

financial institution, and any interest earned on the account shall be credited under subsection (c).

(e) Efficiencies and cost effectiveness

(1) In general

The Secretary shall seek to minimize the fees established under this section by improving efficiencies and reducing costs, including the efficient use of personnel to the extent practicable and consistent with the effective implementation of this chapter.

(2) Report

The Secretary shall publish an annual report on the actions taken by the Secretary to comply with paragraph (1).

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, § 4, as added Pub. L. 106-472, title II, § 201, Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2064.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 243, act Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, § 3, 39 Stat. 486, authorized investigation of warehousing, weighing, classifying, and certification of agricultural products, inspection of warehouses, and prescription of duties of warehousemen by Secretary of Agriculture, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 106-472. See section 242 of this title.

A prior section 4 of act Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, was classified to section 244 of this title, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 106-472.

§ 244. Quality and value standards

If standards for the evaluation or determination of the quality or value of an agricultural product are not established under another Federal law, the Secretary may establish standards for the evaluation or determination of the quality or value of the agricultural product under this chapter.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, § 5, as added Pub. L. 106-472, title II, § 201, Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2064.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 244, acts Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, § 4, 39 Stat. 486; Mar. 2, 1931, ch. 366, § 1, 46 Stat. 1463, authorized licensing of warehousemen, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 106-472. See section 242 of this title.

A prior section 5 of act Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, was classified to section 245 of this title, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 106-472.

§ 245. Bonding and other financial assurance requirements

(a) In general

As a condition of receiving a license or approval under this chapter (including regulations promulgated under this chapter), the person applying for the license or approval shall execute and file with the Secretary a bond, or provide such other financial assurance as the Secretary determines appropriate, to secure the person's performance of the activities so licensed or approved.

(b) Service of process

To qualify as a suitable bond or other financial assurance under subsection (a), the surety, sureties, or financial institution shall be subject to service of process in suits on the bond or other financial assurance in the State, district, or territory in which the warehouse is located.

(c) Additional assurances

If the Secretary determines that a previously approved bond or other financial assurance is insufficient, the Secretary may suspend or revoke the license or approval covered by the bond or other financial assurance if the person that filed the bond or other financial assurance does not provide such additional bond or other financial assurance as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(d) Third party actions

Any person injured by the breach of any obligation arising under this chapter for which a bond or other financial assurance has been obtained as required by this section may sue with respect to the bond or other financial assurance in a district court of the United States to recover the damages that the person sustained as a result of the breach.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, § 6, as added Pub. L. 106-472, title II, § 201, Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2064.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 245, acts Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, § 5, 39 Stat. 486; Feb. 23, 1923, ch. 106, 42 Stat. 1282, related to term and renewal of license, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 106-472.

A prior section 6 of act Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, was classified to section 247 of this title, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 106-472.

§ 246. Maintenance of records

To facilitate the administration of this chapter, the following persons shall maintain such records and make such reports, as the Secretary may by regulation require:

(1) A warehouse operator that is licensed under this chapter.

(2) A person operating a system for the electronic recording and transfer of receipts and other documents that are authorized under this chapter.

(3) Any other person engaged in the issuance of electronic receipts or the transfer of documents under this chapter.

(Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, § 7, as added Pub. L. 106-472, title II, § 201, Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2065.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 246, acts Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, § 25, 39 Stat. 490; Mar. 2, 1931, ch. 366, § 8, 46 Stat. 1465, related to suspension and revocation of license, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 106-472. See section 252 of this title.

A prior section 7 of act Aug. 11, 1916, ch. 313, pt. C, was classified to section 249 of this title, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 106-472.

§ 247. Fair treatment in storage of agricultural products

(a) In general

Subject to the capacity of a warehouse, a warehouse operator shall deal, in a fair and reasonable manner, with persons storing, or seeking to store, an agricultural product in the warehouse if the agricultural product—

(1) is of the kind, type, and quality customarily stored or handled in the area in which the warehouse is located;

(2) is tendered to the warehouse operator in a suitable condition for warehousing; and