COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1555/98

of 17 July 1998

establishing administrative procedures for the 1999 quantitative quotas for certain products originating in the People's Republic of China

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 520/94 of 7 March 1994 establishing a Community procedure for administering quantitative quotas [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 138/96 [2], and in particular Articles 2(3) and (4), 13 and 24 thereof,

Whereas Council Regulation (EC) No 519/94 of 7 March 1994 on common rules for imports from certain third countries and repealing Regulations (EEC) No 1765/82, (EEC) No 1766/82 and (EEC) No 3420/83 [3], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1138/98 [4], introduced annual quantitative quotas for certain products originating in the People's Republic of China listed in Annex II to that Regulation; whereas the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 520/94 are applicable to those quotas;

Whereas the Commission accordingly adopted Regulation (EC) No 738/94 [5], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 983/96 [6], laying down general rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 520/94; whereas these provisions apply to the administration of the above quotas subject to the provisions of this Regulation;

Whereas certain characteristics of China's economy, the seasonal nature of some of the products and the time needed for transport mean that orders for products subject to quota are generally placed before the beginning of the quota year; whereas it is therefore important to ensure that administrative constraints do not impede the realization of the planned imports; whereas in order not to affect the continuity of trade flows, the arrangements for allocating and administering the 1999 quotas should accordingly be adopted before the start of the quota year;

Whereas after examination of the different administrative methods provided for by Regulation (EC) No 520/94, the method based on traditional trade flows should be adopted; whereas under this method the quotas are divided into two portions, one of which is reserved for traditional importers and the other for other applicants;

Whereas this has proved to be the best way of ensuring the continuity of business for the Community importers concerned and avoiding any disturbance of trade flows;

Whereas, however, the introduction of a Community system must ensure progressive access by non-traditional importers; whereas in the light of all these factors a balance must therefore be sought in determining the portions to be allocated to the two categories of importers; whereas, to this end, it is appropriate that the portion set aside for non-traditional importers should be increased as compared to 1998;

Whereas the reference period used for allocating the portion of the quota set aside for traditional importers in earlier Regulations on the administration of these quotas should be updated to ensure open access to the quotas; whereas in order to allow a greater flexibility to the benefit of traditional importers it is considered appropriate to allow them to set their reference period as either 1996 or 1997, which are the most recent years representative of the normal trend of trade flows in the products in question; whereas traditional importers must therefore prove that they have imported products originating in China and covered by the quotas in question in the year 1996 or 1997;

Whereas it has been found in the past that the method provided for in Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 520/94, which is based on the order in which applications are received, may not be an appropriate way of allocating that portion of the quota reserved for non-traditional importers; whereas, consequently, in accordance with Article 2(4) of Regulation (EC) No 520/94, it is appropriate to provide for allocation in proportion to the quantities requested, on the basis of a simultaneous examination of import licence applications actually lodged, in accordance with Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 520/94;

Whereas in order to ensure that the quotas can be efficiently allocated and used, any speculative applications should be excluded, and it is furthermore necessary to allocate economically significant quantities; whereas to this end the amount that any non-traditional importer may request should be restricted to a set volume or value;

[1] OJ L 66, 10. 3. 1994, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 21, 27. 1. 1996, p. 6.
[3] OJ L 67, 10. 3. 1994, p. 89.
[4] OJ L 159, 3. 6. 1998, p. 1.
[5] OJ L 87, 31. 3. 1994, p. 47.
[6] OJ L 131, 1. 6. 1996, p. 47.

Whereas for the purposes of quota allocation, a time limit must be set for the submission of licence applications by traditional and other importers;

Whereas the Member States must inform the Commission of the import licence applications received, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 520/94; whereas the information about traditional importers' previous imports must be expressed in the same units as the quota in question;

Whereas in view of the special nature of transactions concerning products subject to quota, and in particular the time needed for transport, the import licences should expire on 31 December 1999;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the committee for the administration of quotas set up pursuant to Article 22 of Regulation (EC) No 520/94,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

This Regulation lays down for 1999 specific provisions for the administration of the quantitative quotas referred to in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 519/94.

Regulation (EC) No 738/94 laying down general rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 520/94 shall apply, subject to the specific provisions of this Regulation.

Article 2

1. The quantitative quotas referred to in Article 1 shall be allocated using the method based on traditional trade flows, referred to in Article 2(2)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 520/94.

2. The portions of each quantitative quota set aside for traditional importers and other importers are set out in Annex I to this Regulation.

3. The portion set aside for non-traditional importers shall be apportioned using the method based on allocation in proportion to quantities requested; the volume requested by a single importer may not exceed that shown in Annex II.

Article 3

Applications for import licences shall be lodged with the competent authorities listed in Annex III to this Regulation from the day following the day of publication of this Regulation in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* until 3 p.m., Brussels time, on 11 September 1998.

Article 4

1. For the purposes of allocating the portion of each quota set aside for traditional importers, 'traditional' importers shall mean importers who can show that they have imported goods in the calendar year 1996 or 1997.

2. The supporting documents referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 520/94 shall relate to the release for free circulation during either calendar year 1996 or 1997, as indicated by the importer, of products originating in the People's Republic of China which are covered by the quota in respect of which the application is made.

3. Instead of the documents referred to in the first indent of Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 520/94 applicants may enclose with their licence applications documents drawn up and certified by the competent national authorities on the basis of available customs information as evidence of the imports of the product in question during the calendar year 1996 or 1997 carried out by themselves or, where applicable, by the operator whose activities they have taken over.

4. Article 18 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 [1] shall apply where supporting documents are expressed in national currencies.

Article 5

Member States shall inform the Commission no later than 25 September 1998 at 10 a.m., Bussels time, of the number and aggregate quantity of import licence applications and, in the case of applications from traditional importers, of the volume of previous imports carried out by traditional importers during the reference period referred to in Article 4(1) of this Regulation.

Article 6

The Commission shall adopt the quantitative criteria to be used by the competent national authorities for the purpose of meeting importers' applications no later than 14 October 1998.

Article 7

Import licences shall be valid for one year, starting on 1 January 1999.

Article 8

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

[1] OJ L 302, 19. 10. 1992, p. 1.

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

Done at Brussels, 17 July 1998.

For the Commission
Leon BRITTAN
Vice-President

ANNEX I

Allocation of the quotas

Product description	HS/CN code	Portion reserved for traditional importers	Portion reserved for other importers
Footwear falling within HS/CN codes	ex 6402 99 (1)	29 363 611 pairs (75 %)	9 787 870 pairs (25 %)
	6403 51 6403 59	2 096 250 pairs (75 %)	698 750 pairs (25 %)
	ex 6403 91 (1) ex 6403 99 (1)	9 090 000 pairs (75 %)	3 030 000 pairs (25 %)
	ex 6404 11 (2)	13 671 585 pairs (75 %)	4 557 195 pairs (25 %)
	6404 19 10	23 923 287 pairs (75 %)	7 974 429 pairs (25 %)
Tableware, kitchenware of porcelain or china	6911 10	36 068 tonnes (75 %)	12 023 tonnes (25 %)
Ceramic tableware or kitchenware	6912 00	27 287 tonnes (75 %)	9 096 tonnes (25 %)

(1) Excluding footwear involving special technology: shoes which have a cif price per pair of not less than ECU 9 for use in sporting activities, with a single- or multi-layer moulded sole, not injected, manufactured from synthetic materials specially designed to absorb the impact of vertical or lateral movements and with technical features such as hermetic pads containing gas or fluid, mechanical components which absorb or neutralise impact or materials such as low-density polymers.

(2) Excluding:

(a) footwear which is designed for a sporting activity and has, or has provision for the attachment of, spikes, sprigs, stops, clips, bats or the like, with a non-injected sole;

(b) footwear involving special technology: shoes which have a cif price per pair of not less than ECU 9 for use in sporting activities, with a single- or multi-layer moulded sole, not injected, manufactured from synthetic materials specially designed to absorb the impact of vertical or lateral movements and with technical features such as hermetic pads containing gas or fluid, mechanical components which absorb or neutralize impact or materials such as low-density polymers.

ANNEX II

Maximum quantity which may be requested by each importer other than traditional

Product description	HS/CN code	Predetermined maximum quantity
Footwear falling within HS/CN codes	ex 6402 99 (1)	4 000 pairs
	6403 51 6403 59	4 000 pairs
	ex 6403 91 (1) ex 6403 99 (1)	4 000 pairs
	ex 6404 11 (2)	4 000 pairs
	6404 19 10	4 000 pairs
Tableware, kitchenware of porcelain or china	6911 10	4 tonnes
Ceramic tableware or kitchenware	6912 00	4 tonnes

(1) Excluding footwear involving special technology: shoes which have a cif price per pair of not less than ECU 9 for use in sporting activities, with a single- or multi-layer moulded sole, not injected, manufactured from synthetic materials specially designed to absorb the impact of vertical or lateral movements and with technical features such as hermetic pads containing gas or fluid, mechanical components which absorb or neutralize impact or materials such as low-density polymers.

(2) Excluding:

(a) footwear which is designed for a sporting activity and has, or has provision for the attachment of, spikes, sprigs, stops, clips, bats or the like, with a non-injected sole;

(b) footwear involving special technology: shoes which have a cif price per pair of not less than ECU 9 for use in sporting activities, with a single- or multi-layer moulded sole, not injected, manufactured from synthetic materials specially designed to absorb the impact of vertical or lateral movements and with technical features such as hermetic pads containing gas or fluid, mechanical components which absorb or neutralize impact or materials such as low-density polymers.

ANEXO III — BILAG III — ANHANG III — ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ III — ANNEX III — ANNEXE III — ALLEGATO III — BIJLAGE III — ANEXO III — LIITE III — BILAGA III

Lista de las autoridades nacionales competentes
Liste over kompetente nationale myndigheder
Liste der zuständigen Behörden der Mitgliedstaaten
Πίνακας των αρμόδιων εθνικών αρχών
List of the national competent authorities
Liste des autorités nationales compétentes
Elenco delle autorità nazionali competenti
Lijst van bevoegde nationale instanties
Lista das autoridades nacionais competentes
Luettelo kansallisista toimivaltaisista viranomaisista
Lista över nationella kompetenta myndigheter

1. BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Ministère des affaires économiques/Ministerie van Economische Zaken
Administration des relations économiques, 4e division — Mise en œuvre des politiques commerciales/Bestuur van de Economische Betrekkingen, 4e afdeling — Toepassing van de Handelspolitiek
Services licences/Dienst Vergunningen
Rue Général Leman/Generaal Lemanstraat 60
B-1040 Bruxelles/Brussel
Tél./Tel.: (32-2) 230 90 43
Télécopieur/Fax: (32-2) 230 83 22/231 14 84

2. DANMARK

Erhvervsfremme Styrelsen
Søndergade 25
DK-8600 Silkeborg
Tlf. (45) 87 20 40 60
Fax (45) 87 20 40 77

3. DEUTSCHLAND

Bundesamt für Wirtschaft
Frankfurter Straße 29-31
D-65760 Eschborn
Tel.: (49) 61 96 404-0
Fax.: (49) 61 96 40 42 12

4. ΕΛΛΑΔΑ

Υπουργείο Εθνικής Οικονομίας,
Γενική Γραμματεία Διεθνών Οικονομικών Σχέσεων,
Γενική Διεύθυνση Εξωτερικών Οικονομικών και Εμπορικών Σχέσεων,
Διεύθυνση Διαδικασιών Εξωτερικού Εμπορίου,
Κορνάρου 1,
GR-105 63 Αθήνα,
Τηλ.: (30-1) 328 60 31/328 60 32
Φαξ: (30-1) 328 60 29/328 60 59.

5. ESPAÑA

Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda
Dirección General de Comercio Exterior
Paseo de la Castellana, 162
E-28071 Madrid
Tel.: (34) 913 49 38 94/913 49 37 78
Fax.: (34) 913 49 38 32/913 49 38 31

6. FRANCE

Services des titres du commerce extérieur
8, rue de la Tour-des-Dames
F-75436 Paris Cedex 09
Tél.: (33-1) 40 04 04 04
Télécopieur: (33-1) 55 07 46 59

7. IRELAND

Department of Tourism and Trade,
Licensing Unit,
Kildare Street,
IRL-Dublin 2
Tel.: (353 1) 662 14 44
Fax: (353 1) 676 61 54

8. ITALIA

Ministero del Commercio con l'estero
Direzione generale delle importazioni e delle esportazioni
Viale America, 341
I-00144 Roma
Tel.: (39 6) 59 931
Telefax: (39 6) 59 93 26 31 — 59 93 22 35
Telex: 610083 — 610471 — 614478

9. LUXEMBOURG

Ministère des affaires étrangères
Office des licences
Boîte postale 113
L-2011 Luxembourg
Tél.: (352) 22 61 62
Télécopieur: (352) 46 61 38

10. NEDERLAND

Centrale Dienst voor In- en Uitvoer
Engelse Kamp 2
Postbus 30003
9700 RD Groningen
Nederland
Tel. (31-50) 523 91 11
Fax (31-50) 526 06 98

11. ÖSTERREICH

Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Angelegenheiten
Landstraßer Hauptstraße 55-57
A-1031 Wien
Tel.: (43) 1 71 10 23 61
Fax.: (43) 1 715 83 47

12. PORTUGAL

Ministério de Economia
Direcção-Geral do Comércio
Avenida da República 79
P-1000 Lisboa
Tel.: (351-1) 793 09 93/793 30 02
Telefax: (351-1) 793 22 10/796 37 23
Telex: 13418

13. SUOMI

Tullihallitus
PL 512
FIN-00101 Helsinki
Puh.: (358) 9 61 41
Telekopio (358) 9 614 2852

14. SVERIGE

Kommerskollegium
Box 6803
S-113 86 Stockholm
Tfn (46-8) 690 48 00
Fax (46-8) 30 67 59

15. UNITED KINGDOM

Department of Trade and Industry,
Import Licencing Branch,
Queensway House,
West Precinct,
Billingham,
UK-Stockton on Tees TS23 2NF
Tel.: (44 1642) 36 43 33/36 43 34
Fax: (44 1642) 53 35 57