COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2144/2003

of 8 December 2003

amending Regulation (EEC) No 94/92 laying down detailed rules for implementing the arrangements for imports from third countries provided for in Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 of 24 June 1991 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuffs ([1]), as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1452/2003 ([2]), and in particular Article 11(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The list of third countries from which certain agricultural products obtained by the organic production method must originate in order to be marketed within the Community, provided for in Article 11(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91, is set out in the Annex to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 94/92 ([3]), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 545/2003 ([4]). That list was drawn up in accordance with Article 11(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91.

(2) The Argentine authorities have asked the Commission to include a new inspection and certification body in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No 94/92. The Argentine authorities have provided the Commission with all the necessary guarantees and information to satisfy it that the new inspection and certification body meets the criteria laid down in Article 11(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91.

(3) The Australian authorities have informed the Commission that one inspection body has restructured its activity and has changed its name.

(4) Hungary introduced a request to extend the product categories, included in the list provided for in Article 11(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91, in order to include livestock and livestock products. It submitted the information required pursuant to Article 2(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 94/92.

(5) The examination of this information and consequent discussion with the Hungarian authorities has led to the conclusion that the rules governing production and inspection of livestock and livestock products are equivalent to those laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91.

(6) Switzerland has requested the Commission to amend the terms of its inclusion in accordance with the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products ([5]), in particular with its Annex 9 on organically produced agricultural products and foodstuffs.

(7) Switzerland has submitted the information required pursuant to Article 2(5) of Regulation (EEC) No 94/92. The examination of the information submitted has led to the conclusion that the requirements are equivalent to those resulting from the Community legislation.

(8) The New Zealand authorities have submitted the more precise name of the certificate issuing body.

(9) Regulation (EEC) No 94/92 should therefore be amended accordingly.

(10) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee mentioned in Article 14 of Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The Annex to Regulation (EEC) No 94/92 is amended as set out in the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 20th day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

([1]) OJ L 198, 22.7.1991, p. 1.
([2]) OJ L 206, 15.8.2003, p. 17.
([3]) OJ L 11, 17.1.1992, p. 14.
([4]) OJ L 81, 28.3.2003, p. 10.
([5]) OJ L 114, 30.4.2002, p. 132.