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REGULATION (EEC) No 2108/70 OF THE COUNCIL

of 20 October 1970

determining the Community scale for grading pig carcases

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof;

Having regard to Council Regulation No 121/67/EEC[1] of 13 June 1967 on the common organisation of the market in pigmeat, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1253/70,[2] and in particular Articles 2 and 4 (5) thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament[3];

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee;

Whereas, before 1 August of each year, a basic price must be fixed for pig carcases of a standard quality defined with reference to a Community scale for grading pig carcases;

Whereas it is, therefore, necessary to establish rules ensuring uniform grading of pig carcases;

Whereas this grading must first be made on the basis of objective criteria, such as the weight of the carcase and the thickness of the back fat; whereas the grading of pig carcases may then be adjusted on the basis of a subjective assessment of muscular development in the principal parts of the carcase (ham, loin, shoulder, belly);

Whereas the combined use of objective criteria (thickness of back fat in relation to weight) and subjective criteria (conformation) enables the following five commercial grades to be determined: E (extra), I (very good proportion of meat), II (good proportion of meat), III (average proportion of meat), IV (heavy or fatty pig carcases);

Whereas, because the weight distribution of pig carcases differs between Member States, Member States should be permitted to limit, in grades I, II and III, the number of weight grades, pig carcases of 90 kg or more being put into a single grade;

Whereas, in view of the above-mentioned factors, Council Regulation No 211/67/EEC[4] of 27 June 1967 determining the Community scale for grading pig carcases should be repealed;

Whereas, to facilitate the introduction of quotations for pig carcases on a common basis and to make these quotations comparable to the basic prices for the standard quality, the Community scale should in future be used for determining quotations for pig carcases and in particular for determining the average price for pig carcases referred to in Article 4 of Regulation No 121/67/EEC;

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. The Community scale for grading pig carcases shall be as shown in Annex I and the bases for the grading of these carcases in Annex II.

2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States which so request may, in view of the characteristics of their pigmeat production, be authorised in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 24 of Regulation No 121/67/EEC, to replace the weight grades for pig carcases of 90 kg and more in commercial grades I, II and III by a single weight grade to include pig carcases weighing 90 kg and more of which the thickness of the back fat does not exceed:

in grade I: 35 mm,
in grade II: 40 mm,
in grade III: 45 mm.

[1] OJ No 117, 19.6.1967, p. 2283/67.
[2] OJ No L 143, 1.7.1970, p. 1.
[3] OJ No C 160, 18.12.1969, p. 50.
[4] OJ No 135, 30.6.1967, p. 2872/67.

Article 2

Subject to any exception which may be decided upon by the Council, acting in accordance with the voting procedure laid down in Article 43 (2) of the Treaty on a proposal from the Commission, and made necessary by the temporary lack of representative quotations for pig carcases in a Member State, the latest date for determining quotations for pig carcases according to the Community scale shall be 1 November 1971.

Article 3

Detailed rules for the application of this Regulation, and in particular measures ensuring its uniform application, shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 24 of Regulation No 121/67/EEC.

Article 4

Regulation No 211/67/EEC is hereby repealed.

Article 5

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 November 1970.

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

Done at Luxembourg, 20 October 1970.

For the Council

The President

H. D. GRIESAU

ANNEX I

Community scale for grading pig carcases

Commercial Grade	Subgrade	Carcase weight in kg	Thickness of back fat in mm	Description
E extra	E AA	60 or more but less than 70 70 or more	up to 15 inclusive up to 20 inclusive	showing exceptional muscular development in all principal parts of the carcase
I very good proportion of meat	I A	60 or more but less than 70 70 or more but less than 80 80 or more but less than 90 90 or more but less than 100 100 or more but less than 120 120 or more but less than 140 140 or more but less than 160 160 and over	up to 20 inclusive up to 25 inclusive up to 30 inclusive up to 35 inclusive up to 40 inclusive up to 50 inclusive up to 55 inclusive up to 60 inclusive	showing very good muscular development in all principal parts of the carcase
II good proportion of meat	II A	60 or more but less than 70 70 or more but less than 80 80 or more but less than 90 90 or more but less than 100 100 or more but less than 120 120 or more but less than 140 140 or more but less than 160 160 and over	up to 25 inclusive up to 30 inclusive up to 35 inclusive up to 40 inclusive up to 45 inclusive up to 55 inclusive up to 65 inclusive up to 70 inclusive	showing good muscular development in all principal parts of the carcase or
	I B	weight of carcase and thickness of back fat as for I		but defective in one principal part of the carcase
III average proportion of meat	III A	60 or more but less than 70 70 or more but less than 80 80 or more but less than 90 90 or more but less than 100 100 or more but less than 120 120 or more but less than 140 140 or more but less than 160 160 and over	up to 30 inclusive up to 35 inclusive up to 40 inclusive up to 45 inclusive up to 50 inclusive up to 60 inclusive up to 70 inclusive up to 75 inclusive	showing average muscular development in all principal parts of the carcase or
	II B	weight of carcase and thickness of back fat as for II		but defective in one principal part of the carcase or
	I C	weight of carcase and thickness of fat as for II		but defective in two principal parts of the carcase
IV		all carcases not falling within the above-mentioned grades		
S	1	sow carcases with a very good proportion of meat		
	2	other sow carcases		
V		boar carcases		

ANNEX II

Bases for grading pig carcases

1. 'Carcases' means carcases bled and drawn, whole or divided down the middle, without tongue, bristles, hooves or genital organs.

2. 'sow carcases' means carcases of all weights of female domestic swine having farrowed at least once.

3. 'Boar carcases' means all weights of male domestic swine having been used for breeding.

Pig carcases are graded by combining:

— the assessment of fatness based on the thickness of back fat in relation to the weight of the carcase, and

— the subjective assessment of the muscular development in the principal parts of the carcase, i.e. ham, loin, shoulder and belly.

Fatness, determined by the thickness of back fat and the weight of the carcase, is expressed in the Roman numerals I, II and III.

— the weight being that of the carcase when cold,

— the thickness of back fat being measured on a carcase, skin included, in the centre of the muscular mass at the level of the sacrum and at the level of the last rib; the greater thickness resulting from these two measurements being taken.