Council Regulation (EC) No 1500/2003 of 18 February 2003 on administering the double-checking system without quantitative limits in respect of the export of certain steel products from the Russian Federation to the European Community (Text with EEA relevance)

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1500/2003

of 18 February 2003

on administering the double-checking system without quantitative limits in respect of the export of certain steel products from the Russian Federation to the European Community

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 133 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas:

(1) The Agreement on partnership and cooperation establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Russian Federation, of the other part[(1)], entered into force on 1 December 1997.

(2) The European Community and the Russian Federation agreed to establish a double-checking system in respect of certain steel products for the period ranging from 13 October 1997 to 31 December 1999. This Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters was approved on behalf of the European Community by means of Decision 97/741/EC[(2)]. The system was extended for the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2001 by means of Decision 2000/294/EC[(3)]. Regulation (EC) No 2135/97[(4)], extended by Regulation (EC) No 793/2000[(5)], established the corresponding implementing legislation for the Community.

(3) The situation relating to imports of certain steel products from the Russian Federation to the Community has been the subject of thorough examination and, on the basis of relevant information supplied to them, the Parties have concluded an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters[(6)] which establishes a double-checking system without quantitative limits for the period between the date of entry into force of this Regulation and 31 December 2004, unless both Parties agree to terminate the system earlier.

(4) The measures necessary for the implementation of this Regulation should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission[(7)],

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Regulation (EC) No 1500/2003. (See end of Document for details)*

Article 1

1 For the period running from the date on which this Regulation enters into force to 31 December 2004, in accordance with the provisions of the abovementioned Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters, imports into the Community of certain steel products originating in the Russian Federation, as listed in Appendix I, shall be subject to the presentation of a surveillance document conforming to the model shown in Appendix II issued by the authorities in the Community.

2 For the period running from the date on which this Regulation enters into force to 31 December 2004, imports intothe Community of the steel products originating in the Russian Federation and listed in Appendix I shall, in addition, be subject to the issue of an export document issued by the competent Russian authorities. The export document shall conform to the model shown in Appendix III. It shall be valid for exports throughout the customs territory of the Community. The importer must present the original of the export document not later than 31 March of the year following that in which the goods covered by the document were shipped.

3 Shipment is considered to have taken place on the date of loading on to the exporting means of transport.

4 The classification of the products covered by this Regulation is based on the tariff and statistical nomenclature of the Community (hereinafter called the 'CN'). The origin of the products covered by this Regulation shall be determined in accordance with the rules in force in the Community.

5 The competent authorities of the Community undertake to inform the Russian Federation of any changes in the CN in respect of products covered by this Regulation before their date of entry into force in the Community.

6 Goods shipped before the entry into force of this Regulation shall be excluded from the scope of this Regulation.

Article 2

1 The surveillance document referred to in Article 1 shall be issued automatically by the competent authority in the Member States, without charge for any quantities requested, within five working days of presentation of an application by any Community importer, wherever established in the Community. This application shall be deemed to have been received by the competent national authority no later than three working days after submission, unless it is proven otherwise.

2 A surveillance document issued by one of the competent national authorities listed in Appendix IV shall be valid throughout the Community.

3 The importer's application for a surveillance document shall include the following elements:

a the name and full address of the applicant (including telephone and telefax numbers, and possible identification number used by the competent national authorities) and VAT registration number, if subject to VAT;

b if applicable, the name and full address of the declarant or representative of the applicant (including telephone and fax numbers);

c the full name and address of the exporter;

d the exact description of the goods, including:

— their trade name,

— the CN code(s),

— the country of origin,
— the country of consignment;

e the net weight, expressed in kg and also quantity in the unit prescribed where other than net weight, by combined nomenclature heading;

f the cif value of the goods in euro at the Community frontier by combined nomenclature heading;

g whether the products concerned are seconds or of substandard quality[8];

h the proposed period and place of customs clearance;

i whether the application is a repeat of a previous application concerning the same contract;

j the following declaration, dated and signed by the applicant with the transcription of his name in capital letters:

> I, the undersigned, certify that the information provided in this application is true and given in good faith, and that I am established in the Community.

The importer shall also submit a copy of the contract of sale or purchase, the pro forma invoice and/or, in cases where the goods are not directly purchased in the country of production, a certificate of production issued by the producing steel mill.

4 Surveillance documents may be used only for such time as arrangements for the liberalisation of imports remain in force in respect of the transactions concerned. Without prejudice to possible changes in the import regulations in force or decisions taken in the framework of an agreement or the management of a quota:

— the period of validity of the surveillance document is hereby fixed at four months,
— unused or partly used surveillance documents may be renewed for an equal period.

5 The importer shall return surveillance documents to the issuing authority at the end of their period of validity.

Article 3

1 A finding that the unit price at which the transaction is effected exceeds that indicated in the import document by less than 5 % or that the total value or quantity of the products presented for import exceeds the value or quantity given in the import document by less than 5 % shall not preclude the release for free circulation of the products in question.

2 Applications for import documents and the documents themselves shall be confidential. They shall be restricted to the competent authorities and the applicant.

Article 4

1 Within the first 10 days of each month, the Member States shall communicate to the Commission:

a details of the quantities and values (calculated in euro) for which import documents were issued during the preceding month;

b details of imports during the month preceding the month referred to in (a).

The information provided by Member States shall be broken down by product, CN code and by country.

2 The Member States shall give notification of any anomalies or cases of fraud which they discover and, where relevant, the basis on which they have refused to grant an import document.

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Regulation (EC) No 1500/2003. (See end of Document for details)*

[F1 Article 4a

As regards release for free circulation in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia as of 1 May 2004 of the steel products covered by this Regulation and shipped before 1 May 2004, an import document shall not be required provided that the goods were shipped before 1 May 2004 and that the bill of lading or another transport document deemed to be equivalent by Community authorities proving the shipment date, has been presented.**]**

Textual Amendments

F1 Inserted by Council Regulation (EC) No 885/2004 of 26 April 2004 adapting Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1334/2000, (EC) No 2157/2001, (EC) No 152/2002, (EC) No 1499/2002, (EC) No 1500/2003 and (EC) No 1798/2003, Decisions No 1719/1999/EC, No 1720/1999/EC, No 253/2000/EC, No 508/2000/EC, No 1031/2000/EC, No 163/2001/EC, No 2235/2002/EC and No 291/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, and Council Decisions 1999/382/EC, 2000/821/EC, 2003/17/EC and 2003/893/EC in the fields of free movement of goods, company law, agriculture, taxation, education and training, culture and audiovisual policy and external relations, by reason of the accession of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia.

Article 5

Any notices to be given hereunder shall be given to the Commission and shall be communicated electronically within the integrated network set up for this purpose, unless for imperative technical reasons it is necessary to use other means of communication temporarily.

Article 6

Committee procedure

1 The Commission shall be assisted by a committee composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission.

2 Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 4 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply.

The period laid down in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at three months.

3 The Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure.

Article 7

Amendments to the appendices which may be necessary to take into account modifications to the Annex or appendices attached to the Agreement in the Form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Community and the Russian Federation, or amendments made to Community rules on statistics, customs arrangements, common rules for imports or import surveillance, shall be adopted in accordance with the procedurelaid down in Article 6(2).

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 15th day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.