

## TITLE 7 - AGRICULTURE

### CHAPTER 3 - GRAIN STANDARDS

#### § 87e. General authorities

##### (a) Authority of Secretary

The Secretary is authorized to conduct such investigations; hold such hearings; require such reports from any official agency, any State agency delegated authority under this chapter, licensee, or other person; and prescribe such rules, regulations, and instructions, as the Secretary deems necessary to effectuate the purposes or provisions of this chapter. Such regulations may require, as a condition for official inspection or official weighing or supervision of weighing, among other things,

- (1) that there be installed specified sampling, handling, weighing, and monitoring equipment in grain elevators, warehouses, and other grain storage or handling facilities,
- (2) that approval of the Secretary be obtained as to the condition of vessels and other carriers or receptacles for the transporting or storing of grain, and
- (3) that persons having a financial interest in the grain which is to be inspected (or their agents) shall be afforded an opportunity to observe the weighing, loading, and official inspection thereof, under conditions prescribed by the Secretary. Whether any certificate, other form, representation, designation, or other description is false, incorrect, or misleading within the meaning of this chapter shall be determined by tests made in accordance with such procedures as the Secretary may adopt to effectuate the objectives of this chapter, if the relevant facts are determinable by such tests. Proceedings under section 85 of this title for refusal to renew, or for suspension or revocation of, a license shall not, unless requested by the respondent, be subject to the administrative procedure provisions in sections 554, 556, and 557 of title 5.

##### (b) Investigation of reports or complaints of discrepancies and abuses in official inspection or weighing of grain

The Secretary is authorized to investigate reports or complaints of discrepancies and abuses in the official inspection and weighing of grain under this chapter. The Secretary shall prescribe by regulation procedures for

- (1) promptly investigating
  - (A) complaints of foreign grain purchasers regarding the official inspection or official weighing of grain shipped from the United States,
  - (B) the cancellation of contracts for the export sale of grain required to be inspected or weighed under this chapter, and
  - (C) any complaint regarding the operation or administration of this chapter or any official transaction with which this chapter is concerned; and
- (2) taking appropriate action on the basis of the findings of any investigation of such complaints.

##### (c) Monitoring of United States grain upon its entry into foreign nations

The Secretary is authorized to cause official inspection personnel to monitor in foreign nations which are substantial importers of grain from the United States, grain imported from the United States upon its entry into the foreign nation, to determine whether such grain is of a comparable kind, class, quality, and condition after considering the handling methods and conveyance utilized at the time of loading, and the same quantity that it was certified to be upon official inspection and official weighing in the United States.

##### (d) Authority of Office of Investigation of Department of Agriculture

The Office of Investigation of the Department of Agriculture (or such other organization or agency within the Department of Agriculture which may be delegated the authority, in lieu thereof, to conduct investigations on behalf of the Department of Agriculture) shall conduct such investigations regarding the operation or administration of this chapter or any official transaction with which this chapter is

*NB: This unofficial compilation of the U.S. Code is current as of Jan. 5, 2009 (see <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/uscprint.html>).*

concerned, as the Director thereof deems necessary to assure the integrity of official inspection and weighing under this chapter.

**(e) Research program to develop methods of improving accuracy and uniformity in grading grain**

The Secretary is authorized to conduct, in cooperation with other agencies within the Department of Agriculture, a continuing research program for the purpose of developing methods to improve accuracy and uniformity in grading grain.

**(f) Adequate personnel to meet inspection and weighing requirements**

To assure the normal movement of grain at all inspection points in a timely manner consistent with the policy expressed in section 74 of this title, the Secretary shall, notwithstanding any other provision of law, provide adequate personnel to meet the inspection and weighing requirements of this chapter.

**(g) Testing of certain weighing equipment**

(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may provide for the testing of weighing equipment used for purposes other than weighing grain. The testing shall be performed—

(A) in accordance with such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe; and

(B) for a reasonable fee established by regulation or contractual agreement and sufficient to cover, as nearly as practicable, the estimated costs of the testing performed.

(2) Testing performed under paragraph (1) may not conflict with or impede the objectives specified in section 74 of this title.

**(h) Testing of grain inspection instruments**

(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may provide for the testing of grain inspection instruments used for commercial inspection. The testing shall be performed—

(A) in accordance with such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe; and

(B) for a reasonable fee established by regulation or contractual agreement and sufficient to cover, as nearly as practicable, the estimated costs of the testing performed.

(2) Testing performed under paragraph (1) may not conflict with or impede the objectives specified in section 74 of this title.

**(i) Additional for fee services**

(1) In accordance with such regulations as the Secretary may provide, the Secretary may perform such other services as the Secretary considers to be appropriate.

(2) In addition to the fees authorized by sections 79, 79a, 79b, and 87f-1 of this title, and this section, the Secretary shall collect reasonable fees to cover the estimated costs of services performed under paragraph (1) other than standardization and foreign monitoring activities.

(3) To the extent practicable, the fees collected under paragraph (2), together with any proceeds from the sale of any samples, shall cover the costs, including administrative and supervisory costs, of services performed under paragraph (1).

**(j) Deposit of fees**

Fees collected under subsections (g), (h), and (i) of this section shall be deposited into the fund created under section 79 (j) of this title.

**(k) Official courtesies**

The Secretary may extend appropriate courtesies to official representatives of foreign countries in order to establish and maintain relationships to carry out the policy stated in section 74 of this title. No gift offered or accepted pursuant to this subsection shall exceed \$20 in value.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. B, § 16, as added Pub. L. 90-487, § 1, Aug. 15, 1968, 82 Stat. 768; amended Pub. L. 94-582, § 18, Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2884; Pub. L. 95-113, title XVI, §§ 1604(k), 1606 (i), Sept. 29, 1977, 91 Stat. 1029, 1030; Pub. L. 102-237, title X, § 1007(2), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1897; Pub.

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L. 103–156, § 9, Nov. 24, 1993, 107 Stat. 1527; Pub. L. 103–354, title II, § 293(a)(7), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3237.)

## Amendments

1994—Subsecs. (a) to (c), (e) to (i), (k). Pub. L. 103–354 substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” wherever appearing.

1993—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103–156, § 9(1), struck out at end “The Administrator shall report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate at the end of every three-month period with respect to investigative action taken on complaints, during the immediately preceding three-month period.”

Subsecs. (g) to (k). Pub. L. 103–156, § 9(2), added subsecs. (g) to (k).

1991—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102–237 substituted “Administrator” for “Administrtor” at end of second sentence.

1977—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 95–113, § 1604(k)(1), rearranged existing provisions and inserted references to the installation of handling and weighing equipment and to warehouses and other grain storage or handling facilities.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 95–113, § 1606(i), substituted “Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry” for “Committee on Agriculture and Forestry”.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 95–113, § 1604(k)(2), struck out “additional” before “inspection and weighing requirements”.

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94–582 substituted authorizations of “Administrator” for authorizations of “Secretary”, “official agency” for “official inspection agency”, and “other person” for “any person” respecting reporting requirement, required reports from State agencies delegated authority under this chapter and from licensees, inserted items (1) to (3) relating to conditions for official inspection, authorized issuance of instructions, and struck out reference to section 86 of this title, including proceedings for refusal of official inspection service not required by section 77 of this title, as not being subject to administrative procedure provisions.

Subsecs. (b) to (f). Pub. L. 94–582 added subsecs. (b) to (f).

## Effective Date of 1977 Amendment

Amendment by Pub. L. 95–113 effective Oct. 1, 1977, see section 1901 of Pub. L. 95–113, set out as a note under section 1307 of this title.

## Effective Date of 1976 Amendment

Amendment by Pub. L. 94–582 effective 30 days after Oct. 21, 1976, see section 27 of Pub. L. 94–582, as amended, set out as a note under section 74 of this title.

## Effective Date

For effective date of section, see section 2 of Pub. L. 90–487, set out as an Effective Date of 1968 Amendment note under section 78 of this title.

## Temporary Exercise By Secretary of Agriculture of Powers, Duties, and Authorizations of Administrator Pending Appointment of Administrator

Powers, duties, and authorizations of the Administrator of the Federal Grain Inspection Service to be exercised by the Secretary of Agriculture pending the appointment of the Administrator, see section 25 of Pub. L. 94–582, set out as a note under section 75a of this title.