

## **EXPORT PROCEDURES SHELL EGGS TO HONDURAS, December 30, 2021**

### **PURPOSE**

This instruction outlines specific certification requirements for shell eggs as prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock for Honduras.

### **POLICY**

#### **I. Export Verification and Processing Records**

- A. All requirements listed in [General Export Certification Requirements](#) must be met in addition to the procedures listed in this document.

#### **II. Agricultural 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 Shell 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, or animal health restrictions are imposed upon an identified geographical zone in the United States. The [Shell Egg Export Restrictions](#) list is updated following notifications.

### **GENERAL PROCEDURES**

#### **I. Product Requirements**

- A. All shell eggs must originate from chicken laying flocks (*Gallus Domesticus*) located in the United States of America.
- B. Product must be processed and packed under continuous USDA supervision in an official USDA approved shell egg facility.
- C. Product must be washed and sanitized with compounds approved by USDA for food use.

- D. The shell eggs must be processed, packaged, labeled, and certified 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 must be graded and certified as U.S. Grade B or better, as outlined in the United States Standards, Grades, and Weight Classes for Shell Eggs ([AMS 56](#)).

## III. Animal Health Verification

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

- a. 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.
- b. NPIP Table Egg Layer Flock Requirement: Prior to processing, USDA Graders will verify that each source flock is listed on the [NPIP website](#) for monitoring Avian Influenza. Eligible source flock(s) utilized to fill export orders will be recorded on the daily grading worksheet, LP-75 or LP-211.

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

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 until FDA provides information that corrective action(s) has been implemented. The LP National Office will notify appropriate regional staff when a facility is ineligible to export due to FDA regulatory action.

## V. Packaging/Packing

- a. All packing material must be new, showing no evidence of previous use.
- b. The interior packaging material (cartons and flats) must be new, showing no evidence of adhering foreign material or previous use.
- c. Pallets must be new or good used, free of visible evidence of adhering foreign material, and/or structural damage.

## VI. Packing Case Labeling

- a. Packaging shall comply with requirements established by the Central American General Food Labeling Technical Regulation for Prepackaged Foods RTCA 67.01.02.10 by including the following information in Spanish:

- i. Name of the Product
  - ii. Net Weight
  - iii. Expiration Date
  - iv. Plant Number
  - v. Lot Number
- b. Each shipping case must be identified with the USDA Graded for Export Stamp (pre-printed on the shipping case label or traditional hand stamp) with the applicable certificate number.
  - c. Labels must be printed or stamped in a central location on the end of each case. Handwritten or stenciled stamps are not acceptable.

## **VII. Transport Unit**

Transport units/containers used to export eggs must be of sound construction and clean. The refrigeration unit shall be set at 45°F or lower and producing cool air before loading. 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 on to the transport unit until the unsanitary condition(s) or function of equipment has been corrected. When such conditions occur, the USDA grader will document the unacceptable condition, including the name of the plant official notified, on the applicable worksheet.

The transport unit must be sealed (plant/company seal) prior to departure from the processing facility using a metal seal. 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 LP-210S certificate issued covering the shipment.

## **VIII. 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, LP-210S:

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

## **IX. Certification**

When completing the certificate (Form LP-210S) the following information must be included:

- The statement “The poultry eggs included in this shipment are fit for human consumption”.
- The statement “Product packaging to contain statement ‘Keep Refrigerated’”.