing either USDA's voluntary resident or temporary grading service.

II. Grade Requirements

The shell eggs must be graded and certified as U.S. Grade A or better, as outlined in the United States Standards, Grades, and Weight Classes for Shell Eggs. Regardless of the grade, certification must be determined by either online or stationary lot grading.

III. Animal Health Verification

For shell eggs to be eligible for export to Panama, the breeder flock(s) must participate in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).

NPIP Breeder Flock Requirement: Producers must provide a copy of Form VS 9-3, Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks and Poults (Exhibit I), to the USDA Grader for each layer flock, including any flock identification information, the name and address of the shell egg facility, and where the eggs will be processed. For intrastate movement, where the Form VS 9-3 would not be issued, producers must provide the USDA Grader with an invoice(s) listing their NPIP approval number for each flock.

IV. Prevention of Salmonella Enteritidis in Shell Eggs during Production, Storage, and Transport

To be eligible for export to Panama, shell egg producers must be in compliance with the Food and Drug Administrations (FDA), Final Rule for the Prevention of Salmonella Enteritidis in Shell Eggs during Production, Storage, and Transport. A producer receiving a “Letter of Warning” from FDA officials is not eligible to export to Panama until FDA provides information that corrective action(s) has been implemented. The National Office will notify appropriate Regional staff when a facility is ineligible to export due to FDA regulatory action.

V. Packing, Packaging, and Stamping

For clarification purposes, *packing* material represents shell egg cartons (6-egg, 12-egg, 18-egg, etc.); *packaging* material represents loose pack shipping containers (i.e. 15, 24, or 30-Dozen Cases).

- All packing and packaging material must be new, showing no evidence of previous use.
- All packing and packaging material must contain the Statement of Identity (EGGS). The “Keep Refrigerated” statement or similar terminology must appear on individual packing material. Packing material must contain the Safe Handling Statement, as well.
- The Country Code (US) must be stamped on individual packing material. Alternatively, each egg can be individually stamped with the Country Code (US) when packaging material is utilized.
- All packing material must contain the Packing Date (Batch Date). This date represents the consecutive day of the year in which the product was processed (i.e. 001 = January 01). All packing material must contain a valid legal line (corporate or producer/packer); U.S. grade, size, and quantity of product; official plant number; and duration of quality (see Section VI).
- All packaging material must contain the Packing Date (Batch Date). This date represents the consecutive day of the year in which the product was processed (i.e. 001 = January 01). All packaging material must contain the name, address, city, state, and zip code of the producer/packer; U.S. grade, size, and quantity of the product; official plant number; duration of quality, and the flock identification number. Alternatively, the flock identification number can be recorded on the PY-75 for each load that is produced.
- The USDA Graded for Export Stamp with the applicable certificate number must be stamped on individual packaging material (See Exhibit II).

VI. Duration of Quality (Expiration Date)

The duration of quality cannot exceed 45 days, including the date of processing. The following prefixes must be used in conjunction with the duration of quality: Best Before, or EXP. If the prefix, EXP is used with a duration of quality that exceeds 30 days including date of pack, the following disclaimer will be printed in the remarks section of the Shell Egg Grading Certificate:

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

VII. Transport Vessels

The USDA grader is to inspect the transport unit prior to product loading to assure the unit is clean and acceptable for transporting food for human consumption. Graders are to document the cleanliness of the transport unit on the Form PY-75 or 211, as applicable. When unsanitary condition(s) are observed, the Grader will notify the responsible plant official of the situation(s). Product is not to be loaded onto the unit until the unsanitary condition(s) has been corrected. When an unacceptable condition(s) is observed, the Grader will document the condition including the name of the plant official notified on the applicable worksheet.

Transport units must be sealed (company seal) prior to departure from the processing facility. The seal number(s) must appear on the Form PY-210S. Although the USDA Grader must visually examine the identified unit for cleanliness prior to product loading, he/she does not need to be present during the actual loading and sealing of the product, provided the product has been identified and segregated for shipment.

VIII. Certification

Upon confirmation of compliance with these instructions and FDA's Final Rule on the Prevention of Salmonella Enteritidis in Shell Eggs during Production, Storage, and Transport, eligible shell eggs shall be certified on Form PY-210S for export to Panama (Exhibit III) and the Disease Free Certification Statements for Panama (Exhibit IV).

Plant management is responsible for assuring the original certificates (signature in blue ink) are presented to foreign government officials at the point of entry to that country.

Plant management must notify the USDA Grader of pending export orders, each certification request, and provide the Grader with the following information:

- Name and address of the producer
- Date of lay
- Flock identification and location information
- Size of lot to be certified
- If applicable, date product will arrive for processing
- When product is to be graded and shipped
- Other applicable documents referenced above prior to issuance of the export certificates.

File these instructions as E-33, EXPORTS, in the Supervisors/Resident Graders Shell Egg Index.



Exhibit III

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

FORM OMB APPROVED - NO. 0581-0128

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- 1234567

PLACE EXAMINED
 Town, State

PLANT NUMBER
 P-XXXX

TO: APPLICANT (Name and address, including ZIP) Egg Producer Address City, State, Zip Code	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SHIPPER OR SELLER ^{1/} Shipper or Seller Name Address City, State, Zip Code	NAME AND ADDRESS OF RECEIVER OR BUYER ^{1/} Receiver or Buyer Name Address Country City, State, Zip Code
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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*	Dirtyies	Checks	Loss	Under Wt. ^{3/}		
300	850	14	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	U.S. Grade A, Large

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION							CASES STAMPED WITH	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All
	EGGS	TYPE OF PACKING	TYPE OF PACKAGING	CASE QUALITY RANGE	CHARACTER OF LOSS	WHERE HELD AND TEMPERATURE			
300	Fresh White	New 30-Dozen Cases	New Fiber Filler Flats	-----	-----	Cooler 42F	Graded For Export Stamp	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All	
		Tops Taped					Certificate # 1234567	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample <input type="checkbox"/> All	
								<input type="checkbox"/> Sample <input type="checkbox"/> All	
								<input type="checkbox"/> Sample <input type="checkbox"/> All	

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION

Product represented by this certificate meets specification requirements for: E-33, Export Requirements for Shell Eggs Destined for Panama (Table Eggs), dated 10/22/2014.	Check each applicable box: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Product represented on this certificate meets the requirements for the stated grade and size as determined by online sampling on <u>10/27/2014</u> . <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disease Free Certification Statements attached.
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REMARKS

Certified for Export - Fit for Human Consumption.

Transport container sealed at origin with seal number (Company Seal Number).

USDA Graded for Export Stamp Here

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.

Grader Name in Blue

Grader Signature in Blue

MM/DD/YYYY

OFFICIAL GRADER (Signature)

DATE

^{1/} As stated by applicant or contractor.

^{2/} Weights based on 30-dozen equivalent.

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



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 Panama

Shell Egg Grading Certificate No. SEA: 1234567

Dated: 10/27/2014

“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:

Spotsylvania, Virginia

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 in Blue Ink

Signature of Grader

