

TITLE 15 - COMMERCE AND TRADE
CHAPTER 47 - CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY**§ 2076. Additional functions of Consumer Product Safety Commission****(a) Authority to conduct hearings or other inquiries**

The Commission may, by one or more of its members or by such agents or agency as it may designate, conduct any hearing or other inquiry necessary or appropriate to its functions anywhere in the United States. A Commissioner who participates in such a hearing or other inquiry shall not be disqualified solely by reason of such participation from subsequently participating in a decision of the Commission in the same manner. The Commission shall publish notice of any proposed hearing in the Federal Register and shall afford a reasonable opportunity for interested persons to present relevant testimony and data.

(b) Commission powers; orders

The Commission shall also have the power—

- (1) to require, by special or general orders, any person to submit in writing such reports and answers to questions as the Commission may prescribe to carry out a specific regulatory or enforcement function of the Commission; and such submission shall be made within such reasonable period and under oath or otherwise as the Commission may determine;
- (2) to administer oaths;
- (3) to require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of all documentary evidence relating to the execution of its duties;
- (4) in any proceeding or investigation to order testimony to be taken by deposition before any person who is designated by the Commission and has the power to administer oaths and, in such instances, to compel testimony and the production of evidence in the same manner as authorized under paragraph (3) of this subsection;
- (5) to pay witnesses the same fees and mileage as are paid in like circumstances in the courts of the United States;
- (6) to accept gifts and voluntary and uncompensated services, notwithstanding the provisions of section 1342 of title 31;
- (7) to—
 - (A) initiate, prosecute, defend, or appeal (other than to the Supreme Court of the United States), through its own legal representative and in the name of the Commission, any civil action if the Commission makes a written request to the Attorney General for representation in such civil action and the Attorney General does not within the 45-day period beginning on the date such request was made notify the Commission in writing that the Attorney General will represent the Commission in such civil action, and
 - (B) initiate, prosecute, or appeal, through its own legal representative, with the concurrence of the Attorney General or through the Attorney General, any criminal action, for the purpose of enforcing the laws subject to its jurisdiction;
- (8) to lease buildings or parts of buildings in the District of Columbia, without regard to section 8141 of title 40, for the use of the Commission; and
- (9) to delegate any of its functions or powers, other than the power to issue subpoenas under paragraph (3), to any officer or employee of the Commission.

An order issued under paragraph (1) shall contain a complete statement of the reason the Commission requires the report or answers specified in the order to carry out a specific regulatory or enforcement function of the Commission. Such an order shall be designed to place the least burden on the person subject to the order as is practicable taking into account the purpose for which the order was issued.

(c) Noncompliance with subpoena or Commission order; contempt

Any United States district court within the jurisdiction of which any inquiry is carried on, may, upon petition by the Commission (subject to subsection (b)(7) of this section) or by the Attorney General, in case of refusal to obey a subpoena or order of the Commission issued under subsection (b) of this section, issue an order requiring compliance therewith; and any failure to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt thereof.

(d) Disclosure of information

No person shall be subject to civil liability to any person (other than the Commission or the United States) for disclosing information at the request of the Commission.

(e) Performance and technical data

The Commission may by rule require any manufacturer of consumer products to provide to the Commission such performance and technical data related to performance and safety as may be required to carry out the purposes of this chapter, and to give such notification of such performance and technical data at the time of original purchase to prospective purchasers and to the first purchaser of such product for purposes other than resale, as it determines necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(f) Purchase of consumer products by Commission

For purposes of carrying out this chapter, the Commission may purchase any consumer product and it may require any manufacturer, distributor, or retailer of a consumer product to sell the product to the Commission at manufacturer's, distributor's, or retailer's cost.

(g) Contract authority

The Commission is authorized to enter into contracts with governmental entities, private organizations, or individuals for the conduct of activities authorized by this chapter.

(h) Research, development, and testing facilities

The Commission may plan, construct, and operate a facility or facilities suitable for research, development, and testing of consumer products in order to carry out this chapter.

(i) Recordkeeping; audit

(1) Each recipient of assistance under this chapter pursuant to grants or contracts entered into under other than competitive bidding procedures shall keep such records as the Commission by rule shall prescribe, including records which fully disclose the amount and disposition by such recipient of the proceeds of such assistance, the total cost of the project undertaken in connection with which such assistance is given or used, and the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources, and such other records as will facilitate an effective audit.

(2) The Commission and the Comptroller General of the United States, or their duly authorized representatives, shall have access for the purpose of audit and examination to any books, documents, papers, and records of the recipients that are pertinent to the grants or contracts entered into under this chapter under other than competitive bidding procedures.

(j) Report to President and Congress

Notwithstanding section 3003 of the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 (31 U.S.C. 1113 note), the Commission shall prepare and submit to the President and the Congress at the beginning of each regular session of Congress a comprehensive report on the administration of this chapter for the preceding fiscal year. Such report shall include—

(1) a thorough appraisal, including statistical analyses, estimates, and long-term projections, of the incidence of injury and effects to the population resulting from consumer products, with a breakdown, insofar as practicable, among the various sources of such injury;

(2) a list of consumer product safety rules prescribed or in effect during such year;

(3) an evaluation of the degree of observance of consumer product safety rules, including a list of enforcement actions, court decisions, and compromises of alleged violations, by location and company name;

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- (4) a summary of outstanding problems confronting the administration of this chapter in order of priority;
 - (5) the number and a summary of recall orders issued under section 2061 or 2064 of this title during such year and a summary of voluntary corrective actions taken by manufacturers in consultation with the Commission of which the Commission has notified the public, and an assessment of such orders and actions;
 - (6) beginning not later than 1 year after August 14, 2008—
 - (A) progress reports and incident updates with respect to action plans implemented under section 2064 (d) of this title;
 - (B) statistics with respect to injuries and deaths associated with products that the Commission determines present a substantial product hazard under section 2064 (c) of this title; and
 - (C) the number and type of communication from consumers to the Commission with respect to each product with respect to which the Commission takes action under section 2064 (d) of this title;
 - (7) an analysis and evaluation of public and private consumer product safety research activities;
 - (8) a list, with a brief statement of the issues, of completed or pending judicial actions under this chapter;
 - (9) the extent to which technical information was disseminated to the scientific and commercial communities and consumer information was made available to the public;
 - (10) the extent of cooperation between Commission officials and representatives of industry and other interested parties in the implementation of this chapter, including a log or summary of meetings held between Commission officials and representatives of industry and other interested parties;
 - (11) an appraisal of significant actions of State and local governments relating to the responsibilities of the Commission;
 - (12) with respect to voluntary consumer product safety standards for which the Commission has participated in the development through monitoring or offering of assistance and with respect to voluntary consumer product safety standards relating to risks of injury that are the subject or regulatory action by the Commission, a description of—
 - (A) the number of such standards adopted;
 - (B) the nature and number of the products which are the subject of such standards;
 - (C) the effectiveness of such standards in reducing potential harm from consumer products;
 - (D) the degree to which staff members of the Commission participate in the development of such standards;
 - (E) the amount of resources of the Commission devoted to encouraging development of such standards; and
 - (F) such other information as the Commission determines appropriate or necessary to inform the Congress on the current status of the voluntary consumer product safety standard program; and
 - (13) such recommendations for additional legislation as the Commission deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.
- (k) Budget estimates and requests; legislative recommendations; testimony; comments on legislation**
- (1) Whenever the Commission submits any budget estimate or request to the President or the Office of Management and Budget, it shall concurrently transmit a copy of that estimate or request to the Congress.
 - (2) Whenever the Commission submits any legislative recommendations, or testimony, or comments on legislation to the President or the Office of Management and Budget, it shall

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concurrently transmit a copy thereof to the Congress. No officer or agency of the United States shall have any authority to require the Commission to submit its legislative recommendations, or testimony, or comments on legislation, to any officer or agency of the United States for approval, comments, or review, prior to the submission of such recommendations, testimony, or comments to the Congress.

(Pub. L. 92–573, § 27, Oct. 27, 1972, 86 Stat. 1227; Pub. L. 94–273, § 31, Apr. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 380; Pub. L. 94–284, §§ 8(b), 11 (c), (d), 14, May 11, 1976, 90 Stat. 506–509; Pub. L. 95–631, § 11, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3748; Pub. L. 97–35, title XII, §§ 1207(b), 1208, 1209 (c), 1211 (d), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 718, 720, 721; Pub. L. 110–314, title II, § 209(a), Aug. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 3046.)

References in Text

Section 3003 of the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995, referred to in subsec. (j), is section 3003 of Pub. L. 104–66, which is set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance.

Codification

In subsec. (b)(6), “section 1342 of title 31” substituted for “section 3679 of the Revised Statutes (31 U.S.C. 665 (b))” on authority of Pub. L. 97–258, § 4(b), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1067, the first section of which enacted Title 31, Money and Finance.

“Section 8141 of title 40” substituted in subsec. (b)(8) for “the Act of March 3, 1877 (40 U.S.C. 34)” on authority of Pub. L. 107–217, § 5(c), Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1303, the first section of which enacted Title 40, Public Buildings, Property, and Works.

Amendments

2008—Subsec. (j). Pub. L. 110–314, § 209(a)(1), substituted “Notwithstanding section 3003 of the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 (31 U.S.C. 1113 note), the Commission” for “The Commission” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (j)(5) to (13). Pub. L. 110–314, § 209(a)(2), added pars. (5) and (6) and redesignated former pars. (5) to (11) as (7) to (13), respectively.

1981—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 97–35, § 1208, substituted in par. (1) “may prescribe to carry out a specific regulatory or enforcement function of the Commission” for “may prescribe” and in provision following par. (9) inserted requirement that an order issued under par. (1) shall contain a complete statement of the reason the Commission requires the report or answers specified in the order to carry out a specific regulatory or enforcement function of the commission, and that such an order shall be designed to place the least burden on the person subject to the order as is practicable, taking into account the purposes for which the order was issued.

Subsec. (j)(10), (11). Pub. L. 97–35, § 1209(c), added par. (10) and redesignated former par. (10) as (11).

Subsec. (l). Pub. L. 97–35, § 1207(b), struck out subsec. (l) which provided for reports to the House of Representatives and the Senate of proposed consumer product safety rules and regulations.

Subsec. (m). Pub. L. 97–35, § 1211(d), struck out subsec. (m) which defined “rule”, provided for a study of all the rules in effect on Nov. 10, 1978, and required a report be made to Congress recommending deletion of particular rules or parts of particular rules and initiation of particular rulemaking proceedings.

1978—Subsec. (m). Pub. L. 95–631 added subsec. (m).

1976—Subsec. (b)(7). Pub. L. 94–284, § 11(c), permitted the Commission to initiate, defend, prosecute, or appeal any civil action through its own legal representative provided that the Commission make a written request to the Attorney General for such representation and the Attorney General fail within a 45 day period to notify the Commission in writing that the Attorney General will represent the Commission, and with regard to criminal action, permitted the Commission to initiate, prosecute, or appeal with its own legal representative, with the concurrence of the Attorney General, or through the Attorney General.

Subsec. (b)(8), (9). Pub. L. 94–284, § 8(b), added par. (8) and redesignated former par. (8) as par. (9).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 94–284, § 11(d), substituted “(subject to subsection (b)(7) of this section)” for “with the concurrence of the Attorney General”.

Subsec. (j). Pub. L. 94–273 substituted “at the beginning of each regular session of Congress” for “on or before October 1 of each year”.

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Subsec. (l). Pub. L. 94–284, § 14, added subsec. (l).

Effective Date of 2008 Amendment

Pub. L. 110–314, title II, § 209(b), Aug. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 3047, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section] shall apply with respect to reports submitted for fiscal year 2009 and thereafter.”

Effective Date of 1981 Amendment

Amendment by section 1207(b) of Pub. L. 97–35 applicable with respect to consumer product safety rules under this chapter and regulations under chapters 25 and 30 of this title promulgated after Aug. 13, 1981, and amendment by sections 1208, 1209(c), and 1211(d) of Pub. L. 97–35 effective Aug. 13, 1981, see section 1215 of Pub. L. 97–35, set out as a note under section 2052 of this title.

Submission of Copy of Certain Documents to Congress

Pub. L. 110–314, title II, § 203(a), Aug. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 3040, provided that: “Notwithstanding any rule, regulation, or order to the contrary, the [Consumer Product Safety] Commission shall comply with the requirements of section 27(k) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2076 (k)) with respect to budget recommendations, legislative recommendations, testimony, and comments on legislation submitted by the Commission to the President or the Office of Management and Budget after the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 14, 2008].”

User Fee Study

Pub. L. 101–608, title I, § 119, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3122, directed Consumer Product Safety Commission to conduct a study of feasibility of requiring entities subject to Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2051 et seq.) to pay to Commission amounts to defray reasonable costs of particular services provided by Commission to such entities, with Commission to complete study within one year of Nov. 16, 1990, and report results of study to Congress.