

Standards for Quality of Individual Shell Eggs

	<u>Grade AA</u>	<u>Grade A</u>	<u>Grade B</u>
SHELL	shall be clean, unbroken, and practically normal	shall be clean, unbroken, and practically normal	shall be unbroken, may be abnormal, may show slightly stained areas but not prominent stains or adhering dirt or foreign material; provided that the defects do not appreciably detract from the appearance of the egg. When the stain is localized, approximately 1/32 of the shell surface may be moderately stained and when the stained areas are scattered, approximately 1/16 of the shell surface may be moderately stained.
AIR CELL	shall not be > 1/8" in depth, may show unlimited movement, may be free or bubbly	shall not be > 3/16" in depth, may show unlimited movement, may be free or bubbly	may exceed 3/16" in depth, may show unlimited movement, may be free or bubbly
WHITE	shall be <i>clear & firm</i> , so that the yolk is only slightly defined when the egg is twirled before the candling light.	shall be <i>clear & at least reasonably firm</i> , so that the yolk outline is only fairly well defined when the egg is twirled before the candling light.	may be <i>weak & watery</i> , so that the yolk outline is plainly visible when the egg is twirled before the candling light.
YOLK	shall be practically free from apparent defects.	shall be practically free from apparent defects.	may appear dark, enlarged, and flattened, may show clearly visible germ development but no blood due to such development, and may show other serious defects that do not render the egg inedible. Small blood spots or meat spots aggregating not > 1/8" diameter may be present.

I. Summary of Consumer Grades for Shell Eggs

Consumer Grade	Quality Required (1)	Tolerance permitted (2)	
		Per cent (%)	Quality
Grade AA	87 per cent AA.	Up to 13	A or B. (3)
		Not over 5 ..	Checks. (4)
Grade A	87 per cent A or better.	Up to 13	B. (3)
		Not over 5 ..	Checks. (4)
Grade B	90 per cent B or better.	Not over 10.	Checks.

(1) In lots of two or more cases, see Table III (HAR ch 46) for tolerances for an individual case within a lot.

(2) For the Consumer grades a tolerance of 0.50 per cent Leakers, Dirties, or Loss (due to meat or blood spots) in any combination is permitted, except that such Loss may not exceed 0.30 per cent. Other types of Loss are not permitted.

(3) For the Grades AA and A within the tolerances permitted for B quality, not more than 1 per cent may be B quality due to air cells over 3/8 inch, blood spots aggregating not more than 1/8 inch in diameter, or serious yolk defects.

(4) For Grades AA and A Jumbo size eggs, the tolerance for Checks shall be 7 per cent.

II. Weight Classes for Consumer Grades for Shell Eggs

Size or Weight class	Min. Net Wt. per dozen (ounces)	Min. Net Wt. for individual eggs at rate per dozen (ounces)
Jumbo	30	29
Extra Large	27	26
Large	24	23
Medium	21	20
Small	18	17
Peewee	15

III. EGG DEFECTS

(see Table I. for tolerances)

Check - cracked shell but intact membrane

Dirty - dirt, foreign material, or stained intact shell

Leaker - broken shell and membrane that is leaking or could leak

Loss - large blood spot/meat spot, bloody whites, frozen, overheated, contaminated, other foreign material, and:

Inedible - [No tolerances] various color rots, off color, moldy, musty, sour, bloody, green whites, stuck yolks, containing chicks, adulterated (FDA def.)