COMMISSION DECISION

of 16 December 1992

authorizing methods for grading pig carcases in Portugal

(Only the Portuguese text is authentic)

(93/34/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 3220/84 of 13 November 1984 determining the Community scale for grading pig carcases [1], as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 3577/90 [2], and in particular Article 5 (2) thereof,

Whereas Article 2 (3) of Regulation (EEC) No 3220/84 provides that the grading of pig carcases must be determined by estimating the content of lean meat in accordance with statistically proven assessment methods based on the physical measurement of one or more anatomical parts of the pig carcase; whereas the authorization of grading methods is subject to compliance with a maximum tolerance for statistical error in assessment; whereas this tolerance has been defined in Article 3 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2967/85 of 24 October 1985 laying down detailed rules for the application of the Community scale for grading pig carcases [3];

Whereas the Government of Portugal has requested the Commission to authorize the use of three methods for grading pig carcases on its territory and has submitted the information required in Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No 2967/85; whereas an examination of this request has revealed that the conditions for authorizing the said grading methods are fulfilled;

Whereas no modification of the apparatus or grading method may be authorized except by means of a new Commission Decision adopted in the light of experience gained;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Pigmeat,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The use of the following methods is hereby authorized for grading pig carcases pursuant to Regulation (EEC) No 3220/84 in Portugal:

— the apparatus termed 'Intrascope (Optical Probe)' and assessment methods related thereto, details of which are given in Part 1 of the Annex,

— the apparatus termed 'Fat-O-Meater (FOM)' and assessment methods related thereto, details of which are given in Part 2 of the Annex,

— the apparatus termed 'Hennessy Grading Probe (HGP II)' and assessment methods related thereto, details of which are given in Part 3 of the Annex.

Article 2

Modifications of the apparatus or of the assessment methods shall not be authorized.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Portuguese Republic.

Done at Brussels, 16 December 1992.

For the Commission

Ray MAC SHARRY

Member of the Commission

[1] OJ No L 301, 20. 11. 1984, p. 1.
[2] OJ No L 353, 17. 12. 1990, p. 23.
[3] OJ No L 285, 25. 10. 1985, p. 39.

ANNEX

PART 1

Intrascope (Optical Probe)

1. Grading of pig carcases shall be carried out by means of the apparatus termed 'Intrascope (Optical Probe)'.
2. The apparatus shall be equipped with a hexagonal-shaped probe of a maximum width of 12 mm (and of 19 mm at the blade at the top of the probe) containing a viewing window and a light source, a sliding barrel calibrated in millimetres, and having an operating distance of between 3 and 45 mm.
3. The lean meat content of the carcase should be calculated according to the following formula:

   $\hat{y} = 60{,}6676 - 0{,}7972\ X_1 + 0{,}1243\ X_2$

   where:

   $\hat{y}$ = the estimated percentage of lean meat in the carcase,

   X_1 = the thickness of backfat (including rind) in millimetres, measured at 8 cm off the midline of the carcase between the third and fourth lumbar vertebrae,

   X_2 = the weight of the hot carcase in kilograms.

   The formula shall be valid for carcases weighing between 50 and 110 kg.

PART 2

Fat-O-Meater (FOM)

1. Grading of pig carcases shall be carried out by means of the apparatus termed 'Fat-O-Meater (FOM)', model S87.
2. The apparatus shall be equipped with a probe of 6 mm diameter containing a photodiode of the Siemens SFH 950/960 type and having an operating distance of between 3 and 103 mm. The results of the measurements are converted into estimated lean meat content by means of a computer.
3. The lean meat content of the carcase should be calculated according to the following formula:

   $\hat{y} = 56{,}4512 - 0{,}5050\ X_1 - 0{,}3680\ X_2 + 0{,}2165\ X_3$

   where:

   $\hat{y}$ = the estimated percentage of lean meat in the carcase,

   X_1 = the thickness of backfat (including rind) in millimetres, measured at 6 cm off the midline of the carcase at the last rib,

   X_2 = the thickness of backfat (including rind) in millimetres, measured at 6 cm off the midline of the carcase between the third and fourth last ribs,

   X_3 = the thickness of muscle in millimetres, measured at the same time and in the same place as X_2.

   The formula shall be valid for carcases weighing between 50 and 110 kg.

PART 3

Hennessy Grading Probe (HGP II)

1. Grading of pig carcases shall be carried out by means of the apparatus termed 'Hennessy Grading Probe (HGP II)'.
2. The apparatus shall be equipped with a probe of 5,95 mm diameter (and of 6,3 mm at the blade of the top of the probe) containing a photodiode (Siemens LED of the type LYU 260-EO and photodetector of the type 58 MR) and having an operating distance of between 0 and 120 mm. The results of the measurements shall be converted into estimated lean meat content by means of the HGP II itself or a computer linked to it.
3. The lean meat content of the carcase should be calculated according to the following formula:

   $\hat{y} = 57{,}4823 - 0{,}3576\ X_1 - 0{,}4496\ X_2 + 0{,}2023\ X_3$

   where:

   $\hat{y}$ = the estimated percentage of lean meat in the carcase,

   X_1 = the thickness of backfat (including rind) in millimetres, measured at 6 cm off the midline of the carcase at the last rib,

   X_2 = the thickness of backfat (including rind) in millimetres, measured at 6 cm off the midline of the carcase between the third and fourth last ribs,

   X_3 = the thickness of muscle in millimetres, measured at the same time and in the same place as X_2.

   The formula shall be valid for carcases weighing between 50 and 110 kg.