



# B A S I C S

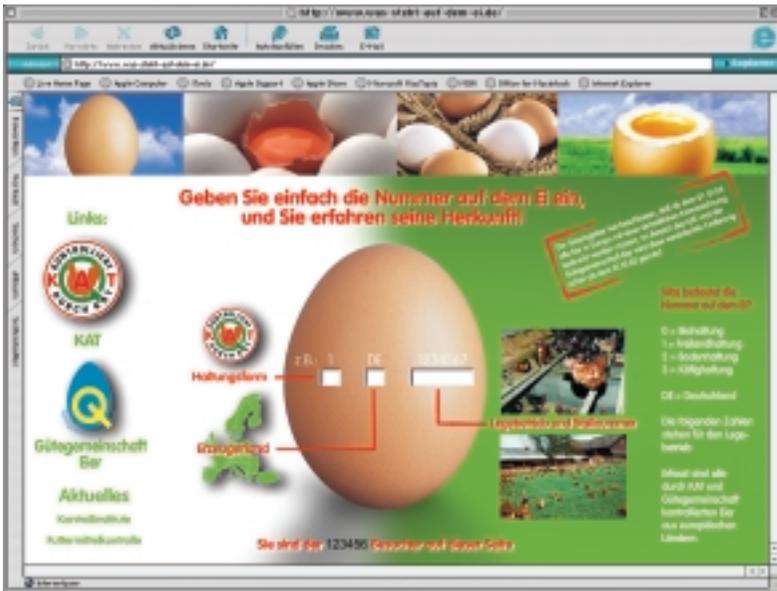
## EU Markings for Eggs and Packaging

As of: 1 March 2004



1 - EU - 1234567

1 - EU - 1234567



[www.was-steht-auf-dem-ei.info](http://www.was-steht-auf-dem-ei.info)  
[www.the-code-on-the-egg.info](http://www.the-code-on-the-egg.info)  
[www.ce-qui-est-inscrit-sur-les-oeufs.info](http://www.ce-qui-est-inscrit-sur-les-oeufs.info)



# B A S I C S

## Marking Elements for the Marketing of Eggs

- From 1 January 2004
- From 1 January 2005 at the latest
- From 1 July 2005

## Legal Basis

- Area of application
- Marking requirements

## Obligatory Marking Elements

- On the packaging
- On the egg

## Optional Marking Elements

- On the packaging
- On the egg

## Marking of Farming Method, Origin and Producer Code

- Farming method
- Origin
- Third country ruling
- Producer code on the egg
- Packing station number

## Additional KAT (Association for Controlled Animal Husbandry) Requirements

More information is available from:

1-EU-1234567

1-EU-1234567

### As of 1 January 2004:

- Obligatory declaration on the packaging of Quality Class A eggs indicating the farming method.
- Obligatory producer code on Quality Class A eggs showing details of the farming method and origin.
- Stamping of the eggs with the producer code either at the laying site or first packing station at the latest.
- Optional inclusion on the packaging of the consumer notice: "To establish the origin of the eggs, see the stamp on each egg." This avoids possible misunderstandings if the packing station and laying site are not in the same member country.
- Obligatory marking of Quality Class A eggs from third countries which do not have any farming method requirements comparable to those of EU regulations, with the declaration "Non EU-Standard" and the country of origin on each egg. The eggs must already be stamped in the exporting country.
- Control of all laying sites and packing stations at least once a year.
- Merging of the previous quality classes B and C into the new Quality Class B. Quality Class B eggs and/or "Secondary Quality or Downgraded Eggs" are intended for use in food industry and non-food industry companies licensed in accordance with Regulation 89/437/EEC.

- Washed eggs (previously Quality Class B) may continue to be marketed as consumer eggs for a transitional period of three years. They must be marked accordingly as "Washed Eggs" and must satisfy all of the requirements of Quality Class A. They may only be marketed in the member country in which they were washed in plants authorized for this purpose. "Washed Eggs" may not be marketed in Germany.

### From 1 January 2005 at the latest:

- Conversion of packing station numbers to include each respective country code (ISO Code).

### From 1 July 2005:

- Direct marketers must also stamp the producer code onto the eggs they sell at weekly markets, which means that from this date at the latest, all eggs sold at weekly markets must be stamped with the producer code.



# BASICS

## Legal Basis

The marking of eggs is regulated throughout the EU in the marketing standards for eggs:

- Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1907/90 on specified marketing standards for eggs, last amended by Regulation (EC) No. 2052/03 dated 17 November 2003.
- Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 2295/03 dated 23 December 2003 with implementation regulations on Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1907/90 on specified marketing standards for eggs.

The marketing standards regulate finally the marking of eggs, i.e. the eggs may not bear any markings other than those contained in these standards. Authorization for further-reaching national regulations is not planned.

### Area of Application

The marketing standards apply to hen eggs only. They do not apply to eggs which the producers themselves sell directly to ultimate consumers for their own use from the farm, at local public markets – with the exception of auction markets – or door to door, provided that these eggs are part of the production of the producer concerned, are unpacked, and that use is not made of quality or weight class information.

=> The exception for direct marketers at local public markets is due to expire. As of 1 July 2005, these eggs must also be stamped with the producer code.

The classification and marking regulations do not apply to eggs supplied for processing to food industry companies and non-food industry companies licensed in accordance with Guideline 89/437/EEC (Egg Product Guideline).

The regulations of the marketing standards also apply to eggs from organic production. In addition to this, the code number or name of the organic farming control authority must also be listed on the packaging of eggs from organic production in accordance with the EC Ecology Regulation.

### Marking Requirements

Markings must in all cases be applied to the exterior of the packaging in clearly visible and legibly printed letters. Where eggs are sold unpacked, the information must be listed on an accompanying sign or slip of paper on or next to the goods. The generally valid legal provisions of the food law which protects the consumer against deception and misrepresentation also apply.

1 - EU - 1234567

1 - EU - 1234567

## Obligatory Marking Elements



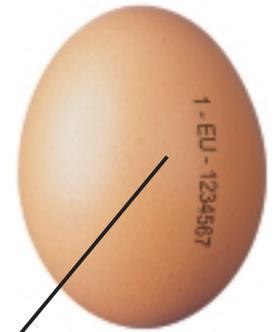
### On the packaging

- Quality Class
- Class A or “Fresh”: the eggs may neither be washed nor cleaned in any way and they may not be preserved; “normal” consumption eggs for private households.
- “Washed Eggs” (previously Quality Class B) are only permitted for a transitional period of three years. They must satisfy all of the demands of Quality Class A and may only be marketed in the member country in which they were washed in a plant licensed for this purpose. This affects S and NL only.
- Class B or “Secondary Quality or Downgraded Eggs” (previously Quality Class C) are intended for food and non-food industry companies licensed in accordance with Guideline 89/437/EEC.
- The criteria for allocation into the various quality classes are the condition of the shell and cuticle, air sac, egg white, yolk and nucleus as well as the smell of the egg.
- Information on the farming method for Quality Class A eggs (e.g. “Barn Eggs”)
- Weight Classes
  - XL Extra large 73 g and over
  - L Large 63 g to less than 73 g
  - M Medium 53 g to less than 63 g
  - S Small under 53 g



## Obligatory Marking Elements

- The Best Before date (BB) may be no later than 28 days after laying. The last selling date is the 21st day after laying. With Quality Class B eggs, the packing date must be listed in place of the best before date.
- In addition to this, the following consumer notice must also be applied to the packaging: “Consumer Notice: keep refrigerated – cook thoroughly if the best before date has expired”.
- Name, address and code number of the packing station
- Number of packed eggs



### On the egg

- Producer code, from which the farming method and country of origin can be determined, e.g. “2” for Barn and “CZ” for Czech Republic.

1 - EU - 1234567

1 - EU - 1234567

## Optional Identification Elements



## Optional Identification Elements

### On the packaging

- Consumer notice "Origin of eggs: see stamp on egg"
- Information on the type of feeding of the laying hens
- Indication of the origin of the eggs
- Indication of the farming method of Quality Class B eggs
- Date of laying
- Recommended sell-by date maximum 21 days after laying
- Extra or Extra Fresh for Quality Class A eggs sold up to the seventh day after packing or the ninth day after laying
- Selling price
- Business management code of the retailer
- Additional data for the information of the consumer
- Information or symbols to promote the sale of eggs, provided that this information and these symbols and the manner in which they are applied do not serve to mislead the purchaser



### On the egg

- Best before date
- Additional data for the information of the consumer
  - Quality class
  - Weight class
  - Farming method
  - Packing station number
  - Name or company description of the packing station, company logo or trademark

1 - EU - 1234567

1 - EU - 1234567

### Farming Method

Since 1 January 2004, it is obligatory to indicate the manner in which the laying hens are kept. With packed goods, the marking on the packaging must be in writing (e.g. Cage Eggs). When sold individually, the producer code and – optionally – a shortened form must be stamped on the eggs.

Since 1 January 2002, there have only been three farming methods (in brackets the shortened form to be stamped optionally on the eggs):

- Free Range Eggs (Free Range)
- Barn Eggs (Barn)
- Cage Eggs (Cage)

Where farming method requirements are concerned, reference is made to the greatest possible extent to Guideline 1999/74/EC (Guideline on the Keeping of Laying Hens) and the Ecology Regulation. In addition to this, a run of 4 m<sup>2</sup> per hen is prescribed in free-range farming. This area must be available to the laying hens at all times. The run is limited to a radius of 350 m around the hen-house with the simultaneous obligation to provide opportunities for the birds to shelter. In addition to this, the option of a rotation of the run is also planned. In this case, at least 10 m<sup>2</sup> per laying hen must be available throughout the life cycle of the flock, with simultaneous access to the overall area, of which at least 2.5 m<sup>2</sup> per hen must be available in the run currently in use.

### Origin

The information on the origin (member country in which the hen farm is located) of the egg on the packaging is optional at the moment and will remain so after 1 January 2004. As of 1 January 2004, however, it is obligatory to stamp all Quality Class A eggs with a producer code, so that in addition to the farming method, the consumer can also recognize the origin of the egg directly on each egg.

### Third Country Ruling

As of 1 January 2004 it is also obligatory to stamp all Quality Class A eggs imported from third countries with the producer code. If these third countries do not have any farming method requirements comparable with those of the EU, they must be marked with the declaration “Non EU-Standard” and the country of origin. The eggs must already be stamped before leaving the exporting country. In addition to this, the generally valid marking regulations also apply to imported eggs.

### Producer Code on the Egg

As of 1 January 2004 (1 May 2004 for the acceding countries), every Quality Class A egg must be stamped with a producer code which indicates the farming method used to keep the laying hens.



# BASICS

The producer code has the following structure:

1. Farming method code
  - 0 Organic Production
  - 1 Free Range
  - 2 Barn
  - 3 Cage
2. Code of the registering member country (origin)
 

Two letters for the member country, e.g.:

  - AT Austria
  - BE Belgium
  - CZ Czech Republic
  - DE Germany
  - etc.
3. Farm ID
 

Each member state sets up a system whereby individual number is assigned to the farms to be registered. Additional digits can be added to identify the individual flocks/coops.

Example: I-CZ-1234567

I Farming Method = Free Range

CZ = Czech Republic

1234567 = Farm number and, if necessary, co-op number

The producer code on the egg provides the option of clear recognition of the farming method and origin.

### Packing Station Number

The licensed packing stations can continue to use their old packing station numbers until 31 December 2004. Thereafter, the old packing station numbers must be replaced by newly assigned ones which can be used as soon as they are issued. As of 1 January 2005 at the latest, only the newly assigned packing station numbers will be valid.

The new packing station numbers will have the following appearance:

Example: CZ-123456

- The hyphen will be positioned between the “CZ” and the number sequence in future. In this way too, the packing station number will be adapted to the producer code on the egg.

1 - EU - 1234567

1 - EU - 1234567

## Additional KAT and GGE Requirements

- The washing of eggs is not permitted.
- The eggs must be stamped at the farm and not at the packing station.
- In addition, the notice “See the stamp on the egg for the country of origin” must be applied to the packaging.
- No trading with unstamped raw products.
- Raw product procurement only from licensed laying hen farms.

Eggs sell better with the KAT or Gütegemeinschaft Eier (Egg Quality Association) quality seals.



B  
A  
S  
I  
C  
S

## More information is available from:

Europäischer Fachverband ZVE

info@epega.org  
www.epega.org/zve



Gütegemeinschaft Eier  
Für Eier aus Käfighaltung

info@epega.org  
www.epega.org/gge



Verein für kontrollierte Tierhaltungs-  
formen e.V.

Herkunfts- und Qualitätssicherung für Eier  
aus Bio-, Freiland- und Bodenhaltung

info@kat-cert.de  
www.kat-cert.de



Hartmann Verpackung

No. 1 in Europe for egg packaging  
Marketing services around the egg

mos@hartmann.dk  
www.hartmannverpackung.de



1 - EU - 1234567

1 - EU - 1234567