



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

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## **ARIZONA ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGE ANIMAL HUSBANDRY STANDARDS / CAGE FREE TRANSITION**

**Change to the cage size requirements for shell eggs and egg products that are sold in Arizona.**

### **WHAT HAS CHANGED**

**Beginning October 1, 2022, all eggs and egg products sold in ARIZONA shall be from hens that are housed in accordance with the UEP Animal Husbandry Guidelines and provided with no less than one square foot of usable floor space per egg-laying hen.**

**Beginning no later than January 1, 2025, all eggs and egg products sold in ARIZONA shall be from hens housed in a cage-free manner.**

### **A.R.S. § 3-710.**

J. The director shall adopt rules for poultry husbandry and the production of eggs sold in this state. This subsection does not apply to egg producers operating or controlling the operation of an egg ranch that has fewer than twenty thousand egg-laying hens producing eggs.

### **Affected sections of the Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.)**

- R3-2-901. Definitions
- R3-2-903. Sampling: Schedule and Methods for Evidence
- R3-2-905. Inspection Fee Rate
- R3-2-906. Violations and Penalties
- R3-2-907. Poultry Husbandry; Standards for Production of Eggs and Biosecurity Requirements

**Small producers with less than twenty thousand egg-laying producing hens are exempt from this cage size requirement standard.**

**How to comply with the requirements:**

**Distributors that are reselling eggs/egg products within Arizona please contact your suppliers to inform them of this change.**

Additional information for distribution centers. All egg and egg products that you receive should be accompanied by a certificate showing compliance with this rule.

If your warehouse receives out of state eggs and egg products that are not compliant with this rule for distribution outside of Arizona. Those eggs and egg products have to be stored separate from eggs and egg products that are intended for Arizona distribution. Additional certification service for your warehouse may be available upon your request.

**Manufacturers / Retail stores**

All eggs and egg products purchased by your company for retail sales or manufacturing are subject to this rule and are required to be in compliance with the cage size requirement.

**What eggs/egg products are covered by this rule:**

**"Eggs"**

Means eggs that are in the shell and that are from chickens.

**"Egg products"**

(a) Means eggs, in raw or pasteurized form, that are removed from the shell in a liquid, frozen, dried, or freeze-dried state, but are not fully cooked.

(b) May consist of whole eggs, yolks, whites, or any blend of yolk and white, with or without additives, if eggs are the main ingredient.

**Producers**

Beginning no later than October 1, 2022, in order to sell eggs or egg products within the state, a business owner or operator must have a certificate from the Supervisor certifying that the eggs or egg products are produced in

compliance with subsections (C) through (F), or are exempt under subsection (G). The Supervisor will certify that eggs and egg products are produced in compliance with subsections (C) through (G) if the eggs or egg products are accompanied by documentation from a government or private third-party inspection and continuous process verification service that the Supervisor deems acceptable establishing that the eggs or egg products were produced in compliance with this Section. The immediate container of eggs and egg products shall be plainly and conspicuously marked with the words "ARS 710J" in bold-faced type not less than one-eighth inch in height; or in another manner pre-approved by the department.

### **Certification**

Business owner or operator must have a certificate in order to sell eggs and egg products in Arizona. A certificate can be obtained by providing the Department documentation of compliance with the rule. Documentation is required for individual barns, and continuous process verification service.

### **Barns**

A current audit of the barns that certifies compliance with the cage size or that the barn is cage-free with the density no less than one square foot of usable floor space per egg-laying hen. This audit has to meet the minimum requirement of the UEP standard or equivalent. The auditing services can be government or an independent private third-party.

### **Process verification**

A continued processing verification at the time of packaging is required to obtain a certificate. This certification service can be provided by government or an independent private third-party that is acceptable to the Department.

### **Labeling**

The immediate container of eggs and egg products shall be plainly and conspicuously marked with the words "ARS 710J" in bold-faced type not less than one-eighth inch in height; or in another manner pre-approved by the department.

For alternate markings or the use of the Official Plant number used as a pre-approved manner certain requirements have to be met and determined on an individual basis.

One example where the use of an alternate marking may be acceptable.

- 100% of the barns are in compliance an independent processing verification protocol is establish that verifies compliance with the packaging process.

### **How to obtain a certificate from the Department**

We are currently in the process of building a database and will be accepting requests for certificates on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

For questions about the rule please email them to:

**ARIZONA-CAGEFREE@AZDA.GOV**

Or contact,

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