

Broiler Hatching Eggs and Chicks

Broiler hatching eggs and chicks for chicken production were placed on the ICL on May 8, 1989. Pursuant to the NAFTA, the combined import access level for broiler hatching eggs and chicks is 21.1% of the estimated domestic production of broiler hatching eggs for the calendar year to which the TRQ applies. The combined annual import access level is divided into separate levels, of 17.4% for broiler hatching eggs and 3.7% for egg-equivalent chicks.

In 2004, the combined import access level was set at 141,397,808 eggs. Within access commitment permits were issued for 114,078,369 hatching eggs and 15,742,724 egg-equivalent chicks, for a combined total of 129,821,093. Provision is made to issue import permits supplementary to the import access level, inter alia, if needed to meet overall Canadian market needs. During 2004, no supplementary import permits were issued for market shortages. Supplementary permits were issued for 2,847,600 eggs for the subsequent re-export of chicks. In 2004, a temporary "fast track supplementary policy" was implemented for the purpose of accommodating supply shortages faced by B.C. hatcheries due to the cull of chickens resulting from the avian influenza outbreak in B.C. The EICB issued supplementary permits totaling 9,022,752 eggs for this purpose.

Eggs and Egg Products

Eggs and egg products were placed on the ICL on May 9, 1974. Pursuant to the NAFTA, the import access level for shell eggs is calculated at 1.647% of the previous year's domestic production. For 2004, this converted to 8,547,008 dozen eggs. Within access commitment import permits were issued for 8,538,407 dozen eggs.

Pursuant to the NAFTA, the import access levels for egg powder and liquid, frozen or further-processed egg products is calculated at 0.627% and 0.714% of the previous year's domestic production, respectively. For 2004 this amounted to 491,321 kg and 2,130,525 kg, respectively. Within access commitment permit issuance totaled 386,522 kg for egg powder and 2,102,134 kg for liquid, frozen or further processed eggs.

In 1996 an allocation for eggs for breaking purposes only was introduced. This resulted from a WTO commitment to increase the import access quantity to a level greater than the then-NAFTA access level. The WTO level, 21,370,000 dozen eggs in 2004, continues to be higher than Canada's NAFTA access level. The "eggs for breaking purposes" allocation is equal to the difference between the WTO and NAFTA commitment levels. The 2004 import access level for eggs for breaking purposes only was 5,863,953 dozen eggs. During 2004, within access commitment permits were issued for this category of eggs for 5,799,135 dozen eggs.

While the basic access levels are fixed each year, provision is made to issue import permits for eggs or egg products supplementary to the import access level, inter alia, if needed to meet overall Canadian market needs.

With regard to shell eggs, supplementary permits were issued to import 1,508,055 dozen to accommodate market shortages.

For powdered eggs, no supplementary import permits were issued for market shortages.

In 2004, supplementary permits for 1,986,104 kg of liquid, frozen and further processed egg products were issued for market shortages.