

adequate to provide assurances that each foreign supplier to the importer produces the imported food in compliance with—

- (i) processes and procedures, including reasonably appropriate risk-based preventive controls, that provide the same level of public health protection as those required under section 350g of this title or section 350h of this title (taking into consideration variances granted under section 350h of this title), as appropriate; and
- (ii) section 342 of this title and section 343(w) of this title.<sup>1</sup>

(B) shall include such other requirements as the Secretary deems necessary and appropriate to verify that food imported into the United States is as safe as food produced and sold within the United States.

### (3) Considerations

In promulgating regulations under this subsection, the Secretary shall, as appropriate, take into account differences among importers and types of imported foods, including based on the level of risk posed by the imported food.

### (4) Activities

Verification activities under a foreign supplier verification program under this section may include monitoring records for shipments, lot-by-lot certification of compliance, annual on-site inspections, checking the hazard analysis and risk-based preventive control plan of the foreign supplier, and periodically testing and sampling shipments.

### (d) Record maintenance and access

Records of an importer related to a foreign supplier verification program shall be maintained for a period of not less than 2 years and shall be made available promptly to a duly authorized representative of the Secretary upon request.

### (e) Exemption of seafood, juice, and low-acid canned food facilities in compliance with HACCP

This section shall not apply to a facility if the owner, operator, or agent in charge of such facility is required to comply with, and is in compliance with, 1 of the following standards and regulations with respect to such facility:

- (1) The Seafood Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points Program of the Food and Drug Administration.
- (2) The Juice Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points Program of the Food and Drug Administration.
- (3) The Thermally Processed Low-Acid Foods Packaged in Hermetically Sealed Containers standards of the Food and Drug Administration (or any successor standards).

The exemption under paragraph (3) shall apply only with respect to microbiological hazards that are regulated under the standards for Thermally Processed Low-Acid Foods Packaged in Hermetically Sealed Containers under part 113 of chapter<sup>2</sup> 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

<sup>1</sup> So in original.

<sup>2</sup> So in original. Probably should be "title".

### (f) Additional exemptions

The Secretary, by notice published in the Federal Register, shall establish an exemption from the requirements of this section for articles of food imported in small quantities for research and evaluation purposes or for personal consumption, provided that such foods are not intended for retail sale and are not sold or distributed to the public.

### (g) Publication of list of participants

The Secretary shall publish and maintain on the Internet Web site of the Food and Drug Administration a current list that includes the name of, location of, and other information deemed necessary by the Secretary about, importers participating under this section.

(June 25, 1938, ch. 675, §805, as added Pub. L. 111-353, title III, §301(a), Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3953.)

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 2 years after Jan. 4, 2011, see section 301(d) of Pub. L. 111-353, set out as an Effective Date of 2011 Amendment note under section 331 of this title.

#### CONSTRUCTION

Nothing in this section to be construed to apply to certain alcohol-related facilities, to alter jurisdiction and authorities established under certain other Acts, or in a manner inconsistent with international agreements to which the United States is a party, see sections 2206, 2251, and 2252 of this title.

## § 384b. Voluntary qualified importer program

### (a) In general

Beginning not later than 18 months after January 4, 2011, the Secretary shall—

- (1) establish a program, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security—

(A) to provide for the expedited review and importation of food offered for importation by importers who have voluntarily agreed to participate in such program; and

(B) consistent with section 384d of this title, establish a process for the issuance of a facility certification to accompany food offered for importation by importers who have voluntarily agreed to participate in such program; and

- (2) issue a guidance document related to participation in, revocation of such participation in, reinstatement in, and compliance with, such program.

### (b) Voluntary participation

An importer may request the Secretary to provide for the expedited review and importation of designated foods in accordance with the program established by the Secretary under subsection (a).

### (c) Notice of intent to participate

An importer that intends to participate in the program under this section in a fiscal year shall submit a notice and application to the Secretary of such intent at the time and in a manner established by the Secretary.

### (d) Eligibility

Eligibility shall be limited to an importer offering food for importation from a facility that

has a certification described in subsection (a). In reviewing the applications and making determinations on such applications, the Secretary shall consider the risk of the food to be imported based on factors, such as the following:

(1) The known safety risks of the food to be imported.

(2) The compliance history of foreign suppliers used by the importer, as appropriate.

(3) The capability of the regulatory system of the country of export to ensure compliance with United States food safety standards for a designated food.

(4) The compliance of the importer with the requirements of section 384a of this title.

(5) The recordkeeping, testing, inspections and audits of facilities, traceability of articles of food, temperature controls, and sourcing practices of the importer.

(6) The potential risk for intentional adulteration of the food.

(7) Any other factor that the Secretary determines appropriate.

**(e) Review and revocation**

Any importer qualified by the Secretary in accordance with the eligibility criteria set forth in this section shall be reevaluated not less often than once every 3 years and the Secretary shall promptly revoke the qualified importer status of any importer found not to be in compliance with such criteria.

**(f) False statements**

Any statement or representation made by an importer to the Secretary shall be subject to section 1001 of title 18.

**(g) Definition**

For purposes of this section, the term “importer” means the person that brings food, or causes food to be brought, from a foreign country into the customs territory of the United States.

(June 25, 1938, ch. 675, §806, as added Pub. L. 111-353, title III, §302, Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3955.)

CONSTRUCTION

Nothing in this section to be construed to alter jurisdiction and authorities established under certain other Acts or in a manner inconsistent with international agreements to which the United States is a party, see sections 2251 and 2252 of this title.

**§ 384c. Inspection of foreign food facilities**

**(a) Inspection**

The Secretary—

(1) may enter into arrangements and agreements with foreign governments to facilitate the inspection of foreign facilities registered under section 350d of this title; and

(2) shall direct resources to inspections of foreign facilities, suppliers, and food types, especially such facilities, suppliers, and food types that present a high risk (as identified by the Secretary), to help ensure the safety and security of the food supply of the United States.

**(b) Effect of inability to inspect**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, food shall be refused admission into the United

States if it is from a foreign factory, warehouse, or other establishment of which the owner, operator, or agent in charge, or the government of the foreign country, refuses to permit entry of United States inspectors or other individuals duly designated by the Secretary, upon request, to inspect such factory, warehouse, or other establishment. For purposes of this subsection, such an owner, operator, or agent in charge shall be considered to have refused an inspection if such owner, operator, or agent in charge does not permit an inspection of a factory, warehouse, or other establishment during the 24-hour period after such request is submitted, or after such other time period, as agreed upon by the Secretary and the foreign factory, warehouse, or other establishment.

(June 25, 1938, ch. 675, §807, as added Pub. L. 111-353, title III, §306(a), Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3958.)

CONSTRUCTION

Nothing in this section to be construed to apply to certain alcohol-related facilities, to alter jurisdiction and authorities established under certain other Acts, or in a manner inconsistent with international agreements to which the United States is a party, see sections 2206, 2251, and 2252 of this title.

**§ 384d. Accreditation of third-party auditors**

**(a) Definitions**

In this section:

**(1) Audit agent**

The term “audit agent” means an individual who is an employee or agent of an accredited third-party auditor and, although not individually accredited, is qualified to conduct food safety audits on behalf of an accredited third-party auditor.

**(2) Accreditation body**

The term “accreditation body” means an authority that performs accreditation of third-party auditors.

**(3) Third-party auditor**

The term “third-party auditor” means a foreign government, agency of a foreign government, foreign cooperative, or any other third party, as the Secretary determines appropriate in accordance with the model standards described in subsection (b)(2), that is eligible to be considered for accreditation to conduct food safety audits to certify that eligible entities meet the applicable requirements of this section. A third-party auditor may be a single individual. A third-party auditor may employ or use audit agents to help conduct consultative and regulatory audits.

**(4) Accredited third-party auditor**

The term “accredited third-party auditor” means a third-party auditor accredited by an accreditation body to conduct audits of eligible entities to certify that such eligible entities meet the applicable requirements of this section. An accredited third-party auditor may be an individual who conducts food safety audits to certify that eligible entities meet the applicable requirements of this section.

**(5) Consultative audit**

The term “consultative audit” means an audit of an eligible entity—