

Administrator to prevent product contamination and in accordance with acceptable environmental protection practices.

[36 FR 9814, May 28, 1971, as amended at 37 FR 6658, Apr. 1, 1972; 40 FR 20059, May 8, 1975. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981, as amended at 47 FR 745, Jan. 7, 1982; 60 FR 49170, Sept. 21, 1995]

§ 590.506 Candling and transfer-room facilities and equipment.

(a) The room shall be so constructed that it can be adequately darkened to assure accuracy in removal of inedible or loss eggs by candling. Equipment shall be arranged so as to facilitate cleaning and the removal of refuse and excess packing material.

(b) The construction of the floor shall allow thorough cleaning. The floors shall be of water-resistant composition and provided with proper drainage.

(c) An approved exhaust system shall be provided for the continuous removal directly to the outside of any steam, vapors, odors, or dust in the room. The room shall be maintained at reasonable working temperatures during operations.

(d) Candling devices of an approved type shall be provided to enable candlers to detect loss, inedible, dirty eggs, and eggs other than chicken eggs.

(e) Leaker trays shall be made of a material and of such design that is conducive to easy cleaning and sanitizing.

(f) Containers made of a material and of such design that are conducive to easy cleaning shall be provided for inedible eggs. All such containers shall be conspicuously marked.

(g) Containers made of a material and of such design that are conducive to easy cleaning shall be provided for trash unless clean, disposable containers are furnished daily.

(h) Shell egg conveyors shall be constructed so that they can be thoroughly cleaned.

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§ 590.508 Candling and transfer-room operations.

(a) Candling and transfer rooms and equipment shall be kept clean, free from cobwebs, dust, objectionable odors, and excess packing materials.

(b) Containers for trash and inedible eggs shall be removed from the candling rooms as often as necessary but at least once daily; and shall be cleaned and treated in such a manner as will prevent off odors or objectionable conditions in the plant.

(c) Shell eggs shall be handled in a manner to minimize sweating prior to breaking.

(d) Shell eggs with extensively damaged shells, unless prohibited under § 590.510(d), shall be placed into leaker trays and shall be broken promptly.

§ 590.510 Classifications of shell eggs used in the processing of egg products.

(a) The shell eggs shall be sorted and classified into the following categories in a manner approved by the National Supervisor:

(1) Eggs listed in paragraph (d) of this section.

(2) Dirty.

(3) Leakers as described in paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

(4) Eggs from other than chicken; duck, turkey, guinea, and goose eggs.

(5) Other eggs—satisfactory for use as breaking stock.

(b) Shell eggs having strong odors or eggs received in cases having strong odors shall be candled and broken separately to determine their acceptability.

(c) Shell eggs, when presented for breaking, shall be of edible interior quality and the shell shall be sound and free of adhering dirt and foreign material, except that:

(1) Checks and eggs with a portion of the shell missing may be used when the shell is free of adhering dirt and foreign material and the shell membranes are not ruptured.

(2) Eggs with clean shells which are damaged in candling and/or transfer and have a portion of the shell and shell membranes missing may be used only when the yolk is unbroken and the contents of the egg are not exuding over the outside shell. Such eggs shall

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be placed in leaker trays and be broken promptly.

(3) Eggs with meat or blood spots may be used if the spots are removed in an acceptable manner.

(d) All loss or inedible eggs shall be placed in a designated container and be handled as required in § 590.504(c). Inedible and loss eggs for the purpose of this section and § 590.522 are defined to include black rots, white rots, mixed rots, green whites, eggs with diffused blood in the albumen or on the yolk, crusted yolks, stuck yolks, developed embryos at or beyond the blood ring state, moldy eggs, sour eggs, any eggs that are adulterated as such term is defined pursuant to this part, and any other filthy and decomposed eggs including the following:

(1) Any egg with visible foreign matter other than removable blood and meat spots in the egg meat.

(2) Any egg with a portion of the shell and shell membranes missing and with egg meat adhering to or in contact with the outside of the shell.

(3) Any egg with dirt or foreign material adhering to the shell and with cracks in the shell and shell membranes.

(4) Liquid egg recovered from shell egg containers and leaker trays.

(5) Open leakers made in the washing operation.

(6) Any egg which shows evidence that the contents are or have been exuding prior to transfer from the case.

(e) Incubator reject eggs shall not be brought into the official plant.

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§ 590.515 Egg cleaning operations.

(a) The following requirements shall be met when washing shell eggs to be presented for breaking:

(1) Shell egg cleaning equipment shall be kept in good repair and shall be cleaned after each day's use or more frequently if necessary.

(2) The temperature of the wash water shall be maintained at 90 °F or higher, and shall be at least 20 °F warmer than the temperature of the eggs to be washed. These temperatures

shall be maintained throughout the cleaning cycle.

(3) An approved cleaning compound shall be used in the wash water. (The use of metered equipment for dispensing the compound into solution is recommended.)

(4) Wash water shall be changed approximately every 4 hours or more often if needed to maintain sanitary conditions and at the end of each shift. Remedial measures shall be taken to prevent excess foaming during the egg washing operation.

(5) Replacement water shall be added continuously to the wash water of washers to maintain a continuous overflow. Rinse water and chlorine sanitizing rinse may be used as part of the replacement water. Iodine sanitizing rinse may not be used as part of the replacement water.

(6) Waste water from the egg washing operation shall be piped directly to drains.

(7) The washing operation shall be continuous and shall be completed as rapidly as possible. Eggs shall not be allowed to stand or soak in water. Immersion-type washers shall not be used.

(8) Prewetting shell eggs prior to washing may be accomplished by spraying a continuous flow of water over the eggs in a manner which permits the water to drain away, or by other methods which may be approved by the Administrator.

(b) Shell eggs shall not be washed in the breaking room or any room where edible products are processed.

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§ 590.516 Sanitizing and drying of shell eggs prior to breaking.

(a) Immediately prior to breaking, all shell eggs shall be spray rinsed with potable water containing an approved sanitizer of not less than 100 ppm nor more than 200 ppm of available chlorine or its equivalent. Alternative procedures may be approved by the Administrator in lieu of sanitizing shell eggs washed in the plant.