



December 07, 2011

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 Poults, 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 I). 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:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_dis\\_spec/poultry/downloads/npip\\_shell-egg\\_exporters.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/poultry/downloads/npip_shell-egg_exporters.pdf)

#### **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.

## **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.

This report is required by certain states for the interstate shipment of poultry products. Failure to report may result in non-acceptance of shipment.

Check reverse side for additional OMB information.

FORM APPROVED - OMB NO. 9578-0007

REPORT NO. **W200001**

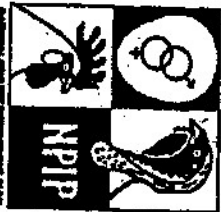
1. DATE OF SHIPMENT

2. NAME & ADDRESS OF PURCHASER (include zip code)

3. NAME & ADDRESS OF PRODUCER OR SHIPPER (include zip code)

**REPORT OF SALES OF HATCHING EGGS, CHICKS, AND POULTS**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE  
NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN



4. QUANTITY	5. VARIETY, STRAIN, OR TRADE NAME	6. PRODUCT					7. SEX		8. TYPE (Indicate use)			9. CLASSIFICATION - U.S.							OTHER (Specify)															
		Chicken Eggs	Turkey Eggs	Chicks	Poult	Other	Straight-run	Female	Male	Commercial Production Stock	Multipurpose Breeding Stock	Purebred Breeding Stock	Eggs	Meat	Other	Eggs	Meat	Other		Eggs	Meat	Other	Pulorum Typhoid Clean	M. Gallisepticum Clean	M. Synoviae Clean	M. Meleagridis Clean	S. Enteritidis Clean	Salmonella Monitored	Salmonella Monitored	S. Enteritidis Monitored	M.G. Monitored	M.S. Monitored		

10. REMARKS (Services performed on products at shipment, e.g., vaccination, debanding, etc., but not necessarily certified by a State Inspector.)

This is to certify that the above named producer or shipper is participating in the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

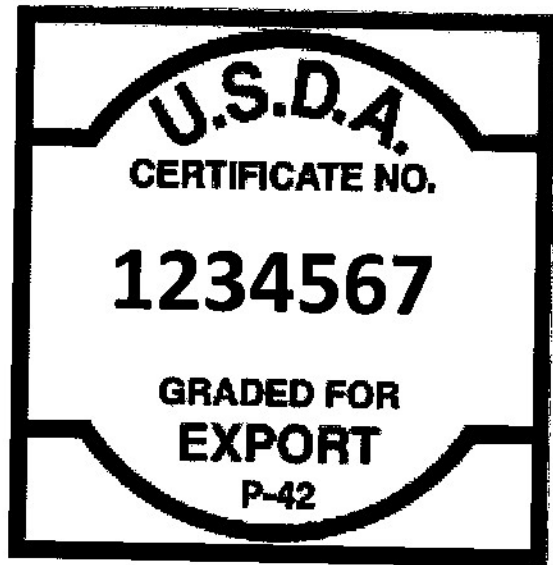
11. SIGNATURE OF STATE INSPECTOR

12. DATE

US FORM 9-5 (JUN 68) (Previous editions are obsolete.)

PART 1 - To Accompany Shipment

**Exhibit II**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE  
POULTRY PROGRAMS  
**SHELL EGG  
GRADING CERTIFICATE**



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.

CERTIFICATE NO.  
**SEA- 1234567**  
PLACE EXAMINED  
Egg, EG  
PLANT NUMBER  
P-XXXX

TO: APPLICANT (Name and address, including ZIP) <b>Bob Wilson Processing 456 Main Street Egg, EG 12345</b>	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SHIPPER OR SELLER <sup>1/</sup> <b>Same As Applicant</b>	NAME AND ADDRESS OF RECEIVER OR BUYER <sup>1/</sup> <b>Arcos de Eggos 50 m este de Los Arcos San Jose, Costa Rica</b>
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LOT NO.	NO. OF CONTAINERS PER LOT <sup>1/</sup>	NO. OF CONTAINERS EXAMINED	NET WT. <sup>2/</sup>	PERCENTAGES								U.S. OFFICIAL GRADE AND SIZE	
				AA	A	B	B*	Defects	Checks	Loss	Under Wt. <sup>3/</sup>		
1	850	All											U.S. Grade A Large

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION							CASES STAMPED WITH	
	EGGS	TYPE OF PACKING	TYPE OF PACKAGING	CASE QUALITY RANGE	CHARACTER OF LOSS	WHERE HELD AND TEMPERATURE			
1	Fresh White	New 30 Dozen, Fiber Tops Taped	New Fiber Filler Flats			Cooler 45 F	USDA Graded for Export with Certificate No. 1234567	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All <input type="checkbox"/> Sample <input type="checkbox"/> All <input type="checkbox"/> Sample <input type="checkbox"/> All <input type="checkbox"/> Sample <input type="checkbox"/> All	

**ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION**

Product represented by this certificate meets specification requirements for: <b>Costa Rica, dated XX-XX-XXXX</b>	Check each applicable box: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Product represented on this certificate meets the requirements for the stated grade and size as determined by online sampling on <u>XX-XX-XXXX</u> . <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disease Free Certification Statements attached.
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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) XX-XX-XXXX

OFFICIAL GRADER (Signature) DATE

<sup>1/</sup> As stated by applicant or contractor.  
<sup>2/</sup> Weights based on 30-dozen equivalents.  
<sup>3/</sup> Eggs reported as undersized are also reported under other headings according to their quality.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service

1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 3935-S, STOP 0258  
Washington, DC 20250-0258

### 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

