

# California Shell Egg Food Safety Regulation Guidance

## CA Department of Food and Agriculture

### Animal Health and Food Safety Services Division

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### California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory

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To support the consumption of high quality, safe eggs, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) adopted a new Section 1350 (Shell Egg Food Safety) and amended Section 1354 (Product Labeling) of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations. These regulations require any in-state or out-of-state egg producer or egg handler selling chicken eggs in California to implement *Salmonella enterica* serotype *Enteritidis* reduction measures and label products accordingly. These requirements will be implemented in phases beginning on July 1, 2013.

## Phase 1, Effective July 1, 2013

### *Enhanced Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) Testing and Vaccination*

- Applies to all flocks with 3,000 or more laying hens and a hatch date of 7/1/2013 or later, whose eggs are sold in California.
- Laying hens whose shell eggs are pasteurized or otherwise processed to reduce the risk of SE consistent with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations (5 log reduction) are exempt.

## New California Shell Egg Food Safety Regulations

### *In Addition to the FDA Standards*

1. Environmental SE Tests (Title 3, Section 1350)
  - a) While there may be various effective methods for environmental testing related to chicks being placed, the California Egg Safety rule requires that 10% of chick papers be tested for *Salmonella enteritidis* (one paper for every ten boxes of chicks). Check with the laboratory you use for SE testing to determine the best way to submit samples. Currently the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory is accepting three types of specimens:
    1. Chick papers that are swabbed with pre-moistened (double strength skim milk or commercially available evaporated milk) 3x3 gauze pads **at the farm** after the chicks have been removed. One gauze pad is rubbed across the surface of the five papers and placed into a sterile plastic bag. After collection of up to 20 papers (four gauze pads pooled), add approximately 15-30 ml double strength skim milk. Continue this process until 10% of the total chick delivery has been sampled. Deliver samples to laboratory within 48 hours after collection. Samples may be frozen if unable to deliver to laboratory within 48 hours.
    2. Portions of chick papers totaling 25 grams should be cut out using disinfected scissors or torn out with sterile gloves, pooled in a sterile container and delivered to the laboratory **from the farm**.

Example: Farm receives 100,000 chicks. That is 1000 boxes. Farm must sample at least 10% of the total or 100 boxes. Five chick papers per swab would yield 20 total swabs. Those 20 swabs may be pooled into 5 bags of 4 swabs in each.



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3. Chick papers (one paper for every ten boxes of chicks) are removed at the farm and placed into a clean plastic trash bag and submitted to the laboratory within 48 hours of collection. Samples submitted by this method will be charged an additional processing fee and only samples from one producer will be set up per day (first come, first served unless special arrangements are made in advanced).

b) End of Production Testing: Should take place 2-4 days prior to the end of production and should include a minimum of 16 swabs per flock that can be pooled in four swabs per bag.

## 2. SE Vaccination Program (Title 3, Section 1350)

a) Protocol includes a minimum of two attenuated live vaccinations and one killed or inactivated vaccination or a demonstrated equivalent SE vaccination program approved by CDFA. Vaccines are available through livestock supply companies or directly through the manufacturer.

## Phase 2, Effective January 1, 2015

### ~~Reduced Stocking Density and Product Labeling~~

## New California Shell Egg Food Safety Regulations

*In Addition to the FDA Standards*

## 1. Reduced Stocking Density (Title 3 Section 1350)

a) Stocking density requirements apply to all chickens whose eggs are sold in California, regardless of flock size.

b) Requires a minimum floor space per hen dependent on the number of hens in the enclosure:

# Hens	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	>9
In <sup>2</sup> /Hen	322	205	166	146	135	127	121	117	116

## 2. California Product Labeling (Title 3 Section 1354)

a) Grade and Size Designation: Where eggs are no produced by the person whose name appears on the label, the name shall be qualified by a phrase that reveals the connection such person has with such eggs; such as, "Produced for \_\_\_\_\_", "Distributed by \_\_\_\_\_" or any other wording the expresses the facts.

b) The principal display panel for containers for all eggs sold in California must have the following statement: "California Shell Egg Food Safety Compliant" or equivalent approved by CDFA. The Statement shall be legible and plainly marked on each container in letters not less than ¼ inch in height.

**More detailed guidance will be released closer to effective date of January 1, 2015.**

