

Egg Food Safety Scheme

FACT SHEET

The *Primary Produce Safety Act 2011* applies the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (FSANZ) in Tasmania through food safety schemes. The Egg Food Safety Scheme was developed through the *Primary Produce Safety (Egg) Regulations 2014* and applies *Standard 4.2.5: Primary Production and Processing Standard for Eggs and Egg Products*.

Commercial Egg Production

You are considered a Commercial Egg Producer (or “egg business”) under the Tasmanian Egg Scheme if you or your business keeps birds to produce eggs for human consumption, and involves any one or more of the following activities:

- The direct sale or supply of eggs to friends, family, or colleagues, or from your farm gate
- The sale or supply of eggs to a business (e.g. corner store, cafe, canteen) or at a market
- The sale or supply of eggs by wholesale

Under the Egg Scheme, there are two categories of commercial egg producers:

Category 1 - Unaccredited Commercial Egg Producers

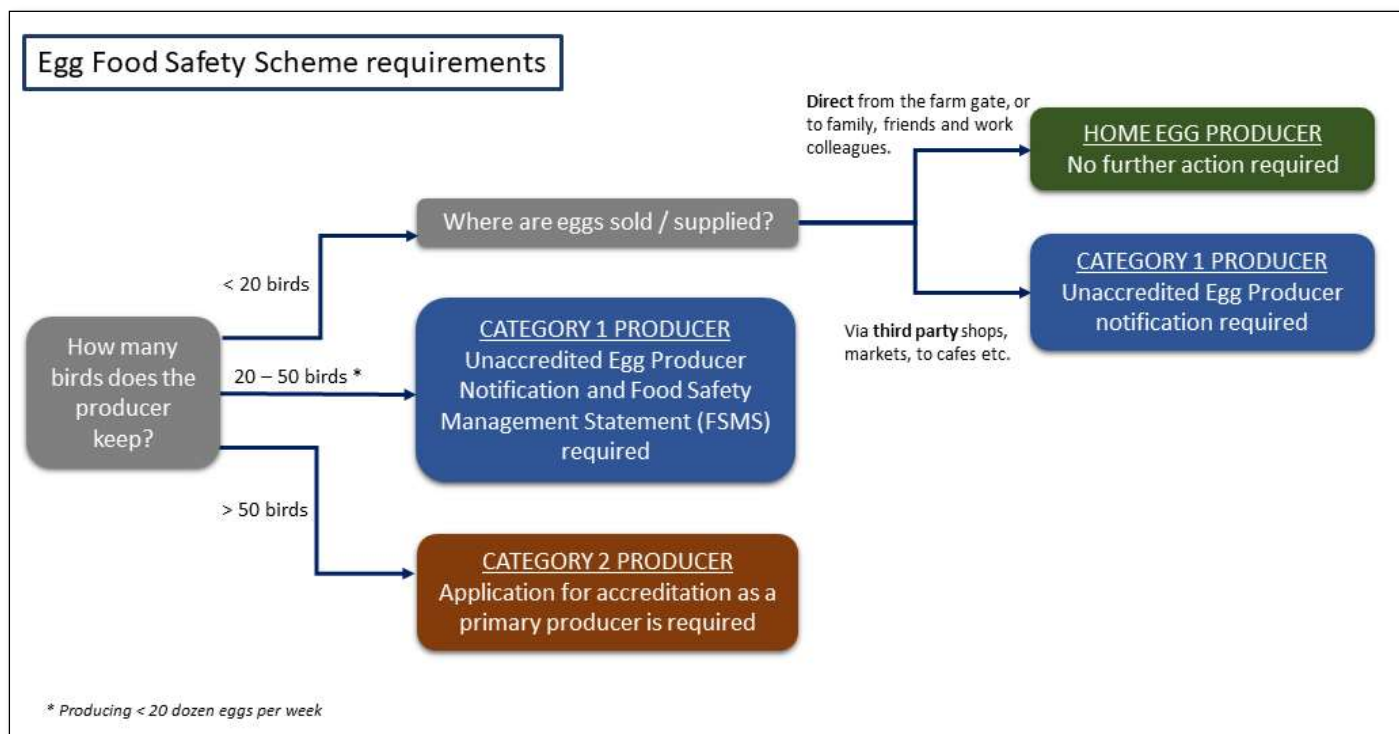
- Fewer than 20 dozen eggs are produced in a week
- For producers selling eggs at cafes, markets, shops, or other third-party establishments
- Producers must comply with the Food Standards Code in respect to eggs intended for sale
- Notification to Biosecurity Tasmania and their approval is required prior to the supply of eggs
- No annual fees apply

Category 2 - Accredited Commercial Egg Producers

- More than 20 dozen eggs are produced in a week, or more than 50 egg-laying birds are kept
- Producers must comply with the Food Standards Code in respect to eggs intended for sale
- Producers adhere to an approved Food Safety Program, which is audited annually
- Full accreditation is required prior to supply of eggs
- Application and annual fees apply

Exemption for Non-Commercial Home Egg Producers

Small commercial egg businesses keeping fewer than 20 egg-laying birds, and only occasionally selling or bartering excess eggs **directly** to friends, family, neighbours, or colleagues, are exempt from the Egg Scheme.



Food Safety Management Documentation

All Tasmanian commercial egg producers are required to operate in accordance with a food safety management statement (FSMS) or a food safety program that has been approved by Biosecurity Tasmania. Producers who keep fewer than 20 birds and only sell direct to friends, family, and colleagues, need only submit a notification form, and not a full FSMS.

Your completed food safety documentation will demonstrate that you will manage the food safety risks associated with your operation and comply with FSANZ Standard 4.2.5. Unaccredited producers can complete an FSMS by using a template provided by Biosecurity Tasmania. Should you wish to utilise an alternative template, please contact us to confirm your FSMS might be acceptable. Accredited producers please contact a Food Safety Management Officer to discuss your individual requirements.

Labelling - Unaccredited Commercial Egg Producers (Category 1)

Egg cartons must be labelled in accordance with FSANZ Standard 1.2.1., except in certain circumstances, such as when it is packed in the presence of the consumer. The label on a carton of eggs must include the following information:

- The name of the food
- The name and physical address of the premises where the food was produced
- Best before date
- Lot / batch number
- Storage directions



Egg Stamping

Egg stamping was introduced to improve traceability in the event of food borne illness outbreaks. All eggs that are sold by commercial egg producers to an egg business, food business, at a market, or by way of wholesale, **must be stamped** with a unique identifier that is approved by Biosecurity Tasmania.

Unaccredited Commercial Egg Producers (Category 1) will be supplied with a free handheld stamp once their food safety documentation has been approved.

- Accredited egg producers may use their own unique branding or mark to stamp eggs, pending approval from Biosecurity Tasmania.
- Unaccredited egg producers may only stamp their eggs with the unique identifier assigned to them by Biosecurity Tasmania.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Your egg stamp number and relevant details will be made available on a public register. This enables customers, regulatory authorities, and members of the public to verify if the eggs are being produced legally by you. Unaccredited commercial egg producers may also be subject to inspections by Biosecurity Tasmania officers to verify compliance with the Standard and the requirements of the Egg Scheme.

Some local government areas have planning and by-law restrictions on the keeping of chickens, and/or operating a primary production business. Notification of your egg business to Biosecurity Tasmania does not exempt you from these legal requirements. You should seek advice from your local Council regarding any local government restrictions (e.g. planning, environmental) which may apply to your egg business.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO NOW?

If you are considering becoming a Category 1 Unaccredited Commercial Egg Producer, download a Notification form and Food Safety Management Statement template at <https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/product-integrity/food-safety/eggs/egg-producer-application-forms>

Send completed forms via email to foodsafety.enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au.

If you are considering becoming a Category 2 Accredited Commercial Egg Producer, please contact a Food Safety Management Officer.

For more information, contact:

Food Safety Management Officer

Primary Produce Safety Program

Biosecurity Tasmania

Phone: (03) 6165 3777

Email: foodsafety.enquiries@nre.tas.gov.au

