

## **Standard 4.2.5 – Primary Production and Processing Standard for Eggs and Egg Product**

---

The Board of Food Standards Australia New Zealand gives notice of the making of this Standard under section 92 of the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991*. The Standard commences on **26 November 2012**.

Dated 20 May 2011



Standards Management Officer  
Delegate of the Board of Food Standards Australia New Zealand

**STANDARD 4.2.5**  
**PRIMARY PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING STANDARD FOR**  
**EGGS AND EGG PRODUCT**

---

---

**(Australia only)**

**Purpose and commentary**

This Standard sets out a number of food safety requirements for the primary production and processing of eggs, egg pulp and other egg product for human consumption. At the primary production stage, businesses that produce eggs must implement measures to control the food safety hazards and must be able to trace their individual eggs for sale. Businesses that process eggs or egg product must control their food safety hazards and must be able to trace their individual eggs and the egg pulp. It is the responsibility of these businesses not only to comply with this Standard but also to be able to demonstrate compliance.

**Table of Provisions**

Division 1 – Preliminary

- 1 Application
- 2 Interpretation

Division 2 – Primary production of eggs

- 3 General food safety management
- 4 Inputs
- 5 Waste disposal
- 6 Health and hygiene requirements
- 7 Skills and knowledge
- 8 Design, construction and maintenance of premises, equipment and transportation vehicles
- 9 Bird health
- 10 Traceability
- 11 Sale or supply

Division 3 – Processing of eggs and egg pulp

- 12 Application
- 13 General food safety management
- 14 Receiving unacceptable eggs
- 15 Inputs
- 16 Waste disposal
- 17 Skills and knowledge
- 18 Health and hygiene requirements
- 19 Design, construction and maintenance of premises, equipment and transportation vehicles
- 20 Traceability
- 21 Processing egg product
- 22 Storing and transport of processed egg product
- 23 Sale or supply

**Clauses**

## **Division 1 – Preliminary**

### **1 Application**

This Standard does not apply to retail sale or catering activities other than the direct sale of eggs to the public by an egg producer.

## 2 Interpretation

(1) Unless the contrary intention appears, and subject to Standard 4.1.1, the definitions in Chapter 3 of this Code apply in this Standard.

(2) In this Standard –

**cracked egg** means an egg which has a cracked shell which is visible, or visible by candling or other equivalent methods, and includes a broken egg.

**dirty egg** means an egg that has visible faeces, soil or other matter on it.

**egg** means an egg from any avian (bird) species, except ratites.

**egg producer** means a business, enterprise or activity that involves the production of eggs, whether or not the business grades, packs, washes, candles or assesses for cracks, oils, pulps for supply to the processor for pasteurisation or stores or transports eggs or egg pulp.

**egg processor** means a business, enterprise or activity that involves –

- (a) pulping, separating, grading, packing, washing, candling, assessing for cracks or oiling eggs received from an egg producer; or
- (b) storing or transporting eggs in association with any of the activities in paragraph (a); or
- (c) processing egg product under clause 21 of this Standard.

**egg pulp** means the contents of an egg, which may contain sugar or salt.

**food safety management statement** means a statement, which at a minimum, has been approved or recognised by the relevant authority and subjected to ongoing verification activities by an egg producer or egg processor and the relevant authority.

### Editorial note:

‘Authority’ is defined in draft Standard 4.1.1.

**liquid egg white** means the white of egg separated as effectively as practicable from the yolk in liquid form.

**liquid egg yolk** means the yolk of egg separated as effectively as practicable from the white in liquid form.

**premises** means an egg production premises or a processing premises.

**unacceptable** refers to unacceptable eggs.

**unacceptable egg** means –

- (a) a cracked egg or a dirty egg; or
- (b) egg product which has not been processed in accordance with clause 21; or
- (c) egg product which contains a pathogenic micro-organism, whether or not the egg product has been processed in accordance with clause 21.

**Editorial note:**

Standard 1.1.1 defines 'egg product' as the contents of an egg in any form including egg pulp, dried egg, liquid egg white and liquid egg yolk.

## Division 2 – Primary production of eggs

### 3 General food safety management

- (1) An egg producer must systematically examine all of its production operations to identify potential hazards and implement control measures to address those hazards.
- (2) An egg producer must also have evidence to show that a systematic examination has been undertaken and that control measures for those identified hazards have been implemented.
- (3) An egg producer must operate according to a food safety management statement that sets out how the requirements of this Division are to be or are being complied with.

### 4 Inputs

An egg producer must take all reasonable measures to ensure inputs do not make the eggs unsafe or unsuitable.

#### **Editorial note:**

See the definitions of ‘safe’ and ‘suitable’ in Standard 3.1.1.

See the definition of ‘inputs’ in Standard 4.1.1 which includes feed, water and chemicals used in or in connection with the primary production activity.

### 5 Waste disposal

- (1) An egg producer must store, handle or dispose of waste in a manner that will not make the egg unsafe or unsuitable.
- (2) For subclause (1), waste includes sewage, waste water, used litter, dead birds, garbage and eggs which the proprietor, supervisor or employee of the egg producer knows, ought to reasonably know or to reasonably suspect, are unsafe or unsuitable.

### 6 Health and hygiene requirements

- (1) A person involved in egg production must exercise personal hygiene and health practices that do not make the eggs unsafe or unsuitable.
- (2) An egg producer must take all reasonable measures to ensure that personnel and visitors exercise personal hygiene and health practices that do not make the eggs unsafe or unsuitable.

### 7 Skills and knowledge

An egg producer must ensure that a person who engages in or supervises the primary production of eggs has –

- (a) skills in food safety and food hygiene; and
- (b) knowledge of food safety and food hygiene matters;

commensurate with their work.

### 8 Design, construction and maintenance of premises, equipment and transportation vehicles

An egg producer must –

- (a) ensure that premises, equipment and transportation vehicles are designed

and constructed in a way that minimises the contamination of the eggs, allows for effective cleaning and sanitisation, and minimises the harbourage of pests and vermin; and

- (b) keep premises, equipment and transportation vehicles effectively cleaned, sanitised and in good repair to ensure the eggs are not made unsafe or unsuitable.

## **9 Bird health**

- (1) An egg producer must not obtain eggs for human consumption from birds if the proprietor, supervisor or employee of the egg producer knows, ought to reasonably know or to reasonably suspect, the bird is affected by disease or a condition that makes the eggs unsafe or unsuitable.
- (2) The definition of 'condition' in Standard 3.2.2 does not apply to this clause.

## **10 Traceability**

- (1) An egg producer must not sell eggs unless each individual egg is marked with the producers' unique identification.
- (2) An egg producer who supplies egg pulp must mark each package or container containing the pulp with the producers' unique identification.
- (3) Subclauses (1) and (2) do not apply to eggs or egg pulp sold or supplied to an egg processor (**the supplied product**) if that egg processor complies with clause 20 in respect of the supplied product.
- (4) In addition to subclauses (1) and (2), an egg producer must have a system to identify to whom eggs or egg pulp is sold or supplied.

## **11 Sale or supply**

- (1) An egg producer must not sell or supply eggs or egg pulp for human consumption if it knows, ought to reasonably know or to reasonably suspect, that the eggs are unacceptable.
- (2) Subclause (1) does not apply to an egg producer that sells or supplies unacceptable eggs to an egg processor for processing in accordance with clause 21.

### **Editorial note:**

'Supply' is defined in Standard 4.1.1 as including intra company transfers of product.

## **Division 3 – Egg Processing**

### **12 Application of Food Safety Standards**

Standards 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 apply to processing under clause 21 and storage and transport under clause 22, but not to any other processing activities.

### **13 General food safety management**

- (1) An egg processor must systematically examine all of its processing operations to identify potential hazards and implement control measures to address those hazards.
- (2) An egg processor must also have evidence to show that a systematic examination has been undertaken and that control measures for those identified hazards have been implemented.
- (3) An egg processor must operate according to a food safety management statement that sets out how the requirements of this Division are to be or are being complied with.

### **14 Receiving unacceptable eggs**



An egg processor must not receive unacceptable eggs for human consumption unless –

- (a) in the case of dirty eggs, they are to be cleaned;

- (b) in the case of cracked eggs, they are to be processed in accordance with clause 21; or
- (c) in the case of egg pulp, the product is to be processed in accordance with clause 21.

## **15 Inputs**

An egg processor must take all reasonable measures to ensure inputs do not make the eggs or egg product unsafe or unsuitable.

### **Editorial note:**

See Standard 4.1.1 for the definition of 'inputs'.

## **16 Waste disposal**

- (1) An egg processor must store, handle or dispose of waste in a manner that will not make the eggs or egg product unsafe or unsuitable.
- (2) For subclause (1), waste includes sewage, waste water, unacceptable eggs or egg product and garbage.

## **17 Skills and knowledge**

An egg processor must ensure that persons undertaking or supervising the processing of eggs or egg product have –

- (a) skills in food safety and food hygiene; and
- (b) knowledge of food safety and food hygiene matters;

commensurate with their work.

## **18 Health and hygiene requirements**

- (1) A person involved in egg processing must exercise personal hygiene and health practices that do not make the eggs or egg product unsafe or unsuitable.
- (2) An egg processor must take all reasonable measures to ensure that personnel and visitors exercise personal hygiene and health practices that do not make the eggs or egg product unsafe or unsuitable.

## **19 Design, construction and maintenance of premises, equipment and transportation vehicles**

An egg processor must –

- (a) ensure that premises, equipment and transportation vehicles are designed and constructed in a way that minimises the contamination of the eggs or egg products, allows for effective cleaning and sanitisation, and minimises the harbourage of pests and vermin; and
- (b) keep premises, equipment and transportation vehicles effectively cleaned, sanitised and in good repair to ensure the eggs or egg products are not made unsafe or unsuitable.

## **20 Traceability**

(1) An egg processor must not sell eggs unless each individual egg is marked with the processor's or producer's unique identification.

(2) An egg processor must not sell or supply egg product unless each package or container containing the egg product is marked with the processor's or the producer's unique identification.

- (3) In addition to subclauses (1) and (2), an egg processor must have a system to identify –
- (a) from whom eggs were or egg pulp was received; and
  - (b) to whom eggs or egg product was supplied.

**21 Processing egg product**

- (1) An egg processor must process egg product by –
- (a) pasteurising; or
  - (b) heating using any other time and temperature combination of equivalent or greater lethal effect on any pathogenic micro-organisms in the egg product; or
  - (c) using any other process that provides an equivalent or greater lethal effect on any pathogenic micro-organisms in the egg product.
- (2) For paragraph (1)(a), the egg product listed in Column 1 of the Table to this clause must be pasteurised to the time and temperature combinations in Column 2, Column 3 and Column 4.
- (3) A process described in paragraph 1(b) or (c), if used, must be validated by the egg processor.
- (4) In this clause –

**validate** means –

- (a) confirming a control measure for a critical control point or process is effective to minimise a food safety hazard; and
- (b) providing objective evidence to confirm paragraph (a).

**Table to clause 21**

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
<b>Egg product</b>	<b>Retention temperature to be no less than (°C)</b>	<b>Retention time to be no less than (minutes)</b>	<b>Maximum temperature to be immediately rapidly cooled to (°C)</b>
Egg pulp (without any sugar or salt)	64	2.5	≤ 7
Liquid egg yolk	60	3.5	≤ 7
Liquid egg white	55	9.5	≤ 7

**Editorial note:**

For subclause 21(1), Standard 1.6.1 regulates microbiological limits for processed egg products.

**22 Storage or transport of processed egg product**

A processor must ensure that egg product processed under clause 21 is stored or transported under time and temperature conditions that control the growth of pathogenic micro-organisms.

**23 Sale or supply**

(1) An egg processor must not sell or supply eggs or egg product for human consumption if the processor knows, ought to reasonably know or to reasonably suspect, that the eggs or egg product are unacceptable.

(2) Subclause (1) does not apply to an egg processor that sells or supplies unacceptable eggs to an egg processor for processing in accordance with clause 21.

(3) An egg processor must not sell liquid egg white or liquid egg yolk unless it is processed in accordance with clause 21.

**Editorial note:**

Standard 1.2.3 requires unpasteurised egg products to be labelled with a statement that the product is unpasteurised.