REGULATION (EEC) No 2760/75 OF THE COUNCIL

of 29 October 1975

detemining 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 (EEC) No 2759/75 (1) of 29 October 1975 on the common organization of the market in pigmeat, 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 (2) ;

Whereas, before 1 August of each year, a basic price must be fixed for pig carcases of a standard quality defined by 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 be made on the basis of the weight of the carcase, the thickness of the back fat and the subjective assessment of muscular development in the principal parts of the carcase (ham, loin, shoulder, belly) or on the basis of an objective method for fixing the lean meat content;

Whereas use of the abovementioned methods 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 given the possibility of not taking account of weight grades lower than 60 kg and of limiting in grades E, I, II and III the number of weight grades by putting into a single grade pig carcases of 80 kg or more of grade E and pig carcases of 90 kg or more of Grades I, II and III;

Whereas to make possible 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 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 (EEC) No 2759/75.

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 as in Annex II.

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, Member States which so request may, in view of the characteristics of their pigmeat production, be authorized in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 24 of Regulation (EEC) No 2759/75:

(a) to disregard weight categories of up to 60 kg;

(b) to replace:

— the weight categories for pig carcases of 90 kg and more in commercial grades I, II and III by a single weight category to include pig carcases 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,

— the weight categories for pig carcases of 80 kg and more in commercial grade E (extra) by a single weight category to include pig carcases of which the thickness of the back fat does not exceed 25 mm.

3. Member States shall apply one of the two methods of grading pig carcases described in Annex II (B).

Article 2

Subject to any exception which may be decided upon by the Council, acting by a qualified majority on a

(1) See page 1 of this Official Journal.
(2) OJ No C 128, 9. 6. 1975, p. 39.

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 (EEC) No 2759/75.

Article 4

1. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2108/70 [1] of 20 October 1970 determining the Community scale for grading pig carcases, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2507/74 [2], is hereby repealed.

2. References to the Regulation repealed by paragraph 1 shall be construed as references to this Regulation.

Article 5

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 November 1975.

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

Done at Luxembourg, 29 October 1975.

For the Council

The President

G. MARCORA

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(1) OJ No L 234, 25. 10. 1970, p. 1.
(2) OJ No L 271, 5. 10. 1974, p. 1.

ANNEX I

Community scale for grading pig carcases

Commercial grade	Subgrade	Carcase weight in kg	Thickness of back fat in mm	Description	Lean meat content (%)
E Extra	E AA	35 or more but less than 50	Up to 12 inclusive	Showing exceptional muscular development in all principal parts of the carcase	55 or more
		50 or more but less than 60	Up to 15 inclusive		
		60 or more but less than 70	Up to 15 inclusive		
		70 or more but less than 80	Up to 20 inclusive		
		80 or more but less than 90	Up to 25 inclusive		
		90 or more but less than 100	Up to 30 inclusive		
		100 or more but less than 120	Up to 35 inclusive		
		120 or more but less than 140	Up to 45 inclusive		
		140 or more but less than 160	Up to 50 inclusive		
		160 and over	Up to 55 inclusive		
I Very good proportion of meat	I A	35 or more but less than 50	Up to 15 inclusive	Showing very good muscular development in all principal parts of the carcase	50 or more
		50 or more but less than 60	Up to 18 inclusive		
		60 or more but less than 70	Up to 20 inclusive		
		70 or more but less than 80	Up to 25 inclusive		
		80 or more but less than 90	Up to 30 inclusive		
		90 or more but less than 100	Up to 35 inclusive		
		100 or more but less than 120	Up to 40 inclusive		
		120 or more but less than 140	Up to 50 inclusive		
		140 or more but less than 160	Up to 55 inclusive		
		160 and over	Up to 60 inclusive		
II Good proportion of meat	II A	35 or more but less than 50	Up to 19 inclusive	Showing good muscular development in all principal parts of the carcase	45 or more
		50 or more but less than 60	Up to 22 inclusive		
		60 or more but less than 70	Up to 25 inclusive		
		70 or more but less than 80	Up to 30 inclusive		
		80 or more but less than 90	Up to 35 inclusive		
		90 or more but less than 100	Up to 40 inclusive		
		100 or more but less than 120	Up to 45 inclusive		
		120 or more but less than 140	Up to 55 inclusive		
		140 or more but less than 160	Up to 65 inclusive		
		160 and over	Up to 70 inclusive	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	35 or more but less than 50	Up to 24 inclusive	Showing average muscular development in all principal parts of the carcase	40 or more
		50 or more but less than 60	Up to 27 inclusive		
		60 or more but less than 70	Up to 30 inclusive		
		70 or more but less than 80	Up to 35 inclusive		
		80 or more but less than 90	Up to 40 inclusive		
		90 or more but less than 100	Up to 45 inclusive		
		100 or more but less than 120	Up to 50 inclusive		
		120 or more but less than 140	Up to 60 inclusive		
		140 or more but less than 160	Up to 70 inclusive		
		160 and over	Up to 75 inclusive	or	

Commercial grade	Subgrade	Carcase weight in kg	Thickness of back fat in mm	Description	Lean meat content (%)
	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 back fat as for I ..		but defective in two principal parts of the carcase	
IV		All carcases not falling within the above 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

A. **Definitions**

1. *'Carcases'*

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

2. *'Sow carcases'*

   Carcases of all weights of female domestic swine having farrowed at least once.

3. *'Boar carcases'*

   Carcases of all weights of male domestic swine having been used for breeding.

4. *'Weight'*

   Weight of carcase cold.

5. *'Lean meat content'*

   The relationship between the weight of muscles obtained by total dissection of the carcase and the weight of this carcase.

B. **Pig carcases are graded:**

1. either by combining:

   — assessment of fatness arrived at by measuring the thickness of back fat in accordance with C 1 of this Annex in relation to the weight of the carcase, and

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

2. or by estimating the lean meat content by measuring the thickness of the back fat off the midline in accordance with C 2 of this Annex and/or by means of other objective measurements.

C. **Thickness of back fat is measured:**

1. either on a split 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 adopted;

2. or off the mid-line at the level of the last rib by a method which allows the back fat thickness to be determined in close correlation with that established by the method in 1.