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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

I

(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 538/96

of 25 March 1996

amending Regulation (EC) No 517/94 concerning imports of certain textile products originating in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 113 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas Council Regulation (EC) No 2815/95 ⁽¹⁾ in particular suspended Regulation (EEC) No 990/93 ⁽²⁾, introducing an embargo *vis-à-vis* the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro);

Whereas, in the absence of specific arrangements, the importation of textile products originating in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) into the Community is liberalized pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 517/94 of 7 March 1994 on common rules for imports of textile products from certain third countries not covered by bilateral agreements, protocols or other arrangements, or by other specific Community import rules ⁽³⁾;

Whereas the Republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia as well as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are currently subject, by virtue of Regulation (EC) No 517/94, to autonomous quantitative restrictions; whereas it should be noted that autonomous restrictions were introduced *vis-à-vis* the whole of Yugoslavia when the Cooperation Agreement was suspended in 1991;

Whereas, for reasons of equality of treatment *vis-à-vis* the other Republics of former Yugoslavia and other comparable countries in respect of which the Community maintains quantitative restrictions, annual restrictions should be reintroduced in respect of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) for the same products as those which are currently subject to restrictions *vis-à-vis* the other Republics of former Yugoslavia by virtue of Regulation (EC) No 517/94;

Whereas to that end Annexes III B and VI to Regulation (EC) No 517/94 should be amended and it should be specified that the quotas will be managed in accordance with the rules laid down by that Regulation;

Whereas it would seem appropriate that the introduction of these quantitative restrictions should not be an obstacle to the importation of the goods exported before the date of entry into force of this Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Annexes III B and VI to Regulation (EC) No 517/94 are hereby replaced by the text in Annex I to this Regulation.

Article 2

The quantitative restrictions established by this Regulation with regard to certain products originating in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) shall be subject to the management rules laid down in Regulation (EC) No 517/94.

Article 3

Operators may submit their applications for import authorizations to the competent authorities of the Member States as from the 10th day following the date of entry into force of this Regulation. Each application shall cover maximum quantities which may not exceed, per operator, the quantities indicated in Annex II to this Regulation.

The period of validity of the import authorizations may not extend beyond 31 December 1996.

Article 4

This Regulation shall not be an obstacle to the placing into free circulation of products which, on the date of its entry into force, were in the process of being transported to the Community, on condition that the destination of such products cannot be changed.

Article 5

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 April 1996.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 297, 9. 12. 1995, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 102, 28. 4. 1993, p. 14.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 67, 10. 3. 1994, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1325/95 (OJ No L 128, 13. 6. 1995, p. 1).

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

Done at Brussels, 25 March 1996.

For the Council

The President

S. AGNELLI

ANNEX I

ANNEX III B

Annual Community quantitative limits referred to in Article 2(1), fourth indent

Republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Category	Unit	Quantity
1	tonnes	6 926
2	tonnes	8 545
2a	tonnes	1 931
3	tonnes	935
5	1 000 pieces	1 986
6	1 000 pieces	1 048
7	1 000 pieces	602
8	1 000 pieces	2 664
9	tonnes	877
15	1 000 pieces	772
16	1 000 pieces	575
67	1 000 pieces	722

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)(*)

Category	Unit	Quantity
1	tonnes	2 309
2	tonnes	2 848
2a	tonnes	644
3	tonnes	312
5	1 000 pieces	662
6	1 000 pieces	349
7	1 000 pieces	201
8	1 000 pieces	888
9	tonnes	292
15	1 000 pieces	257
16	1 000 pieces	192
67	1 000 pieces	241

(*) The Community quantitative limits for 1996 are equal to three-quarters of the quantities indicated in the above table.'

ANNEX VI

Outward processing traffic

Annual Community limits referred to in Article 4

Republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Category	Unit	Quantity
5	1 000 pieces	3 692
6	1 000 pieces	10 755
7	1 000 pieces	5 496
8	1 000 pieces	12 888
15	1 000 pieces	5 743
16	1 000 pieces	3 182

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)(*)

Category	Unit	Quantity
5	1 000 pieces	1 231
6	1 000 pieces	3 585
7	1 000 pieces	1 832
8	1 000 pieces	4 296
15	1 000 pieces	1 914
16	1 000 pieces	1 061

(*) The Community quantitative limits for 1996 are equal to three-quarters of the quantities indicated in the above table.

ANNEX II

Maximum amounts to be allocated per category for the Community limits given in the Table 'Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)' in Annex III B to Regulation (EC) No 517/94

Category	Unit	Maximum amount
1	kilograms	5 000
2	kilograms	5 000
2a	kilograms	5 000
3	kilograms	5 000
5	pieces	5 000
6	pieces	5 000
7	pieces	5 000
8	pieces	5 000
9	kilograms	5 000
15	pieces	5 000
16	pieces	5 000
67	pieces	5 000

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 539/96

of 25 March 1996

amending Regulations (EEC) No 1134/91, (EEC) No 4088/87 and (EC) No 1981/94
with regard to the tariff arrangements applicable to imports into the
Community of products originating in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European
Community, and in particular Article 113 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas products originating in the West Bank and the
Gaza Strip enjoy preferential treatment with regard to
access to the Community market under Regulation (EEC)
No 1134/91⁽¹⁾;

Whereas this treatment provides for free access to the
Community market for industrial goods and preferential
treatment for certain agricultural products;

Whereas, in order to support the peace process in the
Middle East, Community aid needs to be stepped up by
implementing new measures for encouraging exports
from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and whereas, to
that end, it is necessary to extend preferential tariff treat-
ment to cut flowers; whereas the abovementioned Regula-
tion should be amended accordingly;

Whereas, in order to avoid disparities in treatment, this
tariff concession must be subject to the same price condi-
tions as those applying to the preferential tariff arrange-
ments for cut flowers originating in certain Mediterranean
countries in accordance with Regulation (EEC)
No 4088/87⁽²⁾;

Whereas, to enable the tariff quota for cut flowers to
apply with immediate effect, it is necessary to amend
Regulation (EC) No 1981/94⁽³⁾ with regard to the tariff
quotas for the products in question,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EEC) No 1134/91 is hereby amended as
follows:

1. The following subparagraph shall be added to Article 3
(1):

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 112, 4. 5. 1991, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 382, 31. 12. 1987, p. 22. Regulation as last amended
by Regulation (EEC) No 3551/88 (OJ No L 311, 17. 11. 1988,
p. 1).

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 199, 2. 8. 1994, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by
Regulation (EC) No 3057/95 (OJ No L 326, 30. 12. 1995, p.
3).

'Import customs duties shall be eliminated on cut
flowers falling within CN code 06 03 10 within the
limits of an annual Community tariff quota of 1 500
tonnes.'

2. Article 4 shall be replaced by the following:

Article 4

The applicable rules of origin shall be as laid down in
Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 of 2 July
1993 laying down provisions for the implementation
of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 establishing
the Community Customs Code^(*).

^(*) OJ No L 253, 11. 10. 1993, p. 1. Regulation as last
amended by Commission Regulation (EC)
No 1762/95 (OJ No L 171, 21. 7. 1995, p. 8).'

Article 2

Regulation (EEC) No 4088/87 is hereby amended as
follows:

1. The title shall be replaced by the following:

'Council Regulation (EEC) No 4088/87 of
21 December 1987 fixing conditions for the applica-
tion of preferential customs duties on imports of
certain flowers originating in Cyprus, Israel, Jordan,
Morocco and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip'.

2. In Article 1 the terms 'originating in Cyprus, Israel,
Jordan and Morocco' shall be replaced by 'originating
in Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and the West Bank
and the Gaza Strip'.

3. The following subparagraph shall be added to Article 2
(4):

'These provisions shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the
West Bank and the Gaza Strip.'

Article 3

Regulation (EC) No 1981/94 is hereby amended as
follows:

1. In the first subparagraph of Article 3, the words 'and
the West Bank and the Gaza Strip' shall be added after
the word 'Morocco'.

2. In Annex X:

— the title shall read as follows:

'WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP',

— the table shall be supplemented as follows:

'09 1382	0603 10	Cut flowers and flower buds, fresh:		
		— from 1 January to 31 December 1996	1 500	0'

Article 4

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 1996.

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

Done at Brussels, 25 March 1996.

For the Council

The President

S. AGNELLI

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 540/96

of 25 March 1996

amending Regulation (EC) No 3010/95 totally or partially suspending the customs duties applicable to certain products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 and Chapter 27 of the Combined Nomenclature originating in Malta and Turkey (1995)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 113 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas Regulation (EC) No 3010/95⁽¹⁾ totally or partially suspended the customs duties applicable to certain agricultural goods and to certain petroleum products originating in Turkey and Malta; whereas the validity of that Regulation ended on 31 December 1995;

Whereas existing trade relations should not be interrupted; whereas accordingly it appears appropriate to continue applying the said Regulation;

Whereas the tariff advantages granted in this context should at least be equivalent to those accorded by the Community to developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences;

Whereas the Customs Union between the European Community and Turkey took effect as from 31 December 1995; whereas, as a result, it is appropriate to amend the Annexes to the aforementioned Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 3010/95 shall be amended as follows:

1. in the title, '(1995)' shall be deleted.
2. Article 1 shall be replaced by the following:

'Article 1

The following are allowed for importation into the Community at the customs rate indicated for each:

- starting from 1 January 1995, the products of Chapters 1 to 24 of the Combined Nomenclature, originating in Malta and Turkey, as listed in Annexes I and II,
- from 1 January 1995 to 30 December 1995, the petroleum products of Chapter 27 of the Combined Nomenclature, refined in Turkey, as listed in Annex III.'

3. the Annexes shall be amended as follows:

- (a) in the heading in the last column of Annex I, 'Period 1. 7 to 31. 12. 1995' shall be replaced by 'Starting from 1. 7. 1995';
- (b) in Annex I, as regards order numbers 16.0500, 15.0510, 16.0520, 16.1070 and 16.2900, the table shall be replaced by the table in Annex I to this Regulation;
- (c) Annex II shall be replaced by the Annex in Annex II to this Regulation;
- (d) Annex III shall be deleted with effect from 31 December 1995.

Article 2

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

It shall apply from 1 January 1995, except for Annex II, which shall apply from 31 December 1995.

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

Done at Brussels, 25 March 1996.

For the Council

The President

S. AGNELLI

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 314, 28. 12. 1995, p. 1.

ANNEX I

Amendments to Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 3010/95

Order No	CN code	Description of goods	Rate of duty	
			Period (1. 1 to 30. 6. 1995)	Starting from 1. 7. 1995
16.0500 16.0510	0307 39 90 0307 41 0307 49 01 0307 49 11	Mussels (<i>Perna</i> spp.) Cuttlefish and squid	4 %	4 %
16.0520	0307 49 18	Cuttlefish	4 %	4 %
16.1070	ex 0807 11 00 ⁽¹⁾	Watermelons, from 1 November to 30 April	6,5 %	6,5 %
16.2900	2008 11 92 ⁽¹⁾ 2008 11 94 ⁽¹⁾ 2008 11 96 ⁽¹⁾ 2008 11 98 ⁽¹⁾ 2008 19 11 ex 2008 19 13 ex 2008 19 19	Fruits, nuts and other edible parts of plants, otherwise prepared or preserved, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter or spirit, not elsewhere specified or included: Ground-nuts Other, including mixtures in immediate packings of a net content exceeding 1 kg, excluding almonds, walnuts and hazelnuts	6 %	6 %

⁽¹⁾ CN code starting from 1. 1. 1996.

Taric codes

Order Number	CN code	Taric code
16.1070	ex 0807 11 00	0807 11 00*10 0807 11 00*20 0807 11 00*50

ANNEX II

ANNEX II

LIST OF PRODUCTS OF CHAPTERS 1 TO 24, ORIGINATING IN TURKEY

Order number	CN code	Taric subdivision	Description of goods	Rate of duty as from 31. 12. 1995
15.0001	ex 0709 30 00	*10	Other vegetables, in a fresh or refrigerated state: — aubergines, from 1 to 14 January	9 %
15.0003	0714 20 10		Manioc, arrowroot, salep, Jerusalem artichokes, sweet potatoes and similar roots and tubers with high starch or inulin contents, fresh, chilled, frozen or dried, whether or not sliced or in the form of pellets; sago pith: — sweet potatoes, intended for human consumption ⁽¹⁾	exemption
15.0005	ex 0807 11 00	*10 *50	Melon, (including watermelons), fresh: — watermelons, from 1 November to 31 March	6,5 %

⁽¹⁾ Entry under this subheading is subject to conditions laid down in the relevant Community provisions.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 541/96

of 28 March 1996

amending Regulation (EC) No 1813/95 relating to a standing invitation to tender
to determine levies and/or refunds on exports of white sugar

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European
Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81
of 30 June 1981 on the common organization of the
markets in the sugar sector ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regula-
tion (EC) No 1101/95 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 13 (2),
Article 17 (5) and (15) and Article 20 (3) thereof,

Whereas Commission Regulation (EC) No 1813/95 ⁽³⁾
provides that partial invitations to tender for the export of
white sugar are to be held every week; whereas, for admini-
strative reasons, certain of those invitations to tender
should not take place;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are
in accordance with the opinion of the Management
Committee for Sugar,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Article 4 (4) of Regulation (EC) No 1813/95 is hereby
replaced by the following:

'4. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, no partial invita-
tions to tender will be issued on Wednesday, 3 April
1996 and Wednesday, 1 May 1996.'

Article 2

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, 28 March 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 177, 1. 7. 1981, p. 4.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 110, 17. 5. 1995, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 175, 27. 7. 1995, p. 12.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 542/96

of 28 March 1996

laying down for 1996 detailed rules of application for the tariff quotas for beef provided for in the Agreements on free trade between the Community, of the one part, and Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, of the other part

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1275/95 of 29 May 1995 on certain procedures for applying the Agreement on free trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, the European Atomic Energy Community and the European Coal and Steel Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Estonia, of the other part ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 1 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1276/95 of 29 May 1995 on certain procedures for applying the Agreement on free trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, the European Atomic Energy Community and the European Coal and Steel Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Latvia, of the other part ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 1 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1277/95 of 29 May 1995 on certain procedures for applying the Agreement on free trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, the European Atomic Energy Community and the European Coal and Steel Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Lithuania, of the other part ⁽³⁾, and in particular Article 1 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 of 27 June 1968 on the common organization of the market in beef and veal ⁽⁴⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2417/95 ⁽⁵⁾, and in particular Article 9 (2) thereof,

Whereas the Agreements on free trade provide for certain annual tariff quotas for products made from beef and veal; whereas imports under these quotas qualify for a 60 % reduction in the customs duties set out in the Common Customs Tariff (CCT); whereas it is necessary to lay down detailed rules of application for these quotas for 1996;

Whereas to ensure orderly importation of the quantities set for 1996 these should be staggered over various periods of the year;

Whereas, while the provisions of the abovementioned Agreements which are intended to guarantee the origin of the product should be complied with, the administration of the arrangements should be based on import licences; whereas, to that end, detailed rules should be laid down concerning in particular the submission of applications and the information which must appear in applications and licences, by way of derogation from certain provisions of 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 ⁽⁶⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2137/95 ⁽⁷⁾, and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1445/95 of 26 June 1995 on rules of application for import and export licences in the beef and veal sector and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2377/80 ⁽⁸⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2856/95 ⁽⁹⁾; whereas provision should also be made for the licences to be issued after a period for consideration and, where necessary, a single percentage should be applied for the reduction;

Whereas, in order to ensure proper administration of the arrangements, the security for import licences under the system should be set at ECU 12 per 100 kilograms; whereas, in view of the inherent risk under the arrangement of speculation as regards beef and veal, clear conditions should be laid down as regards access by operators;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Beef and Veal,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. For 1996 the following may be imported pursuant to this Regulation under the tariff quotas provided for in the free-trade Agreements between the Community and Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia:

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 124, 7. 6. 1995, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 124, 7. 6. 1995, p. 2.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 124, 7. 6. 1995, p. 3.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 148, 28. 6. 1968, p. 24.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 248, 14. 10. 1995, p. 39.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 331, 2. 12. 1988, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ No L 214, 8. 9. 1995, p. 21.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ No L 143, 27. 6. 1995, p. 35.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ No L 299, 12. 12. 1995, p. 10.

— 1 500 tonnes of fresh, refrigerated or frozen beef and veal covered by CN codes 0201 or 0202 originating in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia,

— 175 tonnes of products covered by CN code 1602 50 10 originating in Latvia.

2. The rates of customs duties fixed in the CCT shall be reduced by 60 % for the quantities set out in paragraph 1.

3. The quantities indicated in paragraph 1 shall be staggered as follows:

— 50 % in the period 1 January to 30 June 1996,

— 50 % in the period 1 July to 31 December 1996.

If in 1996 the quantities for which licence applications for the first period specified in the previous paragraph are lower than those available, the balances shall be added to the quantities available for the following period.

Article 2

1. In order to qualify for the import quotas referred to in Article 1:

(a) applicants for import licences must be natural or legal persons who, at the time applications are submitted, can prove to the satisfaction of the competent authorities of the Member State concerned that they have been active in trade in beef and veal with third countries during the last 12 months; applicants must be entered in a national VAT register;

(b) licence applications must be submitted only in the Member State in which the applicant is registered;

(c) for each of the groups of products referred to in the first or second indent respectively of Article 1 (1):

— licence applications must cover a minimum of 15 tonnes of meat product by weight without exceeding the quantity available in the period in question,

— only one application may be submitted per interested party,

— if the same interested party submits more than one application for one group, all his applications for that group shall be inadmissible;

(d) Section 8 of licence applications and licences shall show:

— in the case of the first indent of Article 1 (1), the countries of origin,

— in the case of the second indent of Article 1 (1), the country of origin,

The licence shall carry with it an obligation to import from one or more of the countries indicated in it;

(e) Section 20 of licence applications and licences shall show at least one of the following:

Reglamento (CE) n° 542/96

Forordning (EF) nr. 542/96

Verordnung (EG) Nr. 542/96

Κανονισμός (ΕΚ) αριθ. 542/96

Regulation (EC) No 542/96

Règlement (CE) n° 542/96

Regolamento (CE) n. 542/96

Verordening (EG) nr. 542/96

Regulamento (CE) n° 542/96

Asetus (EY) N:o 542/96

Förordning (EG) nr 542/96.

2. Notwithstanding Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1445/95, section 16 of the licence applications and licences may include more than one CN code relating to the group of products referred to in the first indent of Article 1 (1).

Article 3

1. Licence applications shall be lodged only:

— between 15 and 25 April 1996, and

— between 2 and 12 September 1996.

2. Member States shall notify to the Commission not later than the fifth working day following the end of the period of lodging of applications, the applications that have been lodged with them.

This notification will comprise at list of applicants broken down by quantity applied for and by nomenclature code and country of origin of the products.

All notifications, including notifications of nil applications, shall be made by telex or fax, drawn up in accordance with the model set out in the Annex in cases where applications have been lodged.

3. The Commission shall decide as soon as possible in respect of each group of products covered by each indent of Article 1 (1) above the extent to which quantities may be awarded in respect of licence applications. If the quantities for which application for a licence has been submitted exceed the quantities available, the Commission shall fix a single percentage reduction to be applied to the quantities applied for in respect of each group of products covered by each indent of Article 1 (1).

4. Subject to the Commission's decision to accept the applications, the licences shall be issued promptly.

5. The licences issued shall be valid throughout the Community.

Article 4

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of this Regulation, the provisions of Regulations (EEC) No 3719/88 and (EC) No 1445/95 shall apply.

2. The provisions of Article 8 (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 3719/88 shall not apply.

3. Notwithstanding Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1445/95, the security for licences shall be ECU 12 per 100 kilograms by weight of product and the term of validity of the licences issued shall expire on 31 December 1996.

issued by the exporting country in accordance with Protocol 3 annexed to the free-trade Agreements.

Article 6

Article 5

Products shall qualify for the rights referred to in Article 1 on presentation of an EUR 1 movement certificate

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, 28 March 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Fax: (32 2) 296 60 27

(Application of Regulation (EC) No 542/96)

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

DG VI/D/2 — BEEF AND VEAL

APPLICATIONS FOR IMPORT LICENCES AT REDUCED CCT DUTIES

Date: Period:

Member State:

Country of origin	Order	Applicant (name and address)	Quantity (tonnes)	CN code number
Total quantity applied for:				

Member State: fax number:

telephone number:

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 543/96

of 28 March 1996

establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of
certain fruit and vegetables

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,
Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 of 21 December 1994 on detailed rules for the application of the import arrangements for fruit and vegetables ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2933/95 ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 4 (1) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 3813/92 of 28 December 1992 on the unit of account and the conversion rates to be applied for the purposes of the common agricultural policy ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 150/95 ⁽⁴⁾, and in particular Article 3 (3) thereof,

Whereas Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 lays down, pursuant to the outcome of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations, the criteria whereby the Commis-

sion fixes the standard values for imports from third countries, in respect of the products and periods stipulated in the Annex thereto;

Whereas, in compliance with the above criteria, the standard import values must be fixed at the levels set out in the Annex to this Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The standard import values referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 3223/94 shall be fixed as indicated in the Annex hereto.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 29 March 1996.

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

Done at Brussels, 28 March 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 337, 24. 12. 1994, p. 66.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 307, 20. 12. 1995, p. 21.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 387, 31. 12. 1992, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 22, 31. 1. 1995, p. 1.

ANNEX

to the Commission Regulation of 28 March 1996 establishing the standard import values
for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables

(ECU/100 kg)			(ECU/100 kg)		
CN code	Third country code ⁽¹⁾	Standard import value	CN code	Third country code ⁽¹⁾	Standard import value
0702 00 15	052	109,0	0805 30 20	052	90,3
	060	80,2		204	88,8
	064	59,6		220	74,0
	066	41,7		388	90,3
	068	62,3		400	61,6
	204	88,3		512	54,8
	208	44,0		520	66,5
	212	46,9		524	100,8
	624	188,7		528	67,0
	999	80,1		600	79,8
0707 00 15	052	104,3	0808 10 51, 0808 10 53, 0808 10 59	624	87,0
	053	156,2		999	78,3
	060	61,0		052	64,0
	066	53,8		064	78,6
	068	69,1		388	81,5
	204	144,3		400	68,6
	624	87,1		404	68,6
	999	96,5		508	117,6
0709 10 10	220	129,6	0808 20 31	512	81,9
	999	129,6		524	99,8
0709 90 73	052	104,3		528	80,4
	204	77,5		624	86,5
	412	54,2		728	107,3
	624	241,0		800	78,0
	999	119,3		804	119,8
0805 10 01, 0805 10 05, 0805 10 09	052	41,5		999	87,1
	204	46,3		039	90,4
	208	58,0		052	86,2
	212	46,0		064	72,5
	220	53,3		388	71,8
	388	40,5		400	80,5
	400	37,8		512	63,2
	436	41,6		528	65,4
	448	23,4		624	79,0
	600	45,9		728	115,4
	624	50,1		800	55,8
	999	44,0		804	112,9
				999	81,2

⁽¹⁾ Country nomenclature as fixed by Commission Regulation (EC) No 3079/94 (OJ No L 325, 17. 12. 1994, p. 17). Code '999' stands for 'of other origin'.

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 544/96
of 28 March 1996
setting the world market price for unginned cotton

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the Act of Accession of Greece, and in particular paragraphs 3 and 10 of Protocol 4 on cotton annexed thereto, as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1553/95⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1554/95 of 29 June 1995 laying down general rules for the system of aid for cotton and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2169/81⁽²⁾, and in particular Articles 3 and 4 thereof,

Whereas Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1554/95 requires a world market price for unginned cotton to be determined periodically from the world market price recorded for ginned cotton, using the historical relationship between the ginned cotton and that calculated for unginned cotton; whereas this historical relationship was specified in Article 1 (2) of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1201/89 of 3 May 1989 laying down rules implementing the system of aid for cotton⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2878/95⁽⁴⁾; whereas in cases where the world market price cannot be thus determined it is to be based on the last price determined;

Whereas pursuant to Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1554/95 the world market price for ginned cotton is determined for a product meeting certain characteristics

and by using the most favourable offers and quotations of those considered representative of the real market trend; whereas for this purpose an average is to be established of the offers and quotations on one or more European exchanges for deliveries cif to north European ports of cotton from the various supplier countries considered most representative as regards international trade; whereas these rules for determination of the world market price for ginned cotton provide for adjustment to reflect differences in product quality and the nature of offers and quotations; whereas these adjustments are specified in Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 1201/89;

Whereas application of the above rules gives the world market price for unginned cotton specified hereunder,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The world market price for unginned cotton as indicated in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1554/95 is set at ECU 34,524 per 100 kilograms.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 29 March 1996.

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

Done at Brussels, 28 March 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 148, 30. 6. 1995, p. 45.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 148, 30. 6. 1995, p. 48.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 123, 4. 5. 1989, p. 23.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 301, 14. 12. 1995, p. 21.

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 5 February 1996

amending Decision 92/532/EEC laying down the sampling plans and diagnostic methods for the detection and confirmation of certain fish diseases

(Text with EEA relevance)

(96/240/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,
Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 91/67/EEC of 28 January 1991 concerning the animal health conditions governing the placing on the market of aquaculture animals and products⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Directive 95/22/EC⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 15 thereof,

Whereas the sampling plans and diagnostic methods for the detection and confirmation of certain fish diseases are laid down in Commission Decision 92/532/EEC⁽³⁾;

Whereas since the time of adoption of this Decision, new practical and scientific developments have taken place which require the sampling plans and diagnostic methods to be updated;

Whereas such updating relates to sample size, the samples to be taken, the transport of samples and the method for isolating viruses possibly present in the sample;

Whereas the Scientific Veterinary Committee, established by Commission Decision 81/651/EEC⁽⁴⁾, has been consulted;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Veterinary Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Annex to Decision 92/532/EEC is replaced by the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 5 February 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 46, 19. 2. 1991, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 243, 11. 10. 1995, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 337, 21. 11. 1992, p. 18.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 233, 19. 8. 1981, p. 32.

ANNEX

PART I

SAMPLING AND TESTING PROCEDURES FOR VHS AND IHN MONITORING

I. Sampling

1. *Sampling time*

Farms are inspected clinically at least twice per year during the period October to June or whenever the water temperature is below 14 °C. Intervals between inspections must be at least four months. All production units (ponds, tanks, aquaria, netcages, etc.) are inspected for the presence of dead, weak or abnormally behaving fish. Particular attention has to be paid to the water outlet area (if feasible) where weak fish tend to accumulate because of the water current.

2. *Selection and collection of samples*

Thirty to 150 fish and/or ovarian fluid samples are collected for examination in connection with the inspections according to Table 1. If rainbow trout are present fish of that species should make up the whole sample. If rainbow trout are not present the sample has to contain fish of all other species present whenever these species are susceptible to VHS and/or IHN as listed in Annex A to Council Directive 91/67/EEC concerning the animal health conditions governing the placing on the market of aquaculture animals and products. The species have to be proportionally represented in the sample. During the first two years of the initial four-year control period which precedes achievement of approved status the sample size is 150 in order to ensure detection at a 95 % confidence level of virus carriers at a carrier prevalence of 2 %, except for salmonid farms without broodstock in coastal zones where the sample size is 30.

During the last two years of the control period the sample size can be reduced to 30 to ensure detection at a 95 % confidence level of virus at a prevalence of 10 %. During the subsequent years (maintenance of approved status) the sample size likewise can be reduced to 30.

In farms which have a documented history of at least four years of freedom from VHS and IHN (based on a regular official health inspection programme) the small sample size can be used during the whole initial four-year control.

If more than one water source is utilized for fish production, fish representing all water sources must be included in the 150 or 30 fish-sample. If weak, abnormally behaving or freshly dead (not decomposed) fish are present, these must primarily be included in the sample. If such fish are not present the sample must be composed of normally appearing, healthy fish collected in such a way that all parts of the farm as well as all year classes are proportionally represented in the sample.

3. *Preparation and shipment of samples from fish*

Before shipment or transfer to the laboratory pieces of the organs to be examined are removed from the fish with sterile scissors and forceps and transferred to plastic tubes containing transport medium, i.e. cell culture medium with 10 % calf serum and antibiotics. The combination of 200 iu penicillin, 200 µg streptomycin and 200 µg kanamycin per millilitre (ml) can be recommended, but other antibiotics of proven efficiency may be used as well. The tissue material to be examined is spleen, anterior kidney, and, in addition, either heart or encephalon. In some cases, ovarian fluid must be examined (Table 1).

Ovarian fluid or organ pieces from 10 fish (Table 1) may be collected in one 10 ml plastic tube containing 4 ml transport medium and represent one pooled sample. The tissue in each sample should weigh a minimum of 0,5 gram (g).

The tubes are placed in insulated containers (for instance thick-walled polystyrene boxes) together with sufficient ice or 'freeze blocks' to ensure chilling of the samples to between 0 and 5 °C during transportation to the laboratory. Freezing must be avoided. The temperature of a sample during transit should never exceed 10 °C and ice should still be present in the transport box at receipt.

The virological examination must be started as soon as possible and not later than 48 hours after the collection of the samples or in exceptional cases not later than 72 hours after the collection of the material to be examined is protected by transport medium and the temperature requirements during transportation can be fulfilled (1.1.3, paragraph 3).

Whole fish may be sent to the lab if the temperature requirements during transportation can be fulfilled. Whole fish may be wrapped up in paper with absorptive capacity and must finally be shipped in a plastic bag, chilled as mentioned above. Live fish can be shipped as well.

4. Collection of supplementary diagnostic material

According to agreement with the involved diagnostic laboratory, other fish tissues may be collected as well and prepared for supplementary examinations.

II. Preparation of samples for virological examination

1. Homogenization of organs

In the laboratory the tissue in the tubes must be completely homogenized (either by stomacher, blender or mortar and pestle) and subsequently suspended in the original transport medium. If a sample consisted of whole fish less than 6 cm long, these are minced with sterile scissors after removal of the body behind the gut opening, homogenized as described above and suspended in transport medium. The final ratio between tissue material and transport medium must be adjusted to 1:10.

2. Centrifugation of homogenate

The homogenate is centrifuged in a refrigerated centrifuge at 2 to 5 °C at 2 000 to 4 000 × g for 15 minutes and the supernatant collected and treated for either four hours at 15 °C or overnight at 4 °C with antibiotics, e.g. gentamicin 1 mg/ml may be useful at this stage.

If shipment of the sample has been made in a transport medium (i.e. with exposure to antibiotics) the treatment of the supernatant with antibiotics may be omitted.

The antibiotic treatment aims at controlling bacterial contamination in the samples and makes filtration through membrane filters unnecessary.

If the collected supernatant is stored at - 80 °C within 48 h after the sampling it may be thawed and reused only once for virological examination.

Where practical difficulties arise (e.g. incubator breakdown, problems with cell cultures, etc.) which make it impossible to inoculate cells within 48 hours after the collection of the tissue samples it is acceptable to freeze the supernatant at - 80 °C and carry out virological examination within 14 days.

Prior to the inoculation of the cells the supernatant is mixed with equal parts of a suitably diluted pool of antisera to the indigenous serotypes of IPN virus and incubated with this for a minimum of one hour at 15 °C or a maximum of 18 hours at 4 °C. The titre of the antiserum must be at least 1/2 000 in a 50 % plaque neutralization test.

Treatment of all inocula with antiserum to IPN virus (a virus which in some parts of Europe occurs in 50 % of fish samples) aims at preventing CPE due to IPN virus from developing in inoculated cell cultures. This will reduce the duration of the virological examinations as well as the number of cases in which occurrence of CPE would have to be considered potentially indicative of VHS or IHN.

When samples come from production units which are considered free from IPN, treatment of inocula with antiserum to IPN virus may be omitted.

III. Virological examination

1. Cell cultures and media

Either BF-2 or RTG-2 and either EPC or FHM cells are grown at 20 to 30 °C in suitable medium, e.g. Eagle's MEM (or modifications thereof) with a supplement of 10 % foetal bovine serum and antibiotics in standard concentrations.

When the cells are cultivated in closed vials, it is recommended to buffer the medium with bicarbonate. The medium used for cultivation of cells in open units may be buffered with Tris-HCl (23 mM) and Na-bicarbonate (6 mM). The pH must be as close as possible to 7,6.

Cell cultures to be used for inoculation with tissue material should be young (4 to 48 hours old) and actively growing (not confluent) at inoculation.

2. Inoculation of cell cultures

Antibiotic-treated organ suspension is inoculated into cell cultures in two dilutions, i.e. the primary dilution and, in addition, a 1:10 dilution thereof, resulting in final dilutions of tissue material in cell culture medium of 1:100 and 1:1 000, respectively, (in order to prevent homologous interference). At least two cell lines have to be inoculated (see III.1). The ratio between inoculum size and volume of cell culture medium should be about 1:10.

For each dilution and each cell line a minimum of about 2 cm² cell area, corresponding to one well in a 24-well cell culture tray, has to be utilized. Use of cell culture trays is recommended, but other units of similar or bigger growth area are acceptable as well.

3. Incubation of cell cultures

Inoculated cell cultures are incubated at 15 °C for 7 to 10 days. If the colour of the cell culture medium changes from red to yellow indicating medium acidification, pH adjustment with sterile bicarbonate solution or equivalent substances has to be performed to ensure cell susceptibility to virus infection.

Titration every six months of frozen stocks of VHSV and IHNV is performed to verify the susceptibility of the cell cultures to infection.

4. Microscopy

Inoculated cell cultures are inspected daily for the occurrence of CPE at about 40 × magnification. If obvious CPE is observed, virus identification procedures according to Section IV have to be initiated immediately.

5. Subcultivation

If no CPE has developed after the primary incubation for 7 to 10 days, subcultivation is performed to fresh cell cultures utilizing a cell area similar to that of the primary culture.

Aliquots of medium (supernatant) from all cultures/wells constituting the primary culture are pooled according to cell line 7 to 10 days after inoculation. The pools are then inoculated into homologous cell cultures undiluted and diluted 1:10 (resulting in final dilutions of 1:10 and 1:100, respectively, of the supernatant) as described in Section I.III.2. The inoculation may be preceded by preincubation of the dilutions with the antiserum to IPN virus at appropriate dilution as described in Section I.II.2.

The inoculated cultures are then incubated for 7 to 10 days at 15 °C with observation as in Section III.4.

If toxic CPE occurs within the first three days of incubation, subcultivation may be performed at that stage, but the cells must then be incubated for seven days and sub-cultivated again with a further seven days incubation. When toxic CPE develops after three days, the cells may be passed once and incubated to achieve the total of 14 days from the primary inoculation. There should be no evidence of toxicity in the final seven days of incubation.

IV. Virus identification

1. Virus identification tests

If evidence of CPE has been observed in a cell culture, medium (supernatant) is collected and examined by one or more of the following techniques: neutralization, immunofluorescence (IF), enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (Elisa).

If the tests has not allowed safe identification of the virus within one week, the virus must be transferred to a national reference laboratory for fish diseases or to the Community Reference Laboratory for fish diseases for immediate identification.

The use of immunoreagents for virus identification must be of reference quality and approved, with regard to titre and specificity, by the national reference laboratory for fish diseases.

2. Neutralization

Remove cells from collected medium by centrifugation (2 000 to 4 000 × g) or membrane filtration (0,45 µm) and dilute the medium 1:100 and 1:10 000 in cell culture medium.

Aliquots of the dilutions are mixed and incubated for 60 minutes at 15 °C with equal parts of the following reagents separately:

— group specific antibody to VHSV (Egtved virus)	1:50 (1)
— group specific antibody to infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHNV)	1:50 (1)
— specific pool of antisera to the indigenous serotypes of infectious pancreatic necrosis virus (IPNV) (reference strains Sp, Ab or VR 299)	1:50 (1)
— medium	1:1

From each virus-serum mixture at least two cell cultures are inoculated with 50 µl each and then incubated at 15 °C. Development of CPE is checked as described in Section III.4.

Other neutralization tests of proven efficiency may be used alternatively.

(1) Or as specified by the reference laboratory with regard to the possible cytotoxicity of the antisera.

3. *Immunofluorescence (IF)*

For each virus isolate to be identified, at least eight coverglasses or equivalent are seeded with EPC cells at a density leading to about 60 to 90 % confluence after 24 hours of cultivation. EPC cells are chosen for this purpose because of their strong adherence to glass surfaces.

When the cells have sedimented onto the glass surface (about one hour after seeding), or when the cultures have been incubated for up to 24 hours, the virus to be identified is inoculated. Four cultures are inoculated at a volume to volume ratio of 1:10, and four cultures at a ratio of 1:1 000.

Between 20 and 30 hours post inoculation, the cultures are rinsed twice in Eagle's MEM without serum, fixed in acetone and then stained by means of a two-layer IFAT. The first reagent layer consists of poly- or monoclonal antibodies of reference quality. The second reagent layer is a FITC-conjugated antiserum to the immunoglobulin used in the first layer. For each of the antisera tested at least one high-dose and one low-dose inoculated culture have to be stained. Proper negative and positive controls have to be included in the test.

Mount stained cultures using glycerol saline. Examine under incident ultraviolet (UV) light. Use 10 × or 12 × eyepieces and × 25 or × 40 objective lens with numerical apertures > 0,7 and > 1,3, respectively.

Some Egtved virus strains react strongly with antiserum to reference strain F1 in IFAT although not reacting in neutralization tests.

The above IF technique is given as an example. Other IF techniques (with regard to cell cultures, fixation and antibodies of reference quality) of proven efficiency may be used alternatively.

4. *Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (Elisa)*

Wells in microtitre plates (for instance Nunc-immunoplates, Maxisorp, Nunc, Denmark) are coated overnight with recommended dilutions of protein-A purified immunoglobulin fractions of antibodies of reference quality.

After rinsing of wells with PBS-Tween-20 buffer, the virus to be identified is added to the wells in two or four-fold dilution steps and allowed to react with the coating antibody for 60 minutes at 37 °C. Following rinsing with PBS-Tween-20 buffer, biotinylated antibodies of a specificity corresponding to that of the coating antibodies are added and allowed to react for 60 minutes at 20 °C. Following another rinse as above, HRP conjugated streptavidin is added and allowed to react for one hour at 20 °C. After a last rinse, bound enzyme is visualized using appropriate Elisa substrates (OPD or others).

The above biotin-avidin based Elisa version is given as an example. Other Elisa versions of proven efficiency may be used instead.

Table 1 A

Achievement of status

	No of clinical inspections per year: Years 1 and 2	Examinations of organs from number of growing fish: Years 1 and 2	Examination of ovarian fluid from number of broodstock fish: Years 1 and 2
<i>Continental zones</i>			
(a) Farms with broodstock	2	120 (first inspection (*)) 150 (second inspection)	30 (first inspection) 0
(b) Farms with broodstock only	2	0	150 (first or second inspection)
(c) Farms without broodstock	2	150 (first and second inspections)	0
<i>Coastal zones</i>			
(a) Salmonid farms without broodstock	2	30 (first and second inspections)	0
(b) Non-salmonid farms without broodstock	2	150 (first and second inspections)	0
(c) Farms with broodstock	2	120 (first inspection) 150 (second inspection)	30 (first inspection) 0
	No of clinical inspections per year: Years 3 and 4	Examination of organs from number of fish: Years 3 and 4	Examination of ovarian fluid from number of fish: Years 3 and 4
<i>Continental zones</i>			
(a) Farms with broodstock	2	20 (first or second inspection)	10 (first or second inspection)
(b) Farms with broodstock only	2	0	30 (first or second inspection)
(c) Farms without broodstock	2	30 (first or second inspection)	0
<i>Coastal zones</i>			
(a) Farms without broodstock	2	30 (first or second inspection)	0
(b) Farms with broodstock	2	20 (first or second inspection)	10 (first or second inspection)

Maximum number of fish per pool: 10

(*) Clinical inspections.

Table 1 B

Maintenance of status

	No of clinical inspections per year	Examination of organs from number of growing fish ⁽¹⁾	Examination of ovarian fluid from number of broodstock fish ⁽¹⁾
<i>Continental zones</i>			
(a) Farms with broodstock	2	20 (first or second inspection)	10 (first or second inspection) ⁽²⁾
(b) Farms with broodstock only	2	0	30 (first or second inspection) ⁽²⁾
(c) Farms without broodstock	2	30 (first or second inspection)	0
<i>Coastal zones</i>			
(a) Farms without broodstock	1	30 ⁽³⁾	0
(b) Farms with broodstock	2	20 (first or second inspection)	10 (first or second inspection) ⁽²⁾

Maximum number of fish per pool: 10

⁽¹⁾ Samples only have to be collected by rotation in 50 % of the fish farms in the zone each year.

⁽²⁾ In exceptional circumstances, if it is impossible to obtain ovarian fluid, organs may be sampled instead.

⁽³⁾ The samples have to be collected not before three weeks after transfer of fish from fresh to salt-water.

PART II

DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF IHN AND VHS IN CASE OF SUSPECTED OUTBREAKS

Diagnosis of IHN and VHS can be achieved by one of the following techniques:

- A. conventional virus isolation with subsequent serological virus identification,
- B. virus isolation with simultaneous serological virus identification,
- C. other diagnostic techniques (IFAT, Elisa).

The first diagnosis of IHN and VHS in farms in approved zones, must not be based on method C alone. Either method A or B must also be used.

The tissue material meant for virological examination may in some cases have to be accompanied by supplementary material for bacteriological, parasitological, histological or other examination to allow for a differential diagnosis. Such material is collected according to procedures outlined by OIE.

II.A. Conventional virus isolation with subsequent serological virus identification**II.A.I.1. Selection of samples**

At least 10 fish showing typical signs of IHN or VHS must be selected for examination.

II.A.I.2. Preparation and shipment of samples from fish

As I.I.3.

II.A.I.3. Collection of supplementary diagnostic material

As I.I.4.

II.A.II. Preparation of samples for virological examination

As I.II.

II.A.III. Virological examination

As I.III, except that either BF-2 or RTG-2 and either EPC or FHM cells may be used for inoculation with tissue material.

II.A.IV. Virus identification

As I.IV.

II.B. Virus isolation with simultaneous serological virus identification**II.B.I.1. Selection of samples**

As II.A.I.1.

II.B.I.2. Preparation and shipment of samples from fish

As I.I.3.

II.B.I.3. Collection of supplementary diagnostic material

As I.I.4.

II.B.II.1. Homogenization of organs

As I.II.1.

II.B.II.2. Centrifugation of homogenate

As I.II.2.

II.B.II.3. Treatment of supernatant with diagnostic antisera

The antibiotic and anti-IPN treated organ suspension is diluted 1:10 and 1:10 000 in cell culture medium and aliquots mixed and incubated for 60 minutes at 15 °C with equal parts of the reagents listed in Section I.IV.2.

II.B.III.1. Cell cultures and media

Either BF-2 or RTG-2 and either EPC or FHM cells are grown at 20 to 30 °C in suitable medium, e.g. Eagle's MEM (or modifications thereof) with a supplement of 10 % foetal bovine serum and antibiotics in standard concentrations.

When the cells are cultivated in closed vials, it is recommended to buffer the medium with bicarbonate. The medium used for cultivation of cells in open units may be buffered with Tris-HCl (23 mM) and Na-bicarbonate (6 mM). The pH must be as close as possible to 7,6.

Cell cultures to be used for inoculation with tissue material should be young (4 to 48 hours old) and actively growing (not confluent) at inoculation.

II.B.III.2. Inoculation of cell cultures

From each virus-serum mixture (prepared according to II.B.II.3) at least two cell cultures per cell line are inoculated with 50 µl each.

II.B.III.3. Incubation of cell cultures

As I.III.3.

II.B.III.4. Microscopy

Inoculated cell cultures are inspected daily for the occurrence of CPE at about 40 × magnification. If CPE is prevented by one of the antisera used, the virus can be considered to be identified accordingly.

If CPE is not prevented by any of the antisera, virus identification procedures according to I.IV have to be performed.

II.B.III.5. Subcultivation

If no CPE has occurred after seven days, subcultivation has to be performed from cultures inoculated with supernatant plus medium (II.B.II.3) according to I.III.5.

C. Other diagnostic techniques

Supernatant prepared as described under II.A.II.2 can be submitted to IFAT or Elisa according to II.A.IV.3 or II.A.IV.4 respectively. These rapid techniques have to be supplemented with a virological examination according to either A or B within 48 hours after sampling, if:

(a) a negative result is obtained;

or

(b) a positive result is obtained with material representing the first case of IHN or VHS in approved zones.

Tissue material may be subjected to other diagnostic techniques such as IF on frozen sections or immunohistochemistry on formalin fixed tissue material. These techniques must always be accompanied by inoculation of non-fixed tissue material on cell cultures.

ABBREVIATIONS

BF-2	bluegill fibroblast (cell line)
CPE	cytopathic effect
Elisa	enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EPC	<i>Epithelioma papulosum cyprini</i> (cell line)
FHM	fathead minnow (cell line)
FITC	fluorescein isothiocyanate
HRP	horse radish peroxidase
IF	immunofluorescence
IFAT	indirect fluorescent antibody test
IHN(V)	infectious hematopoietic necrosis (virus)
IPN(V)	infectious pancreatic necrosis (virus)
MEM	minimum essential medium
OPD	Ortho phenylene diamine
PBS	phosphate buffered saline
RTG-2	rainbow trout gonad (cell line)
Tris-HCl	tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane — HCl
VHS(V)	viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (virus)

COMMISSION DECISION

of 12 March 1996

on the conclusion on behalf of the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community of the Interim Agreement between the European Community, the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other, on trade and trade-related matters

(96/241/Euratom, ECSC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, and in particular the first paragraph of Article 95 thereof,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular the second paragraph of Article 101 thereof,

Whereas, pending the entry into force of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement signed in Brussels on 28 November 1994, it is necessary to approve the Interim Agreement between the European Community, the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part, on trade and trade-related matters signed in Brussels on 2 October 1995;

Whereas the conclusion of the Interim Agreement is necessary to attain the objectives of the Community set out in particular in Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, and whereas the Treaty did not make provision for all the cases covered by this Decision;

Having consulted the Consultative Committee and with the assent of the Council,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Interim Agreement between the European Community, the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part, on trade and trade-related matters, together with the Protocol and the declarations, are hereby approved on behalf of the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community.

These texts are attached to this Decision ⁽¹⁾.

Article 2

The President of the Commission shall give the notification provided for in Article 35 of the Interim Agreement on behalf of the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Committee.

Done at Brussels, 12 March 1996.

For the Commission

Hans VAN DEN BROEK

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 40, 17. 2. 1996, pp. 11 and 40.

CORRIGENDA

Corrigendum to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 658/92 of 16 March 1992 correcting the Danish version of Regulations (EEC) No 778/83, (EEC) No 2213/83, (EEC) No 899/87, (EEC) No 1591/87, (EEC) No 1730/87, (EEC) No 79/88 and (EEC) No 920/89 as regards the provisions concerning marketing in quality standards for certain fresh fruit and vegetables

(Official Journal of the European Communities No L 70 of 17 March 1992)

On page 15, in Article 1, seventh line:

for: '... Regulation (EEC) No 1703/87,'

read: '... Regulation (EEC) No 1730/87,'.

Corrigendum to Council Directive 95/63/EC of 5 December 1995 amending Directive 89/655/EEC concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the use of work equipment by workers at work (second individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16 (1) of Directive 89/391/EEC)

(Official Journal of the European Communities No L 335 of 30 December 1995)

On page 29 in Article 2 (1), third line:

for: '... 5 December 1995,'

read: '... 5 December 1998,'.

Corrigendum to Commission Decision 96/182/EC of 21 February 1996 laying down special animal health conditions and veterinary certification for the importation of certain categories of fresh poultrymeat from Israel and certain animal health restrictions after such imports

(Official Journal of the European Communities No L 55 of 6 March 1996)

On page 32 in Article 3:

for: '... 30 April 1996,'

read: '... 30 September 1996.'
