

under title 18, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

**(b) Civil penalties**

**(1) In general**

Any person that violates this chapter, or that forges, counterfeits, or, without authority from the Secretary, uses, alters, defaces, or destroys any certificate, permit, or other document provided for in this chapter may, after notice and opportunity for a hearing on the record, be assessed a civil penalty by the Secretary that does not exceed the greater of—

(A) \$50,000 in the case of any individual (except that the civil penalty may not exceed \$1,000 in the case of an initial violation of this chapter by an individual moving regulated articles not for monetary gain), \$250,000 in the case of any other person for each violation, \$500,000 for all violations adjudicated in a single proceeding if the violations do not include a willful violation, and \$1,000,000 for all violations adjudicated in a single proceeding if the violations include a willful violation; or

(B) twice the gross gain or gross loss for any violation, forgery, counterfeiting, unauthorized use, defacing, or destruction of a certificate, permit, or other document provided for in this chapter that results in the person deriving pecuniary gain or causing pecuniary loss to another.

**(2) Factors in determining civil penalty**

In determining the amount of a civil penalty, the Secretary shall take into account the nature, circumstance, extent, and gravity of the violation or violations and the Secretary may consider, with respect to the violator—

- (A) ability to pay;
- (B) effect on ability to continue to do business;
- (C) any history of prior violations;
- (D) the degree of culpability; and
- (E) any other factors the Secretary considers appropriate.

**(3) Settlement of civil penalties**

The Secretary may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions, any civil penalty that may be assessed under this subsection.

**(4) Finality of orders**

The order of the Secretary assessing a civil penalty shall be treated as a final order reviewable under chapter 158 of title 28. The validity of the Secretary's order may not be reviewed in an action to collect the civil penalty. Any civil penalty not paid in full when due under an order assessing the civil penalty shall thereafter accrue interest until paid at the rate of interest applicable to civil judgments of the courts of the United States.

**(c) Liability for acts of an agent**

When construing and enforcing this chapter, the act, omission, or failure of any officer, agent, or person acting for or employed by any other person within the scope of his or her employment or office, shall be deemed also to be the act, omission, or failure of the other person.

**(d) Guidelines for civil penalties**

The Secretary shall coordinate with the Attorney General to establish guidelines to determine under what circumstances the Secretary may issue a civil penalty or suitable notice of warning in lieu of prosecution by the Attorney General of a violation of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 106-224, title IV, § 424, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 450; Pub. L. 107-171, title X, § 10810, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 531; Pub. L. 110-234, title X, § 10203(d), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1343; Pub. L. 110-246, § 4(a), title X, § 10203(d), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2105.)

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 made identical amendments to this section. The amendments by Pub. L. 110-234 were repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (b)(1)(A). Pub. L. 110-246, § 10203(d), substituted “\$500,000 for all violations adjudicated in a single proceeding if the violations do not include a willful violation, and \$1,000,000 for all violations adjudicated in a single proceeding if the violations include a willful violation” for “and \$500,000 for all violations adjudicated in a single proceeding”.

2002—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-171 added subsec. (a) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (a). Text read as follows: “Any person that knowingly violates this chapter, or that knowingly forges, counterfeits, or, without authority from the Secretary, uses, alters, defaces, or destroys any certificate, permit, or other document provided for in this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be fined in accordance with title 18, imprisoned for a period not exceeding 1 year, or both.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Amendment of this section and repeal of Pub. L. 110-234 by Pub. L. 110-246 effective May 22, 2008, the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110-234, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as an Effective Date note under section 8701 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to agricultural import and entry inspection activities under this chapter to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 231, 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

**§ 7735. Enforcement actions of Attorney General**

The Attorney General may—

(1) prosecute, in the name of the United States, all criminal violations of this chapter that are referred to the Attorney General by the Secretary or are brought to the notice of the Attorney General by any person;

(2) bring an action to enjoin the violation of or to compel compliance with this chapter, or to enjoin any interference by any person with the Secretary in carrying out this chapter, whenever the Secretary has reason to believe that the person has violated, or is about to violate this chapter, or has interfered, or is about to interfere, with the Secretary; and

(3) bring an action for the recovery of any unpaid civil penalty, funds under reimbursable agreements, late payment penalty, or interest assessed under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 106-224, title IV, § 425, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 451.)

#### TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to agricultural import and entry inspection activities under this chapter to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 231, 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

### § 7736. Court jurisdiction

#### (a) In general

The United States district courts, the District Court of Guam, the District Court of the Virgin Islands, the highest court of American Samoa, and the United States courts of other territories and possessions are vested with jurisdiction in all cases arising under this chapter. Any action arising under this chapter may be brought, and process may be served, in the judicial district where a violation or interference occurred or is about to occur, or where the person charged with the violation, interference, impending violation, impending interference, or failure to pay resides, is found, transacts business, is licensed to do business, or is incorporated.

#### (b) Exception

This section does not apply to the imposition of civil penalties under section 7734(b) of this title.

(Pub. L. 106-224, title IV, § 426, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 451.)

#### SUBCHAPTER III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

### § 7751. Cooperation

#### (a) In general

The Secretary may cooperate with other Federal agencies or entities, States or political subdivisions of States, national governments, local governments of other nations, domestic or international organizations, domestic or international associations, and other persons to carry out this chapter.

#### (b) Responsibility

The individual or entity cooperating with the Secretary under subsection (a) of this section shall be responsible for—

- (1) the authority necessary to conduct the operations or take measures on all land and properties within the foreign country or State, other than those owned or controlled by the United States; and
- (2) other facilities and means as the Secretary determines necessary.

#### (c) Transfer of biological control methods

The Secretary may transfer to a State, Federal agency, or other person biological control methods using biological control organisms against plant pests or noxious weeds.

#### (d) Cooperation in program administration

The Secretary may cooperate with State authorities or other persons in the administration of programs for the improvement of plants,

plant products, and biological control organisms.

#### (e) Phytosanitary issues

The Secretary shall ensure that phytosanitary issues involving imports and exports are addressed based on sound science and consistent with applicable international agreements. To accomplish these goals, the Secretary may—

- (1) conduct direct negotiations with plant health officials or other appropriate officials of other countries;
- (2) provide technical assistance, training, and guidance to any country requesting such assistance in the development of agricultural health protection systems and import/export systems; and
- (3) maintain plant health and quarantine expertise in other countries—

(A) to facilitate the establishment of phytosanitary systems and the resolution of phytosanitary issues;

(B) to assist those countries with agricultural health protection activities; and

(C) to provide general liaison on agricultural health issues with the plant health or other appropriate officials of the country.

#### (f) Transfer of cooperative agreement fund

##### (1) In general

A State may provide to a unit of local government in the State described in paragraph (2) any cost-sharing assistance or financing mechanism provided to the State under a cooperative agreement entered into under this Act between the Secretary and the State relating to the eradication, prevention, control, or suppression of plant pests.

##### (2) Requirements

To be eligible for assistance or financing under paragraph (1), a unit of local government shall be—

(A) engaged in any activity relating to the eradication, prevention, control, or suppression of the plant pest infestation covered under the cooperative agreement between the Secretary and the State; and

(B) capable of documenting each plant pest infestation eradication, prevention, control, or suppression activity generally carried out by—

(i) the Department of Agriculture; or

(ii) the State department of agriculture that has jurisdiction over the unit of local government.

(Pub. L. 106-224, title IV, § 431, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 451; Pub. L. 110-234, title X, § 10206, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1346; Pub. L. 110-246, § 4(a), title X, § 10206, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2107.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (a), was in the original “this title”, meaning title IV of Pub. L. 106-224, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 438, known as the Plant Protection Act, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of title IV to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 7701 of this title and Tables.

This Act, referred to in subsec. (f)(1), is Pub. L. 106-224, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 358, known as the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000. For complete clas-