



CHEESE AND CURD QUOTA SCHEME

PURPOSE

The cheese and curd quota scheme was introduced in 1987. Under the scheme, certain types of cheese and curd can be imported at a concessional rate of duty. These concessional cheese and curd imports are restricted to 11,500 tonnes a year. These cheeses and curds may be imported outside the 11,500 quota, but a higher rate of duty applies.

TYPES OF CHEESE AND CURD COVERED

- Fresh (unripened or uncured) cheese, (including whey cheese, and curd)
- Grated or powdered cheese of all kinds
- Processed cheese
- Blue-vein cheese (excluding roquefort and stilton)
- Cheese classified to 0406.10.00, 0406.20.00, 0406.30.00, 0406.40.90 or 0406.90.90.

TYPES OF CHEESE AND CURD NOT COVERED

- Roquefort and stilton
- Cheese made wholly from goat milk other than fetta or kasseri
- Surface-ripened soft cheese - for example, camembert and brie
- Any cheese and curd eligible for New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, South Pacific Forum Island Countries, Singapore, United States of America or Thailand preference.

Cheese and curd not covered by the Scheme may be imported duty free.

GENERAL TARIFF RATES

Inside quota rate: \$0.096/kg (\$96/tonne)
Outside quota rate: \$1.220/kg (\$1,220/tonne)

QUOTA ALLOCATION

In July each year, the quota (of 11,500 tonnes of cheese and curd) is allocated to importers in direct proportion to their past imports using quota during the previous 23 month period.

OBTAINING A QUOTA

Importers may apply for quota by transfer from a current quota holder (either directly or through quota brokers). The names of quota holders are published in the Commonwealth of Australia Tariff Concessions Gazette (see below).

APPLYING FOR A TRANSFER

An application to receive quota by transfer must be lodged with Customs on Form B235, available in the Customs website - www.customs.gov.au (link to media, publications and forms, then to forms) or from the Tariff Operations Section on the telephone number listed below. Applications should be lodged well before importation.

PUBLICATION OF QUOTA HOLDERS

The names of importers who have an allocated quota are published in a Commonwealth of Australia Tariff Concessions Gazette each July. Details of any quota transfers are published in the Gazette every week www.customs.gov.au (link to import export, Customs tariff, tariff concessions gazette).

MORE INFORMATION

Tariff Operations Section
Trade Services Branch
Australian Customs Service
Telephone: (02) 6275 6483
Facsimile: (02) 6275 6376

ADDRESS FOR QUOTA TRANSFER APPLICATIONS

National Manager
Trade Services Branch
Trade Division
Australian Customs Service
5 Constitution Avenue
CANBERRA ACT 2601

For information on any Customs matter, contact the Customs Information Centre 1300 363 263 or email information@customs.gov.au or browse the website www.customs.gov.au