

## GENERAL CIRCULAR

This general circular contains important information from the NSW Food Authority for NSW egg producers.

Please take the time to read this information.

If you have any queries, please contact

NSW Food Authority Helpline on 1300 552 406

## General Circular 03/2012

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**To:** All NSW egg producers and processors

**Subject:** Egg stamping

### Issue

The implementation of egg stamping requirements in order to comply with the Australia and New Zealand Food Standards Code, Standard 4.2.5 – *Primary Production and Processing Standard for Eggs and Egg products in NSW*.

### Background

On 26 May 2011, Food Standards Australia New Zealand gazetted Standard 4.2.5 - *Primary Production and Processing Standard for Eggs and Egg products in NSW*, with a mandatory national implementation of the standard to begin in November 2012.

Standard 4.2.5 closely aligns with the NSW Egg Food Safety Scheme (FSS). The only significant difference relates to the traceability of eggs back to the place of production. Standard 4.2.5 requires eggs for sale to be uniquely identified, eg stamped, which is not a current requirement of the NSW Egg FSS.

Traceability in the egg industry has been an issue. Stamping was introduced in order to improve the traceability component so that eggs can be traced back to the place of production. Stamping may be conducted at the site of production or during the grading process, which may be at a different location.

### Implementation

Late last year the Authority sought feedback from licensees via a survey on the best way to implement stamping requirements required under the new standard. The responses demonstrated to the Authority businesses' concerns about implementing stamping requirements, including possible capital investment. Adequate time is needed to enable businesses to decide whether to retro fit current equipment or upgrade in order to comply with the standard.

The Authority will assist egg businesses by extending the implementation time for stamping in NSW by 24 months. Any enforcement action in respect of stamping will not commence until November 2014, giving businesses time to budget for and decide upon the type of egg stamping equipment they wish to use.

Businesses are still obliged to comply with current labelling and traceability requirements as prescribed in the Food Standards Code. Action can be taken by the Authority where non-compliance is detected. Where businesses supply eggs interstate they will need to find out from the relevant jurisdiction in that state what the stamping requirements are post November 2012.

### Stamping equipment information

The Authority has collated information on stamping equipment, including the suitability and costs for different size businesses (see attachment 1). The list of suppliers may help businesses research options.

### Manual egg stamping

With respect to small egg producers, ie those who produce fewer than 1000 eggs per day, the Authority will supply a manual egg stamp including ink. This stamp will be issued with a pre-assigned code which will consist of a NSW descriptor together with producer identification. Businesses will have the opportunity to develop their own logos and branding for marketing purposes.



### Enquiries

Please direct any enquiries to:

Contact	Phone	Fax
<b>NSW Food Authority Consumer &amp; Industry Helpline</b> <a href="mailto:contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au">contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au</a> <a href="http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au">www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au</a>	1300 552 406	02 9741 4888



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### Egg Stamping Equipment

Standard 4.2.5 - *Primary Production and Processing Standard for Eggs and Egg Products in NSW*, requires each egg to be uniquely identified (e.g. stamping).

There are various types of egg stamping equipment, some are automated others are manual (hand held). When purchasing egg stamping equipment businesses will need to consider on going costs such as equipment maintenance and ink refill. The costs detailed in the table below are indicative and may not include delivery and installation. Manual hand held egg stamping equipment costs range from \$42 - \$200 and automated equipment costs range from \$1409 - \$4400. Where cost is not indicated please contact the suppliers for product details.

The table details Australian and international businesses that provide egg stamping equipment. This list is not exclusive.

Company name	Product(s)	Website
Ascott	Single hand held egg stamping option indicative cost from \$100 - \$200	<a href="http://www.ascott-dairy.co.uk/">http://www.ascott-dairy.co.uk/</a>
Ausgiant Marking Systems Pty Ltd	Automated egg stamping equipment options	<a href="http://www.ausgiant.com.au/eggcoder_1.html">http://www.ausgiant.com.au/eggcoder_1.html</a>
Easyprint Australia	'Mini Jet' indicative cost \$4400	<a href="http://www.easy-print.com.au/">http://www.easy-print.com.au/</a>
Eggid	Single hand held egg stamping option indicative cost \$42	<a href="http://eggstamp.com">http://eggstamp.com</a>
Egg Packaging Enterprises	Single hand held egg stamping option indicative cost \$160	<a href="http://egg-packaging-enterprises.co.uk/multi-repeater-hand-stamper/">http://egg-packaging-enterprises.co.uk/multi-repeater-hand-stamper/</a>
Fikser	Single and multiple hand held egg stamping options	<a href="http://www.fikser.nl/Eistempels/producten_e.html">http://www.fikser.nl/Eistempels/producten_e.html</a>
Nuovo	Automated multiple egg stamping equipment options	<a href="http://www.nuovo.ch/_gb_index.html">http://www.nuovo.ch/_gb_index.html</a>
Ovoconcept	Automated egg stamping equipment options	<a href="http://www.ovoconcept.eu/">http://www.ovoconcept.eu/</a>
Ovorerder	Automated egg stamping equipment options	<a href="http://www.ovorerder.com/">http://www.ovorerder.com/</a>
Prizen	Automated egg stamping equipment options	<a href="http://www.prizen.co.uk/en-GB/Products.cms/On_Farm_packing/Egg_Coding_Devices">http://www.prizen.co.uk/en-GB/Products.cms/On_Farm_packing/Egg_Coding_Devices</a>
Stamps Direct Limited	Semi manual 'JetStamp 790e for Stamping Eggs' indicative cost \$1409	<a href="http://www.stampsdirect.co.uk/jetstamp-790e-for-stamping-eggs-922-p.asp">http://www.stampsdirect.co.uk/jetstamp-790e-for-stamping-eggs-922-p.asp</a>
Volker GmbH	Egg stamping equipment options including multiple hand held kits and automated kits	<a href="http://www.voelker-gmbh.net/indexeng.htm">http://www.voelker-gmbh.net/indexeng.htm</a>