

ters and figures with a vertical height of at least 10 mm on a prominent notice -board near the eggs.

Example of eggs sold in loose quantities



10. Legislative mandate

No person shall sell eggs for human consumption in the Republic of South Africa unless the eggs are sold according to the prescribed class or grade; unless the eggs comply with the prescribed standards regarding the quality, class or grade, packing, marking and or labelling requirements; or eggs does not contain a prescribed prohibited or restricted d particulars.

For technical information regarding egg regulation contact:

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**Regulations regarding
the grading, packing
and marking of eggs
destined for sale in
the Republic of South
Africa**



**agriculture, land reform
& rural development**

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

1. Background

Like many other countries, South Africa has requirements in place for control over the sale of eggs destined for sale on the local markets. Regulation No. 725 came into effect on 16 September 2011 and it is administered under the Agricultural Product Standards Act, Act No.119 of 1990. These requirements are aimed at protecting the consumers and the industry while making sure that the playing field is level to all industry stakeholders and role players.

2. Restrictions on the sale of eggs

No person shall sell eggs for human consumption in the Republic of South Africa, unless:

- Eggs are sorted according to size and grade
- Eggs comply with prescribed standards
- The container/outer container complies with specifications
- The container/outer container complies with the marking requirements
- The eggs sold in loose quantity comply with specifications
- Eggs do not contain any prohibited articles as per the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act No. 54 of 1972).

3. Standards for sizes

Eggs destined for sale in the Republic of South Africa, shall be sorted into sizes in accordance with the corresponding mass as specified in the table below:

Size/Grootte	Mass per egg/ Massa per eier
1	2
Super Jumbo	More than 72 g/Meer as 72 g
Jumbo	More than 66 g/Meer as 66 g
Extra large/Ekstra groot	More than 59 g/Meer as 59 g
Large/Groot	More than 51 g/Meer as 51 g
Medium	More than 43 g/Meer as 43 g
Small/Klein	More than 33 g/Meer as 33 g
Mixed sizes/Gemengde groottes	More than 33 g/Meer as 33 g

4. Standards for grades

Eggs shall be graded as:

- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3.

Note that eggs which do not comply to grade 1, 2 or 3 shall not be presented for sale in the Republic of South Africa

5. Requirements for containers and outer containers

All containers and outer containers carrying eggs shall comply with the following:

- be made from materials that are suitable for the purpose
- does not impart any taste or odour to the eggs packed therein
- be strong to protect eggs during handling and transportation
- does not absorb an excessive quantity of moisture during cooling
- be free from foreign matter
- be unbroken
- if not new container/outer container should be cleaned and previous labels and marks removed
- be closed properly

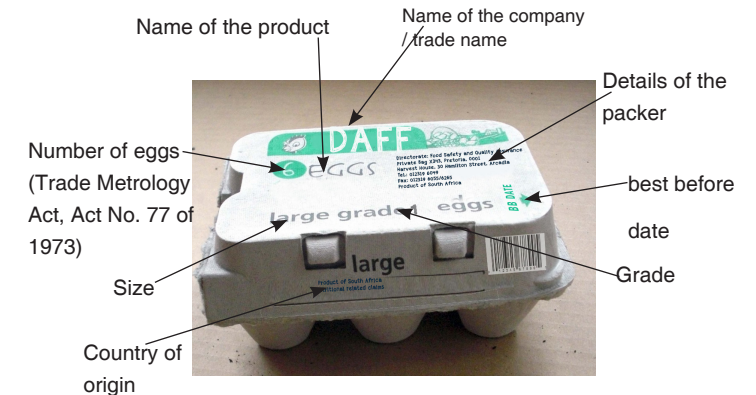
containers packed in an outer container shall fit comfortably.

6. Packing requirements

- Each container and outer container shall, with due regard to the packing material used therein, be packed with eggs to the full capacity thereof;
- Eggs of different grades shall not be packed together in the same container or outer container
- Eggs of different sizes shall not be packed together in the same container or outer container;
- Not more than 6,6% of the eggs in a container shall be packed in such a container with the broad ends thereof facing downwards.

7. Marking of containers and outer containers

Prescribed marking requirements in the regulations are used to provide the consumer with accurate and relevant information on a product, so as to allow an informed and personal choice to be made Containers and outer containers shall be marked with the following particulars in the following manner:



8. Restricted particulars on containers and outer containers

- Wording, marking, illustration, depiction or other method of expression that constitutes a misrepresentation/ directly or by implication and creates or may create a misleading impression regarding the quality, nature, size or grade, shall appear on the eggs, the container or the outer container.
- Free-range eggs, barn eggs and pasteurised eggs must comply with specified requirements as stipulated in the regulation.

9. Indications of where eggs are sold in loose quantities

When eggs are kept or displayed for sale in loose quantities:

- Eggs of different grades and sizes, except in the case of mixed sizes, must be kept or displayed separately;
- The size designation of the eggs concerned or expression "mixed sizes" or "gemengde groottes" whichever is applicable, as well as the grade designations of the eggs concerned must be marked in clear legible let-