

Hens' Eggs On-Farm Sale to the Final Consumer

This guidance relates to eggs from hens only. Eggs from other species of birds (duck, goose, turkey or quail) are not included.

If you are selling eggs for human consumption you will need to be registered as a food business. Please contact the team at environmental health for further information, details below.

If you sell your own loose ungraded hen's eggs from your own premises, such as an honesty box, they must not be individually marked with any information, except that they should be accompanied by a Best Before date only.

The Best Before date must be a maximum of 28 days from the date of laying.

All eggs must be sold to the consumer within 21 days of laying i.e. 7 days before the Best Before date. Therefore, good stock rotation is required to ensure that they are sold a minimum of 7 days before the Best Before date.

If you sell your own eggs at a farmers' market or car boot sale and have more than 50 laying hens, you must be registered with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and the eggs must be marked with:

- the method of production, see below;
- your Producer Code (issued by the Egg Marketing Inspectorate); and
- the country of origin.

If the seller has less than 50 birds there is no longer any need to stamp the eggs or register with APHA

Registration

You will need to register with APHA's Egg Marketing Inspectors (APHA EMI) if any of the following apply:

- you have 350 or more hens
- you have 50 or more hens and any of your eggs are marketed at local public markets or car boot sales
- any of your eggs are graded at a registered packing centre.

When you register, APHA will issue you with a Producer Code; this needs to be marked/stamped on the eggs you sell.

If you have fewer than 50 hens there is no need to register with APHA EMI unless you sell them to a registered packing centre or send them to a registered packing centre for grading.

If you have 50 or more birds of any species, regardless of your business activity, you will also need to be registered with the [Great Britain Poultry Register](#) for disease control purposes. The GB Poultry Register can be contacted on 0800 634 1112.

Storage

In order to keep the eggs you sell in good condition, when storing them they must be kept:

- chilled and protected from changes to, and extremes of, temperature; between 5 °C and 17 °C is suitable
- dry, out of direct sunlight and away from other goods that might flavour them, such as onions or washing powder

You should also consider:

- handling them as little as possible, as small cracks will cause the eggs to deteriorate and lose weight
- taking care when storing trays on top of each other, as this may cause the eggs to crack

If you are selling hens eggs through a retail shop or to a caterer, different legislation applies. Please refer to *Retail Sale of Hens Eggs* for further Guidance

Contacts:

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Poultry Unit Contacts:

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Key legislation

[Regulation \(EC\) No 853/2004](#) *laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin* (Annex III, section X)

[The Welfare of Farmed Animals \(Scotland\) Regulations 2010](#) (legislation.gov.uk)
[Regulation \(EC\) No 589/2008](#) *laying down detailed rules for implementing Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards marketing standards for eggs*

[The Eggs \(Marketing Standards\) \(Enforcement\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2005](#) (legislation.gov.uk)

[Poultry inspections](http://ruralpayments.org) (ruralpayments.org)

[Eggs and Chicks \(Scotland\) Regulations 2010](#) - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

[Regulation \(EU\) No 1169/2011](#) *on the provision of food information to consumers*