



August 08, 2013

TO: Shell Egg Graders

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SUBJECT: Export Requirements for Shell Eggs Destined to Colombia

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

I. Product Requirements

- All shell eggs must originate from the United States.
- Flocks must be participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) administered by APHIS, USDA including negative results for Avian Influenza (AI).
- Product must be wholesome and fit for human consumption when presented for grading.
- 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 Colombia, the breeder flock(s) must participate in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), and the layer flock, that is the source of the eggs (progeny of breeder flock), must be under the NPIP monitoring program for avian influenza.

NPIP Breeder Flock Requirement: Producers must provide a copy of Form VS 9-3, Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks and Poults 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 (Exhibit I). 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.

Monitoring Program for Avian Influenza: After the acceptable review of the NPIP documents, the USDA Grader is to verify that the layer flock originates from the listed breeder flock(s) and is under the NPIP monitoring program for avian influenza. This can be confirmed on the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services' (APHIS / USDA) website, at the following address:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/poultry/downloads/npip_shell-egg_exporters.pdf

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

To be eligible for export to Colombia, 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 Colombia until FDA provides information that corrective action(s) has been implemented.

V. Packing, Packaging, and Stamping

All packing and packaging material must be new, showing no evidence of previous use. The USDA Graded for Export Stamp with the applicable certificate number must be stamped on each case (See Exhibit II).

VI. Expiration Dating

The following statement will be printed in the remarks section of the Shell Egg Grading Certificate if the expiration date exceeds 30 days from date of pack:

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

Individual eggs or containers identified with an expiration date exceeding 30 days from date of pack are not eligible to be certified by the USDA for domestic distribution.

VII. Transport Vessels

Transport vessels used to export eggs to Colombia must be cleaned and disinfected, and be accompanied by either a transport company Certificate of Conformance (CoC) or the processing company's CoC certifying to the sanitary condition of the vessel. Graders are to document the cleanliness of the transport vehicles on the Form PY-75 or 211, as applicable. When unsanitary condition(s) are observed in transport vessels, or a CoC cannot be obtained, the Grader will notify a responsible plant official of the situation(s). Product is not to be loaded onto the vessel until the unsanitary condition(s) have been corrected or an appropriate CoC has been furnished, as applicable. When unacceptable conditions are observed, the Grader will document the condition including the name of the plant official notified on the applicable worksheet.

Transport vessels 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 vessel for cleanliness prior to product loading, he/she does not need to be present during the actual loading and sealing of the product on the transport vessel provided the product has been identified and segregated for shipment.

VIII. Certification

Upon confirmation of compliance with the AI monitoring program 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 Colombia (Exhibit III) and the Disease Free Certification Statements for Colombia (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 for the packaging facility 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.

Trans-loading = Not Applicable

File these instructions as E-27, EXPORTS, in the Supervisors/Resident Graders Shell Egg Index.