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DAIRY PRODUCTS (EXPORT INSPECTION CHARGE) AMENDMENT BILL 1984

Date Introduced: 5 September 1984
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. John Kerin, M.P., Minister for Primary Industry

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend charging procedures for export inspection which will be necessary with the changes to export inspection practices for dairy products that are to be introduced at the end of 1984 or early in 1985.

Background

This digest should be read in conjunction with the Bills digest for the Dairy Products (Export Inspection Charge) Collection Amendment Bill 1984.

The Dairy Products (Export Inspection Charge) Act 1982 (the Act) formed part of the Government's policy of recovering 50 per cent of the costs of providing export inspection to ensure that export products meet minimum standards of hygiene and quality. The Act introduced, from 1 July 1982, charges on dairy products inspected for export, the maximum rate of charge being $5 per tonne.

Under section 6 of the Export Control Act 1982, a person intending to export prescribed goods is required to give notice of the intention to export, the place for inspection of the goods, and anything else the regulations may require. The export notice has been the basis for the imposition of the export inspection charge.

A fundamental review of all inspection procedures for various primary products has been undertaken by the Department of Primary Industry. The reviews are aimed at ensuring that export inspection is both efficient and cost-effective.

Ministerial orders under the Export Control Act 1982 will provide for changes to export inspection practices which, in turn, will affect the imposition of the export inspection charge on dairy products. The new inspection
procedures will replace on-line inspection during manufacture with a monitoring system involving sampling of the final product. Consequently, a large quantity of the relevant prescribed goods will be exported without physical examination by the Export Inspection Service.

A technical amendment to the Act is, therefore, required as the inspection charge is payable only on goods inspected. Under the new system, only a proportion will be inspected. With no change to the legislation, there would be a loss of revenue to the Commonwealth. To overcome this anomaly, this Bill provides that a person to whom an export permit has been issued will be liable to pay the charge for the dairy products exported (clause 3).

Main Provisions

The Bill will come into operation on a day to be proclaimed (clause 2). In practice, this provision will allow the Bill to come into effect at the same time as the Ministerial orders to be made under the Export Control Act 1982 which will provide for the new export inspection procedures.

Charge will be payable, after the commencement of the Bill, on those dairy products that, before the Bill commenced, were the subject of an export notice (clause 4).

For further information, if required, contact:

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