

## SMALL AIR SHIPMENTS – SKIP LOT INSPECTION PROCEDURES

It is the policy of the Quality Assessment Division (QAD) to assure sanitary means of conveyance for all products exported from the U.S. Transport containers are typically checked for sanitation and a satisfactory means of refrigeration at the origin plant. In some cases, the final shipping unit (sea-van containers) may not be available at the place of product certification. In these instances, the product may be shipped and trans-loaded at secondary locations under the supervision of QAD personnel.

Final inspection and sealing of transport containers by government officials is common for most countries as a means to assure sanitary conveyance of food products.

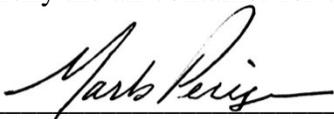
### POLICY

In some cases, air cargo is preferred over ground or sea container shipments. The final inspection is conducted at airport warehouses on a fee basis where QAD personnel verify the sanitation of the cargo units, ability to maintain required refrigeration, and the accuracy of case counts, seal numbers, and certification documents.

However, due to significant added costs associated with airport inspections, and the comparably short duration of transportation times, the final inspection policy for *small lots* is being modified. If approved by the importing country and the National Office, the following procedure may be utilized for small shipments of 90/30 dozen cases or less:

- Compliance histories are established based on each exporter/broker and for each departure airport.
- Each of the first four shipments must be fully inspected for compliance.
- After a satisfactory history of compliance, every other shipment (*skip lot*) will be inspected by QAD personnel.
- Plant management or the broker will notify the local federal-state office of every pending shipment. Based on internal tracking of satisfactory shipments, the supervisor may authorize waiving the final airport inspection.
- For *skip lots*, the shipper will document the following information on company letterhead (Certificate of Conformance) and return to the origin USDA grader for filing:
  - A statement that the product covered by Shell Egg Grading Certificate SEA XXXXX was transported under refrigerated conditions
  - A statement that the product was transported in a container or vessel that is clean.
  - Seal number(s) applied to the pallets or transport unit.

For large consignments departing from major airports, it continues to be the policy of QAD to inspect and certify the air container for cleanliness and the ability to refrigerate cargo.



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