

pointed from individuals nominated by importers or exporters.

(4) Public representative

The public representative shall be appointed from nominations submitted by other members of the Board.

(5) Failure to nominate

If producers, importers, and exporters fail to nominate individuals for appointment, the Secretary may appoint members and alternates on a basis provided for in the order. If the Board fails to nominate a public representative, the member and alternate may be appointed by the Secretary without a nomination.

(d) Alternates

The Secretary shall appoint an alternate for each member of the Board. An alternate shall—

(1) be appointed in the same manner as the member for whom the individual is an alternate; and

(2) serve on the Board if the member is absent from a meeting or is disqualified under subsection (f).

(e) Terms

A member of the Board shall be appointed for a term of 3 years. No member may serve more than 2 consecutive 3-year terms, except that of the members first appointed—

(1) 5 members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

(2) 6 members shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(f) Disqualification

If a member or alternate of the Board who was appointed as a producer, importer, exporter, or public representative member ceases to belong to the group for which the member was appointed, the member or alternate shall be disqualified from serving on the Board.

(g) Compensation

A member or alternate of the Board shall serve without pay.

(h) General powers and duties

The Board shall—

(1) administer an order issued by the Secretary under section 7463 of this title, and an amendment to the order, in accordance with the order and amendment and this subchapter;

(2) prescribe rules and regulations to carry out the order;

(3) meet, organize, and select from among members of the Board a chairperson, other officers, and committees and subcommittees, as the Board determines appropriate;

(4) receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary accounts of violations of the order;

(5) make recommendations to the Secretary with respect to an amendment that should be made to the order; and

(6) employ or contract with a manager and staff to assist in administering the order, except that, to reduce administrative costs and increase efficiency, the Board shall seek, to the extent practicable, to employ or contract with personnel who are already associated

with organizations involved in promoting kiwifruit that are chartered by a State, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title V, § 555, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1066; Pub. L. 105-185, title VI, § 603(b), June 23, 1998, 112 Stat. 585.)

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-185, § 603(b)(1), added pars. (1) and (2) and struck out former pars. (1) to (3) which read as follows:

“(1) 6 members who are producers (or representatives of producers) and who are not exempt from an assessment under section 7465(b) of this title.

“(2) 4 members who are importers (or representatives of importers) and who are not exempt from an assessment under section 7465(b) of this title or are exporters (or representatives of exporters).

“(3) 1 member appointed from the general public.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 105-185, § 603(b)(2), struck out par. (1) designation and heading, struck out “and to paragraph (2)” after “11-member limit”, and struck out heading and text of par. (2). Text read as follows: “Producers shall comprise not less than 51 percent of the membership of the Board.”

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 105-185, § 603(b)(3)(A), inserted “who are producers” after “members”.

Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 105-185, § 603(b)(3)(B), inserted “who are importers or exporters” after “members” and substituted “(a)(1)” for “(a)(2)”.

Subsec. (c)(5). Pub. L. 105-185, § 603(b)(3)(C), inserted “and alternate” before “may be appointed” in second sentence.

§ 7465. Required terms in order

(a) Budgets and plans

(1) In general

An order issued under section 7463 of this title shall provide for periodic budgets and plans in accordance with this subsection.

(2) Budgets

The Board shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a budget prior to the beginning of the fiscal year of the anticipated expenses and disbursements of the Board in the administration of the order, including probable costs of research, promotion, and consumer information. A budget shall become effective on a 2/3-vote of a quorum of the Board and approval by the Secretary.

(3) Plans

Each budget shall include a plan for research, promotion, and consumer information regarding kiwifruit. A plan under this paragraph shall become effective on approval by the Secretary. The Board may enter into contracts and agreements, on approval by the Secretary, for—

(A) the development and carrying out of the plan; and

(B) the payment of the cost of the plan, with funds collected pursuant to this subchapter.

(b) Assessments

(1) In general

The order shall provide for the imposition and collection of assessments with regard to the production and importation of kiwifruit in accordance with this subsection.

(2) Rate

The assessment rate shall be the rate that is recommended by a 2/3-vote of a quorum of the Board and approved by the Secretary, except that the rate shall not exceed \$0.10 per 7-pound tray of kiwifruit or an equivalent rate.

(3) Collection by first handlers

Except as provided in paragraph (5), the first handler of kiwifruit shall—

(A) be responsible for the collection from the producer, and payment to the Board, of assessments required under this subsection; and

(B) maintain a separate record of the kiwifruit of each producer whose kiwifruit are so handled, including the kiwifruit owned by the handler.

(4) Importers

The assessment on imported kiwifruit shall be paid by the importer to the United States Customs Service at the time of entry into the United States and shall be remitted to the Board.

(5) Exemption from assessment

The following persons or activities are exempt from an assessment under this subsection:

(A) A producer who produces less than 500 pounds of kiwifruit per year.

(B) An importer who imports less than 10,000 pounds of kiwifruit per year.

(C) A sale of kiwifruit made directly from the producer to a consumer for a purpose other than resale.

(D) The production or importation of kiwifruit for processing.

(6) Claim of exemption

To claim an exemption under paragraph (5) for a particular year, a person shall—

(A) submit an application to the Board stating the basis for the exemption and certifying that the quantity of kiwifruit produced, imported, or sold by the person will not exceed any poundage limitation required for the exemption in the year; or

(B) be on a list of approved processors developed by the Board.

(c) Use of assessments**(1) Authorized uses**

The order shall provide that funds paid to the Board as assessments under subsection (b) may be used by the Board—

(A) to pay for research, promotion, and consumer information described in the budget of the Board under subsection (a) and for other expenses incurred by the Board in the administration of an order;

(B) to pay such other expenses for the administration, maintenance, and functioning of the Board (including any enforcement efforts for the collection of assessments) as may be authorized by the Secretary, including interest and penalties for late payments; and

(C) to fund a reserve established under section 7466(d) of this title.

(2) Required uses

The order shall provide that funds paid to the Board as assessments under subsection (b) shall be used by the Board—

(A) to pay the expenses incurred by the Secretary, including salaries and expenses of Federal Government employees, in implementing and administering the order; and

(B) to reimburse the Secretary for any expenses incurred by the Secretary in conducting referenda under this subchapter.

(3) Limitation on use of assessments

Except for the first year of operation of the Board, expenses for the administration, maintenance, and functioning of the Board may not exceed 30 percent of the budget for a year.

(d) False claims

The order shall provide that any promotion funded with assessments collected under subsection (b) may not make—

(1) any false claims on behalf of kiwifruit; and

(2) any false statements with respect to the attributes or use of any product that competes with kiwifruit for sale in commerce.

(e) Prohibition on use of funds

The order shall provide that funds collected by the Board under this subchapter through assessments may not, in any manner, be used for the purpose of influencing legislation or governmental policy or action, except for making recommendations to the Secretary as provided for under this subchapter.

(f) Books, records, and reports**(1) Board**

The order shall require the Board—

(A) to maintain books and records with respect to the receipt and disbursement of funds received by the Board;

(B) to submit to the Secretary from time to time such reports as the Secretary may require for appropriate accounting; and

(C) to submit to the Secretary at the end of each fiscal year a complete audit report by an independent auditor regarding the activities of the Board during the fiscal year.

(2) Others

To make information and data available to the Board and the Secretary that is appropriate or necessary for the effectuation, administration, or enforcement of this subchapter (or any order or regulation issued under this subchapter), the order shall require handlers and importers who are responsible for the collection, payment, or remittance of assessments under subsection (b)—

(A) to maintain and make available for inspection by the employees and agents of the Board and the Secretary such books and records as may be required by the order; and

(B) to file, at the times and in the manner and content prescribed by the order, reports regarding the collection, payment, or remittance of the assessments.

(g) Confidentiality**(1) In general**

The order shall require that all information obtained pursuant to subsection (f)(2) be kept

confidential by all officers, employees, and agents of the Department of Agriculture and of the Board. Only such information as the Secretary considers relevant shall be disclosed to the public and only in a suit or administrative hearing, brought at the request of the Secretary or to which the Secretary or any officer of the United States is a party, involving the order with respect to which the information was furnished or acquired.

(2) Limitations

Nothing in this subsection prohibits—

(A) the issuance of general statements based on the reports of a number of handlers and importers subject to an order, if the statements do not identify the information furnished by any person; or

(B) the publication, by direction of the Secretary, of the name of any person violating an order issued under section 7463(a) of this title, together with a statement of the particular provisions of the order violated by the person.

(3) Penalty

Any person who willfully violates this subsection, on conviction, shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or to imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both, and, if the person is a member, officer, or agent of the Board or an employee of the Department of Agriculture, shall be removed from office.

(h) Withholding of information

Nothing in this subchapter authorizes the withholding of information from Congress.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title V, §556, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1067.)

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the United States Customs Service of the Department of the Treasury, including functions of the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 203(1), 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.

§ 7466. Permissive terms in order

(a) Permissive terms

On the recommendation of the Board and with the approval of the Secretary, an order issued under section 7463 of this title may include the terms and conditions specified in this section and such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary considers necessary to effectuate the other provisions of the order and are incidental to, and not inconsistent with, this subchapter.

(b) Alternative payment and reporting schedules

The order may authorize the Board to designate different handler payment and reporting schedules to recognize differences in marketing practices and procedures.

(c) Working groups

The order may authorize the Board to convene working groups drawn from producers, handlers, importers, exporters, or the general public and

utilize the expertise of the groups to assist in the development of research and marketing programs for kiwifruit.

(d) Reserve funds

The order may authorize the Board to accumulate reserve funds from assessments collected pursuant to section 7465(b) of this title to permit an effective and continuous coordinated program of research, promotion, and consumer information in years in which production and assessment income may be reduced, except that any reserve fund may not exceed the amount budgeted for operation of this subchapter for 1 year.

(e) Promotion activities outside United States

The order may authorize the Board to use, with the approval of the Secretary, funds collected under section 7465(b) of this title and funds from other sources for the development and expansion of sales in foreign markets of kiwifruit produced in the United States.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title V, §557, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1070.)

§ 7467. Petition and review

(a) Petition

(1) In general

A person subject to an order may file with the Secretary a petition—

(A) stating that the order, a provision of the order, or an obligation imposed in connection with the order is not in accordance with law; and

(B) requesting a modification of the order or an exemption from the order.

(2) Hearings

A person submitting a petition under paragraph (1) shall be given an opportunity for a hearing on the petition, in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary.

(3) Ruling

After the hearing, the Secretary shall issue a ruling on the petition which shall be final if the petition is in accordance with law.

(4) Limitation on petition

Any petition filed under this subchapter challenging an order, or any obligation imposed in connection with an order, shall be filed not later than 2 years after the effective date of the order or imposition of the obligation.

(b) Review

(1) Commencement of action

The district court of the United States for any district in which the person who is a petitioner under subsection (a) resides or carries on business is vested with jurisdiction to review the ruling on the petition of the person, if a complaint for that purpose is filed not later than 20 days after the date of the entry of a ruling by the Secretary under subsection (a).

(2) Process

Service of process in the proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.