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COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2603/97

of 16 December 1997

laying down the detailed implementing rules for imports of rice originating in the ACP countries or the overseas countries and territories (OCT)

(OJ L 351, 23.12.1997, p. 22)

Amended by:

		Official Journal		
		No	page	date
►**M1**	Commission Regulation (EC) No 1595/98 of 23 July 1998	L 208	21	24.7.1998
►**M2**	Commission Regulation (EC) No 2731/1999 of 21 December 1999	L 328	39	22.12.1999
►**M3**	Commission Regulation (EC) No 174/2002 of 30 January 2002	L 30	33	31.1.2002
►**M4**	Commission Regulation (EC) No 2300/2002 of 19 December 2002	L 348	74	21.12.2002

NB: This consolidated version contains references to the European unit of account and/or the ecu, which from 1 January 1999 should be understood as references to the euro — Council Regulation (EEC) No 3308/80 (OJ L 345, 20.12.1980, p. 1) and Council Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 (OJ L 162, 19.6.1997, p. 1).

▼B

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2603/97

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laying down the detailed implementing rules for imports of rice originating in the ACP countries or the overseas countries and territories (OCT)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 91/482/EEC of 25 July 1991 on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Economic Community ([1]), as last amended by Decision 97/803/EC ([2]), and in particular Article 108a (5) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 715/90 of 5 March 1990 on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the ACP States or in the overseas countries and territories (OCT) ([3]), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 619/96 ([4]), and in particular Article 13 (1) and (3) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 3290/94 of 22 December 1994 on the adjustments and transitional arrangements required in the agricultural sector in order to implement the agreements concluded during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations ([5]), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1161/97 ([6]), and in particular Article 3 (1) thereof,

Whereas, by Decision 97/803/EC, the Council adapted the import arrangements for rice originating in the overseas countries and territories (OCTs); whereas the new Article 108a states that the cumulation of ACP/OCT origin referred to in Article 6 of Annex II to Decision 91/482/EEC is permitted up to an overall limit of 160 000 tonnes of husked rice equivalent, including the tariff quota for rice originating in the ACP States under the Fourth Lomé Convention; whereas imports from the OCTs can reach the above level if the ACP States do not make effective use of their direct export options under the above tariff quota; whereas import licences for 35 000 tonnes in husked rice equivalent is initially issued to the OCTs in January each year;

Whereas to ensure balanced management of the Community market in rice, import licences are issued in respect of several periods over the course of a year;

Whereas, to manage the cumulative system, the detailed rules for the import of rice from the ACP States and OCT need to be adopted in a single text; whereas Commission Regulation (EEC) No 999/90 of 20 April 1990 laying down detailed implementing rules for imports of rice originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) and the overseas countries and territories (OCT) ([7]), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1407/97 ([8]), should therefore be repealed and its appropriate provisions included herein; whereas the provisions governing the reductions in the customs duties applying to imports and the collection of an export charge by the exporting country should be included in particular;

Whereas this Regulation should apply from 1 January 1998; whereas Commission Regulation (EC) No 2352/97 of 27 November 1997 intro-

([1]) OJ L 263, 19. 9. 1991, p. 1.
([2]) OJ L 329, 29. 11. 1997, p. 50.
([3]) OJ L 84, 30. 3. 1990, p. 85.
([4]) OJ L 89, 10. 4. 1996, p. 1.
([5]) OJ L 349, 31. 12. 1994, p. 105.
([6]) OJ L 169, 27. 6. 1997, p. 1.
([7]) OJ L 101, 21. 4. 1990, p. 20.
([8]) OJ L 194, 23. 7. 1997, p. 13.

▼B

ducing specific measures in respect of imports of rice originating in the overseas countries and territories ([1]) should therefore be repealed;

Whereas the Management Committee for Cereals has not delivered an opinion within the time limit set by its chariman,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

▼M3

Article 1

This Regulation lays down the detailed implementing rules for imports of rice originating in the ACP States or in the overseas countries and territories (OCT) pursuant to Article 6(5) of Annex III to Council Decision 2001/822/EC ([2]).

▼B

TITLE I

Imports of rice originating in the ACP States

Article 2

▼M4

1. As regards the quantity of 125 000 tonnes of rice, in husked-rice equivalent, falling within CN codes 1006 10 21 to 1006 10 98, 1006 20 and 1006 30 laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No 2286/2002 ([3]), licences for imports at a reduced rate of customs duty shall be issued each year under the following tranches:

— January:	41 668 tonnes
— May:	41 666 tonnes
— September:	41 666 tonnes.

▼B

2. Without prejudice to Article 7, quantities not covered by import licences issued for the first or second tranche shall be carried over to the following tranche.

For quantities not covered to import licences issued under the September tranche, import licence applications may be submitted under an additional tranche in October, in accordance with Article 8 (1).

Article 3

▼M4

1. As regards the quantity of 20 000 tonnes of broken rice falling within CN code 1006 40 00 laid down in Regulation (EC) No 2286/2002, licences for imports at a reduced rate of customs duty shall be issued each year under the following tranches:

— January:	10 000 tonnes
— May:	10 000 tonnes
— September:	0 tonnes.

▼B

2. Quantities not covered by import licences issued for the first or second tranches shall be carried over to the following tranche.

([1]) OJ L 326, 28. 11. 1997, p. 21.
([2]) OJ L 314, 30.11.2001, p. 1.
([3]) OJ L 348, 21.12.2002, p. 5.

▼B

For quantities not covered by import licences issued under the September tranche, import licence applications may be submitted under an additional tranche in October, in accordance with Article 8 (1).

▼M4

Article 4

For the purposes of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2286/2002, the customs duties shall be fixed by the Commission in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 4 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1503/96 ([1]).

▼B

Article 5

1. Article 4 shall apply only to imports of rice for which an export charge corresponding to the difference between the applicable customs duties on import of the rice from third countries and the amounts referred to in Article 4 has been collected by the exporting country.

2. Proof that the charge has been collected is provided where the customs authorities of the exporting country enter one of the following in the box marked 'Remarks' of the EUR.1 movement certificate:

Amount in national currency:

— Tasa especial percibida a la exportacion del arroz

— Særafgift, der opkræves ved eksport af ris

— Bei der Ausfuhr von Reis erhobene Sonderabgabe

— Ειδικός φόρος που εισπράττεται κατά την εξαγωγή του ρυζιού

— Special charge collected on export of rice

— Taxe spéciale perçue à l'exportation du riz

— Tassa speciale riscossa all'esportazione del riso

— Bij uitvoer van de rijst opgelegde bijzondere heffing

— Direito especial cobrado na exportação do arroz

— Riisin viennin yhteydessä perittävä erityismaksu

— Särskild avgift för risexport

(Signature and official stamp)

3. Where the charge collected by the exporting country is less than the reduction resulting from the application of Article 4, the reduction shall be limited to the amount collected.

4. If the export charge collected is in a currency other than that of the importing Member State, the exchange rate to be used to caclulate the amount of charge actually collected shall be the rate registered on the most representative currency exchange or exchanges in that Member State on the date the customs duty was fixed in advance.

▼M1

5. The customs duty shall be that applying on the day the licence application is lodged.

▼M3

6. Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1162/95 ([2]) notwithstanding and pursuant to Article 23(2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1291/2000 ([3]), the import licences for husked, milled or semi-milled rice and for broken rice shall be valid from the actual day of issue to the end of the third month that follows. Their validity may not extend beyond 31 December of their year of issue, however.

([1]) OJ L 189, 30.7.1996, p. 71.
([2]) OJ L 117, 24.5.1995, p. 2.
([3]) OJ L 152, 24.6.2000, p. 1.

▼M3

TITLE II

Imports of rice with cumulative ACT/OCT origin

Article 6

1. Licences for imports exempt from customs duties shall be issued each year under the following tranches, expressed as husked rice equivalent:

(tonnes)

	Netherlands Antilles and Aruba	Least-developed OCTs listed in Annex I.B to Decision 2001/822/EC
January	8 334	3 334
May	8 333	3 333
September	8 333	3 333

Quantities relating to stages in the processing of rice other than husking shall be converted using the conversion rates laid down in Article 1 of Commission Regulation No 467/67/EEC [1].

2. Applications for import licences must be accompanied by the original export licence, drawn up in accordance with Annex I and issued by the bodies competent to issue EUR.1 certificates.

3. Quantities not covered by import licences for any given tranche shall be carried over to the following one.

Quantities not covered by import licences issued under the September tranche may be applied for under an additional tranche in October, in accordance with Article 8(1).

4. In the case of the additional tranche in October, if the licence applications submitted for imports with cumulative ACP/least-developed OCT origin account for less than the quantities available, the balance may be used to meet applications for imports from the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

5. Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 1162/95 notwithstanding and pursuant to Article 23(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1291/2000, import licences for husked, wholly milled or semi-milled rice and for broken rice shall be valid from the actual day of issue to 31 December of the year of issue.

▼B

TITLE III

Detailed rules common to Titles I and II

▼M1

Article 7

1. Quantities carried over referred to in Article 2(2) may be the subject of licence applications for the import of rice originating in the ACP States falling within CN codes 1006 10 21 to 1006 10 98, 1006 20 and 1006 30 and rice originating in the OCTs falling within CN code 1006.

2. Quantities as referred to in paragraph 1 that are not covered by import licences issued under a tranche shall be carried over to the following tranche.

[1] OJ 204, 24.8.1967, p. 1.

▼B

Article 8

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

▼M3

For 2002, applications for the first tranche provided for in Article 6(1) shall be lodged in the first ten working days of February.

▼B

2. 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.

3. In Section 20 of the import licence application the applicant shall indicate the tranche for which he is submitting the application. One of the following entries shall be made:

— OCT (Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 2603/97)

— ACP (Article 2 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 2603/97)

— ACP broken rice (Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 2603/97)

— ACP + OCT (Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 2603/97)

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

(a) for the OCTs:

— Exención del derecho de aduana hasta la cantidad indicada en las casillas 17 y 18 del presente certificado [Reglamento (CE) nº 2603/97]

— Toldfri op til den mængde, der er angivet i rubrik 17 og 18 i denne licens (Forordning (EF) nr. 2603/97)

— Zollfrei bis zu der in den Feldern 17 und 18 dieser Lizenz angegebenen Menge (Verordnung (EG) Nr. 2603/97)

— Ατελώς μέχρι την ποσότητα που ορίζεται στα τετραγωνίδια 17 και 18 του παρόντος πιστοποιητικού [Κανονισμός (ΕΚ) αριθ. 2603/97]

— Exemption from customs duty up to the quantity indicated in Sections 17 and 18 of this licence (Regulation (EC) No 2603/97)

— Exemption du droit de douane jusqu'à la quantité indiquée dans les cases 17 et 18 du présent certificat [Règlement (CE) nº 2603/97]

— Esenzione del dazio doganale limitatamente alla quantità indicata nelle caselle 17 e 18 del presente titolo [Regolamento (CE) n. 2603/97]

— Vrijgesteld van douanerecht voor ten hoogste de in de vakken 17 en 18 van dit certificaat vermelde hoeveelheid (Verordening (EG) nr. 2603/97)

— Isenção de direito aduaneiro até à quantidade indicada nas casas 17 e 18 do presente certificado [Regulamento (CE) nº 2603/97]

— Tullivapaa tämän todistuksen kohdissa 17 ja 18 esitettyyn määrään asti (asetus (EY) N:o 2603/97)

— Tullfri upp till den mängd som anges i fält 17 och 18 i denna licens (Förordning (EG) nr 2603/97)

(b) for the ACP States:

— Derecho de aduana reducido hasta la cantidad indicada en las casillas 17 y 18 del presente certificado [Reglamento (CE) nº 2603/97]

— Nedsat told op til den mængde, der er angivet i rubrik 17 og 18 i denne licens (Forordning (EF) nr. 2603/97)

— Ermäßigter Zollsatz bis zu der in den Feldern 17 und 18 dieser Lizenz angegebenen Menge (Verordnung (EG) Nr. 2603/97)

— Μειωμένος δασμός μέχρι την ποσότητα που ορίζεται στα τετραγωνίδια 17 και 18 του παρόντος πιστοποιητικού [Κανονισμός (ΕΚ) αριθ. 2603/97]

▼B

— Reduced duty up to the quantity indicated in Sections 17 and 18 of this licence (Regulation (EC) No 2603/97)

— Droit réduit jusqu'à la quantité indiquée dans les cases 17 et 18 du présent certificat [Règlement (CE) nº 2603/97]

— Dazio ridotto limitatamente alla quantità indicata nelle caselle 17 e 18 del presente titolo [Regolamento (CE) n. 2603/97]

— Verminderd douanerecht voor ten hoogste de in de vakken 17 en 18 van dit certificaat vermelde hoeveelheid (Verordening (EG) nr. 2603/97)

— Direito reduzido até à quantidade indicada nas casas 17 e 18 do presente certificado [Regulamento (CE) nº 2603/97]

— Tulli, joka on alennettu tämän todistuksen kohdissa 17 ja 18 esitettyyn määrään asti (asetus (EY) N:o 2603/97)

— Tullsatsen nedsatt upp till den mängd som anges i fält 17 och 18 i denna licens (Förordning (EG) nr 2603/97).

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

▼M2

— applications must be submitted by natural or legal persons who, in at least one of the three years preceding the date of submission of the application, have been engaged in the commercial import or export of rice and were entered in a public register of a Member State. Proof of import or export shall be furnished by the production of at least two duly endorsed import or export licences or by customs declarations where applicable,

▼B

— applicants may submit one application only in the Member State where they are entered in a public register. Where several applications are submitted by the same person in one or more Member States, none of those applications shall be admissible,

— applications may be submitted for no more than the maximum quantity laid down for each tranche or origin. However, the quantity applied for under each tranche and origin shall not exceed 5 000 tonnes in husked-rice equivalent.

▼M2

6. Notwithstanding Article 10 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1162/95 ([1]), the security for import licences shall be EUR 120 per tonne.

▼B

Article 9

▼M3

1. Within two working days of the closing date for the submission of licence applications, the Member States shall notify the Commission, by telex or fax and in accordance with Annex II to this Regulation, of the quantities covered by import licence applications, broken down by eight-digit CN code, by tranche and by country of origin, the number of the licence applied for and the name and address of the applicant.

▼B

2. Within 10 days of the final date for notification by Member States, the Commission shall:

— decide to what extent applications may be accepted. Where the quantities applied for exceed those available in respect of the tranche and origin in question, it shall set a percentage reduction to be applied to each application,

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

([1]) OJ L 117, 24. 5. 1995, p. 2.

▼M2

3. Where the quantity for which the licence is required is less than 20 tonnes following the application of the percentage reduction referred to in paragraph 2, the licence application may be withdrawn within a period of two working days from the date of publication of the regulation fixing that percentage. The security shall be released immediately.

▼B

Article 10

1. Within three working days of publication of the Commission decision, import licences shall be issued for the quantities resulting from the application of Article 9 (2).

Where the quantities covered by import licences issued are lower than those applied for, the security fixed in Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1162/95 shall be reduced proportionately.

2. Notwithstanding Article 9 of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3719/88 ([1]), rights accruing under import licences shall not be transferable.

Article 11

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

2. The reduction in customs duties for rice originating in the ACP countries and the exemption from duties for rice originating in the OCT provided for respectively in Articles 4 and 6 of this Regulation shall not apply to quantities imported within the tolerance referred to in Article 8 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 3719/88.

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

▼M3

▼M1

Article 12

The Member States shall notify the Commission by telex or fax in the form set out in Annex I:

▼M3

— within two working days of their issue, of the quantities, broken down by eight-digit CN code and by country of origin, covered by the import licences issued, the date of issue, the number of the export licence, where appropriate, the number of the import licence issued and the name and address of the holder,

▼M1

— not later than two months after expiry of the validity of each licence, of the quantities, broken down by eight-digit CN code and country of origin, actually released for free circulation, the date of release, the number of the licence and the name and address of the holder.

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

▼B

Article 13

Regulation (EEC) No 999/90 is repealed.

Article 14

Regulation (EC) No 2352/97 is repealed.

([1]) OJ L 331, 2. 12. 1988, p. 1.

▼B

Article 15

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

It shall apply from 1 January 1998.

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

▼**M3**

ANNEX I

Model export licence as referred to in Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 2603/97

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="2">1. Exporter (name, full address, country)</td><td>ORIGINAL</td><td rowspan="2">2.
No</td></tr>
<tr><td>3. Quota year</td></tr>
<tr><td>4. Importer (name, full address, country)
(optional)</td><td colspan="2">EXPORT LICENCE
RICE</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">5. Place and date of loading — means of transport
(optional)</td><td>6. Country of origin</td><td>7. Country of destination</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">8. Additional details</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">9. Description of goods</td><td>10. CN code
(8 digits)</td><td>11. Quantity
(tonnes)
(net weight)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">12. CERTIFICATION BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY
I, the undersigned, certifiy that, in the case of the country referred to in box 13, the total quantity of rice for which export licences have been issued under Regulation (EC) No 2603/97 for the year indicated in box 3, including the quantity in this export licence, is less than the maximum quantity authorised by Article 6(5) of Annex III to Decision 2001/822/EC.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">13. Competent authority (name, full address, country)</td><td colspan="2">At ..... on .....

(Signature) (Stamp)</td></tr>
</table>

▼M3

ANNEX II

RICE — REGULATION (EC) No 2603/97

Application for an import licence [1]
Issue of an import licence [1]
Release into free circulation [1]

To: DG Agri-C2
Fax: (32-2) 296 60 21

Sender:

Date	Export licence number (*)	Import licence number	Tranche (**) — OCT (Article 6) — ACP (Article 2(1)) — ACP broken rice (Article 3) — ACP + OCT (Article 7)	CN code	Quantity (tonnes)	Country of origin	Name and address of applicant/holder

(*) Applicable to imports under Article 6(2).
(**) Please state to which of the four options the application/issue/release into free circulation relates.

[1] Delete as appropriate.