

1958—Subsec. (a)(8). Pub. L. 85-581, §5, inserted “and each kind or variety or type of agricultural seed shown in the labeling to be present in a proportion of 5 per centum or less of the whole”.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 85-581, §6, required label on container to show percentage where two or more varieties of seed are present.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 85-581, §7, substituted “For each variety of vegetable seed” for “For seeds”.

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 85-581, §8, added subsec. (i).

EFFECTIVE DATE

See section 1610 of this title.

§ 1572. Records

All persons transporting, or delivering for transportation, in interstate commerce, agricultural seeds shall keep for a period of three years a complete record of origin, treatment, germination, and purity of each lot of such agricultural seeds, and all persons transporting, or delivering for transportation, in interstate commerce, vegetable seeds shall keep for a period of three years a complete record of treatment, germination and variety of such vegetable seeds. The Secretary of Agriculture, or his duly authorized agents, shall have the right to inspect such records for the purpose of the effective administration of this chapter.

(Aug. 9, 1939, ch. 615, title II, §202, 53 Stat. 1281; Pub. L. 85-581, §9, Aug. 1, 1958, 72 Stat. 477; Pub. L. 89-686, §11, Oct. 15, 1966, 80 Stat. 978.)

AMENDMENTS

1966—Pub. L. 89-686 required record of treatment of agricultural and vegetable seeds.

1958—Pub. L. 85-581 required keeping of records of vegetable seeds.

EFFECTIVE DATE

See section 1610 of this title.

§ 1573. Exemptions

(a) Carrier transporting seeds

The provisions of sections 1571 and 1572 of this title shall not apply to any carrier in respect to any seed transported or delivered for transportation in the ordinary course of its business as a carrier: *Provided*, That such carrier is not engaged in processing or merchandising seed subject to the provisions of this chapter; and such provisions shall not apply to seeds produced by any farmer on his own premises and sold by him directly to the consumer, provided such farmer is not engaged in the business of selling seeds not produced by him: *And provided further*, That such seeds produced or sold by him when transported or offered for transportation to any State, Territory, or District, shall not be exempted from the provisions of sections 1571 and 1572 of this title unless said seeds shall be in compliance with the operation and effect of the laws of such State, Territory, or District, enacted in the exercise of its police power, to the same extent and in the same manner as though such seed had been produced, sold, offered or exposed for sale in such State, Territory, or District, and shall not be exempted therefrom by reason of being introduced therein in original packages or otherwise: *And provided further*, That such seeds produced or sold by him are in

compliance with the seed laws of the State into which the seed is transported.

(b) Seeds not for seeding purposes

The provisions of section 1571(a), (b), or (i) of this title shall not apply—

(1) to seed or grain not intended for seeding purposes when transported or offered for transportation in ordinary channels of commerce usual for such seed or grain intended for manufacture or for feeding; or

(2) to seed intended for seeding purposes when transported or offered for transportation in interstate commerce—

(A) if in bulk, in which case, however, the invoice or other records accompanying and pertaining to such seed shall bear the various statements required for the respective seeds under section 1571(a), (b), and (i) of this title; or

(B) if in containers and in quantities of twenty thousand pounds or more: *Provided*, That (i) the omission from each container of the information required under section 1571(a), (b), and (i) of this title is with the knowledge and consent of the consignee prior to the transportation or delivery for transportation of such seed in interstate commerce, (ii) each container shall have stenciled upon it or bear a label containing a lot designation, and (iii) the invoice or other records accompanying and pertaining to such seed shall bear the various statements required for the respective seeds under section 1571(a), (b), and (i) of this title; or

(C) if consigned to a seed cleaning or processing establishment, to be cleaned or processed for seeding purposes: *Provided*, That (i) this fact is so stated in the invoice or other records accompanying and pertaining to such seed if the seed is in bulk or if the seed is in containers and in quantities of twenty thousand pounds or more, (ii) this fact is so stated on attached labels if the seed is in containers and in quantities less than twenty thousand pounds, and (iii) any such seed later to be labeled as to origin and/or variety shall be labeled as to origin and/or variety in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed under section 1592 of this title.

(c) Emergency preventing presentation of information

When the Secretary of Agriculture finds that, because of the time interval between seed harvesting and sowing, or because of an emergency beyond human control, the information required by this chapter as to the germination, and hard seed of certain kinds of seeds, cannot be given prior to transportation or delivery for transportation in interstate commerce, he may promulgate, with or without a hearing, rules and regulations providing that the provisions of section 1571(a) and (b) of this title as to the required labeling for germination and hard seed shall not apply for such period and to such kinds of seed as he may specify in his said rules and regulations.

(d) Intermixture of unidentified seeds; percentages of kind or kind and variety of seeds

The provisions of sections¹ 1571(a) and (b) of this title relative to the labeling of agricultural and vegetable seeds with the percentages of the kind or kind and variety of seeds shall not be deemed violated if there are seeds in the container or bulk which could not be, or were not, identified because of their indistinguishability in appearance from the seeds intended to be transported or delivered for transportation in interstate commerce: *Provided*, That the records of the person charged with the duty under said section of labeling or invoicing the seeds, kept in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, together with other pertinent facts, disclose that said person has taken reasonable precautions to insure the identity of the seeds to be that stated.

(e) Name of substance used in treatment of seeds

The provisions of section 1571(i) of this title relative to the labeling of agricultural and vegetable seeds with the name of any substance used in the treatment of seeds shall not be deemed violated if the substance or substances used in such treatment could not be or were not identified because of their indistinguishability from the substance or substances intended to be used in the treatment of the seeds: *Provided*, That the records of the person charged with the duty under said section of labeling or invoicing the seeds, kept in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, together with other pertinent facts, disclosed that said person has taken reasonable precautions to insure the identity of the substance or substances to be as stated.

(Aug. 9, 1939, ch. 615, title II, §203, 53 Stat. 1281; Pub. L. 85-581, §10, Aug. 1, 1958, 72 Stat. 477; Pub. L. 89-686, §12, Oct. 15, 1966, 80 Stat. 978.)

AMENDMENTS

1966—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 89-686, §12(a), substituted “the kind or kind and variety of seeds”, “if there are seeds”, “: *Provided*, That”, and “reasonable precautions to insure the identity of the seed to be that stated” for “the kind or variety or type of seeds”, “if there be other seeds”, “, provided that”, and “proper precautions to insure the identity to be that stated”, respectively.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 89-686, §12(b), added subsec. (e).

1958—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 85-581 inserted references to section 1571(i) of this title and eased labeling requirements with respect to shipment of seed in containers and in quantities of twenty thousand pounds or more.

EFFECTIVE DATE

See section 1610 of this title.

§ 1574. Disclaimers, limited warranties and non-warranties

The use of a disclaimer, limited warranty, or nonwarranty clause in any invoice, advertising, labeling, or written, printed, or graphic matter, pertaining to any seed shall not constitute a defense, or be used as a defense in any way, in any prosecution or other proceeding brought under the provisions of this chapter, or the rules and regulations made and promulgated thereunder.

¹ So in original. Probably should be “section”.

Nothing in this section is intended to preclude the use of a disclaimer, limited warranty, or nonwarranty clause as a defense in any proceeding not brought under this chapter.

(Aug. 9, 1939, ch. 615, title II, §204, 53 Stat. 1282; July 9, 1956, ch. 520, §2, 70 Stat. 508; Pub. L. 85-581, §11, Aug. 1, 1958, 72 Stat. 478.)

AMENDMENTS

1958—Pub. L. 85-581 precluded use of limited warranty clause as defense in prosecution or other proceeding brought under provisions of this chapter and stated that use of enumerated clauses as defenses in proceedings not brought under this chapter is not barred.

1956—Act July 9, 1956, substituted “or other proceeding” for “, or in any proceeding for confiscation of seeds,”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1956 AMENDMENT

Amendments made by act July 9, 1956, applicable only with respect to violations occurring after July 9, 1956, see note set out under section 1596 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

See section 1610 of this title.

§ 1575. False advertising

It shall be unlawful for any person to disseminate, or cause to be disseminated, any false advertisement concerning seed, by the United States mails, or in interstate or foreign commerce, in any manner or by any means, including radio broadcasts: *Provided, however*, That no person, advertising agency, or medium for the dissemination of advertising, except the person who transported, delivered for transportation, sold, or offered for sale seed to which the false advertisement relates, shall be liable under this section by reason of disseminating or causing to be disseminated any false advertisement, unless he or it has refused, on the request of the Secretary of Agriculture, to furnish the Secretary the name and post-office address of the person, or advertising agency, residing in the United States, who caused, directly or indirectly, the dissemination of such advertisement.

(Aug. 9, 1939, ch. 615, title II, §205, 53 Stat. 1282.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

See section 1610 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER III—FOREIGN COMMERCE

§ 1581. Prohibitions relating to importations

The importation into the United States is prohibited of—

(1) any agricultural or vegetable seeds if any such seed contains noxious-weed seeds or the labeling of which is false or misleading in any respect;

(2) screenings of any seeds subject to this subchapter (except that this shall not apply to screenings of wheat, oats, rye, barley, buckwheat, field corn, sorghum, broomcorn, flax, millet, proso, soybeans, cowpeas, field peas, or field beans, which are not imported for seeding purposes and are declared for cleaning, processing, or manufacturing purposes, and not for seeding purposes);

(3) any seed containing 10 per centum or more of any agricultural or vegetable seeds,