

§ 4315. Certification of organizations; applicable criteria and considerations

The eligibility of any organization to represent producers of flowers and plants of any producing area of the United States or importers of flowers and plants, for purposes of requesting the issuance of an order under section 4304 of this title, or making nominations under section 4306(2) of this title, shall be certified by the Secretary. Certification shall be based, in addition to other available information, upon a factual report submitted by the organization which shall contain information deemed relevant and specified by the Secretary for the making of such determination, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) geographic territory covered by the organization's active membership;
- (2) nature and size of the organization's active membership, the proportion of such active membership accounted for by producers and importers, and information as to the volume of production by State or the volume of importation by country accounted for by the organization's producer and importer members;
- (3) the extent to which the producer and importer membership of such organization is represented in setting the organization's policies;
- (4) evidence of stability and permanency of the organization;
- (5) sources from which the organization's operating funds are derived;
- (6) functions of the organization;
- (7) whether the majority of the governing board of the organization is composed of producers and importers; and
- (8) the organization's ability and willingness to further the aims and objectives of this chapter.

The primary consideration in determining the eligibility of any organization shall be whether its membership consists of a substantial number of producers and importers who produce and import a substantial volume of flowers and plants. The Secretary shall certify any organization which is found to be eligible under this section, and the Secretary's determination as to eligibility shall be final. Whenever more than one organization is certified in any geographic area, such organizations may caucus to determine the area's nominations under section 4306(2) of this title.

(Pub. L. 97-98, title XVII, §1716, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1357.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 4304, 4306 of this title.

§ 4316. Regulations

The Secretary may issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 97-98, title XVII, §1717, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1357.)

§ 4317. Investigations; subpoena powers, etc.; enforcement

The Secretary may make such investigations as are deemed necessary to carry out the Sec-

retary's responsibilities under this chapter or to determine whether a producer, importer, wholesaler, retailer, or other seller of flowers and plants, or any other person has engaged or is about to engage in any acts or practices which constitute or will constitute a violation of any provisions of this chapter, or of any order, or rule or regulation issued under this chapter. For the purpose of such investigation, the Secretary is empowered to administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, take evidence, and require the production of any books, papers, and documents which are relevant to the inquiry. Such attendance of witnesses and the production of any such records may be required from any place in the United States. In case of contumacy by, or refusal to obey a subpoena to, any person, including a producer of flowers and plants, the Secretary may invoke the aid of any court of the United States within the jurisdiction of which such investigation or proceeding is carried on, or where such person resides or carries on business, in requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of books, papers, and documents; and such court may issue an order requiring such person to appear before the Secretary, there to produce records, if so ordered, or to give testimony touching the matter under investigation. Any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by such court as a contempt thereof. All processes in any such cases may be served in the judicial district wherein such person is an inhabitant or wherever such person may be found.

(Pub. L. 97-98, title XVII, §1718, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1357.)

§ 4318. Separability

If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this chapter and of the application of such provision to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

(Pub. L. 97-98, title XVII, §1719, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1358.)

§ 4319. Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated such funds as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter. The funds so appropriated shall not be available for payment of the expenses or expenditures of the Floraboard in administering any provisions of any order issued pursuant to the terms of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 97-98, title XVII, §1720, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1358.)

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