I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1620/96

of 9 July 1996

opening and providing for the administration of certain tariff quotas for imports of rice and broken rice

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 3093/95 of 22 December 1995 laying down the rates of duty to be applied by the Community resulting from negotiations under GATT Article XXIV.6 consequent upon the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden to the European Community [1], and in particular Article 5 thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 96/317/EC of 13 May 1996 [2] concerning the conclusion of the results of the consultations with Thailand under GATT Article XXIII, and in particular Article 3 thereof,

Whereas, under the negotiations conducted pursuant to GATT Article XXIV.6 in the wake of the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden to the European Union, it was agreed to open from 1 January 1996 annual import quotas for 63 000 tonness of semi-milled and wholly milled rice covered by CN code 1006 30 at zero duty and for 20 000 tonnes of husked rice covered by CN code 1006 20 at a fixed duty of ECU 88 per tonne; whereas these quotas were included in the European Communities list provided for in Article II (1) (a) of GATT 1994;

Whereas, under the consultations with Thailand pursuant to GATT Article XXIII, it was agreed to open an annual quota for 80 000 tonnes of broken rice covered by CN code 1006 40 00 at an import duty reduced by ECU 28 per tonne; whereas in 1996 that quota is to apply from 1 April to 31 December and to cover 60 000 tonnes;

Whereas the abovementioned commitments provide that the administration of those quotas is to take account of traditional suppliers;

Whereas, with a view to preventing imports under those quotas from causing disturbance in the normal marketing of Community grown rice, such imports should be staggered over the year so they can be absorbed more easily by the Community market;

Whereas the distribution of the quota for 1996 cannot commence before July and whereas, in order to allow the United States administration to finalize the relevant measures, provision should be made for imports from that country to commence from August only;

Whereas the United States Government has not yet forwarded the standard export licence and whereas, consequently, imports from that country will only take place once the licence is available;

Whereas, with a view to the sound administration of the abovementioned quotas and in particular in order to ensure that the quantities fixed are not exceeded, special detailed rules must be laid down to cover the submission of applications and the issue of licences; whereas such detailed rules must either supplement or derogate from Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3719/88 of 16 November 1988 laying down common detailed rules for the application of the system of import and export licences and advance fixing certificates for agricultural products [3], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2137/95 [4];

Whereas it should be stipulated that Commission Regulation (EC) No 1162/95 of 23 May 1995 laying down special rules for the application of the system of import and export licences for cereals and rice [5], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2917/95 [6], applies under this Regulation;

[1] OJ No L 334, 30. 12. 1995, p. 1.
[2] OJ No L 122, 22. 5. 1996, p. 15.
[3] OJ No L 331, 2. 12. 1988, p. 1.
[4] OJ No L 214, 8. 9. 1995, p. 21.
[5] OJ No L 117, 24. 5. 1995, p. 2.
[6] OJ No L 305, 19. 12. 1995, p. 53.

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are not in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Cereals; whereas, therefore, in accordance with Article 23 (3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 [1], as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 923/96 [2], they have been notified to the Council as soon as they have been adopted; whereas the Council has not taken a different decision acting on a qualified majority within one month,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. Annual tariff quotas are hereby opened for imports into the Community of:

(a) 63 000 tonnes of semi-milled and wholly-milled rice covered by CN code 1006 30 at zero duty;

(b) 20 000 tonnes of husked rice covered by CN code 1006 20 at a duty of ECU 88 per tonne;

(c) 80 000 tonnes of broken rice covered by CN code 1006 40 00 with a reduction of ECU 28 per tonne in the duty fixed in the combined nomenclature.

2. However, in 1996 the quota referred to in paragraph 1 (c) shall apply from 1 April to 31 December in respect of 60 000 tonnes.

3. Those quantities shall be broken down by country of origin as follows:

— in the case of the quota referred to in paragraph 1 (a):
  — 38 721 tonnes from the United States of America,
  — 21 455 tonnes from Thailand,
  — 1 019 tonnes from Australia,
  — 1 805 tonnes from other countries;

— in the case of the quota referred to in paragraph 1 (b):
  — 10 429 tonnes from Australia,
  — 7 642 tonnes from the United States of America,
  — 1 812 tonnes from Thailand,
  — 117 tonnes from other countries;

— in the case of the quota referred to in paragraph 1 (c):
  — 41 600 tonnes from Thailand,
  — 12 913 tonnes from Australia,
  — 8 503 tonnes from Guyana,
  — 7 281 tonnes from the United States of America,
  — 9 703 tonnes from other countries.

However, for the period 1 April to 31 December 1996, that quota shall be broken down as follows:
  — 31 200 tonnes from Thailand,
  — 9 685 tonnes from Australia,
  — 6 377 tonnes from Guyana,
  — 5 461 tonnes from the United States of America,
  — 7 277 tonnes from other countries.

Article 2

1. Import licences shall be issued for those quota quantities under the following tranches, expressed in tonnes:

(a) in the case of the quota referred to in Article 1 (1) (a):

	January	April	July	September
United States	9 681	19 360	9 680	—
Thailand	5 364	10 727	5 364	—
Australia	—	1 019	—	—
Other countries	—	1 805	—	—
	15 045	32 911	15 044	—

(b) in the case of the quota referred to in Article 1 (1) (b):

	January	April	July	September
Australia	2 608	5 214	2 607	—
United States	1 911	3 821	1 910	—
Thailand	—	1 812	—	—
Other countries	—	117	—	—
	4 519	10 964	4 517	—

[1] OJ No L 181, 1. 7. 1992, p. 21.
[2] OJ No L 126, 24. 5. 1996, p. 37.

(c) in the case of the quota referred to in Article 1 (1) (c):

	January	April	July	September
Thailand	10 400	20 800	10 400	—
Australia	3 229	6 456	3 228	—
Guyana	2 126	4 251	2 126	—
United States	1 820	3 640	1 821	—
Other countries	2 425	4 853	2 425	—
	20 000	40 000	20 000	—

2. However, the breakdown for 1996 shall be as follows:

(a) in the case of the quota referred to in Article 1 (1) (a):

	July	August	September
United States	—	19 361	19 360
Thailand	21 455	—	—
Australia	1 019	—	—
Other countries	1 805	—	—
	24 279	19 361	19 360

(b) in the case of the quota referred to in Article 1 (1) (b):

	July	August	September
Australia	10 429	—	—
United States	—	3 821	3 821
Thailand	1 793	—	—
Other countries	136	—	—
	12 358	3 821	3 821

(c) in the case of the quota referred to in Article 1 (1) (c):

	July	August	September
Thailand	31 200	—	—
Australia	9 685	—	—
Guyana	6 377	—	—
United States	—	5 461	—
Other countries	7 277	—	—
	54 539	5 461	—

3. Quantities not covered by import licences issued in respect of the first, second and third tranches shall be carried over to the following tranche of the relevant quota.

For quantities not covered by import licences issued under the September tranche, import licence applications may be submitted in respect of all countries of origin covered by the relevant quota under an additional tranche in October pursuant to Article 4 (1), except as regards the quantities set out in Article 2 (1) (c) and (2) (c).

Article 3

1. Where import licence applications are submitted in respect of rice and broken rice originating in Thailand and rice originating in Australia and the United States under the arrangements laid down in Article 1 they shall be accompanied by export licences completed in accordance with the model set out in Annexes I and II and issued by the competent body in the countries as indicated therein.

2. The body issuing the import licence shall keep the original of the export licence and shall deliver a copy thereof to the customs authorities on release for free circulation of the product to be imported.

Article 4

1. Licence applications shall be lodged with the competent authority in the Member State concerned in the first five working days of the month corresponding to each tranche.

2. Notwithstanding Article 10 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1162/95, the security for the import licences shall be:

— ECU 46 per tonne for the quotas provided for in Article 1 (1) (a),
— ECU 22 per tonne for the quotas provided for in Article 1 (1) (b),
— ECU 5 per tonne for the quotas provided for in Article 1 (1) (c).

3. The country of origin shall be entered in section 8 of licence applications and of the import licences and the word 'yes' shall be marked with a cross.

4. Section 24 of the licences shall bear one of the following entries:

(a) in the case of the quota referred to in Article 1 (a):
— Exención del derecho de aduana [Reglamento (CE) nº 1620/96]
— Toldfri (Forordning (EF) nr. 1620/96)
— Zollfrei (Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1620/96)
— Ατελώς [Κανονισμός (ΕΚ) αριθ. 1620/96]
— Exemption from customs duty (Regulation (EC) No 1620/96)
— Exemption du droit de douane [Règlement (CE) nº 1620/96]
— Esenzione del dazio doganale [Regolamento (CE) n. 1620/96]
— Vrijgesteld van douanerecht (Verordening (EG) nr. 1620/96)
— Isenção de direito aduaneiro (Regulamento (CE) nº 1620/96)
— Tullivapaa [asetuksen (EY) N:o 1620/96]
— Tullfri (förordning (EG) nr 1620/96);

(b) in the case of the quota referred to in Article 1 (b):
— Derecho de aduana reducido 88 ecus/t [Reglamento (CE) nº 1620/96]
— Nedsat told 88 ECU/t (Forordning (EF) nr. 1620/96)
— Ermäßigter Zollsatz von 88 ECU/Tonne (Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1620/96)
— Δασμός μειωμένος σε 88 Ecu/τόνο [Κανονισμός (ΕΚ) αριθ. 1620/96]
— Reduced duty to ECU 88 per tonne (Regulation (EC) No 1620/96)
— Droit réduit à 88 écus par tonne [Règlement (CE) nº 1620/96]
— Dazio ridotto a 88 ECU/t [Regolamento (CE) n. 1620/96]
— Verminderd douanerecht van 88 ecu/ton (Verordening (EG) nr. 1620/96)
— Direito reduzido 88 Ecu/t (Regulamento (CE) nº 1620/96)
— Tulli, joka on alennettu 88 ecuun/t [asetus (EY) N:o 1620/96]
— Tullsatsen nedsatt till 88 ecu/ton (förordning (EG) nr 1620/96);

(c) in the case of the quota referred to in Article 1 (c):
— Derecho de aduana reducido de 28 ecus/t [Reglamento (CE) nº 1620/96]
— Reduceret afgift med 28 ECU/t (Forordning (EF) nr. 1620/96)
— Um 28 ECU/Tonne ermäßigter Zollsatz (Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1620/96)
— Δασμός μειωμένος κατά 28 Ecu/τόνο [Κανονισμός (ΕΚ) αριθ. 1620/96]
— Reduced duty by ECU 28 per tonne (Regulation (EC) No 1620/96)
— Droit réduit de 28 écus par tonne [Règlement (CE) nº 1620/96]
— Dazio ridotto di 28 ECU/t [Regolamento (CE) n. 1620/96]
— Douanerecht verminderd met 28 ecu/ton (Verordening (EG) nr. 1620/96)
— Direito reduzido de 28 Ecu/t (Regulamento (CE) nº 1620/96)
— Tulli, jota on alennettu 28 ecua/t [asetus (EY) N:o 1620/96]
— Tullsatsen nedsatt med 28 ecu/ton (förordning (EG) nr 1620/96).

5. Import licence applications shall be admissible only where the following conditions are fulfilled:

— applications must be submitted by natural or legal persons who have, at least in one of the three years preceding the date of submission of the application, been engaged in trade in rice or submitted import licence applications covering rice and were entered in a public registry of a Member State,

— applicants must submit their applications in the Member State where they are entered in a public registry. Where applications are submitted by the same person in two or more Member States, none of those applications shall be admissible.

Article 5

1. Within two working days of the closing date for the submission of licence applications, the Member States shall notify the Commission of the quantities covered by import licence applications, broken down by CN code and country of origin.

Such notification shall also be made where no application has been submitted in a Member State.

The above information must be notified separately from that relating to other import licence applications covering rice and in accordance with the same procedure.

2. Within 10 days of the closing date for the submission of licence applications, the Commission shall:

— decide what percentage of quantities covered by applications may be imported. Where the quantities applied for exceed those available in respect of the tranche and country of origin in question, it shall set a single percentage reduction to be applied to those quantities,

— fix the quantities available under the following tranche and, where appropriate, under the additional tranche in October.

The Commission shall notify the Member States of its decision as soon as possible.

3. If the reduction referred to in the first indent of paragraph 2 of this Article results in one or more quantities of less than 20 tonnes per application, the Member State shall allocate the total of these quantities by drawing lots among the importers concerned in 20 tonne lots and, where applicable, the remaining lot.

Article 6

1. Within three working days of the date of notification by the Commission, import licences shall be issued for the quantities resulting from the application of Article 5 (2).

Where the quantities covered by import licences issued are lower than those applied for, the security fixed in Article 4 (2) shall be reduced proportionately.

2. Notwithstanding Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 3719/88, rights accruing under import licences shall not be transmissible.

Article 7

1. The fourth indent of Article 5 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 3719/88 shall not apply.

2. Notwithstanding Article 8 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 3719/88, the quantity released for free circulation may not exceed that set out in sections 17 and 18 of the import licences.

To that end the figure '0' shall be entered in section 19 of the licences.

3. Article 33 (5) of Regulation (EEC) No 3719/88 shall apply.

4. The term of validity of the licences shall be fixed in accordance with Article 6 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 1162/95. However, it may not extend beyond 31 December of the year of issue.

Article 8

The Member States shall notify the Commission by telex:

(a) within two working days of their issue, of the quantities, broken down by CN code, covered by the import licences issued, with details of the date, the country of origin and the name and address of the holder;

(b) by the last working day of each month following the month of release for free circulation, of the quantities, broken down by CN code and country of origin, actually released for free circulation.

Such notifications must also be made where no licence has been issued and no imports have taken place.

Article 9

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

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

Done at Brussels, 9 July 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

Export certificate No .....

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND

Export certificate subject to Regulation (EC) No . . ./96

Special form either for semi-milled or milled rice (Code No 1006 30), husked rice (code No 1006 20), or broken rice (code No 1006 40 00)

1. **Exporter** *(name, address and country)*	2. **Importer** *(name, address and country)*
Name: Address: Country:	Name: Address: Country:

3. **Shipped per**	4. **Country/Countries of destination in EC**
☐ Conventional ☐ Container	

5. **Type of Thai rice**/R.S. Code No	6. **Weight metric tonnes**	7. **Packing**
	Gross weight: Net weight:	

8. **No and date of invoice**	9. **No and date of B/L**

We hereby certify that the abovementioned products are produced in and are exported from Thailand.

Department of Foreign Trade

.....
Name and signature of authorized official and stamp

Date of issue .....

THIS CERTIFICATE IS VALID FOR 120 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE AND IN ANY CASE ONLY UNTIL 31 DECEMBER OF THE YEAR OF ISSUE

For use of EC authorities

Serial No .....

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
REPRESENTED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND ENERGY

Export certificate

for semi-milled or milled rice (code No 1006 30) and husked rice (code No 1006 20)

1. **Exporter**	2. **Importer**
Name: Address: Country:	Name: Address: Country:

3. **Country/Countries of destination in EU**	4. **Type of rice/specification**	5. **Consignment weight metric tonnes**
	Milled Semi-milled Husked	Net weight:

Department of Primary Industries and Energy

by its Delegate .....

.....
Signature

Date of issue .....

For use by EU authorities