



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

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Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Services

## **NOTICE: Requirements for Importing Shell Eggs**

Washington, DC  
20250

As a result of the outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has received numerous inquiries regarding the requirements to import shell eggs and other egg products, void of the shell (i.e., liquid eggs, dried egg whites) into the United States.

The purpose of this notice is to provide information on requirements for importing shell eggs into the United States. Several agencies, in addition to APHIS, have jurisdictional requirements for importing shell eggs, as described below. Imported eggs must meet the requirements cited for each of the four agencies.

### **Agricultural Marketing Service Requirements**

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) requires that all applications for shell eggs importation be submitted on Form LPS-222. A completed application includes the foreign inspection certificate and a copy of the label. Additional information for importing shell eggs may be found in [7 CFR Part 57](#) (see also [table eggs](#) and [breaking stock](#)).

### **Food and Drug Administration Requirements**

The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) "Egg Rule" is codified in [Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\), Part 118](#) – Production, Storage, and Transportation of Shell Eggs. Farms that import shell eggs must register with the FDA at [Shell Egg Producer Registration](#).

### **Food Safety and Inspection Service Requirements**

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has jurisdiction over egg products that are void of the shell, such as liquid eggs and dried egg whites, with very specific requirements that may be found under [Import Guidance](#) (scroll down to Requirements, choose Egg Products and Shell Eggs).

### **APHIS Requirements**

USDA APHIS regulates egg commodities to guard against Newcastle Disease (ND) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) which are both highly contagious and deadly diseases that affect avian species (including poultry).

APHIS describes shell/table egg import requirements based on the area of export's specific regional status for ND or HPAI. Please visit the [Animal Health Status of Regions](#) webpage to view regions APHIS recognizes as free of ND or as affected with HPAI.

1. *Regions free of both ND and HPAI:* Fresh unprocessed shell/table eggs may be imported when accompanied by appropriate documentation and/or certification from the region of export. This is often referred to as a “Certificate of Origin.”
2. *Regions recognized as having ND but free of HPAI:* Fresh unprocessed shell/table eggs may be imported when accompanied by appropriate APHIS table egg certification, as outlined in [9 CFR 94.6\(c\)](#).
3. *Regions included in the European Union Poultry Trade Region (EU-PTR):* Fresh unprocessed shell/table eggs may be imported when accompanied by appropriate certification from the region of export, certifying among other things, that the eggs were not derived from birds that originated in a ND or HPAI restricted zone, as per [9 CFR 94.28\(a\)](#). To obtain proper certification language, please consult the government of the exporting country.
4. *Regions affected with both ND and HPAI (including Mexico):* Fresh, unprocessed shell/table eggs are prohibited unless they are consigned from the port of arrival directly to an APHIS approved breaking and pasteurization facility. An import permit and/or certificate is not required for these shipments when consigned to an APHIS approved establishment. Please use our [public search tool](#) to search for APHIS approved establishments.

Please note that shell/table eggs imported in accordance with APHIS regulations [9 CFR 94.6\(c\)](#) or [9 CFR 94.28\(a\)](#) **DO NOT** require an APHIS import permit. This import may occur accompanied by certification as per the regulations.

Please contact us via email at [APIE@usda.gov](mailto:APIE@usda.gov) with any questions regarding this notice. We may also be reached via telephone at 301-851-3300.