

## AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 104-295 amended directory language of Pub. L. 103-182. See 1993 Amendment note below.

1993—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 103-182, as amended by Pub. L. 104-295, substituted “Trade Representative” for “Special Representative”.

**§ 2544. Standards information center****(a) Establishment**

The Secretary of Commerce shall maintain within the Department of Commerce a standards information center.

**(b) Functions**

The standards information center shall—

(1) serve as the central national collection facility for information relating to (A) standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures, and standards-related activities, whether such standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures, or activities are public or private, domestic or foreign, or international, regional, national, or local and (B) the membership and participation of Federal, State, or local government bodies or private bodies in the United States in international and regional standardizing bodies and conformity assessment systems, as well as in bilateral and multilateral arrangements concerning standards-related activities;

(2) make available to the public at such reasonable fee as the Secretary shall prescribe, copies of information required to be collected under paragraph (1) other than information to which paragraph (3) applies;

(3) use its best efforts to make available to the public, at such reasonable fees as the Secretary shall prescribe, copies of information required to be collected under paragraph (1) that is of private origin, on a cooperative basis with the private individual or entity, foreign or domestic, who holds the copyright on the information;

(4) in case of such information that is of foreign origin, provide, at such reasonable fee as the Secretary shall prescribe, such translation services as may be necessary;

(5) serve as the inquiry point for requests for information regarding standards-related activities, whether adopted or proposed, within the United States, except that in carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary of Commerce shall refer all inquiries regarding agricultural products to the technical office established under section 2542(a)(2) of this title within the Department of Agriculture; and

(6) provide such other services as may be appropriate, including but not limited to, such services to the technical offices established under section 2542 of this title as may be requested by those offices in carrying out their functions.

**(c) Sanitary and phytosanitary measures****(1) Public information**

The standards information center shall, in addition to the functions specified under subsection (b) of this section, make available to the public relevant documents, at such reasonable fees as the Secretary of Commerce may prescribe, and information regarding—

(A) any sanitary or phytosanitary measure of general application, including any inspection procedure or approval procedure proposed, adopted, or maintained by a Federal agency or agency of a State or local government;

(B) the procedures of a Federal agency or an agency of a State or local government for risk assessment and factors the agency considers in conducting the assessment;

(C) the determination of the levels of protection that a Federal agency or an agency of a State or local government considers appropriate; and

(D) the membership and participation of the Federal Government and State and local governments in international and regional sanitary and phytosanitary organizations and systems, and in bilateral and multilateral arrangements regarding sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and the provisions of those systems and arrangements.

**(2) Definitions**

The definitions in section 2575b of this title apply for purposes of this subsection.

(Pub. L. 96-39, title IV, § 414, July 26, 1979, 93 Stat. 245; Pub. L. 103-465, title III, § 351(d), title IV, § 431(a), Dec. 8, 1994, 108 Stat. 4956, 4966; Pub. L. 104-295, § 20(c)(15), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3529.)

## AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 104-295 struck out comma after “procedures,” in two places.

1994—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 103-465, § 351(d), inserted “(A)” after “relating to”, substituted “technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures,” for “certification systems” and “such standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures,” for “such standards, systems”, and inserted “and” and cl. (B) before semicolon at end.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-465, § 431(a), added subsec. (c).

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 351(d) of Pub. L. 103-465 effective on the date on which the WTO Agreement enters into force with respect to the United States [Jan. 1, 1995], see section 352 of Pub. L. 103-465, set out as a note under section 2531 of this title.

Amendment by section 431(a) of Pub. L. 103-465 effective on the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement with respect to the United States [Jan. 1, 1995], except as otherwise provided, see section 451 of Pub. L. 103-465, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3601 of this title.

**§ 2545. Contracts and grants****(a) In general**

For purposes of carrying out this subchapter, and otherwise encouraging compliance with the Agreement, the Trade Representative and the Secretary concerned may each, with respect to functions for which responsible under this subchapter, make grants to, or enter into contracts with, any other Federal agency, any State agency, or any private person, to assist such agency or person to implement appropriate programs and activities, including, but not limited to, programs and activities—

(1) to increase awareness of proposed and adopted standards-related activities;

(2) to facilitate international trade through the appropriate international and domestic standards-related activities;

(3) to provide, if appropriate, and pursuant to section 2543 of this title, adequate United States representation in international standards-related activities; and

(4) to encourage United States exports through increased awareness of foreign standards-related activities that may affect United States exports.

No contract entered into under this section shall be effective except to such extent, and in such amount, as is provided in advance in appropriation Acts.

**(b) Terms and conditions**

Any contract entered into, or any grant made, under subsection (a) of this section shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Trade Representative or Secretary concerned shall by regulation prescribe as being necessary or appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

**(c) Limitations**

Financial assistance extended under this section shall not exceed 75 percent of the total costs (as established by the Trade Representative or Secretary concerned, as the case may be) of the program or activity for which assistance is made available. The non-Federal share of such costs shall be made in cash or kind, consistent with the maintenance of the program or activity concerned.

**(d) Audit**

Each recipient of a grant or contract under this section shall make available to the Trade Representative or the Secretary concerned, as the case may be, and to the Comptroller General of the United States, for purposes of audit and examination, any book, document, paper, and record that is pertinent to the funds received under such grant or contract.

(Pub. L. 96-39, title IV, §415, July 26, 1979, 93 Stat. 246; Pub. L. 103-182, title III, §351(b)(2)(A), Dec. 8, 1993, 107 Stat. 2122; Pub. L. 104-295, §21(b)(1), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3529.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-295 amended directory language of Pub. L. 103-182. See 1993 Amendment note below.

1993—Pub. L. 103-182, as amended by Pub. L. 104-295, substituted “Trade Representative” for “Special Representative” wherever appearing.

**§ 2546. Technical assistance**

The Trade Representative and the Secretary concerned may each, with respect to functions for which responsible under this subchapter, make available, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, to any other Federal agency, State agency, or private person such assistance, including, but not limited to, employees, services, and facilities, as may be appropriate to assist such agency or person in carrying out standards-related activities in a manner consistent with this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 96-39, title IV, §416, July 26, 1979, 93 Stat. 247; Pub. L. 103-182, title III, §351(b)(2)(A), Dec. 8, 1993, 107 Stat. 2122; Pub. L. 104-295, §21(b)(1), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3529.)

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1993—Pub. L. 103-182, as amended by Pub. L. 104-295, substituted “Trade Representative” for “Special Representative”.

**§ 2547. Consultations with representatives of domestic interests**

In carrying out the functions for which responsible under this subchapter, the Trade Representative and the Secretary concerned shall solicit technical and policy advice from the committees, established under section 2155 of this title, that represent the interests concerned, and may solicit advice from appropriate State agencies and private persons.

(Pub. L. 96-39, title IV, §417, July 26, 1979, 93 Stat. 247; Pub. L. 103-182, title III, §351(b)(2)(A), Dec. 8, 1993, 107 Stat. 2122; Pub. L. 104-295, §21(b)(1), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3529.)

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PART C—ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS REGARDING STANDARDS-RELATED ACTIVITIES

SUBPART 1—REPRESENTATIONS ALLEGING UNITED STATES VIOLATIONS OF OBLIGATIONS

**§ 2551. Right of action**

Except as provided under this subpart, the provisions of this part do not create any right of action under the laws of the United States with respect to allegations that any standards-related activity engaged in within the United States violates the obligations of the United States under the Agreement.

(Pub. L. 96-39, title IV, §421, July 26, 1979, 93 Stat. 247.)

**§ 2552. Representations**

Any—

(1) Party to the Agreement; or

(2) foreign country that is not a Party to the Agreement but is found by the Trade Representative to extend rights and privileges to the United States that are substantially the same as those that would be so extended if that foreign country were a Party to the Agreement;

may make a representation to the Trade Representative alleging that a standards-related activity engaged in within the United States violates the obligations of the United States under the Agreement. Any such representation must be made in accordance with procedures that the Trade Representative shall by regulation prescribe and must provide a reasonable indication that the standards-related activity concerned is having a significant trade effect. No person other than a Party to the Agreement or a foreign country described in paragraph (2) may make such a representation.