

from any port in the United States, until the owner or shipper thereof shall obtain from an inspector appointed under the provisions of this chapter a certificate that the said cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, and other equines were sound and healthy at the time of inspection, and that their meat is sound and wholesome, unless the Secretary shall have waived the requirements of such certificate for the country to which said cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, and other equines or meats are to be exported.

(Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2907, title I, §17, formerly 15th par., 34 Stat. 1263; renumbered §17 and amended Pub. L. 90-201, §§1, 3(b), 12(a), (g), Dec. 15, 1967, 81 Stat. 584, 588, 592.)

#### CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 85 of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

1967—Pub. L. 90-201, §§3(b), 12(a), (g), struck out “of Agriculture” after “Secretary”, included horses, mules, and other equines in the list of animals, and substituted “goat or equine meat” for “or goat meat, being the meat of animals killed after March 4, 1907, or except as hereinbefore provided”, respectively.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1967 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 90-201 effective Dec. 15, 1967, except that with respect to equines (other than horses) and their carcasses and parts thereof, meat, and meat food products thereof, amendment effective upon expiration of sixty days after Dec. 15, 1967, see section 20(b) of Pub. L. 90-201, set out as an Effective Date note under section 601 of this title.

### § 618. Delivery of inspectors' certificates, and of copies

The inspectors provided for under this subchapter shall be authorized to give official certificates of the condition of the cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, and other equines, their carcasses and products as described in this subchapter; and one copy of every certificate granted under the provisions of this chapter shall be filed in the Department of Agriculture, another copy shall be delivered to the owner or shipper, and when the cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, and other equines, or their carcasses and products are sent abroad, a third copy shall be delivered to the chief officer of the vessel on which the shipment shall be made.

(Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2907, title I, §18, formerly 16th par., 34 Stat. 1263; renumbered §18 and amended Pub. L. 90-201, §§1, 12(a), (h), Dec. 15, 1967, 81 Stat. 584, 592.)

#### CODIFICATION

“Provided for under this subchapter”, and “described in this subchapter” was in the original “provided for herein” and “herein described”, respectively.

Section was formerly classified to section 86 of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

1967—Pub. L. 90-201, §12(a), (h), included horses, mules, and other equines in the list of animals and struck out “sound and wholesome” before “conditions”, respectively.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1967 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 90-201 effective Dec. 15, 1967, except that with respect to equines (other than horses)

and their carcasses and parts thereof, meat, and meat food products thereof, amendment effective upon expiration of sixty days after Dec. 15, 1967, see section 20(b) of Pub. L. 90-201, set out as an Effective Date note under section 601 of this title.

### § 619. Marking, labeling, or other identification of kinds of animals of articles' derivation; separate establishments for preparation and slaughtering activities

No person, firm, or corporation shall sell, transport, offer for sale or transportation, or receive for transportation, in commerce, any carcasses of horses, mules, or other equines or parts of such carcasses, or the meat or meat food products thereof, unless they are plainly and conspicuously marked or labeled or otherwise identified as required by regulations prescribed by the Secretary to show the kinds of animals from which they were derived. When required by the Secretary, with respect to establishments at which inspection is maintained under this subchapter, such animals and their carcasses, parts thereof, meat and meat food products shall be prepared in establishment separate from those in which cattle, sheep, swine, or goats are slaughtered or their carcasses, parts thereof, meat or meat food products are prepared.

(Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2907, title I, §19, formerly 17th par., 34 Stat. 1264; renumbered §19 and amended Pub. L. 90-201, §§1, 9, Dec. 15, 1967, 81 Stat. 584, 590.)

#### CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 87 of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

1967—Pub. L. 90-201, §9, substituted provisions for marking, labeling, or other identification of kinds of animals whence the articles are derived and for separate establishments for preparation and slaughtering activities for prohibition against transportation or sale of meat or meat food products without complying with inspection provisions. See section 610(b) of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1967 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 90-201 effective Dec. 15, 1967, except that with respect to equines (other than horses) and their carcasses and parts thereof, meat, and meat food products thereof, amendment effective upon expiration of sixty days after Dec. 15, 1967, see section 20(b) of Pub. L. 90-201, set out as an Effective Date note under section 601 of this title.

### § 620. Imports

(a) **Adulteration or misbranding prohibition; compliance with inspection, building construction standards, and other provisions; humane methods of slaughter; treatment as domestic articles subject to this chapter and food, drug, and cosmetic provisions; marking and labeling; personal consumption exemption**

No carcasses, parts of carcasses, meat or meat food products of cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, or other equines which are capable of use as human food, shall be imported into the United States if such articles are adulterated or misbranded and unless they comply with all the inspection, building, construction standards, and all other provisions of this chapter and

regulations issued thereunder applicable to such articles in commerce within the United States. No such carcasses, parts of carcasses, meat or meat food products shall be imported into the United States unless the livestock from which they were produced was slaughtered and handled in connection with slaughter in accordance with the Act of August 27, 1958 (72 Stat. 862; 7 U.S.C. 1901-1906). All such imported articles shall, upon entry into the United States, be deemed and treated as domestic articles subject to the other provisions of this chapter and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act [21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.]: *Provided*, That they shall be marked and labeled as required by such regulations for imported articles: *Provided further*, That nothing in this section shall apply to any individual who purchases meat or meat products outside the United States for his own consumption except that the total amount of such meat or meat products shall not exceed fifty pounds.

**(b) Terms and conditions for destruction**

The Secretary may prescribe the terms and conditions for the destruction of all such articles which are imported contrary to this section, unless (1) they are exported by the consignee within the time fixed therefor by the Secretary, or (2) in the case of articles which are not in compliance with the chapter solely because of misbranding, such articles are brought into compliance with the chapter under supervision of authorized representatives of the Secretary.

**(c) Payment of storage, cartage, and labor charges by owner or consignee; liens**

All charges for storage, cartage, and labor with respect to any article which is imported contrary to this section shall be paid by the owner or consignee, and in default of such payment shall constitute a lien against such article and any other article thereafter imported under this chapter by or for such owner or consignee.

**(d) Prohibition**

The knowing importation of any article contrary to this section is prohibited.

**(e) Omitted**

**(f) Inspection and other standards; applicability, enforcement, etc.; certifications**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all carcasses, parts of carcasses, meat, and meat food products of cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, or other equines, capable of use as human food, offered for importation into the United States shall be subject to the inspection, sanitary, quality, species verification, and residue standards applied to products produced in the United States. Any such imported meat articles that do not meet such standards shall not be permitted entry in to the United States. The Secretary shall enforce this provision through (1) the imposition of random inspections for such species verification and for residues, and (2) random sampling and testing of internal organs and fat of the carcasses for residues at the point of slaughter by the exporting country in accordance with methods approved by the Secretary. Each foreign country from which such meat articles are offered for importation into the

United States shall obtain a certification issued by the Secretary stating that the country maintains a program using reliable analytical methods to ensure compliance with the United States standards for residues in such meat articles. No such meat article shall be permitted entry into the United States from a country for which the Secretary has not issued such certification. The Secretary shall periodically review such certifications and shall revoke any certification if the Secretary determines that the country involved is not maintaining a program that uses reliable analytical methods to ensure compliance with United States standards for residues in such meat articles. The consideration of any application for a certification under this subsection and the review of any such certification, by the Secretary, shall include the inspection of individual establishments to ensure that the inspection program of the foreign country involved is meeting such United States standards.

**(g) Administration of animal drugs or antibiotics; terms and conditions; entry order violations**

The Secretary may prescribe terms and conditions under which cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, and other equines that have been administered an animal drug or antibiotic banned for use in the United States may be imported for slaughter and human consumption. No person shall enter cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, and other equines into the United States in violation of any order issued under this subsection by the Secretary.

**(h) Reciprocal meat inspection requirement**

(1) As used in this subsection:

(A) The term "meat articles" means carcasses, meat and meat food products of cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, or other equines, that are capable of use as human food.

(B) The term "standards" means inspection, building construction, sanitary, quality, species verification, residue, and other standards that are applicable to meat articles.

(2) On request of the Committee on Agriculture or the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry or the Committee on Finance of the Senate, or at the initiative of the Secretary, the Secretary shall, as soon as practicable, determine whether a particular foreign country applies standards for the importation of meat articles from the United States that are not related to public health concerns about end-product quality that can be substantiated by reliable analytical methods.

(3) If the Secretary determines that a foreign country applies standards described in paragraph (2)—

(A) the Secretary shall consult with the United States Trade Representative; and

(B) within 30 days after the determination of the Secretary under paragraph (2), the Secretary and the United States Trade Representative shall recommend to the President whether action should be taken under paragraph (4).

(4) Within 30 days after receiving a recommendation for action under paragraph (3), the

President shall, if and for such time as the President considers appropriate, prohibit imports into the United States of any meat articles produced in such foreign country unless it is determined that the meat articles produced in that country meet the standards applicable to meat articles in commerce within the United States.

(5) The action authorized under paragraph (4) may be used instead of, or in addition to, any other action taken under any other law.

(Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2907, title I, § 20, formerly 18th par., 34 Stat. 1264; renumbered § 20 and amended Pub. L. 90-201, §§ 1, 10, Dec. 15, 1967, 81 Stat. 584, 590; Pub. L. 95-445, § 4, Oct. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 1069; Pub. L. 97-98, title XI, § 1122, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1273; Pub. L. 99-198, title XVII, § 1702, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1634; Pub. L. 100-418, title IV, § 4604, Aug. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 1408; Pub. L. 103-182, title III, § 361(f), Dec. 8, 1993, 107 Stat. 2124; Pub. L. 103-437, § 8(2), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4588; Pub. L. 103-465, title IV, § 431(l), Dec. 8, 1994, 108 Stat. 4970.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of August 27, 1958, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 85-765, Aug. 27, 1958, 72 Stat. 862, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 48 (§ 1901 et seq.) of Title 7, Agriculture. Sections 1903 and 1905 of Title 7, included within reference to Act of August 27, 1958, were repealed by Pub. L. 95-445, § 5(b), Oct. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 1069, effective as set forth in section 7 of Pub. L. 95-445, set out as an Effective Date of 1978 Amendment note under section 603 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is act June 25, 1938, ch. 675, 52 Stat. 1040, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 9 (§ 301 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this act to the Code, see section 301 of this title and Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Subsec. (e) of this section, which required the Secretary to submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a comprehensive and detailed written annual report on the administration of this section, terminated, effective May 15, 2000, pursuant to section 3003 of Pub. L. 104-66, as amended, set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance. See, also, page 46 of House Document No. 103-7.

Section was formerly classified to section 88 of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 103-437 substituted "Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry" for "Agriculture and Forestry" in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (e)(1)(A), (B). Pub. L. 103-465, § 431(l)(1), amended subpars. (A) and (B) generally. Prior to amendment, subpars. (A) and (B) read as follows:

"(A) Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), a certification by the Secretary that foreign plants in Canada and Mexico that export carcasses or meat or meat products referred to in subsection (a) of this section have complied with paragraph (2) or with requirements that are equivalent to United States requirements with regard to all inspection and building construction standards, and all other provisions of this chapter and regulations issued under this chapter.

"(B) Subject to subparagraph (C), the Secretary may treat as equivalent to a United States requirement a requirement described in subparagraph (A) if the exporting country provides the Secretary with scientific

evidence or other information, in accordance with risk assessment methodologies agreed to by the Secretary and the exporting country, to demonstrate that the requirement or standard of the exporting country achieves the level of protection that the Secretary considers appropriate."

Subsec. (e)(2) to (7). Pub. L. 103-465, § 431(l)(2), (3), redesignated pars. (3) to (7) as (2) to (6), respectively, and struck out former par. (2) which read as follows: "A certification by the Secretary that, except as provided in paragraph (1), foreign plants that export carcasses or meat or meat products referred to in subsection (a) of this section have complied with requirements that are at least equal to all inspection and building construction standards and all other provisions of this chapter and regulations issued under this chapter."

1993—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 103-182, § 361(f)(1), substituted "not be limited to the following:" for "not be limited to—" in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (e)(1) to (7). Pub. L. 103-182, § 361(f)(2)-(7), added pars. (1) and (2), struck out former par. (1), redesignated pars. (2) to (6) as (3) to (7), respectively, substituted "The" for "the" at beginning of each par., substituted period for semicolon at end of pars. (3) to (5), and substituted period for "and" at end of par. (6). Prior to amendment, former par. (1) read as follows: "A certification by the Secretary that foreign plants exporting carcasses or meat or meat products referred to in subsection (a) of this section have complied with requirements at least equal to all the inspection, building construction standards, and all other provisions of this chapter and regulations issued thereunder;"

1988—Subsec. (e)(6). Pub. L. 100-418, § 4604(b), added par. (6).

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 100-418, § 4604(a), added subsec. (h).

1985—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 99-198, § 1702(a), struck out provision which had made this subsection effective six months after Dec. 22, 1981, and inserted provisions requiring that each foreign country from which meat articles are offered for importation into the United States obtain a certification issued by the Secretary stating that the country maintains a program using reliable analytical methods to ensure compliance with the United States standards for residues in such meat articles, that no meat article be permitted entry into the United States from a country for which the Secretary has not issued such certification, that the Secretary periodically review such certifications and revoke any certification if the Secretary determines that the country involved is not maintaining a program that uses reliable analytical methods to ensure compliance with United States standards for residues in such meat articles, and that the consideration of any application for a certification under this subsection and the review of any such certification, by the Secretary, include the inspection of individual establishments to ensure that the inspection program of the foreign country involved is meeting such United States standards.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 99-198, § 1702(b), added subsec. (g).

1981—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 97-98 added subsec. (f).

1978—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 95-445 prohibited imports which do not comply with humane methods of slaughter.

1967—Pub. L. 90-201, § 10, substituted imported articles provisions for penalty provisions deeming offenses as misdemeanors and punishable by fine of \$10,000 or imprisonment for two years or both. See section 676(a) of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-465 effective, except as otherwise provided, on the date of entry into force of the World Trade Organization Agreement with respect to the United States [Jan. 1, 1995], see section 451 of Pub. L. 103-465, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3601 of Title 19, Customs Duties.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-98 effective Dec. 22, 1981, see section 1801 of Pub. L. 97-98, set out as an Effective Date note under section 4301 of Title 7, Agriculture.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-445 effective one year after Oct. 10, 1978, and an additional eighteen-month period thereafter in hardship cases, see section 7 of Pub. L. 95-445, set out as a note under section 603 of this title.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1967 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 90-201 effective upon expiration of sixty days after Dec. 15, 1967, see section 20(a) of Pub. L. 90-201, set out as an Effective Date note under section 601 of this title.

**§ 621. Inspectors to make examinations provided for; appointment; duties; regulations**

The Secretary shall appoint from time to time inspectors to make examination and inspection of all cattle, sheep, swine, goats, horses, mules, and other equines, inspection of which is hereby provided for and of all carcasses and parts thereof, and of all meats and meat food products thereof, and of the sanitary conditions of all establishments in which such meat and meat food products hereinbefore described are prepared; and said inspectors shall refuse to stamp, mark, tag, or label any carcass or any part thereof, or meat food product therefrom, prepared in any establishment hereinbefore mentioned, until the same shall have actually been inspected and found to be not adulterated; and shall perform such other duties as are provided by this chapter and by the rules and regulations to be prescribed by said Secretary; and said Secretary shall, from time to time, make such rules and regulations as are necessary for the efficient execution of the provisions of this chapter, and all inspections and examinations made under this chapter, shall be such and made in such manner as described in the rules and regulations prescribed by said Secretary not inconsistent with provisions of this chapter.

(Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2907, title I, §21, formerly 19th par., 34 Stat. 1264; renumbered §21 and amended Pub. L. 90-201, §§1, 3(b), 12(a), (i), Dec. 15, 1967, 81 Stat. 584, 588, 592, 593; Pub. L. 99-641, title IV, §403(d)(2), Nov. 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3570.)

## CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 89 of this title.

## AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99-641 temporarily substituted “thereof, and of meat food products” for “and meat food products”, which substitution was made for the first such reference as the probable intent of Congress. See Effective and Termination Dates of 1986 Amendment note below.

1967—Pub. L. 90-201, §§3(b), 12(a), (i), struck out “of Agriculture” after “Secretary” in four places, included horses, mules, and other equines in the list of animals, and substituted “not adulterated” for “sound, healthful, wholesome, and fit for human food, and to contain no dyes, chemicals, preservatives, or ingredients which render such meat food product unsound, unhealthful, unwholesome, or unfit for human food; and to have been prepared under proper sanitary conditions, hereinbefore provided for”, respectively.

## EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Section 403(d)(2) of Pub. L. 99-641 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective only during the 6-year period beginning on Nov. 10, 1986.

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-641 effective Nov. 10, 1986, except that this section as in effect immediately before Nov. 10, 1986, applies with respect to establishments until the Secretary of Agriculture first issues rules and regulations to implement the amendments made by section 403(a) of Pub. L. 99-641 to section 606 of this title, see section 408 of Pub. L. 99-641, set out as a note under section 606 of this title.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1967 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 90-201 effective Dec. 15, 1967, except that with respect to equines (other than horses) and their carcasses and parts thereof, meat, and meat food products thereof, amendment effective upon expiration of sixty days after Dec. 15, 1967, see section 20(b) of Pub. L. 90-201, set out as an Effective Date note under section 601 of this title.

## CONSTRUCTION AND EFFECT OF AMENDMENTS BY PUB. L. 99-641

For provisions relating to construction and effect of temporary amendments by section 403 of Pub. L. 99-641, see sections 403(e) and 404 of Pub. L. 99-641, set out as notes entitled “Inspection Services for Establishments Not Participating in Total Plant Quality-Control Program” and “Savings Provision”, respectively, under section 606 of this title.

**§ 622. Bribery of or gifts to inspectors or other officers and acceptance of gifts**

Any person, firm, or corporation, or any agent or employee of any person, firm, or corporation, who shall give, pay, or offer, directly or indirectly, to any inspector, deputy inspector, chief inspector, or any other officer or employee of the United States authorized to perform any of the duties prescribed by this chapter or by the rules and regulations of the Secretary any money or other thing of value, with intent to influence said inspector, deputy inspector, chief inspector, or other officer or employee of the United States in the discharge of any duty provided for in this chapter, shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000 and by imprisonment not less than one year nor more than three years; and any inspector, deputy inspector, chief inspector, or other officer or employee of the United States authorized to perform any of the duties prescribed by this chapter who shall accept any money, gift, or other thing of value from any person, firm, or corporation, or officers, agents, or employees thereof, given with intent to influence his official action, or who shall receive or accept from any person, firm, or corporation engaged in commerce any gift, money, or other thing of value, given with any purpose or intent whatsoever, shall be deemed guilty of a felony and shall, upon conviction thereof, be summarily discharged from office and shall be punished by a fine not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000 and by imprisonment not less than one year nor more than three years.

(Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2907, title I, §22, formerly 20th par., 34 Stat. 1264; renumbered §22 and amended Pub. L. 90-201, §§1, 3, Dec. 15, 1967, 81 Stat. 584, 588.)

## CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 90 of this title.