



## **Explanatory Leaflet on the Regulations relating to the Production and Marketing of Hatching Eggs and Poultry Chicks**

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## 1. Introduction

Please read this leaflet carefully before completing the application form (EMR10) for the registration of your hatchery/breeding establishment. The requirement of the EC Regulation on the production and marketing of hatching eggs and poultry chicks are explained in this leaflet. It is not a complete and authoritative statement of law. If you wish to know about the legislation itself, please refer directly to the regulations mentioned below.

**Note** - If applicants wish to sell any of their eggs as Class A for the 'table market', please refer to the guidance in explanatory leaflet EMR01. Separate application forms (EMR02 (Egg Packing Centre)) and (EMR02B (Registration of an Egg Production Establishment)) must be completed and submitted to your nearest Egg Marketing Administrative Centre as indicated in the Appendix.

## 2. Regulations

The European Community has made two Regulations on the production and marketing of hatching eggs and poultry chicks: EC Council Regulation 1234/2007 supplemented by EC Commission Regulations 617/2008 and 589/2008 (as amended). These Regulations are implemented in England by The Eggs and Chicks (England) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 2163) and in Wales by The Eggs and Chicks (Wales) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 793). Similar Regulations apply in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The requirements of these Regulations in no way affect veterinary or licensing requirements which may be in force in the United Kingdom or in other countries. All enquiries regarding such requirements in this connection should be addressed either at your local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office in England in relation to veterinary matters or to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) at Newcastle for licensing requirements under the Common Agricultural Policy.

## 3. Purpose and Objectives

The Regulations lay down common standards for the marketing and transport of hatching eggs and poultry chicks throughout the Community and require hatcheries to make regular statistical returns on which short-term forecasts of the supply of eggs and poultry meat in the Community might be based.

## 4. What the Regulations Cover

(a) The Regulations apply to the production and marketing of hatching eggs and of poultry chicks not exceeding 185g in weight, of the species:

- fowls
- Turkeys
- Ducks
- Geese, and
- guinea fowl.

(b) The Regulations apply to hatcheries with a setting capacity of 1,000 eggs and over and to breeding establishments and multiplying establishments with 100 birds or more. Other hatcheries or establishments which do not meet these requirements are not obliged to observe the Regulations, but may do so if they wish.

## 5. Types of chicks

Five categories of chicks for commercial uses and breeding are recognised by the Regulations as follows:

(a) commercial chicks:

- table chicks: chicks intended to be fattened and slaughtered before reaching sexual maturity
- laying chicks: chicks intended to be raised with a view to the production of eggs for consumption;
- dual purpose chicks: chicks intended either for laying or for the table (it is recognised that these chicks are relatively unknown in the United Kingdom, but they exist in other Member States)

(b) parent stock chicks (chicks intended for the production of utility chicks)

(c) grandparent stock chicks (chicks intended for the production of parent stock chicks).

## 6. Types of Establishment

The Regulations cover three types of establishment which may exist separately or in combination, they are:

- pedigree breeding establishment: for the production of eggs for hatching intended for the production of grandparent stock, parent stock or utility chicks
- breeding establishment: for the production of eggs for hatching intended for utility chick production
- hatchery: for the incubation of eggs for hatching and supply of chicks for any purpose.

## **7. Registration**

If your hatchery, breeding establishment or multiplying establishment is covered by the Regulations (see section 4 (b)) you are required to register with APHA. The registration should be in the name of whoever owns or rents the establishment. Individual establishments belonging to the same business but at separate premises must be registered separately.

## **8. How to Register**

Simply complete the application form (EMR10) enclosed with this leaflet and return it to your nearest Egg Marketing Administrative Centre as indicated in the Appendix.

## **9. Registration number**

Provided your premises meet the requirements of the Regulations you will be given your own unique registration number. All registration numbers in the United Kingdom begin with the letters 'UK' followed by a registration number signifying the region in which your premises are situated, the establishment is a pedigree breeding establishment (code 1), a breeding establishment (code 2) or a hatchery (code 3). Establishments involved in more than one sector of activity will be given each relevant sector code.

## **10. Marking of Hatching Eggs for Incubation**

Eggs placed in an incubator must be marked individually in one of two ways as follows:

### **Method 1**

Requires the eggs to be marked at the producer establishment, the mark is that producer establishment's EC registration number, the number must be printed in an indelible black ink, and the characters must be at least 2mm high and 1mm wide.

### **Method 2**

Requires the eggs to be marked before they are placed in an incubator, the mark must be clearly visible, it must be printed in an indelible black ink and it must have an area of at least 10mm<sup>2</sup>. Marking may therefore be done at the producer establishment or the hatchery. Neither the shape of this mark nor its maximum size specified in the UK.

Both methods of marking will be permitted in the UK and eggs intended for incubation marked in either way may be transported or traded between EC Member States. Unmarked eggs intended for hatching may not be sent to other Member States.

## **11. Use of Incubated Eggs**

All eggs removed from incubators (including clears) are classified as 'industrial eggs' which means that they must not be used for human consumption. The length of time that an egg has been in the incubator is not relevant; any egg which is removed from an incubator for whatever reason is covered. In consequence, hatcheries are also forbidden from sending such incubated eggs to the food industry.

## **12. Packaging of Hatching Eggs and Poultry Chicks**

Packages of hatching eggs must be perfectly clean. They must contain exclusively eggs of the same species, of the same category and the same type of poultry, coming from the same registered establishment. The conditions specified for transporting poultry chicks are that the packages must contain chicks of the same species, category and type of poultry, produced by the same hatchery.

Packages of hatching eggs must bear the words 'eggs for hatching' in at least one Community language. Packs and Containers used to move eggs, intended for incubation and marked (or to be marked) in accordance with Method (2) above to the hatchery must be marked with the producer establishment's registration number. Packages of poultry chicks must bear at least the registration number of the hatchery which produced them.

## **13. Exports to third countries**

Packages of hatching eggs or chicks exported to third countries may bear any information required by those countries, provided that this is not likely to be confused with the information described in paragraph 12, nor with those laid down in the Community's Regulations on marketing standards for hen eggs.

## **14. Imports of Hatching Eggs from Third Countries**

Hatching eggs may be imported from third countries provided that the country of origin and the word 'hatching' appears on the egg in at least one of the Community's languages, in characters of at least 3mm high. Packages of hatching eggs must contain exclusively eggs of the same species, category and type of poultry, coming from the same sender in the same country of origin. The following particulars must be also be shown on the packages:

- those shown on the eggs
- the species of poultry from which the eggs come
- the sender's name or business name and address.

### **15. Imports of Hatching Eggs from Third Countries\***

Chicks imported from third countries must be packed according to species, category and type, coming from the same sender in the same country of origin. The package must bear the following indications:

- species of poultry to which the chicks belong
- country of origin
- the sender's name or business name and address.

### **16. Marketing of packs of Hatching Eggs and Poultry Chicks**

The marking on all packages of hatching eggs and poultry chicks must be clear and legible in indelible black ink in characters of at least 20mm high and 10mm wide with outlines drawn 1mm thick.

### **17. Accompanying Documentation**

Each consignment of hatching eggs or chicks leaving a registered establishment must be accompanied by a document written in at least one Community language, showing at least the following details:

- the name or business name and address of the establishment and its distinguishing number
- its registration number
- the number of hatching eggs or chicks sent, classified by species, category and type of poultry
- the date of despatch
- the name and address of the consignee.

Hatching eggs or chicks imported from third countries must be accompanied by a similar document, except that instead of the establishment's registration number, the country of origin should be specified.

### **18. Record keeping requirements**

Each hatchery is required to keep the following records in their registers: for species, category and type:

- the date on which the eggs are placed in incubation
- the number of eggs for hatching placed in incubation
- the distinguishing number of the establishment which produced the eggs
- the date the eggs hatched
- the number of chicks hatched
- the number of hatched chicks intended for actual use
- the number of eggs withdrawn from the incubator

the identity of the buyer of any incubated eggs.

### **19. Statistical Returns**

From the information compiled from their registers hatcheries are required to complete monthly statistical returns. These are collated by Defra in the strictest confidence and the information forwarded to the commission on a monthly basis. This information will merely consist of administrative regional totals and no details of activities of individual hatcheries will be divulged. Further details together with the necessary return forms will be provided after registration.

### **20. Administration and Enforcement**

The Regulations are enforced in England and Wales by APHA Egg Marketing Inspectors (EMIs), who carry out check inspections to ensure that the Regulations are being complied with. Scottish Government and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland are responsible for the enforcement of the Regulations in Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.

### **21. Enquiries**

If you have a query about any aspect of the Regulations please contact your nearest Egg Marketing Administrative Centre. Contact details are shown below.

## Location of Egg Marketing Administrative Centres

Please forward any application(s)/paperwork or address any queries to the appropriate Egg Marketing Administrative Centre shown below.

If your premises is in **England**, your Administrative Centre is:

Egg Marketing Team  
Customer Service Centre  
Animal and Plant Health Agency  
County Hall  
Spetchley Road  
Worcester  
WR5 2NP  
Telephone: 03000 200 301  
Email: [CSCOneHealthEggmarketing@apha.gov.uk](mailto:CSCOneHealthEggmarketing@apha.gov.uk)

If your premises is in **Wales**, your Administrative Centre is:

APHA  
Penrallt Offices  
Caernarfon  
Gwynedd  
Wales  
LL55 1BN  
Telephone: 0300 303 8268

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.