COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 85/2003

of 17 January 2003

on the issue of licences for the import of garlic in the quarter from 1 March to 31 May 2003

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2200/96 of 28 October 1996 on the common organisation of the market in fruit and vegetables [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 47/2003 [2],

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 565/2002 of 2 April 2002 establishing the method for managing the tariff quotas and introducing a system of certificates of origin for garlic imported from third countries [3], and in particular Article 8(2) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The quantities for which licence applications have been lodged by traditional importers and by new importers on 13 and 14 January 2003, under Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 565/2002 exceed the quantities available for products originating in China, Argentina and in all third countries other than China and Argentina.

(2) It is now necessary to establish the extent to which the licence applications sent to the Commission on 16 January 2003 can be met and to fix, for each category of importer and product origin, the dates until which the issue of certificates must be suspended,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Applications for import licences lodged under Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) No 565/2002 on 13 and 14 January 2003 and sent to the Commission on 16 January 2003, shall be met at a percentage rate of the quantities applied for as set out in Annex I hereto.

Article 2

For each category of importer and the origin involved, applications for import licences under Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) No 565/2002 relating to the quarter from 1 March to 31 May 2003 and lodged after 14 January 2003 but before the date in Annex II hereto, shall be rejected.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on 18 January 2003.

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

Done at Brussels, 17 January 2003.

For the Commission
J. M. SILVA RODRÍGUEZ
Agriculture Director-General

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[1] OJ L 297, 21.11.1996, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 7, 11.1.2003, p. 64.
[3] OJ L 86, 3.4.2002, p. 11.