

Export Procedures – Table Eggs to South Korea

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

I. Product Requirements

- Exporting facilities must be registered with the Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety prior to shipment. This registration should be completed through USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). Additionally, exporters must provide information on company letterhead as to the type of farm in which the eggs were produced. Firms should select from the following four options:
 - Raised in Pasture.
 - Raised on flat ground within a barn.
 - Improved Cages (one bird per 0.075m²)
 - Conventional Cage (one bird per 0.05m²)

The above requirements are the responsibility of plant management and will **not** be certified by AMS Graders.

- All shell eggs must originate from the United States.
- Shell eggs must originate from breeder flocks that participate in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) administered by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) / USDA.
- Product must be in compliance with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) regulations for the Prevention of Salmonella Enteritidis in Shell Eggs during Production, Storage, and Transport.
- Product must be processed and packed under USDA supervision in approved shell egg facilities utilizing either USDA's voluntary resident or temporary grading service.
- Product must be washed and sanitized with compounds approved by USDA for food use.
- Product must originate from **layer flocks** participating in the NPIP H5/H7 Avian Influenza Monitored Program. A listing of commercial table egg layer flocks approved for export can be found here:
<http://www.poultryimprovement.org/documents/ShellEggLayerFlocksApprovedforExport.pdf>
- Production facilities must apply a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system or an equivalent. An equivalent system consists of the Safe Quality Food (SQF) Program with a facility certification level of two or higher. Other audit based programs used to verify HACCP compliance may be evaluated for suitability by the National Office.

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 ([AMS 56](#)).

III. Animal Health Verification

Shell eggs must be derived from **breeder flock(s)** that participate in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). The **layer flocks** must also be registered with the NPIP H5/H7 Avian Influenza Monitored Program.

- **NPIP Breeder Flock Requirement:** Producers must provide a copy(s) of APHIS Form VS 9-3, Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks and Poults to the USDA Grader for each layer flock used to complete the export consignment. 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.
- **NPIP Table Egg Layer Flock Requirement:** Prior to processing, USDA Graders will verify that each source flock is listed on the [NPIP website](#) for monitoring Avian Influenza. Eligible source flock(s) utilized to fill export orders will be recorded on the daily grading worksheet, PY-75 or PY-211.

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

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 South Korea until FDA provides information that corrective action(s) has been implemented. The National Office will notify appropriate Regional staff when a facility is ineligible to export due to FDA regulatory action.

V. Packing, Packaging, Labeling, and Stamping

All packing and packaging material must be new, showing no evidence of previous use or damage.

Pallets must be new or good used, free of visible evidence of adhering foreign material, and/or structural damage.

Labels must be printed or stamped in a central location on the end of each case. Handwritten or stenciled stamps are not acceptable.

Each primary container (USDA approved carton, sleeve, etc.) and shipping container must be identified with the official plant number and date of packaging. Additional label requirements as specified by the Korean government or customer are the responsibility of plant management.

Each shipping container must be stamped with the USDA Graded for Export Stamp bearing the appropriate certificate number and plant number. Pre-printed shipping case labels or hand stamps may be used.

VI. Duration of Quality (Expiration Dating)

If a prefix, EXP or Best By, is used with a duration of quality that exceeds U.S. domestic policy, the following disclaimer will be printed in the remarks section of the Shell Egg Grading Certificate, PY-210S:

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

NOTE: the maximum duration period cannot exceed 90 days, including date of pack.

When shell eggs are identified with an expiration date exceeding domestic standards, the shipping container must be identified in a manner to assure that the eggs are intended for export. I.e., “FOR EXPORT ONLY.” Assuring that each shipping container is identified with the “Certified for Export” stamp fulfills this export labeling requirement.

VII. Transport Vessels

The USDA grader is to inspect the transport unit prior to product loading to assure the unit is clean and acceptable for transporting food for human consumption. Graders are to document the cleanliness of the transport unit on the Form PY-75 or 211, as applicable. When unsanitary condition(s) are observed, the Grader will notify the responsible plant official of the situation(s). Product is not to be loaded onto the unit until the unsanitary condition(s) has been corrected. When an unacceptable condition(s) is observed, the Grader will document the condition including the name of the plant official notified on the applicable worksheet.

Transport units must be sealed (company seal) prior to departure from the processing facility. The seal number(s) must appear on the Form PY-210S in the remarks section. The USDA grader is not required to be present at the time of shipment, provided the transport unit is acceptable, the shipping cases are properly identified, the identified lot is segregated for shipment, and the seal(s) numbers are recorded on the certificate issued.

Trans-loading

In some cases, the final transport container may not be available at the location where the eggs are processed and certified. For example, small lots of eggs that will be added to other products at or near the port of departure, unavailable sea-van containers at the origin processing plant, etc. In order to offer the assurances to our trading partners that only sanitary containers are used for exported product, the final shipping container must be inspected by USDA personnel prior to loading of the product. Arrangements will be made, at company expense, to inspect the final transport container at a pre-determined location using the following guidelines:

- Origin Grader:
 - Ensure all shipping cases have been stamped with the Graded for Export stamp containing the applicable certificate number.
 - Complete the PY-210S showing the company seal number(s) that will be affixed to the **final** transport container and issue the certificate to plant management.
 - Prepare Form PY-211 listing the seal(s) used on the truck trailer for shipment to the final inspection location. Note: this seal is **not** the one listed on the PY-210S

- Provide plant management with the destination Federal State Supervisor (FSS) contact information.
- Fax or email a photocopy of the issued PY-211 to the destination FSS, advising that a shipment can be expected. Include the anticipated arrival date and details regarding the destination inspection location.
- Facility Management:
 - Responsible for contacting the destination FSS office to arrange for a final sanitation inspection of the transport container. It is not the grader's responsibility to set up the final inspection.
 - Assure that the issued PY-210S and company provided seal(s) is made available to the destination grader for final verification of shipping requirements on the scheduled day of inspection.
- Destination Grader:
 - Verify that the product arrived at the port location with seals intact as indicated on Form PY-211. In the event that a shipment does not arrive as scheduled, or if seals are broken upon arrival, contact the FSS for further instructions.
 - The final transport container will be inspected for cleanliness using the same criteria as listed above (Paragraph VII. Transport Vessels). Under no circumstances will product be loaded into a dirty container. It is not necessary to be present during the loading process as long as the company provided seal(s) are available and match the certificate, and the final transport container has been determined acceptable for cleanliness.
 - Via email notification, the destination grader will advise the origin grader that the container condition examination was satisfactory. This communication will be filed with the export documents in the origin grader's files.
 - Grader's time and expenses will be charged to the applicant requesting service using established billing procedures.

VIII. Certification

Upon confirmation of compliance with these instructions, eligible shell eggs shall be certified on Form PY-210S, Shell Egg Grading Certificate. Two copies of the grading certificate must be supplied to management to accompany the shipment; both must be signed and stamped using blue ink. In addition, two copies of the Disease Free Certification Statement for South Korea will be issued.

Plant management is responsible for assuring the original certificates (signatures in blue ink) are presented to foreign government officials at the point of entry to that country.

Prior to processing an export shipment, plant management must notify the USDA Grader of pending orders and provide the Grader with the following information:

- Name and address of the producer (layer flocks) including flock identification methods
- Date of lay (off line eggs)
- 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.