

General Circular

General Circular 05/2014

An important update from the NSW Food Authority (the Food Authority) for all NSW egg producers and graders.

What to do if your egg stamping equipment fails

From 26 November 2014, Standard 4.2.5 – *Primary Production and Processing Standard for Eggs and Egg products* requires all licensed egg producers and graders that sell eggs in NSW to stamp individual eggs and packages of egg pulp for sale with a unique identifying mark so they can be traced back to the place of production.

In the event that egg stamping equipment fails, the Food Authority has implemented a program to ensure that licensees can continue to sell eggs without the mandatory egg stamping – for an agreed period of time.

The [Food Safety Program template for small egg producers](#) was recently updated to include the new stamping requirement and now also includes a section called *Equipment failure – egg stamping*. This updated food safety program should be reviewed and implemented by all licensees using the existing Food Authority developed Food Safety Program (FSP). A new form titled [Notification of equipment failure – egg stamping](#) has also been created and for any instances where egg stamping equipment fails, licensees must:

- complete the form and submit it to the Food Authority **within 24 hours** of egg stamping machinery failure (*this form must be submitted before any unstamped eggs are sold*).

Upon receipt of this advice, the Food Authority will contact you to:

- confirm the notification has been received
- ensure all appropriate actions are being taken to repair egg stamping equipment and systems are in place to continue the traceability of all sold eggs
- discuss and agree to the estimated egg stamping resumption date
- issue you with a formal letter stating that you have provided sufficient evidence to show that you are taking all measures necessary to rectify the equipment failure that is currently preventing you from stamping your eggs until the agreed date. This letter may be provided to retailers, caterers and other businesses you supply with eggs to make them aware that the Food Authority is granting a grace period from the stamping requirement during this time.

Once the resumption date has been agreed by both parties, unstamped eggs will not be permitted to be sold beyond this date unless you contact the Food Authority and an extension is granted.

A copy of this form is to be maintained in the FSP for review by a Food Safety Officer.

Until the egg stamping equipment is repaired or replaced, a traceability system will be implemented to ensure unstamped eggs can be recalled should a foodborne illness incident occur. The following records will be maintained for the sale of unstamped eggs:

- the name and address of the person or business to whom the eggs are sold,
- the lot identification (or the date of sale), and
- the quantity of eggs sold.

Please refer to the Egg Stamping page on our website for further information regarding the requirement to stamp eggs and the Egg Producers page for information on the required Food Safety Program as well as to access to all relevant resources.

Enquiries

Further information and additional resources can be found on our website at:

- Fact sheet – egg stamping for egg producers
[www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/ Documents/industry_pdf/egg_stamping_for_egg_producers.pdf](http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/Documents/industry_pdf/egg_stamping_for_egg_producers.pdf)
- *Food Safety Program template for small egg producers*
[www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/ Documents/industry_pdf/sml_egg_producers_template.pdf](http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/Documents/industry_pdf/sml_egg_producers_template.pdf)
- *Notification of equipment failure – egg stamping*
[www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/ Documents/industry_pdf/notification_of_equipment_failure_egg_stamping.pdf](http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/Documents/industry_pdf/notification_of_equipment_failure_egg_stamping.pdf)
- Industry sector requirements – egg producers
www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/industry-sector-requirements/eggs/egg-producers
- Industry sector requirements – egg stamping
www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/industry-sector-requirements/eggs/stamping

Please direct any enquiries to:

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