

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), are set out in the Appendix to Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

**§ 6307. Enforcement****(a) Jurisdiction**

The district courts of the United States are vested with jurisdiction specifically to enforce, and to prevent and restrain any person from violating, any order or regulation made or issued under this chapter.

**(b) Referral to Attorney General**

A civil action authorized to be commenced under this section shall be referred to the Attorney General for appropriate action, except that the Secretary shall not be required to refer to the Attorney General a violation of this chapter, if the Secretary believes that the administration and enforcement of this chapter would be adequately served by providing a suitable written notice or warning to the person who committed such violation or by administrative action under section 6306 of this title.

**(c) Civil penalties and orders****(1) Civil penalties**

Any person who willfully violates any provision of any order or regulation issued by the Secretary under this chapter, or who fails or refuses to pay, collect, or remit any assessment or fee duly required of the person under the order or regulations, may be assessed—

(A) a civil penalty by the Secretary of not more than \$1,000 for each such violation; and

(B) in the case of a willful failure to pay, collect, or remit an assessment as required by the order or regulation, an additional penalty equal to the amount of such assessment.

Each violation shall be a separate offense.

**(2) Cease-and-desist orders**

In addition to, or in lieu of, a civil penalty under paragraph (1), the Secretary may issue an order requiring a person to cease and desist from continuing any such violation.

**(3) Notice and hearing**

No penalty shall be assessed or cease-and-desist order issued by the Secretary under this subsection unless the person against whom the penalty is assessed or the order is issued is given notice and opportunity for a hearing before the Secretary with respect to such violation.

**(4) Finality**

The order of the Secretary assessing a penalty or imposing a cease-and-desist order under this subsection shall be final and conclusive unless the affected person files an appeal of the Secretary's order with the appropriate district court of the United States in accordance with subsection (d).

**(d) Review by district court****(1) Commencement of action**

Any person who has been determined to be in violation of this chapter, or against whom

a civil penalty has been assessed or a cease-and-desist order issued under subsection (c), may obtain review of the penalty or order by—

(A) filing, within the 30-day period beginning on the date the penalty is assessed or order issued, a notice of appeal in—

(i) the district court of the United States for the district in which the person resides or conducts business; or

(ii) the United States District Court for the District of Columbia; and

(B) simultaneously sending a copy of the notice by certified mail to the Secretary.

**(2) Record**

The Secretary shall file promptly in the appropriate court referred to in paragraph (1), a certified copy of the record on which the Secretary has determined that the person had committed a violation.

**(3) Standard of review**

A finding of the Secretary under this section shall be set aside only if such finding is found to be unsupported by substantial evidence.

**(e) Failure to obey orders**

Any person who fails to obey a cease-and-desist order issued under this section after such order has become final and unappealable, or after the appropriate United States district court has entered a final judgment in favor of the Secretary, shall be subject to a civil penalty assessed by the Secretary, after opportunity for a hearing and for judicial review under the procedures specified in subsections (c) and (d), of not more than \$5,000 for each offense. Each day during which such failure continues shall be considered as a separate violation of such order.

**(f) Failure to pay penalties**

If any person fails to pay an assessment of a civil penalty under this section after it has become a final and unappealable order, or after the appropriate United States district court has entered final judgment in favor of the Secretary, the Secretary shall refer the matter to the Attorney General for recovery of the amount assessed in the district court in which the person resides or conducts business. In such action, the validity and appropriateness of the final order imposing the civil penalty shall not be subject to review.

**(g) Additional remedies**

The remedies provided in this chapter shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, other remedies that may be available.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIX, §1972, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3901.)

**§ 6308. Investigations and power to subpoena****(a) Investigations**

The Secretary may make such investigations as the Secretary considers necessary—

(1) for the effective administration of this chapter; and

(2) to determine whether any person has engaged or is engaging in any act that constitutes a violation of this chapter, or any order, rule, or regulation issued under this chapter.

**(b) Subpoenas, oaths, and affirmations****(1) In general**

For the purpose of an investigation under subsection (a), the Secretary may administer oaths and affirmations, and issue a subpoena to require the production of any records that are relevant to the inquiry. The production of any such records may be required from any place in the United States.

**(2) Administrative hearings**

For the purpose of an administrative hearing held under section 6306 or 6307 of this title, the presiding officer is authorized to administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, take evidence, and require the production of any records that are relevant to the inquiry. Such attendance of witnesses and the production of any such records may be required from any place in the United States.

**(c) Aid of courts**

In the case of contumacy by, or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to, any person, the Secretary may invoke the aid of any court of the United States within the jurisdiction of which such investigation or proceeding is carried on, or where such person resides or carries on business, in order to enforce a subpoena issued by the Secretary under subsection (b). The court may issue an order requiring such person to comply with such a subpoena.

**(d) Contempt**

Any failure to obey an order of the court under this section may be punished by such court as a contempt thereof.

**(e) Process**

Process in any such case may be served in the judicial district in which such person resides or conducts business or wherever such person may be found.

**(f) Hearing site**

The site of any hearings held under section 6306 or 6307 of this title shall be within the judicial district where such person resides or has a principal place of business.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIX, §1973, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3902.)

**§ 6309. Administrative provisions****(a) Construction**

Except as provided in subsection (b), nothing in this chapter may be construed to—

- (1) preempt or supersede any other program relating to soybean promotion, research, consumer information, or industry information organized and operated under the laws of the United States or any State; or
- (2) authorize the withholding of any information from Congress.

**(b) State laws****(1) Referenda on qualified State soybean boards**

To ensure the proper administration of this chapter, no State may conduct a referendum relating to the continuation or termination of

a qualified State soybean board or State soybean assessment—

(A) during the period beginning on the date an order is issued under section 6303 of this title and ending 18 months after the referendum on such order is conducted under section 6305(a) of this title; or

(B) if such order is approved under the referendum conducted under section 6305(a) of this title by a majority of producers voting in such State, such State law shall be suspended for an additional 36 months.

**(2) Exception**

Paragraph (1) shall not be construed to apply to—

(A) a State referendum concerning the approval of modifications to a State soybean promotion program that does not involve termination of the qualified State soybean board or State soybean assessment; and

(B) any State referendum regarding a State soybean promotion program that is originated by soybean producers.

**(3) Assessments collected by qualified State soybean boards**

To ensure adequate funding of the operations of qualified State soybean boards under this chapter, whenever an order is in effect under this chapter, no State law or regulation that limits the rate of assessment that the qualified State soybean board in that State may collect from producers on soybeans produced in such State, or that has the effect of limiting such rate, may be applied to prohibit such State board from collecting, and expending for authorized purposes, assessments from producers of up to the full amount of the credit authorized for producer contributions to qualified State soybean boards under section 6304(l)(4) of this title.

**(c) Amendments to orders**

The provisions of this chapter applicable to orders shall be applicable to amendments to orders.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIX, §1974, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3903; Pub. L. 102-237, title VIII, §806(3), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1883.)

## AMENDMENTS

1991—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 102-237, §806(3)(B), redesignated second subsec. (b), relating to amendments to orders, as (c).

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 102-237, §806(3)(A), substituted “section 6304(l)(4)” for “section 6304(k)(4)”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 102-237, §806(3)(B), redesignated second subsec. (b), relating to amendments of orders, as (c).

**§ 6310. Suspension or termination of orders**

The Secretary shall, whenever the Secretary finds that the order or any provision of the order obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of this chapter, terminate or suspend the operation of such order or provision. The termination or suspension of any order, or any provision thereof, shall not be considered an order within the meaning of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIX, §1975, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3904.)