

## NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

1. In October 1949, the Committee on Agricultural Problems established the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs.<sup>1</sup>
2. The Working Party was entrusted with the task of "determining common standards for perishable foodstuffs" and studying the steps to be taken at the international level in order to secure the general adoption of "standards and control systems".
3. It should be noted that the standards drawn up by the Working Party concern only goods moving in trade between and to European countries and that they are applied at the dispatch stage and therefore by the competent service of the exporting countries. The standards for individual kinds of fruit and vegetables are drawn up with the framework of a Protocol, adopted in 1958 and revised at the seventeenth session of the Working Party in 1964, which contains general provisions for this type of produce.
4. At its twelfth session, held in Geneva from 12-15 June 1961 the Working Party decided that the standards which it had approved in final form should henceforth be designated as European standards recommended by the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs.
5. The standard contained in this document was approved in final form at the thirty-second session of the Working Party; the secretariat has been instructed to transmit this standard to Governments of member countries of the Economic Commission for Europe for official acceptance.

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<sup>1</sup> At the twenty-seventh session of the Committee on Agricultural Problems the Committee agreed to change the name of the Working Party to the "Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce" (ECE/AGRI/20, para. 43).

**UNECE STANDARD NO. 43**  
concerning the marketing and commercial  
quality control of

**EGGS-IN-SHELL FOR PROCESSING**  
moving in international trade between and to  
UNECE member countries

## **I. DEFINITION OF PRODUCE**

This standard applies to hen egg-in-shell for use in the food industry.

### **Definitions used in the standard**

Eggs for processing are hen eggs-in-shell suitable for human consumption, intended for processing for the food industry.

#### **Class "C" eggs**

eggs for processing or "Class C eggs", shall be eggs which are fit for human consumption but do not meet the requirements for Class A or Class B eggs set out in the standard concerning the marketing and quality control of eggs-in-shell for direct consumption.

#### **Incubated eggs**

are eggs which have been inserted in the incubator.

#### **Commodity lot**

eggs of one quality class and weight grade packed in uniform containers, from one packing plant, loaded on to one means of transportation, and presented once for control purposes.

## **II. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY**

### **General**

The purpose of the standard is to define the quality requirements which the product must satisfy at all stages of marketing after preparation and packaging.

### **Classification**

Eggs for processing or "Class C eggs", shall be eggs which are fit for human consumption but which do not meet the requirements for Class A or Class B eggs set out in the standard concerning the marketing and quality control of fresh eggs-in-shell for direct consumption.

#### **Incubated eggs**

may be graded under the above class provided that they meet the following requirements:

- (a) they shall be marked according to the provisions of section VI (iii) of this standard before insertion in the incubator;
- (b) they shall not be fertile and shall be absolutely clear when candled;
- (c) the air space shall not exceed a height of 9 mm;
- (d) they shall not have remained more than six days in an incubator;
- (e) they shall not have been treated with antibiotics;
- (f) they shall be intended for use in a processing plant manufacturing pasteurized eggs products.

### III. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING

#### Grades by weight

Eggs may be graded into the following weight grades: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Weight Grade a	Weight of eggs in grams b	Minimum weight of 100 eggs in kg c	Minimum weight of 360 eggs in kg d
1	70 and over	7.0	25.20
2	less than 70 to 65	6.6	23.76
3	less than 65 to 60	6.1	21.96
4	less than 60 to 55	5.6	20.16
5	less than 55 to 50	5.1	18.36
6	less than 50 to 45	4.6	16.36
7	less than 45	no net minimum	weight laid down

### IV. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES (NOT APPLICABLE)

### V. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PACKING, TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND PRESENTATION

- (i) Packs, including inner packing material must be shock resistant, dry, clean and in good repair and made of materials which protect the eggs from extraneous odour and the risk of quality deterioration.
- (ii) Packs, used for transporting and despatching eggs, including inner packing material, shall not be re-used unless they are as new and meet the technical hygiene requirements of paragraph 1. Re-used packs, must not bear any previous marking likely to lead to confusion.

- (iii) Eggs must be stored in clean, dry premises, free of extraneous odour.
- (iv) Eggs in transport must be kept clean, dry and free of extraneous odour and effectively protected from shocks, weather and the effect of light.
- (v) Eggs in store and in transport must be protected from extremes of temperature.

## **VI. PROVISIONS CONCERNING MARKING**

### **A. Marking of Eggs**

- (i) Except where the countries concerned agree otherwise eggs shall carry the name of the country of origin in roman letters.
- (ii) Eggs for processing (Class "C") except for cracked eggs shall bear a distinguishing mark on the shell showing their quality class.

The distinguishing mark for the quality "eggs for processing" shall be the letter "C" in roman type at least 5 mm high in a circle of at least 12 mm in diameter.

- (iii) The marking of incubated eggs shall consist of a five-pointed star in a circle the diameter of which shall be not less than 12 mm. The star and the circle shall be red.
- (iv) The marking of eggs shall be clear, indelible, in red colour and be resistant to heat. The product used shall comply with the provisions in force in respect of colouring matters which may be used in foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

### **B. Marking of Packages**

- (i) The following information printed on a yellow label or closing device in roman letters shall be placed over the closure or closures of the package so that the label is destroyed on opening and shall contain the following data:
  - (a) country of origin (except where countries concerned are agreed otherwise);
  - (b) packer and/or dispatcher - name, address or where countries concerned agree, an officially accepted code mark;
  - (c) quality class;
  - (d) net weight;
  - (e) identification number of commodity lot being sent.

In addition when the eggs have been graded by weight, the weight grade may be given.

Packages containing incubated eggs should be marked:

"INCUBATED EGGS FOR THE FOODSTUFFS INDUSTRY"

in block capital letters, 2 cm high, in one or more languages.

Other eggs for processing should be marked:

"EGGS FOR THE FOODSTUFFS INDUSTRY"

in block capital letters, 2 cm high, in one or more languages.

(ii) Furthermore, in case of transport by sea the inscription "TOP" should be placed in the centre of the lid of the large package or on one of the cardboard flaps parallel to the longer side. At the request of the buyer, additional marking of transportation packagings is permissible.