

FEDERAL PURCHASE PROGRAM SPECIFICATION (FPPS) FOR SHELL EGGS

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
Livestock, Poultry and Seed (LPS) Program
Food Safety and Commodity Specification (FSCS) Division
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Supersedes: FPPS for Shell Eggs June 2015 – changes from
previous requirements in [blue](#)

Effective: April 2017

100 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.

200 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 \(7 CFR § 42\)](#)

300 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.](#)

- 340 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.
- 341 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.
- 350 Packaging and Packing Materials
- 351 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.
- 352 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.
- 360 Fiberboard Shipping Containers
- 361 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.
- 362 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**.”

Name _____

Title _____”

512 One certification is adequate for all production under this **FPPS**.

520 Examination of Packed and Packaged Commodity

521 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).

530 Inspection and Checkloading

531 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.

532 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.

533 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.

600 UNITIZATION

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

611 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.