

**§ 346. Tolerances for poisonous or deleterious substances in food; regulations**

Any poisonous or deleterious substance added to any food, except where such substance is required in the production thereof or cannot be avoided by good manufacturing practice shall be deemed to be unsafe for purposes of the application of clause (2)(A) of section 342(a) of this title; but when such substance is so required or cannot be so avoided, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations limiting the quantity therein or thereon to such extent as he finds necessary for the protection of public health, and any quantity exceeding the limits so fixed shall also be deemed to be unsafe for purposes of the application of clause (2)(A) of section 342(a) of this title. While such a regulation is in effect limiting the quantity of any such substance in the case of any food, such food shall not, by reason of bearing or containing any added amount of such substance, be considered to be adulterated within the meaning of clause (1) of section 342(a) of this title. In determining the quantity of such added substance to be tolerated in or on different articles of food the Secretary shall take into account the extent to which the use of such substance is required or cannot be avoided in the production of each such article, and the other ways in which the consumer may be affected by the same or other poisonous or deleterious substances.

(June 25, 1938, ch. 675, § 406, 52 Stat. 1049; Pub. L. 85-929, § 3(c), Sept. 6, 1958, 72 Stat. 1785; Pub. L. 86-618, title I, § 103(a)(1), July 12, 1960, 74 Stat. 398.)

AMENDMENTS

1960—Pub. L. 86-618 repealed subsec. (b) which required Secretary to promulgate regulations for listing of coal-tar colors.

1958—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 85-929 substituted “clause (2)(A)” for “clause (2)” in first sentence.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1960 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 86-618 effective July 12, 1960, subject to the provisions of section 203 of Pub. L. 86-618, see section 202 of Pub. L. 86-618, set out as a note under section 379e of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF NEMATOCIDE, PLANT REGULATOR, DEFOLIANT, AND DESICCANT AMENDMENT OF 1959

Effective date of subsec. (a) as in force prior to July 22, 1954, with respect to particular commercial use of a nematocide, plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant in or on a raw agricultural commodity made before Jan. 1, 1958, see section 3(b) of Pub. L. 86-139, Aug. 7, 1959, 73 Stat. 288.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1958 AMENDMENT

For effective date of amendment by Pub. L. 85-929, see section 6(b), (c) of Pub. L. 85-929, set out as a note under section 342 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Functions vested in Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare [now Health and Human Services] in establishing tolerances for pesticide chemicals under this section together with authority to monitor compliance with tolerances and effectiveness of surveillance and enforcement and to provide technical assistance to States and conduct research under this chapter and section 201 et seq. of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, transferred to Administrator of Environ-

mental Protection Agency by Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1970, § 2(a)(4), eff. Dec. 2, 1970, 35 F.R. 15623, 84 Stat. 2086, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

For transfer of functions of Federal Security Administrator to Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare [now Health and Human Services], and of Food and Drug Administration to Federal Security Agency, see note set out under section 41 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 342, 346a, 371 of this title.

**§ 346a. Tolerances and exemptions for pesticide chemical residues**

**(a) Requirement for tolerance or exemption**

**(1) General rule**

Except as provided in paragraph (2) or (3), any pesticide chemical residue in or on a food shall be deemed unsafe for the purpose of section 342(a)(2)(B) of this title unless—

(A) a tolerance for such pesticide chemical residue in or on such food is in effect under this section and the quantity of the residue is within the limits of the tolerance; or

(B) an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance is in effect under this section for the pesticide chemical residue.

For the purposes of this section, the term “food”, when used as a noun without modification, shall mean a raw agricultural commodity or processed food.

**(2) Processed food**

Notwithstanding paragraph (1)—

(A) if a tolerance is in effect under this section for a pesticide chemical residue in or on a raw agricultural commodity, a pesticide chemical residue that is present in or on a processed food because the food is made from that raw agricultural commodity shall not be considered unsafe within the meaning of section 342(a)(2)(B) of this title despite the lack of a tolerance for the pesticide chemical residue in or on the processed food if the pesticide chemical has been used in or on the raw agricultural commodity in conformity with a tolerance under this section, such residue in or on the raw agricultural commodity has been removed to the extent possible in good manufacturing practice, and the concentration of the pesticide chemical residue in the processed food is not greater than the tolerance prescribed for the pesticide chemical residue in the raw agricultural commodity; or

(B) if an exemption for the requirement for a tolerance is in effect under this section for a pesticide chemical residue in or on a raw agricultural commodity, a pesticide chemical residue that is present in or on a processed food because the food is made from that raw agricultural commodity shall not be considered unsafe within the meaning of section 342(a)(2)(B) of this title.

**(3) Residues of degradation products**

If a pesticide chemical residue is present in or on a food because it is a metabolite or other degradation product of a precursor substance