Poultry tariff quotas

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EU revises management of poultry tariff quotas to limit the impact of increased Ukrainian imports

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/2637 of 30 July 2024 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/760 as regards the rules on the reference quantity for groups of tariff quotas in the poultry sector

Update

The European Commission has revised the rules determining the quantities of poultry that may be imported by individual operators under tariff quotas. The amended rules counteract what was considered an unfair advantage previously enjoyed by importers of Ukrainian poultry: increased imports from the Ukraine (due to temporary liberalisation) allowed them to also secure greater access to quotas for poultry from Argentina, Brazil, and Thailand.

Impacted products

Poultry

What is changing?

There is considerable demand among importers for tariff quotas in certain agricultural products. To manage this demand, in general, an importer may not apply for a quantity of a quota that:

- is more than the imports from the previous 2 years (in quota and out of quota) from an origin within the scope of the quota, and
- is more than 15% of the quantity available in the quota.

In the case of poultry, different quotas are grouped together, meaning that the reference quantity is calculated on the basis of *cumulative* imports for each group.

The new Regulation removes the “All third countries” quotas that were previously included in the three quota groups set for poultry (for the revised groups see Table 1). This means that imports from all “third” (non-EU) countries will no longer be taken into account for calculating reference quantities applicable to the Brazilian, Thai, and Argentinian quotas.

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Why?

The European Union has temporarily liberalised trade with the Ukraine (Regulation 2023/1077), leading to a significant increase of imports of poultry from Ukraine into the EU. Under previous rules, these imports could be used to assert a claim to a share of tariff quotas. This was considered to give an unfair advantage to importers of poultry from Ukraine. Removing the “All third countries” trade quotas from the quota groups aims to limit the impact of liberalised Ukrainian imports on access to other quotas.

Timeline

The new rules apply to the poultry quotas for any tariff quota period opened after **11 October 2024**.

Background

Grouping quotas of different origins allows the importer to choose how to distribute the cumulative reference quantity across the individual quotas/origins. This gives importers flexibility where there may be disruption in trade from one origin, for instance related to an outbreak of avian flu.

For further information on EU tariff quotas, see Import tariffs and tariff rate quotas explained.

Resources

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/761 as regards the management system of tariff quotas with licences

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/760 as regards the rules for the administration of import and export tariff quotas subject to licences

Sources

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/2637 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/760 as regards the rules on the reference quantity for groups of tariff quotas in the poultry sector

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Tables & Figures

Table 1 New groups of poultry quotas		
Groups	Quota number	Origin
Group (a)	09.4211	Brazil
	09.4212	Thailand
	09.4290	Argentina
Group (b)	09.4214	Brazil
	09.4215	Thailand
Group (c)	09.4410	Brazil
	09.4411	Thailand
	09.4289	Argentina
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Source: Regulation 2020/760, Art. 9(6) as amended by Regulation 2024/2637

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