



**OFFICIAL GAZETTE**

**of the**

**COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN  
AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA)**

***Volume 17 No. 8***

***20 November 2012***

**COMESA REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE  
HARMONISED TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS  
IN THE HARMONISED CONSUMER PRICE INDICES**

**THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE COMMON MARKET OF EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA),**

**Having regard to** Article 140 of the Treaty establishing COMESA through which Member States made an undertaking to cooperate in the field of statistics in order to create an enabling environment for up-to-date reliable, harmonized and comparable statistical data on various sectors of economic activity, through the harmonization and adoption of common methodologies concepts and definitions to be used in collecting and compiling statistics;

**Having regard to** COMESA Regulation No [xx] of [date] concerning the establishment of harmonized consumer price indices (HCPIs) in Member States;

**Having regard to** existing COMESA Member States' legislation on statistics and the confidentiality clauses therein;

**HEREBY ADOPTS THESE REGULATIONS:**

**Article 1  
Citation**

These Regulations shall be cited as the COMESA Regulations Concerning the Harmonized Treatment of Certain Products in the Harmonized Consumer Price Indices (HCPIs).

**Article 2  
Definitions**

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

**“Harmonized Consumer Price Indices (HCPI)”** the comparable consumer price indices compiled by each Member State;

**“HFMCE”** means Household Final Monetary Consumption Expenditure;

**“Member States”** means COMESA Member States; and

**“Secretariat”** means the COMESA Secretariat.

**Article 3  
Objective**

The objective of these Regulations is to set out the principles underlying the harmonised treatment of certain types of products whose characteristics differ significantly from other goods and services so as to meet the comparability requirements as laid down in Article 5 of the Framework Regulations.

#### **Article 4 Scope**

The products covered in these Regulations relate to the following COICOP categories:

- (a) Actual rentals for housing; Actual rentals paid by tenants;
- (b) Other actual rentals;
- (c) Domestic services and household services;
- (d) Other services in respect of personal transport equipment;
- (e) Cultural services; and
- (f) Other services not elsewhere classified.

#### **Article 5 General**

1. Member States shall record the purchaser price for the HCPI as the value of a representative transaction multiplied by the specified proportion in the base or reference period, where a service charge is expressed as a proportion of the transaction value. .
2. Member States shall record the changes in the purchaser prices resulting from changes in the specified proportions of the representative

transactions referred to in paragraph 1 as price changes in the HCPI.

3. Member States may estimate any change in the market value of the subject of a representative transaction based on the change in a price index which represents appropriately the changing value of the subject of the transaction concerned.
4. Price change for the HCPI shall be based on the assumption that the following remain constant:
  - (a) the household consumption pattern in the weights reference period; and
  - (b) the characteristics of the household population in the weights reference period.
5. Member States shall record changes in purchaser prices resulting from changes in the rules determining purchaser prices as price changes in the HCPI.

#### **Article 6 Rentals**

1. Actual rentals to be covered in the HCPI shall include:
  - (a) payment for the use of the land on which the property stands;

- (b) the dwelling occupied;
  - (c) the fixtures and fittings such as heating, plumbing and lighting; and
  - (d) in the case of furnished dwellings, payment for the use of the furniture.
2. The weights used for COICOP 04.1.1 and 04.1.2 shall be the total value in the weights reference period of actual rentals as described in paragraph 1.
  3. Member States shall consider the rental of a dwelling house to be its price for the purposes of the HCPI.
  4. The rental to be included in the HCPI shall relate to the actual rental payable for a sample of specified dwelling houses, measured on a regular basis, in accordance with Article 5 of the Framework Regulation.
  5. The source of regular data on rental payable shall be based on a survey of tenants, owners or agents, or any other reliable source of actual current rental payable.

**Article 7**  
**Domestic services**

1. Prices and weights for domestic services shall cover the full expenditure by households on the

employment of resident or non-resident domestic staff.

2. Member States shall base product specifications for domestic services on the cost of a specified unit of time or a specified task.
3. Member States shall allocate expenditure on child-minding to COICOP 05.6.2 or COICOP 12.4.0 depending on the place where the service occurs.
4. In selecting representative items within COICOP Class 05.6.2 which are amenable to pricing on a regular basis, Member States shall exclude items whose prices are likely to depend on individual and specific circumstances.

**Article 8**  
**Miscellaneous fees and taxes**

1. The inclusion or exclusion of taxes and fees in the HCPI shall be based on the eligibility of the item for inclusion as part of the HFMCE.
2. For purposes of paragraph 1, payments by households for the following, shall be regarded as the purchase of services and included in HFMCE:
  - (a) Driving licence;
  - (b) Pilot's licence;
  - (c) Television or radio licence;
  - (d) Firearms licence;

- (e) Hunting or fishing licence;
- (f) Museum or library admission fee;
- (g) Garbage disposal charge;
- (h) Parking fee, including parking meters;
- (i) Tolls for roads, bridges, tunnels, ferries;
- (j) Vehicle roadworthiness test fee;
- (k) Driving test fee;
- (l) Passport fee;
- (m) Postage stamp;
- (n) Burial or cremation fee; and
- (o) Estate agency fee.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, where licences or permits are granted automatically on payment of the amount due, such payments shall be treated as direct taxes, and excluded from HFMCE and the HCPI.

4. The following payments shall be excluded from the HFMCE and the HCPI:

- (a) Subscriptions to NPISHs, unless they relate to payments for services rendered;
- (b) Voluntary contributions by households to charities, relief and aid organisations;
- (c) Payments of property income;
- (d) Compulsory or voluntary social contributions, whether private or governmental;

- (e) Contributions to pension funds;
- (f) Fines and penalties;
- (g) Taxes on income or wealth; and
- (h) Local or municipal taxes.

### **Article 9 Quality Control**

Member States shall provide the Secretariat with information sufficient to evaluate compliance with the procedures laid down in Articles 4 to 7.

### **Article 10 Amendments**

1. Any proposals for the amendment of these Regulations shall be submitted to the Secretary General in writing who shall, within 30 days of its receipt, communicate it to the Member States.
2. The Member States which wish to comment on the proposals shall do so within 90 days from the date of the dispatch of the proposals by the Secretary General.
3. After the expiration of the period prescribed under paragraph 2, the Secretary General shall submit the proposals and any comments thereon received from the Member States to Council through the Committee on Legal Affairs.

4. Any amendment to these Regulations shall be adopted by Council and shall enter into force upon publication in the Official Gazette of the Common Market.

**Article 11**  
**Entry into force**

These Regulations shall enter into force on the date of publication in the Official Gazette of the Common Market.

Done and adopted at the Thirty First Meeting of the COMESA Council of Ministers held at Kampala, Uganda, on 20 November 2012.

[Signature]  
Chairperson  
COMESA Council of Ministers