

(1) notify the retailer<sup>1</sup> of the determination of the Secretary; and

(2) provide the retailer<sup>1</sup> a 30-day period, beginning on the date on which the retailer<sup>1</sup> receives the notice under paragraph (1) from the Secretary, during which the retailer<sup>1</sup> may take necessary steps to comply with section 1638a of this title.

**(b) Fines**

If, on completion of the 30-day period described in subsection (a)(2), the Secretary determines that the retailer or person engaged in the business of supplying a covered commodity to a retailer has—

(1) not made a good faith effort to comply with section 1638a of this title, and

(2) continues to willfully violate section 1638a of this title with respect to the violation about which the retailer or person received notification under subsection (a)(1),

after providing notice and an opportunity for a hearing before the Secretary with respect to the violation, the Secretary may fine the retailer or person in an amount of not more than \$1,000 for each violation.

(Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, title II, § 283, as added Pub. L. 107-171, title X, § 10816, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 535; amended Pub. L. 110-234, title XI, § 11002(3), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1354; Pub. L. 110-246, § 4(a), title XI, § 11002(3), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2116.)

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 L. 110-234 were repealed by section 4(a) of Pub.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, § 11002(3), redesignated subsec. (b) as (a) and substituted “retailer or person engaged in the business of supplying a covered commodity to a retailer” for “retailer” in introductory provisions, added subsec. (b), and struck out former subsecs. (a) and (c) which related to applicability of section 1636b of this title to a violation of this subchapter and fine for violation of section 1638a of this title. The substitution in subsec. (a) was made for “retailer” the first time appearing to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

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.

**§ 1638c. Regulations**

**(a) Guidelines**

Not later than September 30, 2002, the Secretary shall issue guidelines for the voluntary country of origin labeling of covered commodities based on the requirements of section 1638a of this title.

**(b) Regulations**

Not later than September 30, 2004, the Secretary shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to implement this subchapter.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be “retailer or person”.

**(c) Partnerships with States**

In promulgating the regulations, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into partnerships with States with enforcement infrastructure to assist in the administration of this subchapter.

(Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, title II, § 284, as added Pub. L. 107-171, title X, § 10816, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 535.)

**§ 1638d. Applicability**

This subchapter shall apply to the retail sale of a covered commodity beginning September 30, 2008, except for “farm-raised fish” and “wild fish” which shall be September 30, 2004.

(Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, title II, § 285, as added Pub. L. 107-171, title X, § 10816, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 535; amended Pub. L. 108-199, div. A, title VII, § 749, Jan. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 37; Pub. L. 109-97, title VII, § 792, Nov. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 2164.)

AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-97 substituted “2008” for “2006”.

2004—Pub. L. 108-199 substituted “2006, except for ‘farm-raised fish’ and ‘wild fish’ which shall be September 30, 2004” for “2004”.

SUBCHAPTER V—NATIONAL BIOENGINEERED FOOD DISCLOSURE STANDARD

**§ 1639. Definitions**

In this subchapter:

**(1) Bioengineering**

The term “bioengineering”, and any similar term, as determined by the Secretary, with respect to a food, refers to a food—

(A) that contains genetic material that has been modified through in vitro recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) techniques; and

(B) for which the modification could not otherwise be obtained through conventional breeding or found in nature.

**(2) Food**

The term “food” means a food (as defined in section 321 of title 21) that is intended for human consumption.

**(3) Secretary**

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, title II, § 291, as added Pub. L. 114-216, § 1, July 29, 2016, 130 Stat. 834.)

**§ 1639a. Applicability**

**(a) In general**

This subchapter shall apply to any claim in a disclosure that a food bears that indicates that the food is a bioengineered food.

**(b) Application of definition**

The definition of the term “bioengineering” under section 1639 of this title shall not affect any other definition, program, rule, or regulation of the Federal Government.

**(c) Application to foods**

This subchapter shall apply only to a food subject to—

(1) the labeling requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or

(2) the labeling requirements under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.), or the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.) only if—

(A) the most predominant ingredient of the food would independently be subject to the labeling requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or

(B)(i) the most predominant ingredient of the food is broth, stock, water, or a similar solution; and

(ii) the second-most predominant ingredient of the food would independently be subject to the labeling requirements under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.).

(Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, title II, § 292, as added Pub. L. 114–216, § 1, July 29, 2016, 130 Stat. 834.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), (2)(A), (B)(ii), is act June 25, 1938, ch. 675, 52 Stat. 1040, which is classified generally to chapter 9 (§301 et seq.) of Title 21, Food and Drugs. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 301 of Title 21 and Tables.

The Federal Meat Inspection Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(2), is titles I to IV of act Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2907, as added Pub. L. 90–201, Dec. 15, 1967, 81 Stat. 584, which are classified generally to subchapters I to IV (§601 et seq.) of Title 21, Food and Drugs. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 601 of Title 21 and Tables.

The Poultry Products Inspection Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(2), is Pub. L. 85–172, Aug. 28, 1957, 71 Stat. 441, which is classified generally to chapter 10 (§451 et seq.) of Title 21, Food and Drugs. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 451 of Title 21 and Tables.

The Egg Products Inspection Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(2), is Pub. L. 91–597, Dec. 29, 1970, 84 Stat. 1620, which is classified principally to chapter 15 (§1031 et seq.) of Title 21, Food and Drugs. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1031 of Title 21 and Tables.

### § 1639b. Establishment of national bioengineered food disclosure standard

#### (a) Establishment of mandatory standard

Not later than 2 years after July 29, 2016, the Secretary shall—

(1) establish a national mandatory bioengineered food disclosure standard with respect to any bioengineered food and any food that may be bioengineered; and

(2) establish such requirements and procedures as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the standard.

#### (b) Regulations

##### (1) In general

A food may bear a disclosure that the food is bioengineered only in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary in accordance with this subchapter.

##### (2) Requirements

A regulation promulgated by the Secretary in carrying out this subchapter shall—

(A) prohibit a food derived from an animal to be considered a bioengineered food solely because the animal consumed feed produced from, containing, or consisting of a bioengineered substance;

(B) determine the amounts of a bioengineered substance that may be present in food, as appropriate, in order for the food to be a bioengineered food;

(C) establish a process for requesting and granting a determination by the Secretary regarding other factors and conditions under which a food is considered a bioengineered food;

(D) in accordance with subsection (d), require that the form of a food disclosure under this section be a text, symbol, or electronic or digital link, but excluding Internet website Uniform Resource Locators not embedded in the link, with the disclosure option to be selected by the food manufacturer;

(E) provide alternative reasonable disclosure options for food contained in small or very small packages;

(F) in the case of small food manufacturers, provide—

(i) an implementation date that is not earlier than 1 year after the implementation date for regulations promulgated in accordance with this section; and

(ii) on-package disclosure options, in addition to those available under subparagraph (D), to be selected by the small food manufacturer, that consist of—

(I) a telephone number accompanied by appropriate language to indicate that the phone number provides access to additional information; and

(II) an Internet website maintained by the small food manufacturer in a manner consistent with subsection (d), as appropriate; and

(G) exclude—

(i) food served in a restaurant or similar retail food establishment; and

(ii) very small food manufacturers.

#### (3) Safety

For the purpose of regulations promulgated and food disclosures made pursuant to paragraph (2), a bioengineered food that has successfully completed the pre-market Federal regulatory review process shall not be treated as safer than, or not as safe as, a non-bioengineered counterpart of the food solely because the food is bioengineered or produced or developed with the use of bioengineering.

#### (c) Study of electronic or digital link disclosure

##### (1) In general

Not later than 1 year after July 29, 2016, the Secretary shall conduct a study to identify potential technological challenges that may impact whether consumers would have access to the bioengineering disclosure through electronic or digital disclosure methods.

##### (2) Public comments

In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall solicit and consider comments from the public.