COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 902/2002

of 30 May 2002

approving operations to check conformity with the marketing standards applicable to fresh fruit and vegetables carried out in the Czech Republic prior to import into the European Community

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2200/96 of 28 October 1996 on the common organisation of the market in fruit and vegetables [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 545/2002 [2], and in particular Article 10 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Commission Regulation (EC) No 1148/2001 of 12 June 2001 on checks on conformity to the marketing standards applicable to fresh fruit and vegetables [3], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2379/2001 [4], lays down that the Commission may approve checking operations performed by certain third countries which so request prior to import into the Community, in compliance with the conditions laid down in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1148/2001.

(2) On 11 October 2001 the Czech authorities sent the Commission a request for the approval of checking operations performed by the ČZPI (Czech Agricultural and Food Inspectorate) under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture. This states that the ČZPI has the necessary staff, equipment and facilities to carry out checks, that it uses methods equivalent to those referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1148/2001 and that the fresh fruit and vegetables checked by the ČZPI and then exported from the Czech Republic to the Community meet the Community marketing standards.

(3) The information sent by the Member States to the Commission shows that, in the period 1997 to 2000, the incidence of non-conformity with marketing standards among imports of fresh fruit and vegetables from the Czech Republic was very low.

(4) For a number of years representatives of the Czech inspection body have been regular participants at various seminars and training activities organised by different Member States. They have also regularly participated in international efforts to agree marketing standards for fruit and vegetables, such as the Working Party on Standardisation of Perishable Produce and Quality Development of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and, until recently, the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables.

(5) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Checks on conformity with marketing standards carried out by the Czech Republic on fresh fruit and vegetables from the Czech Republic are hereby approved in accordance with Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1148/2001.

Article 2

Details of the official authority in the Czech Republic, under whose responsibility the checking operations are performed, and the inspection body in charge of carrying out those checks, as referred to in Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1148/2001, are given in Annex I to this Regulation.

Article 3

The certificates referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 7(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1148/2001, issued following the checks referred to in Article 1 of this Regulation, must be drawn up on forms in conformity with the model given in Annex II to this Regulation.

Article 4

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 20th day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

It shall apply from the date of publication in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* of the notice referred to in Article 7(8) of Regulation (EC) No 1148/2001, relating to the establishment of administrative cooperation between the European Community and the Czech Republic.

[1] OJ L 297, 21.11.1996, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 84, 28.3.2002, p. 1.
[3] OJ L 156, 13.6.2001, p. 9.
[4] OJ L 321, 6.12.2001, p. 15.

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

Done at Brussels, 30 May 2002.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

Official authority referred to in Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1148/2001:

Ministry of Agriculture
Directorate for Food Production
Těšnov 17
CZ-117 05 Prague
Tel.: (420-2) 21 81 22 24
Fax: (420-2) 22 31 41 17
Email: fruveg@mze.cz

Inspection body referred to in Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1148/2001:

ČZPI (Česká zemědělská a potravinářská inspekce ústřední inspektorát)
Czech Agricultural and Food Inspectorate
Květná 15
CZ-603 00 Brno
Tel.: (420-5) 43 54 02 03/02 49
Fax: (420-5) 43 54 02 02

ANNEX II

Model certificate referred to in Article 7(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1148/2001

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">1. Trader/importer</td><td colspan="2">Inspection Certificate No:

This certificate is exclusively for the use of inspection agencies</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="2">2. Packer identified on packaging (if other than trader/importer)</td><td colspan="2">3. Inspection body</td></tr>
<tr><td>4. Country of origin (*)</td><td>5. Country of destination</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">6. Identification of means of transport</td><td colspan="2">7. Quality standard for conformity check/destination check (**)</td></tr>
<tr><td>8. Packages (number and type)</td><td>9. Type of product (variety if the standard specifies)</td><td>10. Quality class</td><td>11. Total weight in kg (gross/net)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">12. The above mentioned inspection body certifies, following inspection by sampling, that the above mentioned goods corresponded at the time of inspection to the quality standards in force.

....
Customs office: (entry/exit) (**) (Place and date of issue)

Period of validity : ..... days

Inspection stamp

....
Inspector: (name in block letters) (Signature)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">13. Comments</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">(*) Where the produce is re-exported, indicate its origin in box 9.
(**) Optional.</td></tr>
</table>