

SECTION 4: EGG PACKING AND PACKAGING MATERIALS

I. Case and Container Examination

When grading eggs, the grader will observe the condition of the cases or containers and classify the material as new, good used, poor used, or worthless. Record on the memorandum the condition of the cases or containers and their size, such as 30-dozen or 15-dozen.

If the lot consists of more than one type or quality of case or containers, record the actual number of each type and quantity. If the applicant does not elect to place them into separate groups, describe the lot with each adjective that is applicable; for example, good or poor used fiber corrugated cases. Egg case description include the type of closure; for example, good used fiber corrugated cases, tops taped, or poor used fiber corrugated cases, tops glued. Eggs which are to be officially identified with the consumer grademark shall be packaged only in new or good used cases and packaging materials.

II. Definition of Packing Materials

A. Fiber Cases

- New: clean and rigid, shows no evidence of previous use.
- Good Used: clean and free from odors, excessive stains and mold, all seams secure, no torn material affecting construction, appearance of previous use that maintains its rigid construction.
- Poor Used: warped or sagging affecting rigid corrugation, stained, soiled, torn but free of odors and mold.
- Worthless: any case not meeting the above classifications.

B. Baskets

1. Wire

- New/Good Used: free of soiled areas and rust, may exhibit previous use characteristics but not affecting the construction for protection of egg cartons or flats during handling and shipping.
- Poor: rusty or heavily soiled, misshapen affecting the ability to protect egg cartons or flats during handling and shipping.

2. Plastic

- New/Good Used: free of soiled areas and unacceptable odors, may exhibit previous use characteristics but not affecting the construction for protection of eggs in cartons or flats during handling and shipping.

- Poor: heavily soiled, broken and unable to adequately protect egg cartons or flats during handling/shipping.

C. Portable Racks (Bossies)

- New/Good Used: free of soiled areas, rust, and unacceptable odors, may exhibit previous use characteristics but not affecting construction for protection of egg in cartons or flats during handling and shipping.
- Poor: broken unable to adequately protect egg cartons or flats during handling/shipping.

D. Palletized Primary Containers with Reinforced Corrugated Materials, Overwrapped with Film

1. Pallets

- New/Good Used: reasonably clean, unbroken, no evidence of adhering foreign material, no odors.
- Poor: dirty, broken, unacceptable odors, incapable of transporting eggs.

2. Reinforcement Corrugation

- New/Good Used: clean, free from odors, no evidence of moisture or excessive stains, and mold. All seams secure, no tears, appearance of one-time use that maintains its rigid construction.
- Poor: soiled, evidence of odor, mold, stained, tears.

3. Overwrap film

- Must be FDA-approved for food contact when used in direct or indirect contact with shell eggs. Plant management must present a Letter of Guarantee from the manufacturer to the grader stating that the film is FDA approved.

III. Standard Case Requirements

Each 30-dozen case shall be provided with liners held firmly in position in the center of the case to form two compartments. Alternate case designs may be approved by the National Office. When included as part of a contract acceptance specification, cases may be required to meet specified material and structural requirements by bearing a box manufacturers certification. The certification statement or stamp imprint on the corrugated material will show the burst strength (Mullen) test or comply with the edge crush test (ECT) value as shown in Exhibit I.

The following cases (which do not contain a liner in the center position) have been approved as an equivalent for use as a 30-dozen case:

- Single-wall case with a minimum of 55 pounds per inch, Edge Crush Test (ECT)
- Double-wall case with a minimum of 42 pounds per inch, Edge Crush Test (ECT)

IV. Definitions of Packaging Materials

A. Filler Flats

- New: clean shows no evidence of previous use.
- Good used: no odors, free of mold, rigid, capable of protecting eggs.
- Poor used: evidence of slight odor or moisture areas, and no mold, capable of protecting eggs.
- Worthless: does not meet above classifications.

B. Cartons

- New: clean shows no evidence of previous use.
- Good used: no odors, free of mold, rigid, capable of protecting eggs.
- Worthless: does not meet above classifications.

Exhibit I

Case Strength Requirements

Minimum Bursting Test Single Wall and Doublewall Board (lbs. Per sq. in.) or Minimum Puncture Test Triplewall Board (in. oz. Per in. of tear)	Minimum Edge Crush Test (ECT) (lbs. Per in. width)
Single Wall Corrugated Fiberboard Boxes	
125	23
150	26
175	29
200	32
250	40
275	44
350	55
Double Wall Corrugated Fiberboard Boxes	
200	42
275	48
350	51
400	61
500	71
600	82
Triple Wall Corrugated Fiberboard Boxes	
700	67
900	80
1100	90
1300	112