FEDERAL PURCHASE PROGRAM SPECIFICATION (FPPS) FOR SHELL EGGS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

110 U.S. Grade AA or A, Brown or White, Large or Medium Eggs (15 dozen case) (100936) — Shell eggs shall be of current production from domestic chickens; the eggs shall be packaged in one dozen cartons and packed in fiberboard cases with 15 dozens per case. A purchase unit shall total 1,500 cases.

APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

210 The following documents are incorporated as part of this USDA, AMS, FSCS Division FPPS- Shell Eggs – April 2017:

211 AMS Master Solicitation for Commodity Procurements.

212 Regulations Governing the Voluntary Grading of Shell Eggs (7 CFR § 56)

213 Regulations Governing the United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers (7 CFR § 42)

CHECKLIST OF REQUIREMENTS

310 Domestic Products – Refer to the current AMS Master Solicitation of Commodity Procurements.

320 Food Defense – Refer to the Current AMS Master Solicitation of Commodity Procurements.

330 Once awarded a contract, the contractor shall provide a copy of this FPPS to the USDA Grader.
USDA Requirements – The commodity shall be produced and processed in an official plant operating under the USDA/AMS voluntary shell egg grading program, be accurately marked and/or labeled, and meet all USDA regulatory requirements currently in place.

Shell Eggs – All shell eggs are to be fresh, certified U.S. Grade AA or A Large or Medium of current production as defined in 7 CFR § 56.1. Eggs shall be processed in accordance with 7 CFR § 56. Eggs shall be processed no more than 10 calendar days from the date of shipment. Sampling of the product shall be as detailed in the Shell Egg Graders Handbook.

Packaging and Packing Materials

Requirements – All packaging and packing materials shall be clean and in new condition and shall not impart objectionable odors. All packing materials (shipping containers) shall be tamper evident. Tamper-evident is defined as packing materials with one or more indicators or barriers to entry, which, if breached or missing, can reasonably be expected to provide visible evidence of tampering.

A purchase unit shall consist of only one size or color of eggs in one type of packaging and packing material, with only one format of labeling. Mixing egg sizes, colors, packaging and packing materials and labeling format are not permitted in a purchase unit.

Fiberboard Shipping Containers

Requirements – The fiberboard shipping container shall: (a) be of such size to pack the cartons of product without slack filling or bulging; (b) protect the interior cartons against loss and damage; (c) withstand the humidity and temperature during the conditions of use; and (d) have the combined facings weight, the bursting strength, and the compression strength (edge crush value) to withstand the stress of handling, shipping, stacking, and storage.

Final Closure – The final closure of the fiberboard shipping containers shall be secure and made with commercially acceptable adhesive filament-reinforced plastic-type tape, plastic-film package tape, gummed adhesive paper tape, or other similar types of materials that are applicable to refrigerated temperature storage conditions and that provide for safe handling of the shell eggs and a tamper-evident seal. Tape shall be 2 to 3 inches wide applied across the top of the case and a minimum of 2 inches down each end. All fiberboard shipping containers within a purchase unit shall be sealed with a similar type of commercially available tamper-evident seal. Steel or wire straps shall not be used for the final closure. Staples shall not be used for the final closing of fiberboard shipping containers. However, staples may be used to manufacture and to assemble the fiberboard shipping containers, provided the staples are fastened into the container and tightly clenched to eliminate sharp edges prior to packing cartons of product into the shipping containers.
400 LABELING

410 Commercial Labeling Shall be Used – The contractor shall use the same label format within a purchase unit.

411 Commercially labeled packages and shipping containers shall be approved in accordance with USDA requirements (7 CFR § 56). Labeling shall be approved by AMS/LPS Program prior to acceptance for use under this FPPS. Commercial packages (cartons) for one dozen eggs shall bear official identification in the form of the USDA Grademark (shield). Cartons shall bear expiration or best by date in compliance with mandatory requirements of destination state.

412 Commercial Labels

412.1 Commercial labels shall be the contractor’s own commercial label (brand name). Distributors’ labels are not allowed.

420 Traceable Product

421 The contractor shall establish a product identification and record system that clearly links product by place and time of production and processing to specific USDA contracts and destinations. When the company uses the same commercial label for the product certified as complying with this FPPS and commercial product, the identification system shall differentiate between USDA purchased and other commercial products. An alpha numeric code may be used for information that is in addition to USDA labeling requirements. Contractor shall maintain records to demonstrate the ability to trace the eggs to the production source (flocks). These records shall be made available to the Grader and the Contracting Officer or agent thereof upon request.

422 Changes made to a contractor’s identification and record system shall be submitted to the USDA Grader for approval prior to instituting such changes. USDA may select the commodity and audit the required product identification and record system for compliance purposes.

500 FINAL EXAMINATION OF PACKAGED AND PACKED COMMODITY

510 Verification of Packaging and Packing Material

511 The contractor shall verify compliance with packaging, packing, and marking material requirements by furnishing the Grader the following certification on company stationery signed by a person authorized to do so by the contractor:

“(I)(We) certify that the packaging, packing, and marking materials used for any commodity presented for acceptance under the terms of the Federal Purchase Program Specification (FPPS) for Shell Eggs dated April 2017 comply or shall comply with the terms of the FPPS.”
One certification is adequate for all production under this FPPS.

Examination of Packed and Packaged Commodity

The shipping containers in a delivery unit shall be examined for condition and for labeling and markings defects in accordance with the United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers (7 CFR § 42).

Inspection and Checkloading

Requirements – Inspection for contract compliance shall be made by a USDA representative, in accordance with 7 CFR § 56, USDA regulatory requirements, and this FPPS, at the site of processing, both during and after processing and packaging. The USDA representative may inspect the product at any point in transit and after delivery to the point of destination. Inspection records shall be complete and made available to USDA/AMS as requested, to assure contract compliance.

Procedures – The inspection and checkloading shall be performed by a USDA/AMS Grader. Procedures to be followed and a schedule of fees for these services may be obtained by contacting the appropriate USDA/AMS Regional Office. The quality, quantity, size/weight, packaging, packing, and checkloading of the commodity (including acceptance of the transport container for conveyance) shall be evidenced by certificates issued by the USDA/AMS Grader. The contractor shall not ship the commodity unless informed by the USDA/AMS Grader that the designated lot meets contract specifications.

Contract Compliance Stamp – Each shipping container shall be identified with a USDA Contract Compliance stamp with the applicable certificate number. The Grader, or other authorized personnel under the supervision of the Grader, shall stamp one end of each shipping container prior to shipment.

UNITIZATION

Each delivery unit of commodity shall be unitized (palletized and stretch wrapped) and shall comply with the following:

Pallets – Pallets shall be good quality, 48 inches x 40 inches, non-reversible, flush stringer, and partial four-way entry. Each pallet of shipping containers shall be stretch-wrapped with plastic film in a manner that shall secure each container and layer of containers on the pallet. Palletized product shall be loaded in a way that shall prevent shifting and damage to the containers of product. Pallet loads shall be stacked in a manner that minimizes the overhang of the shipping containers over the edges of the pallets and exposes the principle shipping container display panels to the extent possible to facilitate certification examinations. Eggs that are shipped
immediately after packaging and packing shall be stretch-wrapped to secure the cases in a manner that would allow cooling of the eggs during transport yet having secure containment for the egg cases on a pallet.

620 Pallet Exchange

621 Contractors may arrange for pallet exchange with consignees; however, USDA is not responsible for such arrangements.

700 SHIPMENT AND DELIVERY

710 Shipment and delivery shall be made in accordance with the AMS Master Solicitation, the Solicitation, and this FPPS. In addition, the contractor shall adhere to the following provisions:

711 Grading Certificate – A copy of the original USDA Shell Egg Grading Certificate (PY-210S) shall accompany each shipment. The driver shall, upon delivery, give the certificate to the warehouseman, or consignee, as applicable.

720 Loading and Sealing of Vehicles

721 Refer to the current AMS Master Solicitation of Commodity Procurements.

730 Delivery Notification (Advance Ship Notification)

731 Refer to the current AMS Master Solicitation of Commodity Procurements.

740 Split Deliveries

741 Refer to the current AMS Master Solicitation of Commodity Procurements.

800 PRODUCT ASSURANCE AND COMPLAINT RESOLUTION

810 Product Assurance – The Contractor shall guarantee that the product complies with all FPPS requirements and provisions set forth in the Master Solicitation for Commodity Procurements.

820 Complaint Resolution – Customer complaint resolution procedures shall be the responsibility of the Contractor. These procedures shall include: a point of contact, investigation steps, intent to cooperate with AMS, and product replacement or monetary compensation. The procedures shall be used to resolve product complaints from recipient agencies or AMS.