R345

R.345 egg grading, packing and marking: self-audit checklist

For South African egg producers, re-packers, pack houses, distribution centres, brand owners and retailers. Written from the text of GN R.345 of 20 March 2020 (Government Gazette 43108), made under the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119 of 1990).

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Business / pack station

Pack or product audited

Audited by, and date

How to use it. Work through one pack (one container design) at a time, with the physical pack or print proof in front of you. Tick a line only when you can point to the evidence. Anything you cannot tick goes into the action list on the last page. The regulation reference on each line lets you check the wording in the Gazette yourself.

1. Scope and role

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	We know our role for this pack: producer packing own eggs, re-packer, brand owner with eggs packed on our behalf, importer, or retailer selling loose.	1 ("packer")	
☐	Eggs are sold for human consumption only once sorted by size and grade, meeting the grade standards, packed and marked as required.	2(1)	
☐	If we rely on a written exemption from the Executive Officer, we hold a copy and meet its conditions.	2(2)	
☐	We know who the inspection assignee is for our premises and have their contact details on file.	1 ("inspector")	

2. Size

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	If eggs are sorted by size, the size designation is exactly one of: **Super Jumbo** (>72 g), **Jumbo** (>66 g), **Extra large** (>59 g), **Large** (>51 g), **Medium** (>43 g), **Small** (>33 g).	3(1)(a), Table 2	
☐	If eggs are not sorted by size, or sizes are packed together, the pack says **"Mixed sizes"**.	3(1)(b), 10(2)(b)	
☐	We can show the size claim is true for what is in the pack (weighing records, supplier size grading, invoices by size).	3, 10, 13(1)(a)(iii)	

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	Underweight eggs stay within the Table 4 tolerance for the grade.	3(2), Table 4	

3. Grade

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	The grade on the pack reads **Grade 1**, **Grade 2** or **Grade 3**. No other grade wording (for example "Grade A") appears anywhere on the pack.	4(1), 10(2)(c)	
☐	We can show the eggs meet the stated grade (Table 3 standards, Table 4 defect limits), from our own candling and checks or the supplier's written grading.	5, Tables 3 to 5	
☐	Grade 1 checks cover: clean, uncracked, regular, strong and smooth shell; no blood or meat spots, mould, faeces or odours; normal yolk; clear white with Haugh value of at least 55; air cell no deeper than 6 mm; no swimmers or bubbly air cells.	Table 3	
☐	Eggs that do not qualify as Grade 3 are removed and not sold.	4(2)	

4. Containers and packing

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	Containers are intact, suitable for the purpose, impart no taste or odour, protect the eggs in normal handling and transport, and close properly.	6(1)(a), (b), (f)	
☐	Containers keep their form during cooling and hold nothing but eggs and customary packing material (advertising material is allowed).	6(1)(c), (d)	
☐	**Recycled** trays or boxes are cleaned thoroughly and **every previous mark and label is removed or covered** by our own label.	6(1)(e)	
☐	Containers fit snugly in the outer container, with no unused space or gaps.	6(2)	
☐	Every container and outer container is packed to full capacity.	7(1)	
☐	No mixing of grades in one container. No mixing of sizes unless marked "mixed sizes".	7(2), 7(3)	

5. Mandatory marks and letter heights

Measure letter heights on the printed pack, not on screen. Heights below are the container minimums from Table 1; outer container minimums are given in brackets where they differ.

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	Marked at least in English (other official languages may be added).	8(1)	
☐	**Size and grade** on the front or top panel, at least **5 mm**.	8(1)(a), 10, Table 1	
☐	The word **"eggs"** on the front or top panel, at least **5 mm**.	8(1)(b), Table 1	
☐	Size and grade letters are **not smaller than any other letter** on the pack, except the packer's trade mark or brand name and the words "Eggs", "Free Range Eggs" or "Barn Eggs".	8(9)	
☐	All required information is on a contrasting background and clearly legible.	8(7)	
☐	If pasteurised: "Pasteurised" on the front or top panel (5 mm), and the reg 8(5) process requirements are met. "Heat treated" is used only on pasteurised eggs.	8(1)(c), 8(5), 9(2)	
☐	If not hen eggs: the name of the species on the front or top panel.	8(1)(e)	
☐	If coated with food grade mineral oil: "oiled" on the front or top panel.	8(1)(g)	
☐	If imported: "Imported from" and country of origin (1 mm, outer 5 mm), "Packed by" where repacked, "eggs have been refrigerated" on the top or front panel, and the farm name in the country of origin.	8(8)	
☐	On outer containers using tick boxes for size or grade, the ticked boxes match the eggs packed.	8(1)(a)	

6. Packer block and traceability

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	Initials and surname, or trade name, of the packer on every container and outer container, on any panel, at least **1 mm** (outer 5 mm).	8(1)(d), 11(1), Table 1	
☐	Followed by the physical address of the packing premises or ordinary place of business, with town, suburb, city or magisterial district, **or** a postal address with a telephone number.	11(2)	
☐	If packed on someone's behalf: that person's name and address are used instead.	11(3)(a) to (c)	
☐	We can tell the Executive Officer, at any time, **who supplied the eggs and which farm they came from**. Batch, delivery and supplier records are kept and linked.	11(3)(d)	

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	No registration or facility number is printed unless it has actually been issued to us (R.345 asks for a name and address, not a number).	11, 13(1)(a)(iii)	

7. Best before

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	Best before is **no more than 40 days from the date of lay** (unpasteurised) or 56 days (pasteurised). We know the lay date, not just the packing date.	8(1)(f)(i), (ii)	
☐	Preceded by "best before", "BB" or "best quality before".	8(1)(f)(iii)	
☐	Shown as **dd/mm/yyyy** when numbers only are used, at least 1 mm.	8(1)(f)(iv), Table 1	
☐	Nobody in our chain removes or alters a best before date.	8(1)(f)(v)	
☐	We have a written best before rule that staff follow.	8(1)(f)	

8. Restricted wording and imagery

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	"Super" and "extra" appear only as part of a size designation.	13(1)(a)(i)	
☐	No message of veterinary-medicine-free production, more humane rearing, safer eggs or a special diet. The regulation's examples include: antibiotic free, fed a diet free of hormones, cage free, furnished cage, safe, pure, grass fed, pasture fed, forage fed, canola fed, grain fed, mixed grain, organic. The list ends "etc." and is not complete.	13(1)(a)(ii)	
☐	No other wording that may mislead about contents, quality, origin, grade, size, production method or diet.	13(1)(a)(iii)	
☐	No illustration, depiction or logo that may mislead in the same way.	13(1)(b)	
☐	Any trade mark beside the word "eggs" that refers to feed, or to a farm, owner, packer or company name, was registered for or allowed on eggs **before 15 April 2016**.	8(1)(b)(iii), (iv)	
☐	"Fresh" is used only on Grade 1 eggs that meet the Grade 1 Haugh value throughout shelf life, never on pasteurised, Grade 2 or Grade 3 eggs, largest letter no more than 5 mm.	9(1)	
☐	Health, additive-free or nutrition-enhancement claims (if any) comply with the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act regulations, and we hold the scientific evidence.	8(1)(h)	

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	The same checks pass on **notice boards, adverts, website, price lists, social media and any page behind a QR code**.	8(6)	

9. Production method

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	Any production method stated is "cage", "barn" or "free range" only, beside "eggs" in the same size, font and colour, and is true.	8(1)(b)(i), 13(1)(c)	
☐	Free range evidence on file: not caged; shed at no more than 10 hens per m²; daily outdoor range at no more than 5 hens per m², reached through side openings, at least 50% living vegetation, shade of 4 m² per 1,000 hens.	8(2)(a)	
☐	Barn evidence on file (if claimed): not caged, indoors, no more than 10 hens per m².	8(3)	
☐	HPAI or vND confinement: we know whether flocks are confined, the start date, and that the 24 week maximum is not exceeded (after which eggs must be sold as "barn eggs").	8(2)(a)(ii)(bb), 8(2)(b)	
☐	If told of a confinement, we display the consumer notice and keep the supplier's notification.	8(2)(c)	
☐	We have checked our position under **GN R.6634 of 2025** (management control systems, in operation 19 September 2026) for any production-method claim, and filed our enquiry and any replies.	R.6634 reg 3; R.345 reg 17	

10. Loose eggs (retail display)

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	Different grades, types, sizes (except mixed sizes), origins and production systems are displayed separately.	12(a)	
☐	Notice board in the immediate vicinity, letters at least 10 mm: size or "mixed sizes", grade, country of origin, packer name, best before date, and "pasteurised" if applicable.	12(b)	

11. Inspection file

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	One file holds: supplier grade and size confirmations, production-method evidence, traceability records, best before rule, label proofs, and all correspondence with the assignee and the department.	11(3)(d), 14 to 16	

	REQUIREMENT	REG	EVIDENCE / NOTES
☐	Staff know that inspectors may take samples, candle eggs, measure air cells and test Haugh values, and who to call when an inspector arrives.	14, 15, 16	
☐	We understand that non-compliance is an offence, with a fine or imprisonment under section 11 of the Act.	18	

Action list

#	GAP FOUND	REG	OWNER	DUE	DONE
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Primary source: GN R.345 of 20 March 2020, Government Gazette 43108, available from gov.za and the Department of Agriculture. Also referenced: GN R.6634 of 19 September 2025, Government Gazette 53361. Where this checklist and the Gazette differ, the Gazette governs.

This checklist is a self-assessment aid. It is not legal advice and is not issued by the Department of Agriculture or any inspection assignee. Compliance remains the responsibility of the producer, packer or seller. R345.co.za, version 1.0, 3 November 2026. The latest version and a plain-language guide are at r345.co.za.