



## EXPORT PROCEDURES – TABLE EGGS TO SOUTH AFRICA

### PURPOSE

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

### 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.

#### 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.

## 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

- 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* (E-38a). 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 poultry eggs included with this shipment:
  - Are fit for human consumption.
  - Are not fertilized eggs.
  - Have had their surfaces sanitized.
  - Are packed in new or appropriately sanitized packaging materials.
  - Were not exposed to contamination during processing or packaging.

Date of Production: MM/DD/YYYY

Seal Number: XXXXXXXX



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service

Quality Assessment Division  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Perigen", written in a cursive style.

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