



## Trader Notice No. 7 of 2023

8 Aug 2023

To: Egg Producers, Egg Collectors, Egg Packing Centres, Egg Wholesalers and Distributors,  
Food Safety Authority of Ireland, Environmental Health Officers, Retailers, Bord Bia,  
Irish Egg Association, Irish Farmers Association, Teagasc Poultry Advisor.

**Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) Information Notice on clarification of Hygiene and Marketing requirements of Eggs and in particular the requirement that, Eggs must be delivered to the consumer within 28 days of laying.**

- This notice is to clarify a change in the legislative requirement where eggs had to be delivered to the consumer within a maximum time limit.
- Eggs must now be delivered to the consumer within a maximum time limit of 28 days of laying.
- The legal basis for this requirement is outlined in point 3 of Chapter 1, Section X, of *Annex III* of Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004 (Page 77) laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin and is available at the following current consolidated legislative link. (02 Aug 2023) [CL2004R0853EN0240010.0001\\_cp 1..2 \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2004/853/consolidated/20230802/eng/html)
- The EU Commission introduced the amendment outlined above with the intention to reduce food waste.
- In addition, it is important to note the other requirements outlined in this amended legislation namely:
  - In the case of hens' eggs this change to food hygiene requirements now aligns with the Egg Marketing Standards legislative requirement where the Best Before Date for hen eggs is fixed at no more than 28 days of laying and where a period of laying is indicated, the best before date must be determined from the first day of the laying period.
  - Eggs must be kept clean, dry, free of extraneous odour, effectively protected from shocks and out of direct sunshine at the producer's premises and until sale to the consumer.
  - Eggs must be stored and transported until sale to the final consumer at a temperature, preferably constant that is best suited to assure optimal conservation of their hygiene properties.

**Further Information:** If you require any further information, please email [feedenquiries@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:feedenquiries@agriculture.gov.ie) or phone 01- 5058884.

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