Standards and Specification Division

Product Specifications and Certification

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Egg and Egg Product Specification Updates

• Shell Egg Ambient Temperature Guidance video
  – https://youtu.be/1wla_Rw7Nsk

• Addition of Hard Cooked Eggs
  – Purchased $4.3M in product
Egg and Egg Product Specification Updates cont.

• Transition from FSIS to AMS oversight for Egg Products
  – FSIS will discontinue certification/oversight for commodity egg products and use of the PY200 form
    • Vendors have the option for AMS Grading or Auditing certification
  – The deadline to complete transition is May 2022

• Addition of the Supplement for Egg Products
  – Update to Whole Egg and All Purpose Egg Mix specifications
Product Certification and Options

- All items must be certified by USDA
  - Current product certification fall into four categories
    - FSIS Certification
    - AMS Voluntary Grading Service
    - AMS Auditing Service
    - AMS Options – Allows vendors to select either Grading or Auditing Services

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<tr>
<th>FSIS Certification</th>
<th>AMS Grading Service</th>
<th>AMS Auditing Service</th>
<th>AMS Option</th>
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<td>Whole Eggs</td>
<td>Shell Eggs</td>
<td>Egg Patty</td>
<td>Hard Cooked Eggs</td>
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<td>All-Purpose Egg Mix</td>
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Product Certification and Options cont.

- All items must be certified by USDA
  - Due to FSIS modernization, all egg product certification will transition to AMS Options
  - Shell eggs will remain under AMS Grading Service

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USDA Grading Services

• Continuous monitoring of production, processing and product certification under AMS Grader supervision
  – Includes certification of all raw materials prior to being utilized in finished products

• Vendor requirements include“:
  – Service application
  – Plant survey and capability assessment
    o Facility resources (office space, sampling station, etc.)
USDA Audit Services

• Production and processing verification conducted through routine QAD audits according to the vendor’s approved technical proposal
  o All raw material are under applicable USDA oversight and/or certification

• Vendors are required to submit a sample and technical proposal prior to bidding
  o Product Sample (estimate 1 week for review)
  o Technical Proposal (estimate up to 2 weeks for review)
  o Pre-bid capabilities audit (estimate up to 4 weeks for scheduling)
  o Production audits (conducted once awarded)
Technical Proposals

• What is a technical proposal?
  o A detailed quality manual that indicates how product requirements will be met.
  o Written in ‘Plan, Do, Check, Act’ or PDCA format
Technical Proposal Example

Specification Requirement:

Domestic Origin – All products sold to the Department of Agriculture are of 100 percent domestic origin
Plan, Do, Check, Act:

Domestic Origin

• Plan and Do – XYZ Egg Company will produce product from only domestically sourced flocks
• Check – XYZ Egg Company will maintain source flock records and verify with each shipment that all birds are produced domestically. This will be made available to USDA officials for review
• Act – If non-domestic eggs are imported to XYZ facility, the company will maintain a segregation plan to ensure that non-domestic eggs are not used in AMS destined commodity
Certification Resources

• QAD Grading and Certification
  • [https://www.ams.usda.gov/resources/qad-procedures](https://www.ams.usda.gov/resources/qad-procedures)

• USDA/AMS, LP Program’s Quality Assessment Division (QAD)
  • Email: QAD.BusinessOps@usda.gov
  • Phone: 501-312-2962
Additional Resources

- AEB and AMS New Vendor Webinar
- Proper Temperature Assessment when Receiving Deliveries of Shell Eggs
Points of Contact

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Questions??