TO: Shell Egg Graders

FROM: Roger L. Glasshoff
National Supervisor, Shell Eggs

SUBJECT: Export Requirements for Shell Eggs Destined to Costa Rica

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

I. Product Requirements

- All shell eggs must originate from the United States.
- Flocks must be participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) administered by APHIS/USDA including negative results for Avian Influenza (AI).
- 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 shell egg facilities utilizing either USDA's voluntary resident or temporary grading service.

II. Grade Requirements

The shell eggs must be graded and certified as U.S. Grade AA or A as outlined in the United States Standards, Grades, and Weight Classes for Shell Eggs. Regardless of the grade, certification must be determined by either online or stationary lot grading.

III. Animal Health Verification

For shell eggs to be eligible for export to Costa Rica, the breeder flock(s) must participate in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), and the layer flock, that is the source of the eggs (progeny of breeder flock), must be under the NPIP monitoring program for avian influenza.

NPIP Breeder Flock Requirement: Producers must provide a copy of Form VS 9-3, Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks and Pouls, to the USDA Grader for each layer flock, including any flock identification information, the name and address of the shell egg facility, and where the eggs will be processed (Exhibit 1). 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.
Monitoring Program for Avian Influenza: After the acceptable review of the NPIP documents, the USDA Grader is to verify that the layer flock originates from the listed breeder flock(s) and is under the NPIP monitoring program for avian influenza. This can be confirmed on the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services' (APHIS / USDA) website, at the following address:


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

To be eligible for export to Costa Rica, 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 Costa Rica until FDA provides information that corrective action(s) has been implemented.

V. Packing, Packaging, and Stamping

All packing and packaging material must be new, showing no evidence of previous use. The USDA Graded for Export Stamp with the applicable certificate number must be stamped on each case (See Exhibit II).

VI. Expiration Dating

The following statement will be printed in the remarks section of the Shell Egg Grading Certificate if the expiration date exceeds 30 days from date of pack:

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

Individual eggs or containers identified with an expiration date exceeding 30 days from date of pack are not eligible to be certified by the USDA for domestic distribution.

VII. Transport Vessels

Transport vessels used to export eggs to Costa Rica must be cleaned and disinfected, and be accompanied by either a transport company Certificate of Conformance (CoC) or the processing company’s CoC certifying to the sanitary condition of the vessel. Graders are to document the cleanliness of the transport vehicles on the Form PY 75 or 211, as applicable. When unsanitary condition(s) are observed in transport vessels, or a CoC cannot be obtained, the Grader will notify a responsible plant official of the situation(s). Product is not to be loaded onto the vessel until the unsanitary condition(s) have been corrected or an appropriate CoC has been furnished, as applicable. When unacceptable conditions are observed, the Grader will document the condition including the name of the plant official notified on the applicable worksheet.

Transport vessels must be sealed (USDA or plant seal) prior to departure from the processing facility. The seal number(s) must appear on the Form PY 210S. Although the USDA Grader must visually examine the identified vessel for cleanliness prior to product loading, he/she does not need to be present during the actual loading and sealing of the product on the transport vessel provided the product has been identified and segregated for shipment.

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VIII. Certification

Upon confirmation of compliance with the AI monitoring program and FDA’s Final Rule on the Prevention of Salmonella Enteritidis in Shell Eggs during Production, Storage, and Transport, eligible shell eggs shall be certified on Form PY 210S for export to Costa Rica (Exhibit III) and the Disease Free Certification Statements for Other Countries (Exhibit IV). Plant management is responsible for assuring the original certificates (signature in blue ink) are presented to foreign government officials at the point of entry to that country.

Plant management for the packaging facility must notify the USDA Grader of pending export orders, each certification request, and provide the Grader with the following information:

- Name and address of the producer
- Date of lay
- Flock identification and location information
- 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.

File these instructions as E-23 EXPORTS in the Supervisors/Resident Graders Shell Egg Index.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SIGNATURE OF STATE INSPECTION</th>
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The information in the table above is provided for the purpose of reporting the movement of chickens and eggs. The table includes details such as the date, origin, and destination of the chickens and eggs. Each row represents a transaction and includes fields for various details such as the transaction code, origin state, destination state, and quantity.

**Report of Sales or Marketing of Eggs, Chicks, and Poults**

**National Poultry Improvement Plan**

**United States Department of Agriculture**

**State of**

**Form Approved:**

**OMB No:** 0575-0100

**This form is approved for use only for the stated purpose of reporting and for the extension of authority for collection of information.**

**Exhibit I**
This certificate is receivable in all courts of the United States as prima facie evidence of the truth of the statements therein contained. This certificate does not excuse failure to comply with any of the regulatory laws enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture.

**Exhibit III**

**FORM OMB APPROVED — NO. 0581-0127**

**SEA- 1234567**

**PLACE EXAMINED**

Egg, EG

**PLANT NUMBER**

P-XXXX

**TO: APPLICANT (name and address, including ZIP)**

Bob Wilson Processing
456 Main Street
Egg, EG 12345

**NAME AND ADDRESS OF SHIPPER OR SELLER**

Same As Applicant

**NAME AND ADDRESS OF RECEIVER OR BUYER**

Arcos de Eggos
50 m este de Los Arcos
San Jose, Costa Rica

**LOT NO.** | **NO. OF CONTAINERS PER LOT** | **NO. OF CONTAINERS EXAMINED** | **NET WT.** | **PERCENTAGES**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
1 | 850 | All | | **U.S. OFFICIAL GRADE AND SIZE**

| **U.S. Grade A Large** |

**LOT NO.** | **EGGS** | **TYPE OF PACKING** | **TYPE OF PACKAGING** | **CASE QUALITY RANGE** | **CHARACTER OF LOSS** | **WHERE HELD AND TEMPERATURE** | **CASES STAMPED WITH** |
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
1 | Fresh White | New 50 Dzen, Fiber Tops Taped | New Fiber Filler Flats | Cooler 45 F | USDA Graded for Export with Certificate No. 1234567 |

**ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION**

Product represented by this certificate meets specification requirements for:
Costa Rica, dated XX-XX-XXXX

Check each applicable box:

- [ ] Product represented on this certificate meets the requirements for the stated grade and size as determined by on-site sampling on XX-XX-XXXX
- [ ] Disease Free Certification Statements attached

**REMARKS**

Certified for EXPORT.

Shipping container sealed at origin with USDA seal number: (insert number).

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

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

In compliance with the Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture Governing the Grading of Shell Eggs issued pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, and any other Act of Congress conferring like authority, it is certified that the product(s) listed hereon were examined and that the class, quality, quantity, and/or condition of the product(s) at the time and on the date shown, were as stated above.

(USDA Grader Signature in Blue Ink)

**OFFICIAL GRADER (Signature):**

**DATE:** XX-XX-XXXX

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1. As called by applicant or contractor.
2. Weights based on 30-dozen equivalent.
3. Eggs reported as undersized are also reported under other headings according to their quality.

PT-2155 (21-05) (Previous edition dated 12-03 may be used.)
Disease Free Certification Statements for Other Countries

Shell Egg Grading Certificate No. SEA - ______________ Dated: ________

"The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services certifies that:

No cases of lethal (highly pathogenic) avian influenza (fowl plague), including the highly pathogenic subtype H5N1, and no cases of velogenic Newcastle disease (VND) have been reported in commercial laying chicken flocks in the county(ies) of origin where the eggs originated for the 6 months preceding departure of this consignment. These eggs were produced in the county(ies) in the state of (state name) identified below:

__________________________

__________________________

__________________________

The shell eggs covered by this certificate were produced by birds originating from Salmonella enteritidis (SE) -certified breeding flocks which have not been identified within 90 days before shipment by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, as being infected with SE, including SE phage type 4."

Signature of Grader