



Standard for Hard Boiled Egg Test Procedures for Finished Printed Foodservice Products

Title: Hard Boiled Egg Ink Bleed Test for all Substrates
Original:
Effective:

PPR:
Authorized by:

1 Purpose/Scope

- 1.1 This method is for determining if the printing on the eating surface of a finished, printed foodservice product transfers to the white of a hard-boiled egg. This test method is appropriate for all substrates.

2 Apparatus/Materials

- 2.1 Large eggs (6)
- 2.2 Hot plate or similar heating device
- 2.3 Timer, capable of measuring 10 minute intervals
- 2.4 Scoop or spatula for removing eggs from boiling water
- 2.5 Thermometer, precise to 2.0° F at 120.0° F
- 2.6 Coated, printed articles to be tested

3 Specimen Preparation

- 3.1 Obtain samples representing each combination of ink, coating and/or color to be tested.

4 Procedure

- 4.1 Fill the cooking container approximately half full with water and bring to a boil (enough water must be used so eggs will be fully covered when placed in the container).
- 4.2 Place the test samples on a flat, level surface or a surface that facilitates the testing of the product.
- 4.3 Add the eggs to the water.
- 4.4 When boiling commences, set the timer for ten minutes.



- 4.5 After ten minutes, remove the eggs with a scoop or spatula and cool for three minutes in a container of water at 120 degrees F (eggs must be covered with water).
- 4.6 Remove eggs and dry with a paper towel.
- 4.7 With dry hands peel and remove shells, including the inner skin. Immediately place the peeled **WHOLE EGG (DO NOT HALF OR QUARTER THE EGGS)** on the printed surface to be tested. The white part of the egg must be placed directly on the printed area.
- 4.8 After one (1) hour, lift the egg off the surface and, under normal good laboratory light conditions, inspect for any ink transfer to the white of the egg.

5 Report

- 5.1 For each ink, coating, and/or color tested, report pass or fail. Any visible evidence of ink, coating, and/or color transfer to the egg white would be considered failure for that ink, coating and/or color.

Questions? Please send an email to fpi@fpi.org.