



United States Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service



USDA Photo

Food Safety Information

How to Find the USDA Establishment (EST) Number on Food Packaging

All containers of meat, poultry, and egg products must be labeled with a USDA mark of inspection and establishment (EST) number, which is assigned to the plant where the product was produced. Here's where to find the establishment number on a USDA-inspected product.

The establishment number may appear on the package within the USDA mark of inspection such as pictured on this page. It may also appear elsewhere on the exterior of the package container or package labeling (for example, on the lid of a can) if shown in a prominent and legible manner and in a size sufficient to insure easy visibility and recognition.



MEAT Product "EST" Number

Besides appearing on meat product packaging, the Est. Number is also permitted to appear off the exterior of the container (for example, on a metal clip to close casings) or on

aluminum trays placed within containers. If so, a statement of its location must be printed near or connected to the official inspection legend, such as "EST. No. on Metal Clip" or "EST. No. on Pan." The number may not be applied over any required labeling information.

POULTRY Product "EST" Number

Establishment numbers for poultry plants can be identified with the prefix "P" -- for "Plant" -- prior to the number. The plant number is also permitted to appear off the exterior of the container (for example, on a metal clip to close casings) or on aluminum trays placed within containers. If so, a statement of its location must be printed near or connected to the official inspection legend, such as "P. No. on Metal Clip" or "P. No. on Pan." The number may not be applied over any required labeling information.



EGG PRODUCTS "EST" Number

Establishment numbers for processed egg products are found within the egg products shield or on the principal display panel prefaced with the term "Plant" or the prefix "P."

Food Safety Questions?

Call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline

If you have a question about meat, poultry, or egg products, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline toll free at **1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854)**; TTY: 1-800-256-7072.



The Hotline is open year-round Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET (English or Spanish). Recorded food safety messages are available 24 hours a day. Check out the FSIS Web site at www.fsis.usda.gov.

Send E-mail questions to MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov.

Ask Karen!

FSIS' automated response system can provide food safety information 24/7 and a live chat during Hotline hours.



AskKaren.gov

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is the public health agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
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