

1986—Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 99-570 added subsec. (i).
 1971—Subsecs. (a) to (g). Pub. L. 92-191 designated existing seven paragraphs preceding the penal provisions as subsecs. (a) to (g), respectively.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 92-191 added subsec. (h).

1970—First par. Pub. L. 91-375, §6(j)(25)(B)(ii), substituted “officer or employee of the Postal Service” for “letter carrier”.

Second par. Pub. L. 91-375, §6(j)(25)(A), substituted “Postal Service” and “it shall prescribe” for “Postmaster General” and “he shall prescribe”.

Third par. Pub. L. 91-375, §6(j)(25)(A), substituted “Postal Service” for “Postmaster General” in two places, “prescribed by it” for “prescribed by him”, “antivenom” for “antivenin”, “necessary or desirable” for “necessary or advisable”, and “Postal Service personnel” for “Post Office Department personnel”.

Fourth par. Pub. L. 91-375, §6(j)(25)(A), substituted “Postal Service” and “it shall prescribe” for “Postmaster General” and “he shall prescribe”, respectively, and struck out the comma after “veterinarians”.

Fifth par. Pub. L. 91-375 §6(j)(25)(B)(i) substituted “Postal Service” for “Postmaster General” in two places.

Seventh par. Pub. L. 91-375, §6(j)(25)(B)(i), (iii), substituted “Postal Service” for “Postmaster General” in three places, and “officer or employee of the Postal Service” for “postmaster, letter carrier, or other person in the postal service”, respectively.

Eighth to tenth pars. Pub. L. 91-375, §6(j)(25)(B)(i), substituted “Postal Service” for “Postmaster General”.

1958—Pub. L. 85-623 inserted paragraph prohibiting mailing of switchblade knives except in connection with Armed Forces or other Government orders.

1957—Pub. L. 85-268 reduced penalty from two to one year for mailing nonmailable articles; increased penalty from ten to twenty years for mailing nonmailable matter with intent to kill or injure another or injure the mails or other property but where death does not result; and provided death penalty or life imprisonment for mailing nonmailable matter resulting in death.

1955—Act June 29, 1955, inserted paragraph to permit the transportation in the mails of live scorpions for certain purposes.

1952—Act May 8, 1952, inserted fourth paragraph to extend the Postmaster General’s authority as it relates to the transmission of poisonous drugs through the mails for scientific purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 107-273, div. B, title IV, §4002(b)(2), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1807, provided that the amendment made by section 4002(b)(2) is effective Oct. 11, 1996.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-570 effective 30 days after Oct. 27, 1986, see section 10004 of Pub. L. 99-570, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1245 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1971 AMENDMENT

Section 3 of Pub. L. 92-191 provided that: “The amendments made by this Act [amending this section and section 3001 of Title 39, Postal Service] shall become effective at the beginning of the third calendar month following the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 15, 1971] or on the date section 3001 of title 39, United States Code, becomes effective [July 1, 1971] pursuant to section 15(a) of Public Law 91-375 [set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of title 39], whichever is the later.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by Board of Governors of United States Postal Service and published by it in Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 39, Postal Service.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1958 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 85-623 effective on sixtieth day after Aug. 12, 1958, see Effective Date note set out under section 1241 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Federal Hazardous Substances Act as not modifying this section, see Pub. L. 86-613, §17, July 12, 1960, 74 Stat. 380, set out as a note under section 1261 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

§ 1716A. Nonmailable locksmithing devices and motor vehicle master keys

(a) Whoever knowingly deposits for mailing or delivery, or knowingly causes to be delivered by mail according to the direction thereon, or at any place to which it is directed to be delivered by the person to whom it is addressed, any matter declared to be nonmailable by section 3002 of title 39, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(b) Whoever knowingly deposits for mailing or delivery, causes to be delivered by mail, or causes to be delivered by any interstate mailing or delivery other than by the United States Postal Service, any matter declared to be nonmailable by section 3002a of title 39, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(Added Pub. L. 90-560, §2(1), Oct. 12, 1968, 82 Stat. 997; amended Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, §6(j)(26), 84 Stat. 780; Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, §7090(c), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4410; Pub. L. 101-647, title XXXV, §3551, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4926.)

AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-647 substituted “shall be fined under this title or” for “shall be under this title”.

1988—Pub. L. 100-690 inserted “locksmithing devices and” in section catchline, designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), substituted “under this title” for “fined not more than \$1,000, or”, and added subsec. (b).

1970—Pub. L. 91-375 substituted “section 3002” for “section 4010” of title 39.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by Board of Governors of United States Postal Service and published by it in Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 39, Postal Service.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 3 of Pub. L. 90-560 provided that: “The amendments made by the first section and section 2 of this Act [enacting this section and section 4010 of former Title 39, The Postal Service] shall become effective on the sixtieth day after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 12, 1968].”

§ 1716B. Nonmailable plants

Whoever knowingly deposits for mailing or delivery, or knowingly causes to be delivered by mail, according to the direction thereon, or at any place at which it is directed to be delivered by the person to whom it is addressed, anything declared nonmailable by section 3014(b) of title 39, unless in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Postal Service under section 3014(c) of such title, shall be fined under this title, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(Added Pub. L. 100-574, §1(b)(1), Oct. 31, 1988, 102 Stat. 2893.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 31, 1989, see section 4 of Pub. L. 100-574, set out as a note under section 3014 of Title 39, Postal Service.

§ 1716C. Forged agricultural certifications

Whoever forges or counterfeits any certification authorized under any rules or regulations prescribed under section 3014(c) of title 39 with intent to make it appear that such is a genuine certification, or makes or knowingly uses or sells, or possesses with intent to use or sell, any forged or counterfeited certification so authorized, or device for imprinting any such certification, shall be fined under this title, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(Added Pub. L. 100-574, §2(a), Oct. 31, 1988, 102 Stat. 2893.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 31, 1989, see section 4 of Pub. L. 100-574, set out as a note under section 3014 of Title 39, Postal Service.

§ 1716D. Nonmailable injurious animals, plant pests, plants, and illegally taken fish, wildlife, and plants

A person who knowingly deposits for mailing or delivery, or knowingly causes to be delivered by mail, according to the direction thereon, or at any place at which it is directed to be delivered by the person to whom it is addressed, anything that section 3015 of title 39 declares to be nonmailable matter shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

(Added Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXII, §320108(b)(1), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2113.)

§ 1716E. Tobacco products as nonmailable

(a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All cigarettes and smokeless tobacco (as those terms are defined in section 1 of the Act of October 19, 1949, commonly referred to as the Jenkins Act) are nonmailable and shall not be deposited in or carried through the mails. The United States Postal Service shall not accept for delivery or transmit through the mails any package that it knows or has reasonable cause to believe contains any cigarettes or smokeless tobacco made nonmailable by this paragraph.

(2) REASONABLE CAUSE.—For the purposes of this subsection reasonable cause includes—

(A) a statement on a publicly available website, or an advertisement, by any person that the person will mail matter which is nonmailable under this section in return for payment; or

(B) the fact that the person is on the list created under section 2A(e) of the Jenkins Act.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) CIGARS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to cigars (as defined in section 5702(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

(2) GEOGRAPHIC EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to mailings within the State of Alaska or within the State of Hawaii.

(3) BUSINESS PURPOSES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to tobacco products mailed only—

(i) for business purposes between legally operating businesses that have all applicable State and Federal Government licenses or permits and are engaged in tobacco product manufacturing, distribution, wholesale, export, import, testing, investigation, or research; or

(ii) for regulatory purposes between any business described in clause (i) and an agency of the Federal Government or a State government.

(B) RULES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act of 2009, the Postmaster General shall issue a final rule which shall establish the standards and requirements that apply to all mailings described in subparagraph (A).

(ii) CONTENTS.—The final rule issued under clause (i) shall require—

(I) the United States Postal Service to verify that any person submitting an otherwise nonmailable tobacco product into the mails as authorized under this paragraph is a business or government agency permitted to make a mailing under this paragraph;

(II) the United States Postal Service to ensure that any recipient of an otherwise nonmailable tobacco product sent through the mails under this paragraph is a business or government agency that may lawfully receive the product;

(III) that any mailing described in subparagraph (A) shall be sent through the systems of the United States Postal Service that provide for the tracking and confirmation of the delivery;

(IV) that the identity of the business or government entity submitting the mailing containing otherwise nonmailable tobacco products for delivery and the identity of the business or government entity receiving the mailing are clearly set forth on the package;

(V) the United States Postal Service to maintain identifying information described in subclause (IV) during the 3-year period beginning on the date of the mailing and make the information available to the Postal Service, the Attorney General of the United States, and to persons eligible to bring enforcement actions under section 3(d)¹ of the Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act of 2009;

(VI) that any mailing described in subparagraph (A) be marked with a United States Postal Service label or marking that makes it clear to employees of the United States Postal Service that it is a permitted mailing of otherwise nonmailable tobacco products that may be delivered only to a permitted government agency or business and may not be

¹ See References in Text note below.