



Food Safety Fact Sheet

Licensed Egg Distributor or Last Handler

Egg Handout: Licensed Distributor or Last Handler, May 2016

Frequently Asked Questions

Who needs to obtain an egg distributor or last handler license from the Kansas Department of Agriculture?

Any person grading eggs, selling, offering for sale or distributing graded eggs in Kansas needs to obtain a license. The exception is if your business is a food purveyor or a retailer and you have a Food Establishment license.

My business distributes eggs into Kansas. My business is not a “last handler”, a retailer or a food purveyor. Do I still need to be licensed?

Yes, you are required to obtain an egg distributor license.

How much does a license cost?

The annual license fee is \$5.00.

Who is required to keep and retain records?

All licensed businesses are required to keep and retain records for three years to verify the quantity of eggs bought, sold, or offered for sale.

What is the inspection fee?

The inspection fee is \$0.0035 (3.5 mills) per dozen eggs.

Who is required to pay the inspection fee?

The “last handler” is required to pay the inspection fee. The “last handler” is any person who sells, offers or exposes for sale or distributes eggs to retailers or food purveyors. Distributing to another wholesaler does not require paying the inspection fee.

How do I pay the inspection fee?

The inspection fee may be paid in one of two ways.

- Last handlers may buy inspection fee stamps from the department. The stamps must be placed on each carton to verify that the inspection fee has been paid. The cost of the inspection fee stamps includes costs of printing and mailing the stamps.
- Last handlers may request a permit so that they can report and pay the inspection fee quarterly. The quarterly payment is \$0.0035 per dozen or \$15.00, whichever is greater.

Does the Department of Agriculture require a permit (K) number to be printed on the cartons?

No.

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What are the egg labeling requirements?

The outside of each container of eggs must be labeled with:

- The size and quality of eggs, which must be printed in boldface type letters not less than 3/8 inch in height;
- The identity of the eggs (types of eggs other than chicken eggs such as turkey, duck, guinea and other eggs);
- The name and address of either the packer, the person for whom the eggs are packed, or the retailer if the eggs have been repacked by the retailer;
- The pack date (which can be expressed in terms of the month and day or as a Julian date);
- The expiration date, which must be preceded by “exp,” “sell by,” “use by” or similar language.
- Safe handling instructions, which must include the statements:
 - “Keep refrigerated at or below 45° Fahrenheit,” which must be printed on the outside of the carton;
 - “To prevent illness from bacteria: Keep eggs refrigerated, cook eggs until yolks are firm, and cook foods containing eggs thoroughly,” printed on either on the outside or the inside of the carton;

All information must be in English and may not not be false or misleading.

As a retailer, can I repack eggs?

Yes. There are many requirements. Please contact the Food Safety program for a copy of these requirements.

Can I sell baluts (a food derived from fertile eggs which are incubated for a period of time shorter than is necessary for hatching)?

Yes, as long as the following requirements are met:

- Baluts must be refrigerated upon removal from incubation and maintained at a refrigerated temperature of 45° Fahrenheit, or less, while transported, stored or held for retail sale.
- Each container of balut shall be clearly and conspicuously labeled to inform the consumer that the product is an embryonated egg or such other term or phrase that is informative and not false or misleading.

Please contact KDA by email (fsl@kda.ks.gov), phone (785-564-6767), or fax (785-565-6779) if you have any questions.