

CFIA Requirements for obtaining a Grading Station Licence

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requirements for a grading station, to a great extent, would depend upon the volume of eggs you will be grading.

The egg station may be a single room or multiple rooms, attached or detached from the barn, but it must be completely separate from any living quarters. In some cases a room in a basement or garage will be considered acceptable if there is no direct access to the dwelling. In the past, sheds or trailers have been outfitted to meet registration requirements. There must be separate storage for graded and ungraded product. In some small volume stations, 2 refrigerators are sufficient rather than walk in coolers. A candling lamp and egg scale with check weight are the basic pieces of equipment for grading. Many small stations use basket washers to clean their eggs. An automated machine is not required but some small stations do use an "Aquamagic" style machine for the operations of candling, washing, weighing and sorting their eggs. You need to determine what will work best for your operation.

As a minimum construction requirement, CFIA requests painted plywood (no exposed drywall). Glass board panels, glazed tiles and smooth steel are some examples of suitable wall finishes that are impervious to moisture. For a *Reference listing of Accepted Construction Materials, Packaging Materials and Non-food Chemical Products* please refer to the following link:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/reference/refere.shtml>

The Station (see Egg Regulations - Conditions Respecting Registered Egg Stations 8.(1)(2)(3)) <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/en/C-0.4/C.R.C.-c.284>

Please also find attached the Chapter 2 of Shell Egg Manual for your reference. It will give you all the details you will need for registration.

CFIA's understanding is that BC Ministry of Agriculture and Land still administers the licencing under the Shell Egg Grading Regulation (links to Application forms below dated Jan. 2010). They issue the licences "to purchase ungraded eggs" to a grading station after it is recognized as a federally registered egg station. It provides a producer grader licence to those operators who produce and grade their own eggs so long as their station is federally registered. There are also licences issued for the control of reject and inedible egg to keep these products from entering the human food chain. A grading station that purchases eggs from others is apparently required to be bonded to ensure that the grading station pays the producer. This is done under the Bonding Act. It is the last link that is probably most relevant to the small operators:

http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/lhmr/forms/ungraded_eggs.pdf

http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/lhmr/forms/buy_reject_eggs.pdf

http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/lhmr/forms/inedible_egg.pdf

http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/lhmr/forms/grading_act_bond.pdf

http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/lhmr/forms/sell_reject_eggs.pdf

http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/lhmr/forms/producer_grader.pdf

At first, the process may seem overwhelming but be assured CFIA will be available to guide you through the registration process. Taking things step by step can make it fairly simple. For a small station, the set up and equipment need not be elaborate so long as they meet legislated requirements.

Once registered, an egg station is subject to ongoing sanitation and product inspection. Inspection frequencies for a small station range from 2 to 8 visits per year. The exact number is determined based on volume graded and an inspection compliance rating. CFIA will also conduct environmental swabbing (Salmonella) in the registered egg station, collect samples of egg wash water for analysis (total ACC, Coliforms), candle product for grade compliance and occasionally collect samples of eggs for analysis (Salmonella, chemical residue).

Some general information and quick links can be found on the CFIA website -

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/eggoeu/eggoeue.shtml>

Federal registration is required for an egg station to apply a Canada grade name to eggs. A Registered egg station must meet federal requirements related to construction, facilities, layout, equipment, sanitary operation and grading. Provincial regulations require that all containers of eggs sold, offered for sale or held in possession for sale be marked with a grade; the exception being eggs sold direct to a consumer from the producer's farm or place of residence. Legislation pertaining to eggs:
Federal Canada Agricultural Products Act- <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-0.4/index.html>
Egg Regulations - <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/en/C-0.4/C.R.C.-c.284>

Consumer Packaging and labelling Act and Regulations - <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-38>

Food and Drugs Act and Regulations as they pertain to food - <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/F-27/>

Provincial Agricultural Produce Grading Act -

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_96011_01

Shell Egg Grading Regulations -

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/17_105_78

The Registration Process

To determine if a station is eligible for registration, an inspector will work with the station operator to ensure that all items on the "Egg Station Application for Registration Checklist" are checked off. A copy of this list is attached (Appendix 11 to Chapter 2). This is done by documentation review and an inspection of the premise.

Recommended steps:

1. Review registration and background information (call CFIA with additional questions)
2. Arrange an on site visit with the inspector. This visit will give you the opportunity to seek clarification on information provided and discuss the acceptability/deficiencies of your premise and equipment so you can assess if wish to proceed with registration.

3. Prepare documentation package. It must include the following:
 - i. Application for Registration of an Establishment (CFIA/ACIA 3043) - <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/for/pdf/c3043e.pdf>
 - ii. Proof of business Name (federal or prov. document of incorporation or notarized affidavit)
 - iii. Site Plan - Hand drawn is acceptable
 - iv. Blue prints/ building plans - hand drawn is acceptable
 - v. Conformity documents - If required - written assurance or supporting documents showing all municipal, prov., and federal requirements are met ie. permits, environmental assessments
 - vi. Written Programs
 - a. Sanitation Program
 - b. Pest Control Program
 - c. Water Analysis (within 6 months of date of Application for registration)
 - d. Sewage and Wastewater disposal
 - e. Quality assurance Program
 - f. Recall Program
 - g. Employee Training Program
4. Submit documentation package to inspector for review (complete/accurate)
5. If required, amend or provide additional documents
6. Schedule an on site inspection to verify regulatory compliance and complete registration checklist.
7. If deficiencies are noted, the inspector will notify operator in writing of the findings and what must be done to satisfy registration requirements.
8. Following completion and approval of outstanding items, the inspector will forward the registration package and completed checklist to the Area Egg Specialist for final review.
9. Area Egg Specialist accepts registration package or makes recommendations for further correction.
10. Once approved, documents are sent to Ottawa with recommendation for Registration. Certificate is issued and delivered to the station by the inspector.

Fees

There are fees associated with registration and inspection of an egg station. Those that would most likely pertain to the size of operation you propose would be:

8) The annual fee payable for the inspection of a registered egg station that has an average weekly grading volume of:

xiii) 50 to 100 boxes (15 dozen equivalents) - annual rate \$200.00

xiv) less than 50 boxes (15 dozen equivalents) - annual rate \$135.00

8.1 The fee payable for a review by an inspector of plans and specifications referred to in paragraph 7(2)(a) or subsection 9(27) of the Egg Regulations is

i) hourly rate \$51.30

8.2 The fee payable for a re-inspection carried out to ensure that a contravention of the Egg Regulations has been corrected

i) hourly rate \$67.00

[Note: This only applies if a problem is found (ie. eggs do not meet grade marked, a sample collected fails to meet standards, station falls to a B or C rating.)

For further information on fees -

http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/reg/cfiaacia/feesfrais/part_2e.shtml

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