

Supplies of foodstuffs and raw materials for Switzerland

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SUPPLIES OF FOODSTUFFS AND RAW MATERIALS FOR SWITZERLAND.

(This exposé has been sent to us for publication by the Commercial Department of the Swiss Legation, 18, Montagu Place, W.1.)

A. "Reserved Commodities."

1°. A considerable number of commodities, especially those in short or uncertain supply, are subject to control by the Combined Boards and their Agencies.

For some of these commodities, supplies to Switzerland are rationed on the basis of *quotas*. In a number of cases, Switzerland is being referred to specified *sources of supplies*, and/or purchases have to be operated through specifically prescribed *purchasing agencies*; the latter are either acting as sellers, or purchases have to be passed by them or individual transactions approved. In some cases, *price ceilings* are being fixed.

2°. On the Swiss side, arrangements for imports of "Reserved Commodities" into Switzerland, have in each particular case to be cleared through the "Swiss Control Board for Imports and Exports" ("Office Central de Surveillance des Importations et des Exportations," known as "*Surveillance*") at Berne. In particular, the office referred to, in conjunction with the competent Syndicates and Trade Organisations, is in charge of arrangements for the utilisation of import quotas as approved by the Combined Boards, whenever possible by means of the distribution of these quotas amongst the established Swiss importers; in certain cases, bulk purchases are being arranged. "*Surveillance*" further has to ensure the necessary co-operation in cases of specific stipulations, such as in the case of prescribed sources of supply, price ceilings, etc.

3°. Pursuant to recent arrangements with the Allied Authorities, the following *procedure* has now been established in regard to "Reserved Commodities":

As soon as on the Swiss side all requirements are fulfilled for a specific consignment, a "*Swiss reference Number*" will be issued by "*Surveillance*." This reference number will be communicated by "*Surveillance*" to the local Swiss representation abroad, and should at the same time be communicated by the Swiss importer to his correspondent or agent in the country of shipment. At the request of the exporter, the local Swiss representation (for United Kingdom: Swiss Legation, London) will then establish a *Certificate*, confirming that the particular consignment has been cleared by the Swiss Authorities, in accordance with arrangements made with the respective Allied Authorities. This Certificate has then to be filed by the exporter with the competent Export Licensing Authorities, in the case of the United Kingdom with the Board of Trade, Export Licensing Department, 4, Fenchurch Avenue, E.C.3.

The "Certificate" referred to above, should only be applied for, once the Export Licensing Authorities have actually expressed their willingness, after due consideration of the supply position, etc., to issue an export licence.

4°. At the present moment, imports into Switzerland, of course largely depend on available *shipping space* and *transport facilities* by rail into Switzerland.

The distribution of available transport facilities is the task of the Swiss War Transport Office at Berne, in conjunction with "*Surveillance*," and all enquiries for the allocation of shipping or rail facilities, as far as those are controlled by the Swiss War Transport Office, should be made through the importer with the above organisations in Berne.

B. "Other than reserved commodities."

For goods which are not on the "Reserved Commodities List," supplies to Switzerland are as a rule not subject to specific conditions, and licences should thus be available as far as the supply position allows. For such goods, applications for export licences can be made directly by the exporter with the competent Export Licensing Authorities, without a Swiss Reference Number having to be quoted; also, a Swiss Certificate by the local Swiss representation is no longer required in such cases.

Since the "Reserved Commodities List" is under constant review by the Combined Boards, and as quotas are subject to modifications according to further developments, it is difficult at the present moment to draw up a complete list. Exporters are therefore advised to consult the competent Swiss representation in the country of shipment, on the conditions affecting commodities in which they are particularly interested.

In the case of exports from the United Kingdom, such enquiries should be addressed to the Swiss Legation (Economic Division), London, 18, Montagu Place, W.1.

June 25th, 1945.

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