

(k) Licensing of other persons**(1) In general**

On presentation of satisfactory proof of competency to carry out the activities described in this paragraph, the Secretary may issue to any person a Federal license—

(A) to inspect any agricultural product stored or handled in a warehouse subject to this chapter;

(B) to sample such an agricultural product;

(C) to classify such an agricultural product according to condition, grade, or other class and certify the condition, grade, or other class of the agricultural product; or

(D) to weigh such an agricultural product and certify the weight of the agricultural product.

(2) Condition

As a condition of a license issued under paragraph (1), the licensee shall agree to comply with this chapter (including regulations promulgated under this chapter).

(l) Examination of books, records, papers, and accounts

The Secretary may examine and audit, using designated officers, employees, or agents of the Department, all books, records, papers, and accounts relating to activities subject to this chapter of—

(1) a warehouse operator operating a warehouse licensed under this chapter;

(2) a person operating a system for the electronic recording and transfer of receipts and other documents authorized by the Secretary; or

(3) any other person issuing receipts or electronic documents authorized by the Secretary under this chapter.

(m) Cooperation with States

The Secretary may—

(1) cooperate with officers and employees of a State who administer or enforce State laws relating to warehouses, warehouse operators, weighers, graders, inspectors, samplers, or classifiers; and

(2) enter into cooperative agreements with States to perform activities authorized under this chapter.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, § 3, as added Pub. L. 106-472, title II, § 201, Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2062.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 242, acts Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, § 2, 39 Stat. 486; Feb. 23, 1923, ch. 106, 42 Stat. 1282, defined terms, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 106-472. See section 241 of this title.

A prior section 3 of act Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, was classified to section 243 of this title, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 106-472.

§ 243. Imposition and collection of fees**(a) In general**

The Secretary shall assess persons covered by this chapter fees to cover the costs of administering this chapter.

(b) Rates

The fees under this section shall be set at a rate determined by the Secretary.

(c) Treatment of fees

All fees collected under this section shall be credited to the account that incurs the costs of administering this chapter and shall be available to the Secretary without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation.

(d) Interest

Funds collected under this section may be deposited in an interest-bearing account with a financial institution, and any interest earned on the account shall be credited under subsection (c) of this section.

(e) Efficiencies and cost effectiveness**(1) In general**

The Secretary shall seek to minimize the fees established under this section by improving efficiencies and reducing costs, including the efficient use of personnel to the extent practicable and consistent with the effective implementation of this chapter.

(2) Report

The Secretary shall publish an annual report on the actions taken by the Secretary to comply with paragraph (1).

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, § 4, as added Pub. L. 106-472, title II, § 201, Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2064.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 243, act Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, § 3, 39 Stat. 486, authorized investigation of warehousing, weighing, classifying, and certification of agricultural products, inspection of warehouses, and prescription of duties of warehousemen by Secretary of Agriculture, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 106-472. See section 242 of this title.

A prior section 4 of act Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, was classified to section 244 of this title, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 106-472.

§ 244. Quality and value standards

If standards for the evaluation or determination of the quality or value of an agricultural product are not established under another Federal law, the Secretary may establish standards for the evaluation or determination of the quality or value of the agricultural product under this chapter.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, § 5, as added Pub. L. 106-472, title II, § 201, Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2064.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 244, acts Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, § 4, 39 Stat. 486; Mar. 2, 1931, ch. 366, § 1, 46 Stat. 1463, authorized licensing of warehousemen, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 106-472. See section 242 of this title.

A prior section 5 of act Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, was classified to section 245 of this title, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 106-472.

§ 245. Bonding and other financial assurance requirements**(a) In general**

As a condition of receiving a license or approval under this chapter (including regulations promulgated under this chapter), the person applying for the license or approval shall execute and file with the Secretary a bond, or provide