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EAST AFRICAN STANDARD

Eggs-in-shell for processing — Specification and grading

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in East Africa. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers which are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

In order to meet the above objectives, the EAC Partner States have enacted an East African Standardization, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Test Act, 2006 (EAC SQMT Act, 2006) to make provisions for ensuring standardization, quality assurance, metrology and testing of products produced or originating in a third country and traded in the Community in order to facilitate industrial development and trade as well as helping to protect the health and safety of society and the environment in the Community.

East African Standards are formulated in accordance with the procedures established by the East African Standards Committee. The East African Standards Committee is established under the provisions of Article 4 of the EAC SQMT Act, 2006. The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the private sectors and consumer organizations. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the procedures of the Community.

Article 15(1) of the EAC SQMT Act, 2006 provides that "Within six months of the declaration of an East African Standard, the Partner States shall adopt, without deviation from the approved text of the standard, the East African Standard as a national standard and withdraw any existing national standard with similar scope and purpose".

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

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Introduction

In the preparation of this East African Standard, the following sources were consulted extensively:

Regulations Governing the Voluntary Grading of Shell Eggs, 7 CFR Part 56, Effective March 30, 2008

United States Standards, Grades, and Weight Classes for Shell Eggs, AMS 56, Effective July 20, 2000

UNECE EP 43:1976/1994, *Eggs-in-shell for processing*

Codex Alimentarius website: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/mrls/vetdrugs/jsp/vetd_q-e.jsp

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service website: <http://www.mrldatabase.com>

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service website: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/Standards>

European Union: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/pharmaceuticals/veterinary-use/maximum-residue-limits/index_en.htm

Assistance derived from these sources is hereby acknowledged.

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Eggs-in-shell for processing — Specification and grading

1 Scope

This East African Standard applies to hen egg-in-shell for use in the food industry.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

AOAC Official Method 931.06:1931, *Phosphorus (Total) (P_2O_5) in Eggs*

CAC/RCP 1, *Recommended international code of practice — General principles of food hygiene*

EAS 35, *Edible salt — Specification*

EAS 12, *Drinking (potable water) — Specification*

EAS 38, *Labelling of prepackaged foods — Specification*

EAS 39, *Hygiene in the food and drink manufacturing industry — Code of practice*

EAS 41, *Fruits, vegetables and derived products — Sampling and methods of test*

EAS 103, *Schedule for permitted food additives*

EAS 123, *Distilled water — Specification*

ISO 936, *Meat and meat products — Determination of total ash*

ISO 1736, *Dried milk and dried milk products — Determination of fat content — Gravimetric method (Reference method)*

ISO 1737, *Evaporated milk and sweetened condensed milk — Determination of fat content — Gravimetric method (Reference method)*

ISO 4831, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the detection and enumeration of coliforms — Most probable number technique*

ISO 4832, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of coliforms — Colony-count technique*

ISO 4833, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms — Colony-count technique at 30 degrees C*

ISO 5537, *Dried milk — Determination of moisture content (Reference method)*

ISO 5985, *Animal feeding stuffs — Determination of ash insoluble in hydrochloric acid*

ISO 6491, *Animal feeding stuffs — Determination of phosphorus content — Spectrometric method*

ISO 6579, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the detection of *Salmonella* spp.*

ISO 8156, *Dried milk and dried milk products — Determination of insolubility index*

ISO 9390, *Water quality — Determination of borate — Spectrometric method using azomethine-H*

ISO 13730, *Meat and meat products — Determination of total phosphorus content — Spectrometric method*

ISO 21527-1, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of yeasts and moulds — Part 1: Colony count technique in products with water activity greater than 0.95*

ISO 21527-2, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of yeasts and moulds — Part 2: Colony count technique in products with water activity less than or equal to 0.95*

3 Definitions

For the purpose of this standard the following definitions shall apply:

eggs for processing

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

4 Provisions concerning quality

4.1 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.

4.2 Classification

4.2.1 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.

4.2.2 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 8.1(iii) 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.

5 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

6 Provisions concerning tolerances

Not applicable.

7 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.

8 Provisions concerning marking

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

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