

Implementing rules (olive oil sector)

I. Aid for olive oil and table olives

Regulation No 2366/98 of 30 October 1998 on application rules for olive oil production aid system for 1998/99-2000/01 marketing years

Growers

To make payment and control procedures more efficient:

- Growers must before 1 December each year declare their cultivation area and corresponding number of trees. Declarations are lodged with the grower's producer organisation or the responsible agency in his Member State.
- By 1st April 1999 new plantings and grubblings made between 1.11.1995 and 31.10.1998 had to be declared (nursery invoices as proof).
- In order to receive the Community subsidy, growers producing more than 200 litres of oil from their olives must notify in detail the quantities of oil produced from their olives, particulars of the buyers and proof of sale.
- Aid applications must be lodged by 1st July of the marketing year.
- A geographic information system (GIS) is introduced.
- To ensure adequate checking where the GIS has not been completed 1%, 5% and 10% of crop declarations will be checked in 1999, 2000 and 2001.
- Growers and oil mills must jointly certify in writing the quantity of olives received by the mill and the corresponding quantity of oil received by the grower.

Oil mills

Oil mills must meet the following conditions:

- These must have an automatic weighing system for the olives received for crushing.
- As far as accounts are concerned, monthly stock record statements are to be sent to the responsible national agency before the 10th of each month. In the case of mills producing less than 20 tonnes the monthly statement includes only the quantity of oil produced from each batch of olives received for crushing as well as the references of the growers that have made the corresponding deliveries.
- Where the technical specifications of the mill do not provide a coefficient, the following are applicable:
 - 0.35 for mills with a traditional production cycle
 - 0.45 for mills with a continuous three-stage production cycle
 - 0.70 for mills with a continuous two-stage production cycle

- The stock record accuracy of 30% of approved mills is to be checked each marketing year. For 1998/99, 1999/2000 and 2000/01 an additional 5%, 10% and 20% respectively are to be checked using declared particulars without on-the-spot checks.
- At least 25% of the samples taken are to be analysed.

Producer organisations

These continue and are financed by a 0.8% deduction. They must have the administrative structure and qualified staff needed for performance of their tasks, draw up quarterly reports on their activities and keep stock records.

Control procedures

Controls are to play a key role so as to avoid any repetition of the type of incidents that have been observed recently. From 1998/99 they will include comparisons with existing databases and cross-checks in order to avoid double payment of aid. The compatibility of crop and aid declarations will be checked by comparing olive and oil yields with reference to the geographical location of the holding.

By recording all the data mentioned above the Community or national authorities will have a clearer picture of the quantities of oil that the producer received from the mill and hence of the level of production.

II. Aid for table olives

1998/99 marketing year

For the 1998/99 marketing year three Member States made use of the option of granting aid for the production of table olives. For this purpose the Commission addressed Decision 98/605/EC to Spain, Decision 98/619/EC to Greece and Decision 98/620/EC to Portugal.

Under these Decisions growers must deliver their olives to an approved processing undertaking and the olives must be kept in brine for at least 15 days or undergo other treatment that prevents them being used for oil production.

Aid is paid on the equivalent olive oil weight of the table olives produced using a coefficient of 11.5% of the table olive weight in Spain, 10% in Portugal and 13% in Greece. The quantity of olive oil this gives is added to the olive oil production figures. If this total exceeds the national guaranteed quantity, the aid is reduced proportionally.

Crop declarations and supporting documents for payment of the aid are checked in the same way as those for olive oil aid.

