



POULTRY WEIGHT RANGE CERTIFICATION

Policy

This instruction defines certifying weight ranges of poultry.

Procedure

I. Weight Range – Approved Specification

When requested to certify individual carcass or parts weight range requirements for commodity purchase programs, military or institutional specifications, or other approved specifications, the procedures are as follows:

During each hour of production requiring weight-range certification, the grader shall select 10 units of product after company sizing. Each carcass part outside of the weight range is scored as a defect. SPL-2 shall be utilized in determining compliance with weight range requirements. When product exceeds the maximum tolerance level for the appropriate sample number, the interval must be retained. Results shall be recorded on Form LP-232-L2. Alternatively, this data may be recorded on the applicable LP-211.

Poultry with missing parts may be used to produce cut-up product for contracts or specifications requiring a whole bird weight range. When such product is used, the supervisor shall establish satisfactory procedures to ensure compliance with weight range requirements.

II. Finished Product Weight Range

While USDA purchases specify whole carcass poultry without necks and giblets, many products produced according to commercial specifications require necks and giblets in addition to specified basting ingredients. Additionally, FSIS labeling requirements dictate that when a label indicates the presence of necks and giblets or basting solutions, they shall be declared as part of the net weight of the product. When a finished product weight range, including basting solution, neck and giblets, is specifically designated in the specification, weight range certification must be performed after the entire package (carcass, basting solution, neck, and giblets) is assembled. Commercial specifications will indicate whether a carcass weight range or finished product weight range is required. SPL-2 shall be utilized in determining compliance with weight range requirements.

When applicable and approved by the supervisor, product may be checked for weight range requirements on a stationary lot basis using SPL-2 to determine compliance with requirements.

On a stationary lot basis, the sample size shall be as specified in 7 CFR Part 70.10 and predetermined as outlined in QAD 615.



Richard H. Lawson, National Poultry Supervisor
Quality Assessment Division
Livestock and Poultry Program

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