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COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 925/2003

of 27 May 2003

laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Decision 2003/298/EC as regards the concessions in the form of Community tariff quotas on certain cereal products originating in the Czech Republic and amending Regulation (EC) No 2809/2000

(OJ L 131, 28.5.2003, p. 3)

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THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 2003/298/EC of 14 April 2003 on the conclusion of a Protocol adjusting the trade aspects of the Europe Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Czech Republic, of the other part, to take account of the outcome of negotiations between the parties on new mutual agricultural concessions [1], and in particular Article 3(2) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) In accordance with Decision 2003/298/EC, the Community has undertaken to establish for each marketing year import tariff quotas at a zero rate of duty for wheat and meslin, wheat and meslin flour, malt and maize originating in the Czech Republic.

(2) To ensure that imports of wheat and maize covered by these tariff quotas are orderly and not speculative, they should be made subject to the issue of import licences. The licences should be issued, within the quantities set, at the request of the interested parties, subject, where appropriate, to the fixing of a reduction coefficient in respect of the quantities applied for.

(3) To ensure the proper management of these quotas, deadlines for the lodging of licence applications should be laid down and the information to be included in the applications and licences should be specified.

(4) To ensure that the products imported from the Czech Republic are without export subsidies and not originating from public intervention stocks, the import licence application and the import licence should be accompanied by a specific certificate.

(5) To take account of delivery conditions, the import licences should be valid from the day of their issue until the end of the month following that in which they are issued.

(6) With a view to the sound management of the quotas, provision should be made to derogate from Commission Regulation (EC) No 1291/2000 of 9 June 2000 laying down common detailed rules for the application of the system of import and export licences and advance fixing certificates for agricultural products [2], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 325/2003 [3], as regards the transferable nature of the licences and the tolerance relating to the quantities released into free circulation.

(7) To ensure sound management of the quotas, the security on the import licences should be set at a relatively high level, by way of derogation from Article 10 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1162/95 of 23 May 1995 laying down special detailed rules for the application of the system of import and export licences for cereals and rice [4], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 498/2003 [5].

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[1] OJ L 107, 30.4.2003, p. 12.
[2] OJ L 152, 24.6.2000, p. 1.
[3] OJ L 47, 21.2.2003, p. 21.
[4] OJ L 117, 24.5.1995, p. 2.
[5] OJ L 74, 20.3.2003, p. 15.

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(8) Rapid two-way communication should be established between the Commission and the Member States regarding the quantities applied for and imported.

(9) As Council Regulation (EC) No 2433/2000 of 17 October 2000 establishing certain concessions in the form of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural products and providing for an adjustment, as an autonomous and transitional measure, of certain agricultural concessions provided for in the Europe Agreements with the Czech Republic [1] has been repealed by Decision and 2003/298/EC, Commission Regulation (EC) No 2809/2000 of 20 December 2000 laying down detailed rules for the application, for cereals sector products, of Regulations (EC) No 2290/2000, (EC) No 2433/2000 and (EC) No 2851/2000 establishing certain concessions in the form of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural products originating in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and the Republic of Poland respectively and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1218/96 [2], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 788/2003 [3], should be amended.

(10) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. Imports of wheat and meslin falling within CN code 1001 as referred to in Annex I originating in the Czech Republic and benefiting from a zero rate of import duty, under the tariff quota bearing the order number 09.4638, in accordance with Decision 2003/298/EC, shall be subject to an import licence issued in accordance with this Regulation.

2. Imports of maize falling within CN code 1005 10 90 and 1005 90 00 as referred to in Annex I originating in the Czech Republic and benefiting from a zero rate of import duty, under the tariff quota bearing the order number 09.4639, in accordance with Decision 2003/298/EC, shall be subject to an import licence issued in accordance with this Regulation.

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2a. Imports of wheat and meslin flour falling within CN code 1101 00 as referred to in Annex I originating in the Czech Republic and benefiting from a reduction to 20 % of the most favoured nations duty, under the tariff quota bearing the order number 09.4618, in accordance with Decision 2003/298/EC, shall be subject to an import licence issued in accordance with this Regulation.

2b. Imports of malt falling within CN code 1107 as referred to in Annex I originating in the Czech Republic and benefiting from a zero rate of import duty, under the tariff quota bearing the order number 09.4619, in accordance with Decision 2003/298/EC, shall be subject to an import licence issued in accordance with this Regulation.

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3.

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The products referred to in paragraphs 1 to 2b shall be released into free circulation upon presentation of one of the following documents:

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(a) an EUR.1 movement certificate issued by the competent authorities of the exporting country in accordance with Protocol 4 of the Europe Agreement concluded with that country;

[1] OJ L 280, 4.11.2000, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 326, 22.12.2000, p. 16.
[3] OJ L 115, 9.5.2003, p. 25.

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(b) an invoice declaration on the invoice provided by the exporter in accordance with that Protocol.

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Article 1a

From 1 July 2003, imports of wheat and meslin flour and malt originating in the Czech Republic referred to in Annex I shall be administered by the Commission in accordance with Articles 308a, 308b and 308c of Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 [1]. From that date, the order numbers of those import quotas shall be, respectively, 09.5831 and 09.5832.

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Article 2

1. Applications for import licences shall be lodged with the competent authorities of the Member States no later than 13.00 (Brussels time) on the second Monday of each month.

Each licence application shall be for a quantity not exceeding the quantity available for the import of the relevant product in the marketing year concerned.

2. No later than 18.00 (Brussels time) on the same day, the competent authorities of the Member States shall fax the Commission (number (00-32) 22 95 25 15), in accordance with the model in Annex II, the total quantity resulting from the sum of the quantities indicated on the import licence applications.

That information shall be communicated separately from the information on other import licence applications for cereals.

3. If the total of the quantities for each product concerned since the start of the marketing year and the quantity referred to in paragraph 2 exceeds the quota for the marketing year concerned, the Commission shall set, no later than the third working day after the applications were lodged, a single reduction coefficient to be applied to the quantities requested.

4. Without prejudice to paragraph 3, licences shall be issued on the fifth working day following the day on which the application was lodged. No later than 18.00 (Brussels time) on the day the licences are issued, the competent authorities of the Member States shall fax the Commission the total quantity resulting from the sum of the quantities for which import licence were issued that same day.

Article 3

In accordance with Article 23(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1291/2000, the period of validity of the licence shall be calculated from the actual date of issue.

Import licences shall be valid until the end of the month following the month in which they were issued. ►M1 However, import licences issued in June 2003 for products imported under the quotas referred to in Article 1(2a) and (2b) shall only be valid until 30 June 2003. ◄

Article 4

The rights resulting from the import licences shall not be transferable.

Article 5

The quantity released into free circulation may not exceed that indicated in sections 17 and 18 of the import licence. The figure '0' shall be entered to that effect in section 19 of the licence.

[1] OJ L 253, 11.10.1993, p. 1.

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Article 6

1. The import licence application and the import licence shall contain the following information:

(a) in section 8, the name of the country of origin;

(b) in section 20 one of the following entries:

— Reglamento (CE) nº 925/2003
— Forordning (EF) nr. 925/2003
— Verordnung (EG) Nr. 925/2003
— Κανονισμός (ΕΚ) αριθ. 925/2003
— Regulation (EC) No 925/2003
— Règlement (CE) nº 925/2003
— Regolamento (CE) n. 925/2003
— Verordening (EG) nr. 925/2003
— Regulamento (CE) n.º 925/2003
— Asetus (EY) N:o 925/2003
— Förordning (EG) nr 925/2003

(c) in section 24, the words 'zero duty'.

2. For the products imported under the quotas referred to in Article 1(1), the import licence application and the import licence shall be accompanied by a certificate stating that the exported product is without export subsidies and not originating from the public intervention stock. Certificates issued by the Czech State Agricultural Intervention Fund (SIAF) shall be officially recognised by the Commission under an administrative cooperation procedure as specified in Articles 63 to 65 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 ([1]).

Blank specimen of this certificate and reproduction of the stamp and signatures authorised by the Czech authorities are set out in Annex III (A) and (B).

Article 7

The security for the import licences provided for in this Regulation shall be EUR 30 per tonne.

Article 8

Regulation (EC) No 2809/2000 is amended as follows:

1. The title is replaced by the following:

'Commission Regulation (EC) No 2809/2000 of 20 December 2000 laying down detailed rules for the application, for cereals sector products, of Regulations (EC) No 2290/2000 and (EC) No 2851/2000 establishing certain concessions in the form of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural products originating in the Republic of Bulgaria and in the Republic of Poland respectively and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1218/96'

2. Article 2 is replaced by the following:

'Article 2

Imports of the products listed in Annex I originating in the Republic of Poland and qualifying for total exemption from import duty for the quantity specified therein shall be subject to the presentation of an import licence issued in accordance with this Regulation.'

3. In Annex I, the row concerning the Czech Republic is deleted.

Article 9

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

([1]) OJ L 253, 11.10.1993, p. 1.