

or availability of, or access to, published reports or information, or for any other activity required under this subchapter.

(Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, title II, § 254, as added Pub. L. 106-78, title IX, § 911(2), Oct. 22, 1999, 113 Stat. 1203.)

§ 1636d. Recordkeeping

(a) In general

Subject to subsection (b), each packer required to report information to the Secretary under this subchapter shall maintain, and make available to the Secretary on request, for 2 years—

(1) the original contracts, agreements, receipts and other records associated with any transaction relating to the purchase, sale, pricing, transportation, delivery, weighing, slaughter, or carcass characteristics of all livestock; and

(2) such records or other information as is necessary or appropriate to verify the accuracy of the information required to be reported under this subchapter.

(b) Limitations

Under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary may not require a packer to provide new or additional information if—

(1) the information is not generally available or maintained by packers; or

(2) the provision of the information would be unduly burdensome.

(c) Purchases of cattle or swine

A record of a purchase of a lot of cattle or a lot of swine by a packer shall evidence whether the purchase occurred—

(1) before 10:00 a.m. Central Time;

(2) between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Central Time; or

(3) after 2:00 p.m. Central Time.

(Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, title II, § 255, as added Pub. L. 106-78, title IX, § 911(2), Oct. 22, 1999, 113 Stat. 1203.)

§ 1636e. Voluntary reporting

The Secretary shall encourage voluntary reporting by packers (as defined in section 191 of this title) to which the mandatory reporting requirements of this subchapter do not apply.

(Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, title II, § 256, as added Pub. L. 106-78, title IX, § 911(2), Oct. 22, 1999, 113 Stat. 1204.)

§ 1636f. Publication of information on retail purchase prices for representative meat products

(a) In general

Beginning not later than 90 days after October 22, 1999, the Secretary shall compile and publish at least monthly (weekly, if practicable) information on retail prices for representative food products made from beef, pork, chicken, turkey, veal, or lamb.

(b) Information

The report published by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) information on retail prices for each representative food product described in subsection (a); and

(2) information on total sales quantity (in pounds and dollars) for each representative food product.

(c) Meat Price Spreads Report

During the period ending 2 years after the initial publication of the report required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall continue to publish the Meat Price Spreads Report in the same manner as the Report was published before October 22, 1999.

(d) Information collection

(1) In general

To ensure the accuracy of the reports required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall obtain the information for the reports from one or more sources including—

(A) a consistently representative set of retail transactions; and

(B) both prices and sales quantities for the transactions.

(2) Source of information

The Secretary may—

(A) obtain the information from retailers or commercial information sources; and

(B) use valid statistical sampling procedures, if necessary.

(3) Adjustments

In providing information on retail prices under this section, the Secretary may make adjustments to take into account differences in—

(A) the geographic location of consumption;

(B) the location of the principal source of supply;

(C) distribution costs; and

(D) such other factors as the Secretary determines reflect a verifiable comparative retail price for a representative food product.

(e) Administration

The Secretary—

(1) shall collect information under this section only on a voluntary basis; and

(2) shall not impose a penalty on a person for failure to provide the information or otherwise compel a person to provide the information.

(Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, title II, § 257, as added Pub. L. 106-78, title IX, § 911(2), Oct. 22, 1999, 113 Stat. 1204.)

§ 1636g. Suspension authority regarding specific terms of price reporting requirements

(a) In general

The Secretary may suspend any requirement of this subchapter if the Secretary determines that application of the requirement is inconsistent with the purposes of this subchapter.

(b) Suspension procedure

(1) Period

A suspension under subsection (a) shall be for a period of not more than 240 days.

(2) Action by Congress

If an Act of Congress concerning the requirement that is the subject of the suspension