



Livestock and Poultry Program  
Standards and Specifications Division  
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Room 3932-S, STOP 0258  
Washington, DC 20250-0201

**TO:** UEP & AMS Egg Grading Stakeholders

**FROM:** Jeffrey Hendricks – USDA National Shell Egg Supervisor

**SUBJECT:** **Additional Records Needed with Reduced USDA Presence**

If a situation arises **due to the COVID-19 pandemic** where a facility must run officially identified product to meet its obligations with reduced USDA grader presence up to USDA absence, AMS may temporarily allow product to be produced under defined conditions. Additional documentation and assurances will need to be provided to USDA such as:

- A. Letter of Guarantee signed by facility management
- B. QC reports verifying at minimum:
  1. A facility sanitation check; and
  2. Wash water temp checks (minimum twice daily); and
  3. Liquid sanitizer concentration (minimum twice daily) or functioning UV; and
  4. Cooler Temps (minimum twice daily); and
  5. Egg quality checks (taken at minimum of an average of 1 check per hour of production) recording data for at minimum; and
    - Cracked eggs
    - Dirty eggs
    - Leaking eggs
    - Visibly abnormal eggs (shape / texture)
- C. Machine Run Report indicating quality of eggs packed and volume of undergrade eggs (Cracked, Dirty, Large Spots) packed into cartons; and
- D. Daily production totals
  1. Separated by how the grader normally records volume (grade, egg size, brand, pack size, etc.)

### **Shell Egg Exports (Reduced USDA Presence)**

- A. If company has multiple facilities, ask if export order can be produced at another plant where grading services are still active.
- B. If AMS service shortage will be temporary (< 1 week), ask if order can be delayed until service can be continued.
- C. If options a or b are not practical, allow facility to produce export order using the above checklist in addition to the following:
  - 1. Facility must provide (email) Form VS 9-3 (NPIP) for all flocks used to produce export order
  - 2. Facility must provide verification of the age of eggs at time of packing (farm receipts, guarantee of in-line production, etc.)
  - 3. Facility must use computer generated export stamp. If not yet approved, computer generated export stamps and be approved by the National Shell Egg Office.
  - 4. Facility must provide example of case label and / or packaging material as applicable for review
  - 5. If eggs are individual stamped, photos of example eggs must be submitted for review
  - 6. Facility must provide records of trailer inspection (working unit / sanitary condition)
  - 7. Facility may need to provide other verifications as applicable to the specific export instruction (ex: heat treated pallets). Photo evidence is sufficient.
- D. Once 1 – 7 are satisfied, the export certificate (LPS-210S) and associated Disease Free Certificate can be issued.
  - 1. UPS accounts can be used to mail original certificates to facility management or alternate address