



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate G. Markets and observatories
The Director

Brussels
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Dear Delegates,

In the context of Covid-19, several stakeholders of the European Union (EU) informed us that they are facing issues in presenting original paper documents to licence issuing authorities when applying for licences on tariff rate quotas (TRQs) on agricultural products. This is the consequence of Member States' restrictions due to Covid-19 applied to both people working for the companies or the authorities delivering or receiving the documents and to courier services used to deliver those documents.

In order to address these difficulties which arise from exceptional circumstances, and as a temporary working solution to prevent disruptions, licence issuing authorities of the Member States may accept electronic copies of the official documents necessary for applying for TRQ import licences and import rights on agricultural products falling within the scope of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1301/2006 (proof of trade, proof of reference quantity, proof of origin...).

Original paper documents shall be sent to the licence issuing authorities as soon as technically feasible, when the restrictions referred to above have been substantially reviewed or lifted, and in any case within three months from the closing date of the relevant application period for import licences or import rights.

The person applying for the import licences or the import rights shall present to the competent authority a statement affirming that the original official document will be submitted as soon as technically feasible.

Penalties as per Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1301/2006 apply in case of copies containing incorrect information.

The Commission is preparing the relevant amendment to Regulation (EC) No 1301/2006, to take into consideration the scenario described above.

The working solution proposed above is only intended to cover the contingency situation linked to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Letter to Member State Delegates - Expert Group Horizontal Questions concerning the CAP

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I will keep you informed when arrangements may be reviewed in the light of further the evolution of the situation.

Yours sincerely,

(E-signed)
Michael SCANNELL