

**§ 5308. Protection of proprietary rights****(a) Proprietary rights**

No trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential, under the meaning of section 552(b)(4) of title 5, which is obtained from a company as a result of activities under this chapter shall be disclosed.

**(b) Commercial information**

The Secretary, for a period of up to 5 years after the development of information that—

- (1) results from research and development activities conducted under this chapter; and
- (2) would be a trade secret or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential, under the meaning of section 552(b)(4) of title 5, if the information had been obtained from a company,

may provide appropriate protection against the dissemination of such information, including exemption from subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5.

**(c) Patent rights**

With respect to patent rights, the Institutes shall be treated in the same manner as are non-profit organizations and small business firms under chapter 18 of title 35, notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary contained in that chapter.

(Pub. L. 101-425, §9, Oct. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 919.)

**§ 5309. Omitted**

## CODIFICATION

Section, Pub. L. 101-425, §10, Oct. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 919, which required, at the time the President's annual budget request for the Department is submitted, that the Secretary provide to Congress a detailed review of the progress of the research and development activities authorized under this chapter, 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 84 of House Document No. 103-7.

**CHAPTER 80—FASTENERS**

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|               | (e) Affirmation.                      |
| 5411b.        | Applicability.                        |
| 5412 to 5414. | Repealed.                             |

**§ 5401. Findings**

The Congress finds that—

(1) the United States fastener industry is a significant contributor to the global economy, employing thousands of workers in hundreds of communities;

(2) the American economy uses billions of fasteners each year;

(3) state-of-the-art manufacturing and improved quality assurance systems have dramatically improved fastener quality, so virtually all fasteners sold in commerce meet or exceed the consensus standards for the uses to which they are applied;

(4) a small number of mismarked, misrepresented, and counterfeit fasteners do enter commerce in the United States; and

(5) multiple criteria for the identification of fasteners exist, including grade identification markings and manufacturer's insignia, to enable purchasers and users of fasteners to accurately evaluate the characteristics of individual fasteners.

(Pub. L. 101-592, §2, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2943; Pub. L. 104-113, §11(a), Mar. 7, 1996, 110 Stat. 780; Pub. L. 106-34, §2, June 8, 1999, 113 Stat. 118.)

## AMENDMENTS

1999—Pub. L. 106-34 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section consisted of subsecs. (a) and (b) stating findings of Congress and purpose of this chapter.

1996—Subsec. (a)(4) to (6). Pub. L. 104-113, §11(a)(1), redesignated pars. (5) to (7) as (4) to (6), respectively, and struck out former par. (4) which read as follows: “the sale in commerce of nonconforming fasteners and the use of nonconforming fasteners in numerous critical applications have reduced the combat readiness of the Nation's military forces, endangered the safety of other Federal projects and activities, and cost both the public and private sectors large sums in connection with the retesting and purging of fastener inventories;”.

Subsec. (a)(7). Pub. L. 104-113, §11(a)(2), struck out “by lot number” after “traceability”.

Pub. L. 104-113, §11(a)(1), redesignated par. (8) as (7). Former par. (7) redesignated (6).

Subsec. (a)(8), (9). Pub. L. 104-113, §11(a)(1), redesignated par. (9) as (8). Former par. (8) redesignated (7).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-113, §11(a)(3), substituted “in commerce” for “used in critical applications”.

## SHORT TITLE OF 1999 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-34, §1, June 8, 1999, 113 Stat. 118, provided that: “This Act [enacting sections 5403, 5411a, and 5411b of this title, amending this section and sections 5402 and 5407 to 5411 of this title, repealing sections 5404 to 5406, 5412, and 5414 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 5402 and 5403 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Fastener Quality Act Amendments Act of 1999.’”

## SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 101-592 provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Fastener Quality Act.’”

**§ 5402. Definitions**

As used in this chapter, the term—

(1) “accredited laboratory” means a fastener testing facility used to perform end-of-line testing required by a consensus standard or standards to verify that a lot of fasteners conforms to the grade identification marking