

3. A holder of a licence of the “in-hall bingo” subcategory where the value is greater than \$200 without exceeding \$500 may submit an application for authorization to sell instant-win tickets. That authorization may be issued until the licence expires.

4. A holder of a bingo hall operator’s licence shall remain subject to the duties and obligations attached to that licence until it expires without regard to the expiry of bingo licences referred to in section 2.

5. Applications for a licence of the “in-hall bingo” subcategory already submitted to the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux shall be dealt with according to the new rules where the maximum value of the prizes is greater than \$200 without exceeding \$500.

6. These Rules come into force on the fifteenth day following the date of their publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*.

2663

Draft Regulation

Forest Act
(R.S.Q., c. F-4.1)

Unit rates applicable to the calculation of dues for forest management permits for the supply of wood processing plants

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with sections 10 and 11 of the Regulations Act (R.S.Q., c. R-18.1), that the Regulation respecting unit rates applicable to the calculation of dues for forest management permits for the supply of wood processing plants, the text of which appears below, may be made by the Minister at the expiry of 45 days following this publication.

Any person having comments to make on this matter is asked to send them in writing, before the expiry of the 45-day period, to Mr. Marc Ledoux, Associate Deputy Minister for Forests, ministère des Ressources naturelles, 880, chemin Sainte-Foy, 10^e étage, Québec (Québec) G1S 4X4.

JACQUES BRASSARD,
Minister of Natural Resources

Regulation respecting unit rates applicable to the calculation of dues for forest management permits for the supply of wood processing plants

Forest Act
(R.S.Q., c. F-4.1, ss. 5 and 72)

1. The unit rates for stumpage in forests in the public domain set out in Schedule I shall be indexed on 1 April, 1 July, 1 October 1999 and 1 January 2000 in accordance with the performance of the price indexes for the forest products specified in Schedule II. The index rates per species, group of species and quality shall be calculated in accordance with the following formulas:

Index rate at 1 April 1999 = $\frac{\text{Average price index for the months of December 1998, January and February 1999}}{\text{Average price index for the months of April 1997 to March 1998}}$

Index rate at 1 July 1999 = $\frac{\text{Average price index for the months of March, April and May 1999}}{\text{Average price index for the months of April 1997 to March 1998}}$

Index rate at 1 October 1999 = $\frac{\text{Average price index for the months of June, July and August 1999}}{\text{Average price index for the months of April 1997 to March 1998}}$

Index rate at 1 January 2000 = $\frac{\text{Average price index for the months of September, October and November 1999}}{\text{Average price index for the months of April 1997 to March 1998}}$

The amounts thus indexed shall apply, in each forest tariffing zone indicated in Schedule I, to the calculation of the dues payable by the holder of a forest management permit for the supply of a wood processing plant for the 3-month period following the date of indexing.

The amounts indexed in the manner prescribed in the first paragraph shall be reduced to the nearest fraction of \$0.10/m³ where they contain a fraction less than \$0.025/m³. They shall be rounded off to the nearest fraction of \$0.05/m³ where they contain a fraction equal to or greater than \$0.025/m³ but less than \$0.075/m³ and shall be increased to the nearest fraction of \$0.10/m³ where they contain a fraction equal to or greater than \$0.075/m³.

The Minister of Natural Resources shall inform the public, through Part I of the *Gazette officielle du Québec* and, where he considers it appropriate, by any other means, of the indexing calculated under this section.

2. This Regulation replaces the Regulation respecting unit rates applicable to the calculation of dues for forest management permits for the supply of wood processing plants, made by Minister's Order 9700578 of the Minister of Natural Resources, dated 11 March 1998 and published in Part 2 of the *Gazette officielle du Québec* of 18 March 1998.

3. This Regulation comes into force on 1 April 1999.

SCHEDULE I
(s.1)

REFERENCE UNIT RATES FOR STUMPAGE IN FORESTS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN BY FOREST-TARIFFING ZONE FOR THE 1999-2000 FISCAL YEAR

Species	Quality*	Stumpage (\$/m ³)															
		Zones															
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Fir, spruce, jack pine, tamarack	A	18.83	16.54	14.29	13.42	14.49	13.35	4.02	4.02	10.14	11.88	12.93	13.78	15.39	20.81	22.77	19.67
	B	13.15	13.50	14.29	12.23	12.09	9.99	2.92	2.92	5.30	7.25	9.79	13.78	15.39	20.81	22.77	15.76
White pine	B	13.93	9.48	9.09	9.10	9.09	9.09	2.68	2.68	16.28	16.60	15.70	13.61	13.37	12.04	12.63	11.92
	A	21.91	14.72	13.37	13.40	13.37	13.37	13.37	13.37	22.52	22.62	20.98	17.49	17.82	15.72	16.01	15.69
Red pine	B	9.85	6.78	6.78	6.78	6.78	6.78	6.78	6.78	11.66	11.78	11.29	10.26	10.08	9.16	9.61	9.27
	B	4.65	3.64	3.26	3.27	3.26	3.26	0.65	0.65	4.53	4.58	4.00	2.65	2.92	2.36	2.22	2.13
White pine, red pine, hemlock, cedar	C	1.55	1.21	1.19	1.19	1.19	1.19	0.42	0.42	1.59	1.58	1.40	1.00	1.13	0.94	0.96	0.97
	A	30.84	40.22	17.32	18.38	9.94	15.22	7.15	5.63	36.94	49.80	28.91	13.10	14.64	25.96	7.32	6.75
Oak, cherry, walnut, hickory	B	15.42	20.11	8.66	9.19	4.97	7.61	3.57	2.82	18.47	24.90	14.46	6.55	7.32	12.98	3.66	3.38
	C	9.07	11.83	5.09	5.41	2.93	4.48	2.10	1.66	10.87	14.65	8.51	3.85	4.31	7.64	2.15	1.99
	A	22.03	28.73	12.37	13.13	7.10	10.87	5.11	4.02	26.39	35.57	20.65	9.35	10.46	18.54	5.23	4.82
Yellow birch, ash, basswood, elm	B	11.02	14.36	6.18	6.57	3.55	5.43	2.55	2.01	13.19	17.78	10.33	4.68	5.23	9.27	2.61	2.41
	C	6.48	8.45	3.64	3.86	2.09	3.20	1.50	1.18	7.76	10.46	6.08	2.75	3.08	5.46	1.54	1.42
	A	12.41	10.98	5.14	5.57	2.18	4.30	2.00	2.00	15.00	15.92	11.72	3.46	4.08	8.65	2.00	2.00
White birch	B	6.20	5.49	2.57	2.78	1.09	2.15	1.00	1.00	7.50	7.96	5.86	1.73	2.04	4.33	1.00	1.00
	C	3.99	3.53	1.65	1.79	0.70	1.38	0.50	0.50	4.82	5.12	3.77	1.11	1.31	2.78	0.50	0.50
	A	34.37	30.04	15.24	16.21	8.55	13.33	6.01	4.64	26.23	34.88	26.15	11.45	12.86	23.17	6.19	5.67
Sugar maple	B	17.18	15.02	7.62	8.10	4.27	6.67	3.01	2.32	13.12	17.44	13.07	5.73	6.43	11.58	3.10	2.84
	C	8.57	7.49	3.80	4.04	2.13	3.32	1.50	1.16	6.54	8.70	6.52	2.86	3.21	5.78	1.54	1.41
	B	4.41	5.75	2.47	2.63	1.42	2.17	1.00	1.00	5.28	7.11	4.13	1.87	2.09	3.71	1.00	1.00
Other hardwoods	C	2.59	3.38	1.46	1.55	0.84	1.28	0.60	0.50	3.11	4.19	2.43	1.10	1.23	2.18	0.62	0.57
	B	5.66	6.38	6.14	6.16	4.61	2.01	1.00	1.00	6.54	7.00	6.73	4.61	5.73	6.38	6.40	6.33
	C	4.36	4.91	5.56	4.84	3.55	1.55	1.00	1.00	5.03	5.64	5.47	3.55	4.41	5.02	5.56	4.98
All hardwoods (except poplar / aspen)	D	1.76	2.30	0.99	1.05	0.57	0.87	0.41	0.32	2.11	2.85	1.65	0.75	0.84	1.48	0.42	0.39

* The letters A, B, C and D correspond to quality levels determined on the basis of the assessment of cuts according to species, diameter, length and imperfections observed on crosscuts and trunks.

Species	Quality*	Stumpage (\$/m3)															
		Zones															
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Fir, spruce, jack pine, tamarack	A	18.52	11.39	9.52	7.81	3.45	15.07	11.42	7.48	6.55	3.29	17.38	13.15	13.08	20.38	19.88	12.96
	B	18.52	11.39	7.07	7.44	2.92	15.07	11.42	2.92	2.92	2.92	9.87	11.46	13.08	18.57	19.88	12.96
White pine	B	11.45	5.54	7.03	5.81	2.16	8.14	6.94	6.52	4.83	2.06	18.01	16.93	14.04	16.77	15.35	13.36
Red pine	A	15.45	13.37	13.45	13.37	13.37	13.93	13.37	13.37	13.37	13.37	25.88	23.40	19.66	25.72	24.52	20.08
	B	8.85	6.78	6.86	6.78	6.78	7.33	6.78	6.78	6.78	6.78	12.78	12.02	10.44	12.47	11.83	10.24
Hemlock, cedar	B	2.31	1.32	1.61	1.38	0.56	1.65	1.36	1.58	1.16	0.54	5.40	4.77	3.71	5.41	5.13	4.00
White pine, red pine, hemlock, cedar	C	0.94	0.84	1.03	0.88	0.36	0.86	0.74	0.99	0.74	0.34	1.97	1.68	1.33	2.00	1.88	1.39
Oak, cherry, walnut, hickory	A	20.77	6.19	4.87	5.16	2.80	5.17	6.16	5.48	3.24	2.80	40.54	34.96	20.15	44.24	41.30	26.62
	B	10.38	3.10	2.43	2.58	1.40	2.58	3.08	2.74	1.62	1.40	20.27	17.48	10.07	22.12	20.65	13.31
	C	6.11	1.82	1.43	1.52	0.70	1.52	1.81	1.61	0.95	0.70	11.93	10.28	5.93	13.02	12.15	7.83
Yellow birch, ash, basswood, elm	A	14.83	4.42	3.48	3.68	2.00	3.69	4.40	3.92	2.32	2.00	28.96	24.97	14.39	31.60	29.50	19.01
	B	7.42	2.21	1.74	1.84	1.00	1.85	2.20	1.96	1.16	1.00	14.48	12.48	7.20	15.80	14.75	9.51
	C	4.36	1.30	1.02	1.08	0.50	1.09	1.30	1.15	0.68	0.50	8.52	7.35	4.23	9.30	8.68	5.59
White birch	A	6.56	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	17.16	12.26	7.38	19.12	17.99	8.21
	B	3.28	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	8.58	6.13	3.69	9.56	9.00	4.11
	C	2.11	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	5.52	3.94	2.37	6.15	5.79	2.64
Sugar maple	A	18.44	5.17	3.96	4.22	2.00	4.23	5.14	4.52	2.48	2.00	34.64	29.79	21.04	44.35	43.22	22.57
	B	9.22	2.58	1.98	2.11	1.00	2.12	2.57	2.26	1.24	1.00	17.32	14.89	10.52	22.17	21.61	11.29
	C	4.60	1.29	0.99	1.05	0.50	1.06	1.28	1.13	0.62	0.28	8.64	7.43	5.25	11.06	10.78	5.63
Other hardwoods	B	2.97	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	5.79	4.99	2.88	6.32	5.90	3.80
	C	1.75	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.52	0.50	0.50	0.50	3.41	2.94	1.69	3.72	3.47	2.24
	B	3.92	2.60	3.11	2.79	1.00	1.58	1.54	1.00	1.00	1.77	5.05	5.63	3.90	8.14	7.48	5.31
Poplar	C	3.02	2.00	2.39	2.14	1.00	1.22	1.19	1.00	1.00	1.36	3.89	4.34	3.00	5.93	5.91	4.09
	D	1.19	0.35	0.25	0.29	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.31	0.25	0.25	2.32	2.00	1.15	2.53	2.56	1.52
All hardwoods (except poplar / aspen)																	

* The letters A, B, C and D correspond to quality levels determined on the basis of the assessment of cuts according to species, diameter, length and imperfections observed on crosscuts and trunks.

Species	Quality*	Stumpage (\$/m ³)															
		Zones															
		33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
Fir, spruce, jack pine, tamarack	A	11.57	20.58	17.99	17.26	14.07	15.76	15.18	16.02	16.83	22.86	18.86	15.86	12.27	12.11	9.93	4.74
	B	6.80	20.58	17.21	17.26	14.07	15.76	14.95	15.95	13.80	22.86	18.86	15.86	10.18	12.11	9.26	2.92
White pine	B	12.63	15.32	14.59	8.42	8.42	10.05	10.47	9.79	10.66	9.75	9.37	7.80	9.28	7.11	6.94	4.28
Red pine	A	17.45	24.48	23.44	14.45	14.45	13.71	13.37	16.74	17.53	15.68	15.35	13.62	14.45	13.37	13.37	13.37
	B	9.52	11.81	11.32	7.03	7.03	7.18	7.03	8.49	8.80	7.94	7.63	6.84	7.75	6.78	6.78	6.78
Hemlock, cedar	B	3.08	5.12	4.92	3.21	3.21	3.21	3.03	3.97	3.76	3.09	3.01	2.09	2.01	1.40	1.81	1.13
White pine, red pine, hemlock, cedar	C	1.12	1.87	1.76	0.79	0.79	1.29	1.29	1.34	1.32	1.11	1.00	0.94	0.80	0.70	1.14	0.72
Oak, cherry, walnut, hickory	A	14.42	41.47	40.46	9.84	6.71	21.81	23.78	21.33	33.74	23.32	20.45	5.55	3.28	4.39	2.80	2.80
	B	7.21	20.74	20.23	4.92	3.36	10.91	11.89	10.66	16.87	11.66	10.22	2.78	1.64	2.20	1.40	1.40
	C	4.24	12.20	11.90	2.90	1.97	6.42	7.00	6.27	9.92	6.86	6.02	1.63	0.97	1.29	0.78	0.70
Yellow birch, ash, basswood, elm	A	10.30	29.62	28.90	7.03	4.79	15.58	16.99	15.23	24.10	16.66	14.61	3.97	2.35	3.14	2.00	2.00
	B	5.15	14.81	14.45	3.51	2.40	7.79	8.49	7.62	12.05	8.33	7.30	1.98	1.17	1.57	1.00	1.00
	C	3.03	8.71	8.50	2.07	1.41	4.58	5.00	4.48	7.09	4.90	4.30	1.17	0.69	0.92	0.56	0.50
White birch	A	2.47	14.35	13.97	2.15	2.00	6.98	7.77	6.78	7.23	7.59	8.74	3.85	2.58	2.00	2.00	2.00
	B	1.24	7.17	6.98	1.07	1.00	3.49	3.89	3.39	3.61	3.79	4.37	1.92	1.29	1.00	1.00	1.00
	C	0.82	4.61	4.49	0.69	0.50	2.24	2.50	2.18	2.32	2.44	2.81	1.24	0.83	0.50	0.50	0.50
Sugar maple	A	18.54	35.53	39.64	8.49	5.64	19.39	21.18	18.95	19.95	20.77	15.60	12.32	9.46	16.95	13.65	2.00
	B	9.27	17.76	19.82	4.24	2.82	9.69	10.59	9.47	9.97	10.38	7.80	6.16	4.73	8.48	6.82	1.00
	C	4.62	8.86	9.89	2.12	1.41	4.83	5.28	4.73	4.97	5.18	3.89	3.07	2.36	4.23	3.40	0.50
Other hardwoods	B	2.06	5.92	5.78	1.41	0.96	3.12	3.40	3.05	4.82	3.33	2.92	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
	C	1.21	3.49	3.40	0.83	0.56	1.83	2.00	1.79	2.84	1.96	1.72	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
	B	2.92	7.00	6.87	3.07	2.30	3.01	5.48	6.37	6.39	6.29	5.14	4.16	1.13	4.77	3.84	1.00
Poplar	C	2.25	5.39	5.29	2.36	1.77	2.32	4.21	4.90	5.04	5.47	3.95	3.20	1.00	3.67	2.96	1.00
	D	0.82	2.37	2.31	0.56	0.38	1.25	1.36	1.22	1.93	1.33	1.17	0.32	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
All hardwoods (except poplar / aspen)																	

* The letters A, B, C and D correspond to quality levels determined on the basis of the assessment of cuts according to species, diameter, length and imperfections observed on crosscuts and trunks.

Species	Quality*	Stumpage (\$/m ³)																
		Zones																
		49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	99
Fir, spruce, jack pine, tamarack	A	18.41	16.23	17.26	14.10	8.03	6.23	15.04	15.28	18.67	14.79	11.98	6.39	5.26	4.60	3.29	8.66	3.29
	B	18.41	16.23	17.26	14.10	8.03	6.23	14.74	15.28	18.67	14.79	11.98	6.39	2.92	4.60	3.01	8.66	2.92
White pine	B	9.89	9.20	8.50	7.94	3.71	2.04	10.45	10.41	10.44	8.42	6.38	4.08	2.48	2.94	2.34	4.53	1.41
	A	14.99	13.37	13.39	13.37	13.37	13.37	13.44	13.37	13.37	13.37	13.37	13.37	13.37	13.37	13.37	13.37	13.37
Red pine	B	7.66	6.80	6.78	6.78	6.78	6.78	7.04	6.79	6.78	6.78	6.78	6.78	6.78	6.78	6.78	6.78	6.78
	B	3.02	2.06	1.88	1.76	0.91	0.55	2.98	2.29	2.24	1.83	1.41	0.93	0.60	0.69	0.62	1.02	0.39
Hemlock, cedar	C	1.15	1.02	0.92	0.88	0.53	0.35	1.28	1.17	1.17	1.17	0.99	0.75	0.55	0.34	0.43	0.40	0.63
	hemlock, cedar																	0.25
Oak, cherry, walnut, hickory	A	23.96	18.94	15.91	8.64	3.06	2.80	22.85	22.61	5.28	5.62	4.96	3.89	6.24	5.24	2.80	4.33	2.80
	B	11.98	9.47	7.96	4.32	1.53	1.40	11.43	11.31	2.64	2.81	2.48	1.94	3.12	2.62	1.40	2.17	1.40
	C	7.05	5.57	4.68	2.54	0.90	0.70	6.72	6.65	1.55	1.65	1.46	1.14	1.83	1.54	0.70	1.28	0.70
Yellow birch, ash, basswood, elm	A	17.11	13.53	11.37	6.17	2.19	2.00	16.32	16.15	3.77	4.01	3.54	2.78	4.45	3.74	2.00	3.10	2.00
	B	8.56	6.76	5.68	3.09	1.09	1.00	8.16	8.08	1.89	2.01	1.77	1.39	2.23	1.87	1.00	1.55	1.00
	C	5.03	3.98	3.34	1.82	0.64	0.50	4.80	4.75	1.11	1.18	1.04	0.82	1.31	1.10	0.50	0.91	0.50
White birch	A	7.84	5.82	4.60	2.00	2.00	2.00	7.40	7.30	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
	B	3.92	2.91	2.30	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.70	3.65	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
	C	2.52	1.87	1.48	0.54	0.50	0.50	2.38	2.35	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Sugar maple	A	8.71	16.77	14.02	7.40	2.32	2.00	20.34	20.12	4.34	4.64	4.04	3.06	5.21	4.30	2.00	3.47	2.00
	B	4.36	8.38	7.01	3.70	1.16	1.00	10.17	10.06	2.17	2.32	2.02	1.53	2.60	2.15	1.00	1.74	1.00
	C	2.17	4.18	3.50	1.84	0.58	0.50	5.07	5.02	1.08	1.16	1.01	0.76	1.30	1.07	0.50	0.87	0.50
Other hardwoods	B	3.42	2.71	2.27	1.23	1.00	1.00	3.26	3.23	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
	C	2.01	1.59	1.34	0.73	0.50	0.50	1.92	1.90	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
	B	5.24	3.10	4.10	3.22	1.00	1.00	5.85	5.01	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Poplar	C	4.03	2.39	3.16	2.48	1.00	1.00	4.50	3.85	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
	D	1.37	1.08	0.91	0.49	0.25	0.25	1.31	1.29	0.30	0.32	0.28	0.22	0.36	0.30	0.25	0.25	0.25
	All hardwoods (except poplar / aspen)																	

* The letters A, B, C and D correspond to quality levels determined on the basis of the assessment of cuts according to species, diameter, length and imperfections observed on crosscuts and trunks.

SCHEDULE II

(s. 1)

PRICE INDEXES PER SPECIES, GROUP OF SPECIES AND QUALITY

Species and groups of species	Quality¹	Price index²	Reference price index³
Fir, spruce, jack pine, tamarack	A	Preserved or treated wood (P2457)	146,9
	B	Lumber and pulp and paper index, softwood: Lumber, softwood, Québec (P2444; 73,7 %) Newsprint paper (P2552; 13,7 %) Paper board (P2580; 1,8 %) Woodpulp, sulfate, softwood (P2538; 7,3 %) Printing and speciality paper (P2558; 3,5 %)	100,0
White pine	B	White pine (Eastern Quotes and Comments)	914
Red pine	A	Preserved or treated wood (P2457)	146,9
	B	White pine (Eastern Quotes and Comments)	914
Hemlock, cedar	B	Lumber, softwood, Québec (P2444)	160,1
White pine, red pine, hemlock, cedar	C	Pulp and paper index: Newsprint paper (P2552; 2,2 %) Paper board (P2580; 1,5 %) Woodpulp, sulfate, softwood (P2538; 95,5 %) Printing and speciality paper (P2558; 0,8 %)	100,0
Oak, cherry, walnut hickory	A	Veneer and plywood, hardwood (P2468)	143,1
	B, C	Lumber, hardwood (P2439)	162,1
Yellow birch, ash, basswood, elm	A	Veneer and plywood, hardwood (P2468)	143,1
	B, C	Lumber, hardwood (P2439)	162,1
White birch	A	Veneer and plywood, hardwood (P2468)	143,1
	B, C	Lumber, hardwood (P2439)	162,1
Sugar maple	A	Veneer and plywood, hardwood (P2468)	143,1
	B, C	Lumber, hardwood (P2439)	162,1
Poplar/aspen	B	Poplar/Aspen index, B: Waferboard OSB (Random Lengths; 55,5 %) Pallets (P2494; 44,5 %)	100,0
	C	Poplar/Aspen index, C: Waferboard OSB (Random Lengths; 85,4 %) Pallets (P2494; 14,6 %)	100,0
Other hardwoods	B, C	Lumber, hardwood (P2439)	162,1
All hardwoods except poplar/aspen	D	Pulp and paper index: Newsprint paper (P2552; 1,0 %) Paper board (P2580; 12,4 %) Woodpulp, sulfate, softwood (P2538; 75,7 %) Printing and speciality paper (P2558; 10,9 %)	100,0

¹ The letters A, B, C and D correspond to quality levels determined on the basis of the assessment of cuts according to species, diameter length and imperfections on crosscuts and trunks.

² The source of the price indexes and the relative weight of each are indicated in parentheses. The price indexes from Statistics Canada are indicated according to the Cansim number appearing in catalogue 62-011.

³ The reference price index corresponds to the average of the price indexes calculated between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 1998.