



EXPORT PROCEDURES – TABLE EGGS TO INDIA

PURPOSE

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

POLICY

I. Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) biosecurity policy.

- AMS employment policy prohibits personnel from owning avian species or operating farms with avian species.
- AMS personnel must follow each egg producer's/packer's established biosecurity procedure to prevent the risk of disease transmission.

II. AMS and APHIS Agreement – Animal Health Certification For Shell Eggs

- AMS, Livestock, Poultry, and Seed (LPS) Program is recognized by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), USDA, as an authorized certifying agent.
- APHIS officials authorize animal health attestations for inclusion in AMS *Certification Statements for Shell Eggs*.
- APHIS officials notify AMS when any statement is affected or animal health restrictions are imposed upon an identified geographical zone in the United States.

GENERAL PROCEDURES

III. General 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 the APHIS, USDA.
- Product must originate from **layer flocks** participating in the NPIP H5/H7 Avian Influenza Monitored Program.
- Product must be in compliance with the Food and Drug Administration's 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 approved shell egg facilities utilizing either USDA's voluntary resident or temporary grading service.
- Product must be washed and sanitized with compounds approved by USDA for food use.
- Production facilities must apply a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system or an equivalent. An equivalent system consists of the Safe Quality Food (SQF) Program with a facility certification level of two or higher. Other audit based programs used to verify HACCP compliance may be evaluated for suitability by the National Office.



IV. 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* ([AMS 56](#)).

V. Weight Requirements

Product must meet the requirements of the marked U.S. weight class, as defined in the *United States Standards, Grades, and Weight Classes for Shell Eggs* ([AMS 56](#)).

VI. Animal Health Verification

Shell eggs must be derived from **breeder flock(s)** that participate in the NPIP. The **layer flocks** must also be registered with the NPIP H5/H7 Avian Influenza (AI) Monitored Program.

- **NPIP Breeder Flock Requirement:** Producers must provide a copy(s) of APHIS Form VS 9-3, *Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks and Poults* to the USDA grader for each layer flock used to complete the export consignment. 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.
- **NPIP Table Egg Layer Flock Requirement (Avian Influenza Program):** Prior to processing, USDA graders will verify that each source flock is listed on the [NPIP website](#) for monitoring Avian Influenza. On the web page, click on, “*H5/H7 Avian Influenza Monitored Program*” for a list of eligible source flocks. Eligible source flock(s) utilized to fill export orders will be recorded on the daily grading worksheet, PY-75 or PY-211. An egg production site that does not appear on the NPIP website at the time of processing the identified eggs are not eligible for AMS export certification.

Each approved flock will be documented on the *Log of Approved Flocks Tested for Avian Influenza* (Exhibit I). If a previously approved layer flock is removed from the NPIP List of Commercial Layer Flocks, the reference log must be updated. The reference log should be maintained in folder #2 in the official grading files. Graders are to contact their supervisor for questions concerning the eligibility of a flock. During routine plant visits, supervisors are to review the reference log and company records to assure compliance with these guidelines.

VII. Processing Requirements

Product shall be processed and packed in accordance with the regulations under continuous USDA supervision in shell egg facilities utilizing either USDA voluntary resident or temporary shell egg grading service.

a. Concentration Levels of Disinfecting Solution

The table eggs shall be disinfected with a concentration level of 100 - 200 parts per million of sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) or its equivalent, approved for the processing of table eggs for human consumption. Alternative egg shell sanitizing methods may be approved by the National Office.



b. Duration of Quality (Expiration Dating)

If a prefix, EXP or Best By, is used with a duration of quality that exceeds U.S. domestic policy, (**maximum 90 days**) the following disclaimer will be printed in the remarks section of the *Shell Egg Grading Certificate*, LPS-210S:

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

c. Packing/Packaging

- All packing material shall be new, showing no evidence of previous use. Each shipping case shall be sealed (tape, glue, etc.).
- The interior packaging material (cartons and flats) shall be new, showing no evidence of adhering foreign material or previous use.
- Plant management is responsible for the proper labeling of shell eggs packaged in containers (i.e. cartons, sleeves, overwrap, and boxes) for direct sale to the consumer.
- Shipping pallets shall be new or good used, free of visible evidence of adhering foreign material, and/or structural damage, and be certified as treated in accordance with the ISPM-15, Phytosanitary Standard as a measure to reduce the risk of introduction or spread of insect larvae or pests and will be branded with the letters “IPPC.”
- Plant management is responsible for identifying and segregating the treated pallets, and advising the USDA grader of the certified materials location to be used for export. The USDA grader will verify that the pallets are certified (IPPC brand) prior to production.
- When IPPC certified pallets show evidence of repair(s), for example, new wood cross members, the pallet or treated wood must be re-certified and branded “IPPC.” The original “IPPC” brand may be obliterated and a new brand applied to the pallet. However, for verification purposes, plant management is responsible for maintaining certification documents for all non-manufactured wood material.

d. Packing Case Labeling

The case labeling requirements listed below are general requirements applicable to all USDA identified eggs that are eligible for export. It is the responsibility of plant management to verify with the country of import, and adhere to, any necessary additional labeling requirements.

- Labels must be printed or stamped in a central location on the end of each case. Handwritten or stenciled stamps are not acceptable.
- Each shipping container must be stamped with the USDA Graded for Export Stamp bearing the appropriate certificate number and plant number. Pre-printed shipping case labels or hand stamps may be used.



Case Label requirements:

- The plant number assigned to the packer/producer.
- Name and address of the packer.
- Quantity in each case. For example, 30-Dozen or 15-Dozen.
- The words, “Keep Refrigerated”, or other similar terminology.
- Packing date listed as the Julian date or other format.

VIII. Transport Unit

Transport unit/container used to export eggs must be reasonably clean and designed to provide refrigeration. Graders are to document the cleanliness of the transport unit and verification that the transport unit is supplied with functional refrigeration equipment on Form PY-75 or PY-211, as applicable. When unsanitary conditions are observed in a transport unit or the refrigeration equipment is not functional, the grader will notify a responsible plant official of the conditions. Product is not to be loaded onto the transport unit until the unsanitary conditions or the function of the refrigeration equipment has been corrected. When such conditions occur, the grader will document, including the name of the plant official notified, the details on the applicable worksheet.

The transport unit must be sealed (plant/company seal) prior to departure from the processing facility. The USDA grader is not required to be present at the time of shipment provided the condition of the transport unit is acceptable, the shipping cases are properly identified, and the seal(s) number is recorded on the certificate issued. The seal(s) number must appear on the Form LPS-210S certificate issued covering the shipment.

IX. Certification

Shell eggs shall be certified to meet U.S. Grade A or Grade AA standards as stated on Form LPS-210S, *Shell Egg Grading Certificate* (Exhibit II). Plant management must notify the USDA grader of pending export orders, request certification prior to processing, and provide the grader the following information:

- Name/address of receiver/buyer.
- Size of lot to be certified.
- Flock identification and location information.
- If applicable, date product will arrive for processing.
- Identify proposed schedule for processing and shipment.
- Other applicable documents referenced above prior to issuance of the export certificates.

The following information is to be included on the certificate:

- The statement, “The poultry eggs included with this shipment are fit for human consumption.”
- Date of production.
- Name and address of processing plant.
- Type of Poultry: Chicken (*Gallus Domesticus*).
- Processing plant establishment number (P number).
- Company seal(s) number.



- The USDA grader's name shall be printed or typed on the official document. The signature shall appear in blue ink.
- The USDA Graded for Export stamp imprint shall appear in blue ink on the Form LPS-210S and the *Disease Free Certification Statements*.

X. Animal By-Products Self Certification

For each consignment, the exporter must complete a self-certification, on company letterhead, which attests that bovine by-products were not fed to source birds. Exhibit III may be used as a template but company letterhead must be used.

The original Form LPS-210S, *Shell Egg Grading Certificate*, *Disease Free Statements*, and the *Animal By-Products Self Certification statement* will be provided to plant management. Copies of these certificates can be made but, the original (printed name, signature and export stamp in blue ink) must be presented at the point of entry to the foreign country. See [Export 01 – Export Certification Requirements](#), for further instructions when additional copies are required.

Mark Perigen, National Supervisor - Shell Eggs
Standardization Branch
Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program