

Selling Eggs in Missouri FAQ's

Licensing

1. If I sell my eggs strictly from my house/farm, do I need a license?

No, if customers strictly come to your house or farm to purchase the eggs, there is no license required.

2. I am planning on selling my eggs at the farmers' market. What type of license do I need to do that?

You would need a Retailer License.

3. I operate a store and would like to sell my eggs from my store, what license must I have to do that?

You will need a Retailer's License. Along with this license you must have a Missouri Tax ID Number and provide a "No Tax Due Letter" when applying for the license. To obtain the "No Tax Due Letter" you will contact the Missouri Department of Revenue at 573-751-9268.

4. I have a flock of chickens and want to sell my eggs to a local convenience store or restaurant. What type of license do I need for this?

You will need a Dealer's License.

5. I have a bakery and will be using fresh shell eggs in my baked products. Do I need a Processor's egg license?

No, a processor egg license allows for processing the eggs into either liquid or frozen eggs.

6. How do I apply for a Missouri Egg License?

To apply for an egg license you can go online at <https://apps.mda.mo.gov/webforms/Egg-License-Form> or you can email mda.dci@mda.mo.gov and a paper application can be sent to you.

7. How long is the license good for?

The license expires on June 30th of each year. Licenses are not prorated, therefore if you apply in March your license will be issued through June 30th of the current year.

8. How long will it take to receive my license?

As long as application, payment and any other applicable documents are received the license would be issued, and mailed within two weeks.

9. How do I renew my egg license?

To renew your egg license you can renew online <https://apps.mda.mo.gov/webforms/Egg-License-Form> or by paper application. Paper renewals are mailed out in May of each year to mailing address provided on the egg license application or renewal form. If you did not receive an egg license renewal form you can go online, and renew your license as long as you have your license number and PIN number, or you can email us at mda.dci@mda.mo.gov, and one can be sent to you.

Candling, Packaging and Storage of Eggs

1. Do I have to clean my eggs before I package them?

The USDA recommends the following washing precautions should be followed:

- Wash eggs with water at least 20 °F (11.1 °C) warmer than the internal temperature of the eggs and at a minimum of 90 °F (32.2 °C).
- Select a detergent or detergent sanitizer that is compatible with the wash water and one that will not give off foreign odors that may be imparted to the egg.
- Use only potable water with an iron content of less than 2 parts per million (p/m) for washing and keep wash water as clean as possible.
- Rinse by spraying with water slightly warmer than the wash water.
- Use an approved sanitizer in the spray rinse.
- Dry the eggs to remove any excess moisture prior to packaging.

2. Do I need to package my eggs by grade?

Yes, all eggs sold to consumers must be candled and graded. Candling is used determine the grade of eggs as listed in the "USDA Grading Manual" Candling is also utilized to show evidence of abnormalities within the egg, which could make it unfit to be sold.

3. I have never candled eggs before, where can I learn how to do this?

A good reference is the "USDA Grading Manual".

4. Can I use previously used cartons to package my eggs?

Yes, as long as the cartons are in clean and sound condition. All markings on the carton that do not pertain to eggs currently in the carton must be removed and updated with the name and address of the person/business packaging the eggs, the size, grade, and the date the eggs are packaged.

5. What are the labeling requirements for egg cartons?

To package eggs you must have Missouri dealer's license or a limited retailer's license. On each carton you must have either the license number or the name and address of the person or business packaging the eggs, the size, grade and the date the eggs are packaged.

6. What temperature are eggs required to be stored, transported and displayed at?

Eggs are required to be at 45°F or below.

Egg Inspections

1. Will I be getting an inspection?

Yes, all licensees are subject to at least an annual inspection by a state inspector.

2. What will the inspector be looking for during their inspection?

The inspector will check the quality of your eggs and ensure they match the labeling on the carton, and that they are clean and undamaged, and ensure they are being kept at 45°F or below.



Stop Sale issued for breakage



Stop Sale issued for not being refrigerated