

**(d) Determination of appealability of agency decisions**

If an officer, employee, or committee of an agency determines that a decision is not appealable and a participant appeals the decision to the Director, the Director shall determine whether the decision is adverse to the individual participant and thus appealable or is a matter of general applicability and thus not subject to appeal. The determination of the Director as to whether a decision is appealable shall be administratively final.

**(e) Division personnel**

The Director shall appoint such hearing officers and other employees as are necessary for the administration of the Division. A hearing officer or other employee of the Division shall have no duties other than those that are necessary to carry out this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §272, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3229; Pub. L. 113-79, title I, §1610(a), Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 709.)

## AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 113-79 added subsec. (c) and struck out former subsec. (c). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Director shall be free from the direction and control of any person other than the Secretary. The Division shall not receive administrative support (except on a reimbursable basis) from any agency other than the Office of the Secretary. The Secretary may not delegate to any other officer or employee of the Department, other than the Director, the authority of the Secretary with respect to the Division.”

**§ 6993. Transfer of functions**

There are transferred to the Division all functions exercised and all administrative appeals pending before the effective date of this subchapter (including all related functions of any officer or employee) of or relating to—

- (1) the National Appeals Division established by section 1433e(c)<sup>1</sup> of this title (as in effect on the day before October 13, 1994);
- (2) the National Appeals Division established by subsections (d) through (g) of section 1983b<sup>1</sup> of this title (as in effect on the day before October 13, 1994);
- (3) appeals of decisions made by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation; and
- (4) appeals of decisions made by the Soil Conservation Service (as in effect on the day before October 13, 1994).

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §273, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3230.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The effective date of this subchapter, referred to in text, probably means the date of enactment of Pub. L. 103-354, which was approved Oct. 13, 1994.

Section 1433e of this title, referred to in par. (1), was repealed by Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §281(b), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3233.

Section 1983b of this title, referred to in par. (2), was repealed by Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §281(c), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3233.

**§ 6994. Notice and opportunity for hearing**

Not later than 10 working days after an adverse decision is made that affects the partici-

part, the Secretary shall provide the participant with written notice of such adverse decision and the rights available to the participant under this subchapter or other law for the review of such adverse decision.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §274, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3230.)

**§ 6995. Informal hearings****(a) In general**

If an officer, employee, or committee of an agency makes an adverse decision, the agency shall hold, at the request of the participant, an informal hearing on the decision.

**(b) Farm Service Agency**

With respect to programs carried out through the Consolidated Farm Service Agency (or other office, agency, or administrative unit of the Department assigned to carry out the programs authorized for the Consolidated Farm Service Agency under section 6932 of this title), the Secretary shall maintain the informal appeals process applicable to such programs, as in effect on October 13, 1994.

**(c) Mediation**

If a mediation program is available under title V of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) as a part of the informal hearing process, the participant shall—

- (1) be offered the right to choose such mediation; and
- (2) to the maximum extent practicable, be allowed to use both informal agency review and mediation to resolve disputes under that title.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §275, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3230; Pub. L. 110-234, title XII, §12032, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1391; Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title XII, §12032, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2153.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, referred to in subsec. (c), is Pub. L. 100-233, Jan. 6, 1988, 101 Stat. 1568. Title V of the Act is classified principally to chapter 82 (§5101 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1988 Amendments note set out under section 2001 of Title 12, Banks and Banking, and Tables.

## 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—Pub. L. 110-246, §12032, designated the three sentences of existing provisions as subsecs. (a) to (c), respectively, inserted headings, and in subsec. (c) designated part of existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

## 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.

**§ 6996. Right of participants to Division hearing****(a) Appeal to Division for hearing**

Subject to subsection (b), a participant shall have the right to appeal an adverse decision to

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.