

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES Directorate-General for Food and Veterinary

Order No __/2025

Summary: It adopts national measures to adapt the specific requirements laid down in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 in the context of traditional production of ‘Ovos Moles de Aveiro’ (PGI).

‘Ovos Moles de Aveiro’ (PGI) is a traditional speciality with conventual origins, recognized for its cultural and economic relevance in the region of Aveiro. Its production, with its own characteristics and traditional techniques, dates back to the 16th century and remains rooted in local identity.

With the entry into force of Commission Regulation (EC) No 286/2009 of 7 April 2009, ‘Ovos Moles de Aveiro’ was recognised as a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) by the European Union, becoming part of the official list of products with this distinction.

The traditional method of manufacturing this food involves specific practices, such as the manual or mechanical separation of egg whites and egg yolks (separation) and the subsequent use of the yolks in sugar syrup, which, while conflicting with some requirements laid down by Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004, do not compromise the food safety objectives set out by that Regulation.

Article 10 of the Regulation provides that Member States shall adopt national measures adapting the specific requirements laid down in Annex III to enable the continued use of traditional methods, provided that food safety conditions are ensured.

To this end, measures should be adopted to adapt the specific requirements in the context of the production of ‘Ovos Moles de Aveiro’ (PGI), in conjunction with the principles of the HACCP system.

This Decision was notified at the draft stage to the European Commission in compliance with Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations, as provided for in Article 10(5)

of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004.

Therefore, under the terms of Article 10(3) of Regulation No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April, I hereby decree the following:

1 - This Decision adapts the specific requirements laid down in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 for the production of 'Ovos Moles de Aveiro' (PGI), in accordance with the relevant specification.

2 - Declared yolks must be stored at a temperature of not more than 4°C and processed no later than 5 days after breaking, in accordance with point III(7) of Chapter II of Section X of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

3 — The provisions of this Decision do not impair the free movement of products which are legally produced or marketed in other Member States of the European Union or from countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) which are contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), including products legally manufactured or marketed in Turkey, to the extent that such products do not represent a risk to the health or life of people, in accordance with Article 36 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Article 13 of the EEA Agreement.

4 — The provisions of this Decision do not apply to products legally produced or marketed in other Member States of the European Union or from EFTA countries which are contracting parties to the EEA Agreement, including those legally manufactured or marketed in Turkey.

This Decision shall enter into force on the day after its publication.

____ 2025 — The Director-General, Susana Isabel Ferreira
Guedes Pombo