

be obligated under subsection (a) in a fiscal year shall be deposited in an escrow account for the duration of the covered period.

(c) Treatment of amounts in escrow account

During the covered period, the Board may not obligate, expend, or borrow against amounts required under subsection (b) to be deposited in the escrow account. Any interest earned on such amounts shall be deposited in the escrow account and shall be unavailable for obligation for the duration of the covered period.

(d) Release of amounts in escrow account

After the covered period, the Board may withdraw and obligate in any fiscal year an amount in the escrow account that does not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of the amount in the escrow account on the last day of the covered period.

(e) Special rule for estimates for particular fiscal years

(1) Rule

For purposes of subsection (a)(1), the amount of assessments estimated to be collected under section 8705 of this title in a fiscal year specified in paragraph (2) shall be equal to 62 percent of the amount of assessments actually collected under such section in the most recent fiscal year for which an audit report has been submitted under section 8704(f)(2)(B) of this title as of the beginning of the fiscal year for which the amount that may be obligated is being determined.

(2) Fiscal years specified

The fiscal years specified in this paragraph are the 9th and 10th fiscal years that begin on or after October 5, 2018.

(f) Covered period defined

In this section, the term “covered period” means the period that begins on October 5, 2018, and ends on the last day of the 11th fiscal year that begins on or after such date.

(Pub. L. 115–254, div. E, §1316, Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3483.)

§ 8716. Study and report by the Government Accountability Office

Not later than 5 years after October 5, 2018, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare a study, and not later than 8 years after October 5, 2018, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress and the Secretary a report, examining—

- (1) how the Board spends assessments collected;
- (2) the extent to which the reported activities of the Board help achieve the annual objectives of the Board;
- (3) any changes in demand for concrete masonry products relative to other building materials;
- (4) any impact of the activities of the Board on the market share of competing products;
- (5) any impact of the activities of the Board on the overall size of the market for building products;
- (6) any impact of the activities of the Board on the total number of concrete-masonry-related jobs, including manufacturing, sales, and installation;

(7) any significant effects of the activities of the Board on downstream purchasers of concrete masonry products and real property into which concrete masonry products are incorporated;

(8) effects on prices of concrete masonry products as a result of the activities of the Board;

(9) the cost to the Federal Government of an increase in concrete masonry product prices, if any, as a result of the program established by this chapter;

(10) the extent to which key statutory requirements are met;

(11) the extent and strength of Federal oversight of the program established by this chapter;

(12) the appropriateness of administering the program from within the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and the appropriateness of administering the program from within any division of the Department, including whether the Department has the expertise, knowledge, or other capabilities necessary to adequately administer the program; and

(13) any other topic that the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(Pub. L. 115–254, div. E, §1317, Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3484.)

§ 8717. Study and report by the Department of Commerce

Not later than 3 years after October 5, 2018, the Secretary shall prepare a study and submit to Congress a report examining the appropriateness and effectiveness of applying the commodity check-off program model (such as those programs established under the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7411 et seq.)) to a nonagricultural industry, taking into account the program established by this chapter and any other check-off program involving a nonagricultural industry.

(Pub. L. 115–254, div. E, §1318, Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3485.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996, referred to in text, is subtitle B of title V of Pub. L. 104–127, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1032, which is classified generally to subchapter II (§ 7411 et seq.) of chapter 101 of Title 7, Agriculture. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 7401 of Title 7 and Tables.

CHAPTER 114—NATIONAL QUANTUM INITIATIVE

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