

IDENTIFYING AND MARKING PRODUCTS

§ 56.35 Authority to use, and approval of official identification.

(a) *Authority to use official identification.* Authority to officially identify product graded pursuant to this part is granted only to applicants who make the services of a grader or quality assurance inspector available for use in accordance with this part. Packaging materials bearing official identification marks shall be approved pursuant to §§ 56.35 to 56.37, inclusive, and shall be used only for the purpose for which approved and prescribed by the Administrator. Any unauthorized use or disposition of approved labels or packaging materials which bear any official identification may result in cancellation of the approval and denial of the use of labels or packaging materials bearing official identification or denial of the benefits of the Act pursuant to the provisions of § 56.31.

(b) *Approval of official identification.* No label, container, or packaging material which bears official identification may contain any statement that is false or misleading. No label, container, or packaging material bearing official identification may be printed or prepared for use until the printers' or other final proof has been approved by the Administrator in accordance with the regulations in this part, the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, and the regulations promulgated under these acts. The use of finished labels must be approved as prescribed by the Administrator. A grader may apply official identification stamps to shipping containers if they do not bear any statement that is false or misleading. If the label is printed or otherwise applied directly to the container, the principal display panels of such container shall for this purpose be considered as the label. The label shall contain the name, address, and ZIP Code of the packer or distributor of the product, the name of the product, a statement of the net contents of the container, and the U.S. grademark.

(c) *Nutritional labeling.* Nutrition information must be included with the labeling on each unit container of consumer packaged shell eggs in accord-

ance with the provisions of Title 21, Chapter I, Part 101, Regulations for the Enforcement of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act. The nutrition information included on labels is subject to review by the Food and Drug Administration prior to approval by the Department.

(d) *Refrigeration labeling.* All containers bearing official U.S. Grade AA, A, or B identification shall be labeled to indicate that refrigeration is required, e.g., "Keep Refrigerated," or words of similar meaning.

[40 FR 20055, May 8, 1975, as amended at 42 FR 2970, Jan. 14, 1977. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981, as amended at 60 FR 12402, Mar. 7, 1995; 64 FR 56947, Oct. 22, 1999]

§ 56.36 Form of grademark and information required.

(a) *Form of official identification symbol and grademark.* (1) The shield set forth in Figure 1 of this section shall be the official identification symbol for purposes of this part and when used, imitated, or simulated in any manner in connection with shell eggs, shall be deemed prima facie to constitute a representation that the product has been officially graded for the purposes of § 56.2.

(2) Except as otherwise authorized, the grademark permitted to be used to officially identify USDA consumer-graded shell eggs shall be of the form and design indicated in Figures 2 through 4 of this section. The shield shall be of sufficient size so that the printing and other information contained therein is legible and in approximately the same proportion as shown in these figures.

(3) The "Produced From" grademark in Figure 5 of this section may be used to identify products for which there are no official U.S. grade standards (e.g., pasteurized shell eggs), provided that these products are approved by the Agency and are prepared from U.S. Consumer Grade AA or A shell eggs under the continuous supervision of a grader.

(b) *Information required on grademark.* (1) Except as otherwise authorized by the Administrator, each grademark

used shall include the letters "USDA" and the U.S. grade of the product it identifies, such as "A Grade," as shown in Figure 2 of this section. Such information shall be printed with the shield and the wording within the shield in contrasting colors in a manner such that the design is legible and conspicuous on the material upon which it is printed.

(2) The size or weight class of the product, such as "Large," may appear within the grademark as shown in Figure 3 of this section. If the size or weight class is omitted from the grademark, it must appear prominently on the main panel of the carton.

(3) Except as otherwise authorized, the bands of the shield in Figure 4 of this section shall be displayed in three colors, with the color of the top, middle, and bottom bands being blue, white, and red, respectively.

(4) The "Produced From" grademark in Figure 5 of this section may be any one of the designs shown in Figures 2 through 4 of this section. The text outside the shield shall be conspicuous, legible, and in approximately the same proportion and close proximity to the shield as shown in Figure 5 of this section.

(5) The plant number of the official plant preceded by the letter "P" must be shown on each carton or packaging material.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



[63 FR 13330, Mar. 19, 1998]

§ 56.37 Lot marking of officially identified product.

Each carton identified with the grademarks shown in § 56.36 shall be legibly lot numbered on either the carton or the consumer package. The lot number shall be the consecutive day of the year on which the eggs were packed (e.g., 132), except other lot numbering systems may be used when submitted in writing and approved by the Administrator.

[35 FR 5664, Apr. 8, 1970. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, as amended at 46 FR 39570, Aug. 4, 1981. Redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981, as amended at 60 FR 12402, Mar. 7, 1995; 63 FR 13331, Mar. 19, 1998]

§ 56.38 [Reserved]

PREREQUISITES TO PACKAGING SHELL EGGS IDENTIFIED WITH CONSUMER GRADEMARKS

§ 56.39 Quality assurance inspector required.

The official identification of any graded product as provided in §§ 56.35 to 56.41, inclusive, shall be done only under the supervision of a grader or quality assurance inspector. The grader or quality assurance inspector shall have supervision over the use and handling of all material bearing any official identification.

[42 FR 2971, Jan. 14, 1977. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, as amended at 46 FR 39570, Aug. 4, 1981. Redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981]

§ 56.40 Grading requirements of shell eggs identified with consumer grademarks.

(a) Shell eggs to be identified with the grademarks illustrated in § 56.36 must be individually graded by a grader or by authorized personnel pursuant to § 56.11 and thereafter check graded by a grader.

(b) Shell eggs not graded in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section may be officially graded on a sample basis and the shipping containers may be identified with grademarks which contain the words "Sample Graded" and which are approved by the Administrator.

(c) Shell eggs which are to bear the U.S. consumer grademark shall be packed only from eggs of current production. They shall not possess any undesirable odors or flavors.

[32 FR 8231, June 8, 1967. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, as amended at 46 FR 39571, Aug. 4, 1981. Redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981, as amended at 63 FR 13331, Mar. 19, 1998]

§ 56.41 Check grading officially identified product.

Officially identified shell eggs packed or received in an official plant may be subject to final check grading prior to their shipment. Such product found not to be in compliance with the assigned official grade shall be placed under a retention tag until it is regraded to comply with the grade assigned or until the official identification is removed.

[35 FR 5664, Apr. 8, 1970. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981]

§§ 56.42-56.43 [Reserved]

FEEs AND CHARGES

§ 56.45 Payment for fees and charges.

(a) Fees and charges for any grading service shall be paid by the interested party making the application for such grading service, in accordance with the applicable provisions of this section and §§ 56.46 to 56.54, both inclusive; and, if so required by the grader, such fees and charges shall be paid in advance.

(b) Fees and charges for any grading service shall, unless otherwise required