



**Defense Commissary Agency
Technical Data Sheet for
Fresh Shell Eggs**

March 2008

**DeCA TECHNICAL DATA SHEET FOR
U.S. CONSUMER GRADE A OR BETTER,
RESALE FRESH EGGS**

March 2008

1. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

All delivered fresh shell eggs must be classified to the grade and size outlined in the current edition of the "Regulations Governing the Grading of Shell Eggs" and "United States Standards, Grade, and Weight Classes for Shell Eggs" (Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 56 AMS)). Plant facilities, equipment, and all processing operations must comply with all USDA requirements.

2. PLANT APPROVAL

The Contractor warrants that the products to be delivered will be, or have been, produced in a plant which appears in the current USDA or state inspected "List of Plants Operating Under USDA Poultry and Egg Grading and Egg Products Inspection Programs", or State or Contractor Inspection Program that is acceptable to the DeCA Contracting Officer.

3. PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

All shell eggs are to be fresh. All descriptions will include a Universal Product Code (UPC) for each item as designated by grade, size, and color. The contractor will ensure that shell eggs are packed into containers destined for ultimate consumer use; be stored, transported, and displayed under refrigeration at ambient temperature of 45 degrees F (7.2 degrees C) or lower.

4. GRADE REQUIREMENTS/WEIGHT SPECIFICATION

Each lot of eggs will meet with origin requirements for U. S. Consumer Grade A or better and weight specifications as required in publications referenced in paragraph 1.

5. PACKING AND PACKAGING

Commercial packing made of pulp or foam is acceptable. Shell eggs must be in consumer size cartons holding 6, 12, 18, or 30 eggs. Cartons may be packed in standard commercial cases of the appropriate size and must be of sufficient strength and durability to keep breakage to a minimum.

6. MARKING AND EXPIRATION DATE

Standard commercial markings are acceptable for each individual egg carton. Cartons will be marked with a date of pack and the sell by date. All fresh eggs will have a sell-by-date of not more than 30 days from date of pack. Shell Eggs will be delivered within 10 days of the date of pack for CONUS and 5 days from date of pack to the POE for OCONUS..

7. OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

A Poultry Programs Representative of the USDA prior to delivery shall officially grade all products. The contractor shall arrange and pay for the necessary shell egg grading and certification services provided by the Poultry Programs of the USDA. Individual cartons carrying an official USDA grade shield will be acceptable. A grading certificate is not required for any shipment. Non-USDA graded eggs are acceptable if purchased from an approved source, and when they are accompanied by a certificate indicating that the eggs are equal to, or better than, U.S. Consumer Grade A Eggs.

8. INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE AT DESTINATION

A. Acceptance by the Government will be at destination, where the contractor will present the products delivered to the Medical Food Inspector (MFI) or a Commissary Officer's representative. Inspection **are to** provide verification of compliance with sanitary, quality, and wholesomeness standards as specified in the regulatory guidelines and the contract, MFI personnel may, upon request from the Ordering Officer, inspect to determine acceptability using USDA's Destination Inspection Levels. Inspection results must be recorded on a DD Form 1237, Shell Egg Inspection. Copies of the report must be sent to the supplier and Contracting Fort Lee VA.

B. Product must be transported in a clean, enclosed vehicle. Vehicles shall be maintained in a sanitary condition to prevent contamination of the other subsistence products. The vendor at no expense to the Government will replace all damaged i.e., checked, leaking, or broken eggs (over the USDA Requirement at Destination).

C. Date of pack must be stamped on the master-shipping container. Prior to, but not later than the first delivery, the contractor must furnish to the commissary officer and the MFI the key code used to decipher code dates. When changes occur to the contractor's coding system, a new copy of the key codes will be provided before the shipment is received.

D. Product that has been rejected by the ordering officer based on the inspection results of the MFI, may be re-inspected by the USDA Grading Service. Results will be forwarded to the Contracting Officer for review. The assigned Contracting Officer and the Commissary Officer will make the final determination for acceptance or rejection.