THIRD COUNCIL DECISION

of 25 July 1978

on the equivalence of seed potatoes produced in third countries

(78/691/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 66/403/EEC of 14 June 1966 on the marketing of seed potatoes [1], as last amended by Directive 77/648/EEC [2], and in particular Article 15 (1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas, by Decisions 72/294/EEC [3] and 75/370/EEC [4], the Council has declared that seed potatoes harvested and officially controlled in Austria, Switzerland and Poland afford the same assurances as seed potatoes harvested and controlled within the Community;

Whereas the validity of this equivalence expires on 30 June 1978; whereas, however, such equivalence should be retained for a further three years since the conditions on which the Community findings were based at the outset are still fulfilled;

Whereas this Decision does not prevent Community findings from being revoked or the period of their validity from not being extended if it becomes apparent that the conditions on which such findings are based are not or are no longer fulfilled;

Whereas, therefore, further practical information on seed potatoes produced in the abovementioned countries should be obtained by growing and checking samples of such seed within the framework of comparative Community tests;

Whereas this Decision does not affect requirements which Member States will establish under Council Directive 77/93/EEC of 21 December 1976 on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of organisms harmful to plants or plant products [5],

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

It is hereby declared that, where the special conditions laid down in the Annex hereto are satisfied, the seed potatoes which are harvested in the countries specified in the Annex and officially controlled by the authorities listed therein and which belong to the categories specified therein are equivalent to seed potatoes of corresponding categories harvested within the Community and comply with Directive 66/403/EEC.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply from 1 July 1978 to 30 June 1981.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 25 July 1978.

For the Council

The President

H. J. ROHR

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(1) OJ No 125, 11. 7. 1966, p. 2320/66.
(2) OJ No L 261, 14. 10. 1977, p. 21.
(3) OJ No L 186, 16. 8. 1972, p. 43.
(4) OJ No L 164, 27. 6. 1975, p. 43.
(5) OJ No L 26, 31. 1. 1977, p. 20.

ANNEX

Order No	Country	Service	Categories		Special conditions
			In the country concerned	In the Community	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Austria	— Burgenländische Landwirtschaftskammer, Eisenstadt — Landwirtschaftskammer für Kärnten, Klagenfurt — Niederösterreichische Landes-Landwirtschaftskammer, Wien			
		— Landwirtschaftskammer für Oberösterreich, Linz/O.Ö.	Elite	Basic seed potatoes	1, 2, 3, 4
		— Landeskammer für Land- und Forstwirtschaft Steiermark, Graz — Landeskammer für Tirol, Innsbruck — Kammer für Land- und Forstwirtschaft in Salzburg, Salzburg — Landwirtschaftskammer für Vorarlberg, Bregenz — Wiener Landwirtschaftskammer, Wien	Original — Klasse A — Klasse B	Certified seed potatoes	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Poland	Inspekcja Nasienna Okregowy Inspektorat (Seed Inspection Service) (Regional Inspectorates) — Bialystoku (Białystok) — Bydgoszczy (Bydgoszcz) — Gdansku (Gdańsk) — Katowicach (Katowice) — Kielcach (Kielce) — Koszalinie (Koszalin) — Krakowie (Kraków) — Lublinie (Lublin) — Lodzi (Łódź) — Olsztynie (Olsztyn) — Opolu (Opole) — Poznaniu (Poznań) — Rzeszowie (Rzeszów) — Szczecinie (Szczecin) — Warszawie (Warszawa) — Wroclawiu (Wrocław) — Zielonej Gorze (Zielona Góra)	— Super Elite — Elite Original — Class A — Class B	Basic seed potatoes Certified seed potatoes	1, 2, 3, 4 1, 2, 3, 4
3	Switzerland	— Station fédérale de recherches agronomiques, Nyon	Plants certifiés — Classe A — Classe B	Certified seed potatoes	1, 2, 3, 4
		— Eidgenössische Landwirtschaftliche Forschungsanstalt, Zürich	Anerkanntes Pflanzgut — Klasse A — Klasse B		

Special conditions

1. Seed potatoes shall be officially certified and their containers officially marked and sealed in accordance with national provisions. Seed potatoes and the details on the label shall meet at least the requirements of Community rules and conform to the European standard for seed potatoes recommended by the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Foodstuffs of the Economic Commission for Europe.

2. Field inspection shall be carried out by State authorities or by any legal person whether governed by public or by private law, acting under the responsibility of such authorities, provided that such person derives no private gain from the result of the inspection.

3. Any chemical treatment of the seed potatoes shall be noted either on the official label or on a special label and on the container or inside it.

4. The colour of the label shall be:

   — white for basic seed potatoes,

   — blue for certified seed potatoes.

All particulars shall be provided in at least one of the official languages of the European Communities.