



MARYLAND EGG LAW - CARTON/CASE LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR SHELL EGGS

Although a specific lettering type is not required, all information must be legible. Specified type sizes are the minimum allowed and all lettering within a word or statement must meet the required lettering height.

A) The following must be on all cartons:

- 1) A safe handling statement with the words "safe handling instructions" in bold capital letters and the statement set off in a box by hairlines in lettering at least 1/16 of an inch in height. For example:

SAFE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS: To prevent illness from bacteria: keep eggs refrigerated, cook eggs until yolks are firm, and cook foods containing eggs thoroughly.

If the safe handling statement does not appear on the principal display panel or the front information panel, a separate refrigeration statement must be printed on either the principal display panel or the front information panel.

- 2) The packer's or distributor's complete name and address (at a minimum city, state and zip code if listed in phone book) must be on either the principal display panel or the information panel with a minimum type size of 1/16 of an inch.
 - 4) The packer's registration number must be on either the principal display panel or the information panel with a minimum type size of 1/16 of an inch.
 - 5) The lot designation of the eggs must be on either the principal display panel or the information panel with a minimum type size of 1/16 of an inch.
 - 6) The identity of the product as eggs must be on the principal display panel with a minimum type size of 1/4 of an inch.
 - 7) The net quantity of eggs in weight **or** numerical count must be on the principal display panel with a minimum type size as specified by the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, in general, 1/8 of an inch for 6 egg or 8 egg cartons, 3/16 of an inch for 12 egg or 18 egg cartons and 1/4 of an inch for 30 egg or more sleeves. If net quantity is expressed by both weight and count, only one must meet the minimum type size requirements. If net quantity is expressed by weight, both metric and ounces or pounds must be shown.
 - 8) The word grade and the grade classification (AA or A) and size of the eggs must be on the principal display panel with a minimum type size of 1/4 of an inch.
- B) The same information that is required to be on cartons must be on cases of eggs. The information may be on the top of the case or any of the sides. Type size requirements are the same as for cartons.
- C) The same information that is required to be on cartons and cases of shell eggs must be on cartons and cases of in shell pasteurized eggs except the grade can only be stated as produced from and a refrigeration statement may be used in lieu of the safe handling instructions.
- D) No information that may be misleading to the consumer may be on cartons. Documentation to support nutritional and/or production practices claims will be requested from producers.

QUESTIONS: CONTACT Deanna Baldwin at (410) 841-5769, Fax (410) 841-2750 or Deanna.Baldwin@maryland.gov

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