

**§ 7315. Powers****(a) Hearings**

The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this subchapter, conduct such hearings, sit and act at such times, take such testimony, and receive such evidence, as the Commission considers appropriate.

**(b) Assistance from other agencies**

The Commission may secure directly from any department or agency of the Federal Government such information as may be necessary for the Commission to carry out its duties under this subchapter. On the request of the chairperson of the Commission, the head of the department or agency shall, to the extent permitted by law, furnish such information to the Commission.

**(c) Mail**

The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as the departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

**(d) Assistance from Secretary**

The Secretary shall provide to the Commission appropriate office space and such reasonable administrative and support services as the Commission may request.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title I, §185, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 940.)

**§ 7316. Commission procedures****(a) Meetings**

The Commission shall meet on a regular basis (as determined by the chairperson) and at the call of the chairperson or a majority of its members.

**(b) Quorum**

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title I, §186, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 941.)

**§ 7317. Personnel matters****(a) Compensation**

Each member of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be allowed travel expenses including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, when engaged in the performance of Commission duties.

**(b) Staff****(1) Appointment**

The Commission shall appoint a staff director, who shall be paid at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate of basic pay under section 5376 of title 5, and such professional and clerical personnel as may be reasonable and necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its duties under this subchapter without regard to the provisions of title 5 governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title,

or any other provision of law, relating to the number, classification, and General Schedule rates.

**(2) Limitation on compensation**

No employee appointed under this subsection (other than the staff director) may be compensated at a rate to exceed the maximum rate applicable to level GS-15 of the General Schedule.

**(c) Detailed personnel**

On the request of the chairperson of the Commission, the head of any department or agency of the Federal Government is authorized to detail, without reimbursement, any personnel of the department or agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties under this section. The detail of any individual may not result in the interruption or loss of civil service status or other privilege of the individual.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title I, §187, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 941.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The General Schedule, referred to in subsec. (b), is set out under section 5332 of Title 5.

## REFERENCES TO MAXIMUM RATE UNDER 5 U.S.C. 5376

For reference to maximum rate under section 5376 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, see section 2(d)(3) of Pub. L. 110-372, set out as an Effective Date of 2008 Amendment note under section 5376 of Title 5.

**§ 7318. Termination of Commission**

The Commission shall terminate on submission of the final report required by section 7314 of this title.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title I, §188, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 941.)

SUBCHAPTER VIII—MISCELLANEOUS  
COMMODITY PROVISIONS**§ 7331. Options pilot program****(a) Pilot programs authorized**

Until December 31, 2002, the Secretary of Agriculture may conduct a pilot program for 1 or more agricultural commodities supported under this chapter to ascertain whether futures and options contracts can provide producers with reasonable protection from the financial risks of fluctuations in price, yield, and income inherent in the production and marketing of the commodities. The pilot program shall be an alternative to other related programs of the Department of Agriculture.

**(b) Distribution of pilot program**

For each agricultural commodity included in the pilot program, the Secretary may operate the pilot program in not more than 300 counties, except that not more than 25 of the counties may be located in any 1 State. The pilot program for a commodity shall not be operated in any county for more than 3 of the 1996 through 2002 calendar years.

**(c) Eligible participants**

In operating the pilot program, the Secretary may enter into contract with a producer who—