



1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 3071-S, STOP 0201
Washington, DC 20250-0201

February 25, 2014

Maurik Wouters
Nuova B.V.
Dorpsstraat 84
NL-5471 NA Loosbroek
The Netherlands

Dear Mr. Wouters,

This is in response to your February 18, 2014, email correspondence requesting a letter of approval for the placement of "break away" labels which contain the required information (Lot Number and Official Plant Number) to be placed on cartons, sleeves, and overwrap material in a location other than the end of the shell egg container.

Historically, the grading and packaging systems were designed to stamp the required information on the side of the egg cartons. Technological advancements of the ink jet printing systems allowed for printing the required information on the end of the lid of a carton. Although the consumer may be accustomed to viewing the end of a shell egg carton for the required information, the cartons are normally displayed at the retail point of sale with the top of the panel (Principal Display Panel or PDP) showing.

The Regulations Governing the Voluntary Grading of Shell Eggs (7 CFR Part 56) does not specifically require the ends of shell egg cartons to contain the required information. Therefore, this office will approve the use of "break away" labels for cartons, sleeves, and overwrap material to be placed in locations other than the end of the shell egg container, provided the following provision are met:

1. The adhesive substance applied to the "break away" labels is tamper evident. This means, any attempt to remove the label would alert the consumer that the label has been compromised.
2. The required information in accordance with 7 CFR Part 56 is included on the label.
3. The labels must be removed from cartons, sleeves, and overwrap material when product is reprocessed, repackaged, or reworked. Finished product must contain the required information in accordance with 7 CFR Part 56.

When the above provisions are met, use of the "break away" labels will be approved for use in conjunction with the grading and certification of shell eggs identified with the USDA grademark.

We appreciate the opportunity to assist your company with this matter. If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger L. Glasshoff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'R' and 'G'.

Roger L. Glasshoff
National Supervisor, Shell Egg Section
Quality Assessment Division