



Agricultural Marketing Service

USDA Certification of Shell Eggs for Export

The USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) facilitates the export of U.S. table eggs by certifying they meet the requirements of countries importing eggs from U.S. businesses. Before shell eggs can be exported, they must be produced under continuous AMS supervision and certified as “fit for human consumption,” meaning the eggs are washed and sanitized using approved methods and compounds. The product is also graded for quality according to the [U.S. Grade Standards for Shell Eggs](#).



Controls for Avian Disease

USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) notifies AMS when avian health incidents occur in the U.S. If control zones are imposed by importing countries as a result of an incident, AMS updates the Shell Egg Export Restrictions list to include identified control zones. The list is available on the AMS website:

www.ams.usda.gov/services/imports-exports/eggs-egg-products

Prior to issuing export documents, AMS verifies source flock eligibility by referring to the list of restrictions. AMS certification is withheld if the layer flock or processing facility is within an identified control zone.

Layer Health Requirements

Shell eggs intended for export must be traceable to breeder flocks in the [National Poultry Improvement Plan \(NPIP\)](#).

Prior to AMS certification, facility management must provide the following information to AMS demonstrating that the source flock (layer flock) has originated from NPIP certified breeder stock:

- Form VS 9-3 – Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks and Poults, corresponding to the layer flock.
- A Certificate of Conformance stating that the identified layer flock (ranch name, address, and flock identity) is covered by the corresponding NPIP Form VS 9-3.
- Documentation of routine monitoring for Avian Influenza.

A processor must also include these reports when purchasing shell eggs from another company.

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Learn more about AMS Shell Egg
Export Services:

www.ams.usda.gov/services/imports-exports/eggs-egg-products



Facility and Process Controls

- Processing facilities, equipment, and operations must comply with requirements outlined in the regulations governing the [Voluntary Grading of Shell Eggs \(7 CFR Part 56\)](#).
- Facilities must undergo a pre-operational sanitation inspection prior to processing. Sanitation is monitored by AMS throughout the processing day.
- For traceability purposes, records must be maintained by AMS identifying which flock(s) were used for each export shipment.
- Some countries may require an internationally recognized Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) program.

Grading and Labeling

- Eggs must be graded and certified to meet applicable U.S. Grade standards as determined by the importing country.
- Labels must meet importing country requirements. Bi-lingual formats may be approved and applied at time of packaging, and are verified by AMS personnel.

Final Shipping Requirements

The final transport unit must be inspected by AMS for sanitation, and the ability to adequately refrigerate the product during transport. The shipment is sealed prior to departure.

Form PY-210S - AMS Shell Egg Grading Certificate/Disease Free Statement

- An AMS certificate is issued as prima facie evidence that the product was examined by AMS for the applicable export requirements.
- The seal number for each transport unit is listed on the certificate.
- Net weight declarations may be certified if requested by importing country.
- An animal health document (Disease Free Certification Statement) must accompany each load certified by AMS.

Shell Egg Facilities List

Visit the AMS website for a list of shell egg facilities utilizing USDA grading and certification services: www.ams.usda.gov/resources/qad-procedures

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