

(d) Maintenance of records by persons or entities receiving official inspection or weighing services; access to records and facilities

Every State, political subdivision thereof, or person who is the owner or operator of a commercial grain elevator, warehouse, or other storage or handling facility or is engaged in the merchandising of grain other than as a producer, and who, at any time, has obtained or obtains official inspection or weighing services shall maintain such complete and accurate records for such period of time as the Secretary may, by regulation, prescribe for the purpose of the administration and enforcement of this chapter, and permit any authorized representative of the Secretary, at all reasonable times, to have access to, and to copy, such records and to have access to any grain elevator, warehouse, or other storage or handling facility used by such persons for handling of grain.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. B, §12, as added Pub. L. 90-487, §1, Aug. 15, 1968, 82 Stat. 766; amended Pub. L. 94-582, §14, Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2882; Pub. L. 95-113, title XVI, §§1601, 1604(i), Sept. 29, 1977, 91 Stat. 1024, 1029; Pub. L. 103-156, §12(k), Nov. 24, 1993, 107 Stat. 1529; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §293(a)(5)-(7), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3237.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 12 of act Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. B, 39 Stat. 485, which appropriated a sum of \$250,000 for expenses of carrying into effect this chapter, was not classified to the Code.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 struck out “or Administrator” after “representative of the Secretary” in subsec. (c), struck out “or the Administrator” after “representative of the Secretary” in subsec. (d), and substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” wherever appearing.

1993—Pub. L. 103-156, §12(k), which directed amendment of “Section 12”, without specifying the name of the Act being amended, was executed to this section, which is section 12 of the United States Grain Standards Act, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-156, §12(k)(1), substituted “the judgment of the Administrator” for “his judgment”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-156, §12(k)(2), substituted “the Administrator” for “he”.

1977—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 95-113, §1604(i)(1), inserted “, every State agency delegated authority under this chapter,” after “official agency”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 95-113, §1604(i)(1), (2), inserted “, every State delegated authority under this chapter,” after “official agency” and corrected a typographical error in Pub. L. 94-582 under which “delegate authority of this chapter” had been erroneously used instead of “delegated authority under this chapter”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 95-113, §1601, substituted “shall maintain such complete and accurate records for such period of time as the Administrator may, by regulation, prescribe for the purpose of the administration and enforcement of this chapter” for “shall, within the five-year period thereafter, maintain complete and accurate records of purchases, sales, transportation, storage, weighing, handling, treating, cleaning, drying, blending, and other processing, and official inspection and official weighing of grain.”.

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-582 substituted “official agency” for “official inspection agency” and “Administrator” for “Secretary” and inserted reference to licensed performance of official weighing or supervision of weighing function.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-582 substituted “Every official agency and every person licensed to perform any offi-

cial inspection or official weighing or supervision of weighing function under this chapter” for “Every official inspection agency” and “Administrator” for “Secretary” in two places, increased from two to five years the period of time for keeping the records, and inserted provision for keeping the records after the weighing.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 94-582 substituted “Every official agency and every person licensed to perform any official inspection or official weighing or supervision of weighing function under this chapter” for “Every official inspection agency”, provided for access to and the copying of records by any authorized representative of the Administrator or the Comptroller General, and required Administrator audits of official agencies and State agencies delegate authority.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 94-582 added subsec. (d).

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.

MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS NOT INVOLVING OFFICIAL INSPECTION OR OFFICIAL WEIGHING

Pub. L. 103-111, title I, Oct. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 1055, provided in part: “That hereafter, none of the funds available to the Federal Grain Inspection Service may be used to pay the salaries of any person or persons who require, or who authorize payments from fee-supported funds to any person or persons who require nonexport, nonterminal interior elevators to maintain records not involving official inspection or official weighing in the United States under Public Law 94-582 [see Short Title of 1976 Amendment note set out under section 71 of this title] other than those necessary to fulfill the purposes of such Act.”

Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

Pub. L. 102-341, title I, Aug. 14, 1992, 106 Stat. 883.

Pub. L. 102-142, title I, Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 887.

Pub. L. 101-506, title I, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1324.

Pub. L. 101-161, title I, Nov. 21, 1989, 103 Stat. 960.

Pub. L. 100-460, title I, Oct. 1, 1988, 102 Stat. 2238.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 87b of this title.

§ 87b. Prohibited acts

(a) No person shall—

(1) knowingly falsely make, issue, alter, forge, or counterfeit any official certificate or other official form or official mark;

(2) knowingly utter, publish, or use as true any falsely made, issued, altered, forged, or counterfeited official certificate or other official form or official mark, or knowingly possess, without promptly notifying the Secretary or the representative of the Secretary, or fail to surrender to such a representative upon demand, any falsely made, issued, altered, forged, or counterfeited official certificate or other official form, or any device for making any official mark or simulation thereof, or knowingly possess any grain in a container bearing any falsely made, issued, altered, forged, or counterfeited official mark without promptly giving such notice;

(3) knowingly cause or attempt (whether successfully or not) to cause the issuance of a false or incorrect official certificate or other official form by any means, including but not limited to deceptive loading, handling, weighing, or sampling of grain, or submitting grain for official inspection or official weighing or supervision of weighing knowing that it has been deceptively loaded, handled, weighed, or sampled, without disclosing such knowledge to the official inspection personnel before official sampling or official weighing or supervision of weighing;

(4) alter any official sample of grain in any manner or, knowing that an official sample has been altered, thereafter represent it as an official sample;

(5) knowingly use any official grade designation or official mark on any container of grain by means of a tag, label, or otherwise, unless the grain in such container was officially inspected on the basis of an official sample taken while the grain was being loaded into or was in such container or officially weighed, respectively, and the grain was found to qualify for such designation or mark;

(6) knowingly make any false representation that any grain has been officially inspected, or officially inspected and found to be of a particular kind, class, quality, or condition, or that particular facts have been established with respect to grain by official inspection under this chapter, or that any weighing service under this chapter has been performed with respect to grain;

(7) improperly influence, or attempt to improperly influence, any official inspection personnel or personnel of agencies delegated authority or of agencies or other persons designated under this chapter or any officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture with respect to the performance of the duties of the officer, employee, or other person under this chapter;

(8) forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with any official inspection personnel or personnel of agencies delegated authority or of agencies or other persons designated under this chapter or any officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture in, or on account of, the performance of the duties of the officer, employee, or other person under this chapter;

(9) falsely represent that the person is licensed or authorized to perform an official inspection or official weighing or supervision of weighing function under this chapter;

(10) use any false or misleading means in connection with the making or filing of an application for official inspection or official weighing or supervision of weighing;

(11) violate section 77, 78, 79, 79a, 79b, 84, 87, 87a, 87e, or 87f-1 of this title;

(12) knowingly engage in falsely stating or falsifying the weight of any grain shipped in interstate or foreign commerce by any means, including, but not limited to, the use of inaccurate, faulty, or defective weighing equipment; or

(13) knowingly prevent or impede any buyer or seller of grain or other person having a fi-

nancial interest in grain, or the authorized agent of any such person, from observing the loading of the grain inspected under this chapter and the weighing, sampling, and inspection of such grain under conditions prescribed by the Secretary.

(b) No person licensed or authorized to perform any function under this chapter shall—

(1) commit any offense prohibited by subsection (a) of this section;

(2) knowingly perform improperly any official sampling or other official inspection or weighing function under this chapter;

(3) knowingly execute or issue any false or incorrect official certificate or other official form; or

(4) accept money or other consideration, directly or indirectly, for any neglect or improper performance of duty.

(c) An offense shall be deemed to have been committed knowingly under this chapter if it resulted from gross negligence or was committed with knowledge of the pertinent facts.

(d)(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), to ensure the quality of grain marketed in or exported from the United States—

(A) no dockage or foreign material, as defined by the Secretary, once removed from grain shall be recombined with any grain; and

(B) no dockage or foreign material of any origin may be added to any grain.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to prohibit—

(A) the treatment of grain to suppress, destroy, or prevent insects and fungi injurious to stored grain;

(B) the marketing, domestically or for export, of dockage or foreign material removed from grain if such dockage or foreign material is marketed—

(i) separately and uncombined with any such whole grain;

(ii) in pelletized form; or

(iii) as a part of a processed ration for livestock, poultry, or fish;

(C) the blending of grain with similar grain of a different quality to adjust the quality of the resulting mixture;

(D) the recombination of broken corn or broken kernels, as defined by the Secretary, with grain of the type from which the broken corn or broken kernels were derived;

(E) effective for the period ending December 31, 1987, the recombination of dockage or foreign material, except dust, removed at an export loading facility from grain destined for shipment as a cargo under one export official certificate of inspection if—

(i) the recombination occurs during the loading of the cargo;

(ii) the purpose is to ensure uniformity of dockage or foreign material throughout that specific cargo; and

(iii) the separation and recombination are conducted in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary; or

(F) the addition to grain of a dust suppressant, or the addition of confetti or any other similar material that serves the same purpose

in a quantity necessary to facilitate identification of ownership or origin of a particular lot of grain.

(3)(A) The Secretary may, by regulation, exempt from paragraph (1) the last handling of grain in the final sale and shipment of such grain to a domestic user or processor if such exemption is determined by the Secretary to be in the best economic interest of producers, grain merchants, the industry involved, and the public.

(B) Grain sold under an exemption authorized by this paragraph shall be consumed or processed into one or more products by the purchaser, but may not be resold into commercial channels for such grain or blended with other grain for resale. Neither products nor byproducts derived therefrom (except vegetable oils as defined by the Secretary and used as a dust suppressant) shall be blended with or added to grain in commercial channels.

(e)(1) The Secretary may prohibit the contamination of sound and pure grain, or prohibit disguising the quality of grain, as a result of the introduction of—

(A) nongrain substances;

(B) grain unfit for ordinary commercial purposes; or

(C) grain that exceeds action limits established by the Food and Drug Administration or grain having residues that exceed the tolerance levels established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) No prohibition imposed under this section shall be construed to restrict the marketing of any grain so long as the grade or condition of the grain is properly identified.

(3) Prior to taking action under this subsection, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations after providing for notice and an opportunity for public comment, that identify and define actions and conditions that are subject to prohibition.

(4) In no case shall the Secretary prohibit the blending of an entire grade of grain.

(5) In implementing paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary shall report any prohibitions to other appropriate public health agencies.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. B, §13, as added Pub. L. 90-487, §1, Aug. 15, 1968, 82 Stat. 766; amended Pub. L. 94-582, §15, Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2883; Pub. L. 95-113, title XVI, §§1604(j), 1606(h), Sept. 29, 1977, 91 Stat. 1029, 1030; Pub. L. 99-641, title III, §303(a), Nov. 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3564; Pub. L. 101-624, title XX, §2008, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3931; Pub. L. 103-156, §§7, 12(l), Nov. 24, 1993, 107 Stat. 1526, 1529; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §293(a)(7), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3237; Pub. L. 106-472, title I, §107, Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2060.)

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (e)(1). Pub. L. 106-472 inserted “, or prohibit disguising the quality of grain,” after “sound and pure grain” in introductory provisions.

1994—Subsecs. (a)(2), (13), (d)(2)(D), (E)(iii), (e)(1), (3) to (5). Pub. L. 103-354 substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” wherever appearing.

1993—Pub. L. 103-156, §12(l), which directed amendment of “Section 13”, without specifying the name of the Act being amended, was executed to this section, which is section 13 of the United States Grain Standards Act, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 103-156, §12(l)(1), substituted “the representative of the Administrator” for “his representative”.

Subsec. (a)(7), (8). Pub. L. 103-156, §12(l)(2), substituted “the duties of the officer, employee, or other person” for “his duties”.

Subsec. (a)(9). Pub. L. 103-156, §12(l)(3), substituted “the person” for “he”.

Subsec. (a)(11). Pub. L. 103-156, §7, amended par. (11) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (11) read as follows: “violate any provision of section 77; 78; 79(f)(2), (3), or (4); 79a; 79b(c); 84; 87; 87a; or 87f-1 of this title;”.

1990—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101-624 added subsec. (e).

1986—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 99-641 added subsec. (d).

1977—Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 95-113, §§1604(j)(1), 1606(h), substituted “or condition” for “condition, or quantity” and inserted “, or that any weighing service under this chapter has been performed with respect to grain” after “official inspection under this chapter”.

Subsec. (a)(11). Pub. L. 95-113, §1604(j)(2), inserted references to sections 79(f)(3) and (4) and 87f-1 of this title.

Subsec. (a)(12). Pub. L. 95-113, §1604(j)(3), substituted “weighing equipment” for “testing equipment”.

Subsec. (a)(13). Pub. L. 95-113, §1604(j)(4), substituted “financial interest in grain” for “financial interest in the grain” and “loading of the grain” for “loading of grain”.

1976—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 94-582, §15(a)(1), substituted “official mark” for “official inspection mark”.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 94-582, §15(a)(2), substituted “official mark” for “official inspection mark” in three places, “official certificate” for “official inspection certificate” and “Administrator” for “Secretary”.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 94-582, §15(a)(2), prohibited deceptive weighing of grain or submitting grain for official weighing or supervision of weighing knowing it has been deceptively weighed without disclosure before official weighing or supervision of weighing.

Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 94-582, §15(a)(3), substituted “official mark” for “official inspection mark” and inserted “or officially weighed, respectively,” after “such container”.

Subsecs. (a)(7), (8). Pub. L. 94-582, §15(a)(4), inserted “or personnel of agencies delegated authority or of agencies or other persons designated under this chapter” after “personnel”.

Subsec. (a)(9). Pub. L. 94-582, §15(a)(5), inserted “or official weighing or supervision of weighing” after “official inspection”.

Subsec. (a)(10). Pub. L. 94-582, §15(a)(5), (6), inserted “or official weighing or supervision of weighing” after “official inspection” and struck out “or” at end.

Subsec. (a)(11). Pub. L. 94-582, §15(a)(5), inserted after “sections 77, 78,” references to “79(f)(2), 79a, 79b(c)”.

Subsecs. (a)(12), (13). Pub. L. 94-582, §15(a)(6), added pars. (12) and (13).

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 94-582, §15(b), substituted “inspection or weighing function” for “inspection function”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Section 303(b) of Pub. L. 99-641 provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section] shall become effective on May 1, 1987.”

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.

BENEFITS AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH IMPROVED
GRAIN QUALITY

Administrator of Federal Grain Inspection Service to estimate economic impact, including benefits and costs and distribution of such benefits and costs, of any major changes necessary to carry out amendments to this section by title XX of Pub. L. 101-624 prior to making such changes, see section 2003 of Pub. L. 101-624, set out as a note under section 76 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 85, 86, 87c of this title.

§ 87c. Criminal penalties

(a) Any person who commits any offense prohibited by section 87b of this title (except an offense prohibited by paragraphs (a)(7), (a)(8), and (b)(4) in which case the person shall be subject to the general penal statutes in title 18 relating to crimes and offenses against the United States) shall be guilty of a felony and shall, on conviction thereof, be subject to imprisonment for not more than five years, or a fine of not more than \$20,000, or both such imprisonment and fine.

(b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as requiring the Secretary to report minor violations of this chapter for criminal prosecution whenever the Secretary believes that the public interest will be adequately served by a suitable written notice or warning, or to report any violation of this chapter for prosecution when the Secretary believes that institution of a proceeding under section 86 of this title will obtain compliance with this chapter and the Secretary institutes such a proceeding.

(c) Any officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture assigned to perform weighing functions under this chapter shall be considered as an employee of the Department of Agriculture assigned to perform inspection functions for the purposes of sections 1114 and 111 of Title 18.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. B, §14, as added Pub. L. 90-487, §1, Aug. 15, 1968, 82 Stat. 767; amended Pub. L. 94-582, §17, Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2884; Pub. L. 103-156, §§8, 12(m), Nov. 24, 1993, 107 Stat. 1527, 1529; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §293(a)(7), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3237.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-354 substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” wherever appearing.

1993—Pub. L. 103-156, §12(m), which directed amendment of “Section 14”, without specifying the name of the Act being amended, was executed to this section, which is section 14 of the United States Grain Standards Act, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-156, §§8, 12(m)(1), substituted “the person” for “he”, and struck out “shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall, on conviction thereof, be subject to imprisonment for not more than twelve months, or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both such imprisonment and fine; but, for each subsequent offense subject to this subsection, such person” before “shall be guilty of a felony”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-156, §12(m)(2), substituted “the Administrator” for “he” in three places.

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-582 inserted “(except an offense prohibited by paragraphs (a)(7), (a)(8), and (b)(4) in which case he shall be subject to the general penal statutes in Title 18 relating to crimes and offenses

against the United States)”’, increased the punishment for misdemeanors from six months to twelve months and the fine from \$3,000 to \$10,000, and denominated subsequent offenses as felonies, substituting “but, for each subsequent offense subject to this subsection, such person shall be guilty of a felony and shall, on conviction thereof, be subject to imprisonment for not more than five years, or a fine of not more than \$20,000, or both such imprisonment and fine” for “but if such offense is committed after one conviction of such person under this section has become final, such person shall be subject to imprisonment for not more than one year, or a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both such imprisonment and fine”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-582 substituted “Administrator” for “Secretary” and inserted provision that nothing in this chapter shall be construed as requiring the Administrator to report any violation of this chapter for prosecution when he believes that institution of a proceeding under section 86 of this title will obtain compliance with this chapter and he institutes such a proceeding.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 94-582 added subsec. (c).

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.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 79, 79a, 86 of this title.

§ 87d. Responsibility for acts of others

When construing and enforcing the provisions of this chapter, the act, omission, or failure of any official, agent, or other person acting for or employed by any association, partnership, or corporation within the scope of the employment or office of the official, agent, or other person shall, in every case, also be deemed the act, omission, or failure of such association, partnership, or corporation as well as that of the person.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. B, §15, as added Pub. L. 90-487, §1, Aug. 15, 1968, 82 Stat. 768; amended Pub. L. 103-156, §12(n), Nov. 24, 1993, 107 Stat. 1529.)

AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103-156, which directed amendment of “Section 15” by substituting “the employment or office of the official, agent, or other person” for “his employment or office”, without specifying the name of the Act being amended, was executed to this section, which is section 15 of the United States Grain Standards Act, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

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.

§ 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,