

§ 6521. Administration**(a) Regulations**

Not later than 540 days after November 28, 1990, the Secretary shall issue proposed regulations to carry out this chapter.

(b) Assistance to State**(1) Technical and other assistance**

The Secretary shall provide technical, administrative, and National Institute of Food and Agriculture assistance to assist States in the implementation of an organic certification program under this chapter.

(2) Financial assistance

The Secretary may provide financial assistance to any State that implements an organic certification program under this chapter.

(c) Access to data documentation systems

The Secretary shall have access to available data from cross-border documentation systems administered by other Federal agencies, including the Automated Commercial Environment system of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(d) Reports**(1) In general**

Not later than March 1, 2020, and annually thereafter through March 1, 2023, the Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture, a report describing national organic program activities with respect to all domestic and overseas investigations and compliance actions taken pursuant to this chapter during the preceding year.

(2) Requirements

The data described in paragraph (1) shall be broken down by agricultural product, quantity, value, and month.

(3) Exception

Any data determined by the Secretary to be confidential business information shall not be provided in the report under paragraph (1).

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXI, § 2122, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3951; Pub. L. 110-234, title VII, § 7511(c)(24), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1269; Pub. L. 110-246, § 4(a), title VII, § 7511(c)(24), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2031; Pub. L. 115-334, title X, § 10104(h), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4901.)

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 L. 110-234 were repealed by section 4(a) of Pub.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

2018—Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 115-334 added subsecs. (c) and (d).

2008—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 110-246, § 7511(c)(24), substituted “National Institute of Food and Agriculture” for “Extension Service”.

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, except as otherwise provided, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out

as an Effective Date note under section 8701 of this title.

Amendment by section 7511(c)(24) of Pub. L. 110-246 effective Oct. 1, 2009, see section 7511(c) of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as a note under section 1522 of this title.

§ 6521a. Organic agricultural product imports interagency working group**(a) Establishment****(1) In general**

The Secretary and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall jointly establish a working group to facilitate coordination and information sharing between the Department of Agriculture and U.S. Customs and Border Protection relating to imports of organically produced agricultural products (referred to in this section as the “working group”).

(2) Members

The working group—

(A) shall include—

(i) the Secretary (or a designee); and

(ii) the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee); and

(B) shall not include any non-Federal officer or employee.

(3) Duties

The working group shall facilitate coordination and information sharing between the Department of Agriculture and U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the purposes of—

(A) identifying imports of organically produced agricultural products;

(B) verifying the authenticity of organically produced agricultural product import documentation, such as national organic program import certificates;

(C) ensuring imported agricultural products represented as organically produced meet the requirements under this chapter;

(D) collecting and organizing quantitative data on imports of organically produced agricultural products; and

(E) requesting feedback from stakeholders on how to improve the oversight of imports of organically produced agricultural products.

(4) Designated employees and officials

An employee or official designated to carry out the duties of the Secretary or the Secretary of Homeland Security on the working group under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) shall be an employee or official compensated at a rate of pay not less than the minimum annual rate of basic pay for GS-12 under section 5332 of title 5.

(b) Reports

On an annual basis, the working group shall submit to Congress and make publicly available on the websites of the Department of Agriculture and U.S. Customs and Border Protection the following reports:

(1) Organic trade enforcement interagency coordination report

A report—

(A) identifying existing barriers to cooperation between the agencies involved in