



EXPORT PROCEDURES – TABLE EGGS TO GUATEMALA

PURPOSE

This instruction outlines specific animal health testing, certification, and shipping requirements prescribed for shell eggs to be exported to Guatemala.

POLICY

I. Export Certification Requirements

- A. All requirements listed in E01 Export Certification Requirements must be met in addition to the procedures listed in this document.

II. Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) biosecurity policy

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

III. AMS and APHIS Agreement – Animal Health Certification for Sell Eggs

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

GENERAL PROCEDURES

IV. General Requirements

- All shell eggs must originate from the United States.
- The shell eggs must be produced in a county or area free from virulent Newcastle Disease and Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza in commercial production birds.
- 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 USDA's voluntary grading service.
- Product must be washed and sanitized with compounds approved by USDA for food use.
- All producers exporting eggs to Guatemala must be registered as an authorized shell egg exporting establishment with Guatemala's Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Food's Director of Food Safety and appear in the [directory of official USDA shell egg facilities](#).



- The shell eggs must be **packed within 9 days** of the day of lay.

V. Grade Requirements

Eggs must be graded and certified as U.S. Grade AA or A, as outlined in the *United States Standards, Grades, and Weight Classes for Shell Eggs* ([AMS 56](#)). Grade certification may be determined by online or stationary lot grading procedures.

VI. 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](#))

Net Weight must be listed in Kilograms (Kg) on the LPS-210S certificate.

1 pound = .454 Kg.

VII. Animal Health Verification

Before certification of any export shipments, The [Shell Egg Export Restrictions](#) list must be reviewed to assure compliance with disease status in the area the egg are produced and packed.

VIII. Processing Requirements

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

A. 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, 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.”

B. 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.

C. 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.

IX. 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 LP-75 or LP-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 **with a steel security strip** (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.

X. 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 -39b). 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 in the certification "Remarks" section:

- Statement that the eggs are fit for human consumption.
- Date of egg production
- Date of packing and packaging
- Seal No. XXXXXXXX ***must be a steel security strip***

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