COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 357/1999

of 17 February 1999

on the issue of system B export licences in the fruit and vegetables sector

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 2190/96 of 14 November 1996 on detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 2200/96 as regards export refunds on fruit and vegetables [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1287/98 [2], and in particular Article 5(5) thereof,

Whereas Commission Regulation (EC) No 2776/98 [3], fixes the indicative quantities for system B export licences other than those sought in the context of food aid;

Whereas, in the light of the information available to the Commission today, there is a risk that the indicative quantities laid down for the current export period for lemons will shortly be exceeded; whereas this overrun will prejudice the proper working of the export refund scheme in the fruit and vegetables sector;

Whereas, to avoid this situation, applications for system B licences for lemons exported after 17 February 1999 should be rejected until the end of the current export period,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Applications for system B export licences for lemons submitted pursuant to Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 2776/98, export declarations for which are accepted after 17 February 1999 and before 17 March 1999, are hereby rejected.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 18 February 1999.

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

Done at Brussels, 17 February 1999.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 292, 15. 11. 1996, p. 12.
[2] OJ L 178, 23. 6. 1998, p. 11.
[3] OJ L 346, 22. 12. 1998, p. 44.