



SHIPMENTS TO PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States and is technically not considered an export by USDA/APHIS. For certification purposes, the export stamp should not be used since the product is to be treated as domestic and is eligible for the grademark stamp. Puerto Rico does not have an approved specification. This guidance has been derived from portions of the Puerto Rico Agriculture Department's Market Regulation No. 3. Ultimately, compliance with all of Puerto Rico's egg regulations is the responsibility of the producer or broker.

I. Grade Requirements

Eggs must be graded and certified as U.S. Grade A as outlined in the United States Standards, Grades, and Weight Classes for Shell Eggs.

***Note:** The Puerto Rico Dept. of Agriculture does not recognize state issued certifications and audit programs as an equivalent substitute for USDA/AMS grading certifications. State certifications will not be accepted.

II. Individual Egg Stamping

Puerto Rico Market Regulation No. 3 states: "Imported eggs that are marketed in Puerto Rico must be marked directly on their shell with the abbreviation "U.S." if they were produced in the United States." Recognizing the difficulty in clearly stamping the rounded surface of an egg, a lot average tolerance of 10-percent for individual eggs with partial, illegible, or no marks in any combination is permitted with no individual case exceeding 20-percent. These tolerances may be applied as a moving average when performing online sampling or as a lot average while performing stationary lot gradings.

***Note:** To provide the most contrast and visibility **brown eggs must be stamped with black, dark blue, or green ink color.** White eggs can continue to be stamped with any color that provides adequate legibility.

III. Labeling

A. Case and/or Case Label

Any box or container of eggs that is marketed in Puerto Rico must be labeled with clearly legible letters either stenciled directly on the box or container or printed on a label firmly attached to the box or container. Labeling must include, but not limited to, the following:

1. Grade and weight class.
2. Name / address of packer.
3. Number of eggs in the container.
4. Code Dating: (date of pack expressed as Julian date).
5. USE BY dating: 45 day maximum, including day of pack (**MUST** use this format: Use By *JUL 01 2019*).
6. Cases containing flats of loose eggs should state: "**for institutional use only**" on label.
 - Flats of loose eggs must indicate a 45 day "USE BY" date on the flat **OR** printed directly on the individual eggs. (same date format as on label).
7. Name of importer and license number.
8. Plant number.



9. USDA Grade A stamp with certificate number. (Certificate number in stamp must match the number on the issued certificate).

*** Note: Do not use lot numbering or dates in the stamp.**

10. Grade percentages:

- Use U.S. consumer grade destination tolerances - 82% A Grade or higher (AA).

B. Individual Consumer Packages

Containers containing eggs for direct sale to the consumer must have the following information printed:

1. Grade, weight class, and brand.
2. Name / address of packer.
3. Plant number.
4. Code Dating: (date of pack expressed as the Julian date).
5. USE BY dating: 45 day maximum, including day of pack (MUST use this format: Use By *JUL 01 2019*).
 - Flats of loose eggs must indicate a 45 day “USE BY” date on the flat OR printed directly on the individual eggs. (same date format as on carton).
6. Number of eggs in the container.

IV. Certificate Preparation

All eggs intended for distribution to Puerto Rico must be USDA graded and accompanied by a LPS-210S grading certificate.

- Certificate must state: “Eggs are fit for human consumption” in remarks section.

Note: Please share this instruction with applicable facility management.

Mark Perigen, National Supervisor – Shell Eggs
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