



Selling Eggs Exemption

Information from:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/food-business/poultry-egg-processing-requirements/egg-production-processing/risk-management-programmes-for-egg-production-and-processing/>

Exemption from RMP requirement

Some smaller egg producers may be eligible for an exemption from having an RMP (clause 11F of the Animal Products (Exemptions and Inclusions) Order 2000). But exemption from the RMP requirement does not exempt you from any other legal requirements.

You qualify for this exemption if you:

- produce eggs from 100 female birds or fewer (all species included), and
- sell all eggs direct to the consumer or end-user, and
- do not sell any eggs to any person for further sale (such as a café, shop, or other third parties).

Female bird count

All your female birds on the laying farm are counted as part of the 100 birds. This is regardless of:

- their age
- location
- whether they are currently in lay
- whether eggs are the main reason for keeping the birds.

Exceptions include female birds whose eggs are not meant for consumption, such as pet budgies or birds specifically grown for meat production.

If you have clearly separated rearing and laying farms, then you may count only those female birds on the laying farm. But all birds on the rearing farm must be young birds not yet in lay.

If a property is shared by 2 or more egg producers, each would be allowed to have 100 female birds. But they would need to show that their operations are separate (throughout harvesting and packing). However, it is best to keep their operations separate throughout housing, rearing, harvesting, candling, and packing.

Selling eggs

If a person you sell your eggs to on-sells or uses them to prepare food that is sold to someone else, you cannot claim the exemption. You may not know what people use your eggs for, but if you sell them to another business the exemption probably won't apply.

You must sell the eggs yourself. This is normally done at the laying farm, a farmers' market, or by delivering the eggs yourself to the consumer. You cannot have someone else sell your eggs for you at farmers' markets (or any other places) and claim the exemption.

You need to be able to show you meet the requirements for the exemption. This can be done by:

- having a physical count of the female birds
- notifying customers that eggs are only for sale to the final consumer and are not allowed to be on-sold or used to make other foods that are then sold.

Who to contact

If you have questions about RMPs for egg processing, email info@mpi.govt.nz