Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA

§ 590.910 Eligibility of foreign countries for importation of egg products into the United States.

(a) Whenever it is determined by the Administrator that the system of egg products inspection maintained by any foreign country is such that the egg products produced in such country are processed, labeled, and packaged in accordance with, and otherwise comply with, the standards of the Act and these regulations including, but not limited to the same sanitary, processing, facility requirements, and continuous Government inspection as required in §§590.500 through 590.580 applicable to inspected articles produced within the United States, notice of that fact will be given by listing the name of such foreign country in paragraph (b) of this section. Thereafter, egg products from the countries so listed shall be eligible, subject to the provisions of this part and other applicable laws and regulations, for importation into the United States. Such products to be imported into the United States from these foreign countries must meet, to the extent applicable, the same standards and requirements that apply to comparable domestic products as set forth in these regulations. Egg products from foreign countries not listed herein are not eligible for importation into the United States, except as provided by §590.960.

(b) It has been determined that each of the following foreign countries maintain an egg products inspection system that is the equivalent of the system maintained by the United States: Canada, The Netherlands.


§ 590.915 Foreign inspection certification required.

(a) Except as provided in §590.960, each consignment of egg products, as defined in this part, shall be accompanied by a foreign egg products inspection certificate, which, unless otherwise approved by the Administrator, contains the following information:

1. Country exporting product;
2. City and date where issued;
3. Kind of product, number of containers, and weight;
4. Production date(s) of product;
5. Identification marks on containers;
6. Name and address of exporter;
7. Name, address, and plant number of processing plant;
8. Name and address of importer;
9. A certification that the egg products were produced under the approved system maintained by the United States.

(b) The Administrator shall review the inspection regulations of the foreign country and make a survey to determine the manner in which the inspection system is administered within the foreign country. The survey of the foreign inspection system may be expedited by payment by the interested Government agency in the foreign country of the travel expenses incurred in making the survey. After approval of the inspection system of a foreign country, the Administrator may, as often and to the extent deemed necessary, authorize representatives of the Department to review the system to determine that it is maintained in such a manner as to be the equivalent of the system maintained by the United States.

§ 590.920 Importer to make application for inspection of imported eggs and egg products.

Each person importing any eggs or egg products shall make application for inspection to the Chief, Poultry Grading Branch, Poultry Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or to the Poultry Division, Poultry Grading Branch office at the port where the product is to be offered for importation. Application shall be made as long as possible prior to the arrival of each consignment of product, except in the case of product exempted from inspection by § 590.960. Each application shall state the approximate date of product arrival in the United States, the name of the ship or other carrier, the country from which the product was shipped, the destination, the quantity and class of product, whether fresh, frozen, or dried, and the point of first arrival in the United States.

§ 590.925 Inspection of imported egg products.

(a) Except as provided in § 590.960, egg products offered for importation from any foreign country shall be subject to inspection in accordance with established inspection procedures, including the examination of the labeling information on the containers, by an inspector before the product shall be admitted into the United States. Importers will be advised of the point where inspection will be made, and in case of small shipments (less than carload lots), the importer may be required to move the product to the location of the nearest inspector.

(b) Inspectors may take samples, without cost to the United States, of any product offered for importation which is subject to analysis or quality determination, except that samples shall not be taken of any products offered for importation under § 590.960, unless there is reason for suspecting the presence therein of a substance in violation of that section.

§ 590.930 Imported egg products; retention in customs custody; delivery under bond; movement prior to inspection; sealing; handling; facilities, and assistance.

(a) No egg products required by this part to be inspected shall be released from customs custody prior to required inspections, but such product may be delivered to the consignee, or his agent, prior to inspection if the consignee shall furnish a bond, in the form prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, conditioned that the product shall be returned, if demanded, to the collector of the port where the same is offered for clearance through customs.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, no product required by this part to be inspected shall be moved prior to inspection from the port of arrival where first unloaded, and if arriving by water from the wharf where first unloaded at such port, to any place other than the place designated in accordance with this part as the place where the same shall be inspected; and no product shall be conveyed in any manner other than in compliance with this part.

(c) Means of conveyance or packages in which any product is moved in accordance with this part, prior to inspection, from the port or wharf where first unloaded in the United States, shall be sealed with special import seals of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or otherwise identified as provided herein, unless already sealed.