

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1968—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 90-446 substituted “operated, or managed for profit or nonprofit as a public market for livestock producers, feeders, market agencies, and buyers” for “or operated for compensation or profit as a public market”.

1958—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 85-909 struck out “Said sections shall not apply to a stockyard of which the area normally available for handling livestock, exclusive of runs, alleys, or passage ways, is less than twenty thousand square feet.”

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

TRANSPORTATION OF LIVESTOCK

Pub. L. 85-909, §2(2), Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1750, provided in part: “That nothing herein [this section] shall be deemed a definition of the term ‘public stockyards’ as used in section 15(5) of the Interstate Commerce Act [former 49 U.S.C. 15(5)]”.

§ 203. Activity as stockyard dealer or market agency; benefits to business and welfare of stockyard; registration; penalty for failure to register

After the expiration of thirty days after the Secretary has given public notice that any stockyard is within the definition of section 202 of this title, by posting copies of such notice in the stockyard, no person shall carry on the business of a market agency or dealer at such stockyard unless (1) the stockyard owner has determined that his services will be beneficial to the business and welfare of said stockyard, its patrons, and customers, which determination shall be made on a basis which is not unreasonable or unjustly discriminatory, and has given written authorization to such person, and (2) he has registered with the Secretary, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, his name and address, the character of business in which he is engaged, and the kinds of stockyards services, if any, which he furnishes at such stockyard. Every other person operating as a market agency or dealer as defined in section 201 of this title may be required to register in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe. Whoever violates the provisions of this section shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$500 for each such offense and not more than \$25 for each day it continues, which shall accrue to the United States and may be recovered in a civil action brought by the United States.

(Aug. 15, 1921, ch. 64, title III, §303, 42 Stat. 163; Pub. L. 85-909, §2(3), Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1750; Pub. L. 90-446, §1(b), July 31, 1968, 82 Stat. 474.)

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1968—Pub. L. 90-446 designated existing provisions as cl. (2) and added cl. (1).

1958—Pub. L. 85-909 inserted “Every other person operating as a market agency or dealer as defined in section 201 of this title may be required to register in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe.”

§ 204. Bond and suspension of registrants

On and after July 12, 1943, the Secretary may require reasonable bonds from every market

agency (as defined in this subchapter), every packer (as defined in subchapter II of this chapter) in connection with its livestock purchasing operations (except that those packers whose average annual purchases do not exceed \$500,000 will be exempt from the provisions of this paragraph), and every other person operating as a dealer (as defined in this subchapter) under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, to secure the performance of their obligations, and whenever, after due notice and hearing, the Secretary finds any registrant is insolvent or has violated any provisions of this chapter he may issue an order suspending such registrant for a reasonable specified period. Such order of suspension shall take effect within not less than five days, unless suspended or modified or set aside by the Secretary or a court of competent jurisdiction. If the Secretary finds any packer is insolvent, he may after notice and hearing issue an order under the provisions of section 193 of this title requiring such packer to cease and desist from purchasing livestock while insolvent, or while insolvent purchasing livestock except under such conditions as the Secretary may prescribe to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. (July 12, 1943, ch. 215, 57 Stat. 422; Pub. L. 94-410, §§1, 4, Sept. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 1249.)

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CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Department of Agriculture Appropriation Act, 1944, act July 12, 1943, and not as part of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, which comprises this chapter.

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1976—Pub. L. 94-410 inserted provisions exempting market agencies and packers whose average annual purchases do not exceed \$500,000 from bonding requirement and authorizing Secretary, after notice and hearing, to issue cease and desist orders to insolvent packers prohibiting the purchase of livestock except under conditions prescribed by Secretary, respectively.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

July 22, 1942, ch. 516, 56 Stat. 689.
 July 1, 1941, ch. 267, 55 Stat. 432.
 June 25, 1940, ch. 421, 54 Stat. 557.
 June 30, 1939, ch. 253, title I, 53 Stat. 970.
 June 16, 1938, ch. 464, title I, 52 Stat. 721.
 June 29, 1937, ch. 404, 50 Stat. 406.
 June 4, 1936, ch. 489, 49 Stat. 1432.
 May 17, 1935, ch. 131, title I, 49 Stat. 257.
 Mar. 26, 1934, ch. 89, 48 Stat. 477.
 Mar. 3, 1933, ch. 203, 47 Stat. 1441.
 July 7, 1932, ch. 443, 47 Stat. 620.
 Feb. 23, 1931, ch. 278, 46 Stat. 1252.
 May 27, 1930, ch. 341, 46 Stat. 402.
 Feb. 16, 1929, ch. 227, 45 Stat. 1198.
 May 16, 1928, ch. 572, 45 Stat. 547.
 Jan. 18, 1927, ch. 39, 44 Stat. 1002.
 May 11, 1926, ch. 286, 44 Stat. 527.
 Feb. 10, 1925, ch. 200, 43 Stat. 851.
 June 5, 1924, ch. 266, 43 Stat. 460.

§ 205. General duty as to services; revocation of registration

All stockyard services furnished pursuant to reasonable request made to a stockyard owner or market agency at such stockyard shall be

reasonable and nondiscriminatory and stockyard services which are furnished shall not be refused on any basis that is unreasonable or unjustly discriminatory: *Provided*, That in any State where the weighing of livestock at a stockyard is conducted by a duly authorized department or agency of the State, the Secretary, upon application of such department or agency, may register it as a market agency for the weighing of livestock received in such stockyard, and upon such registration such department or agency and the members thereof shall be amenable to all the requirements of this chapter, and upon failure of such department or agency or the members thereof to comply with the orders of the Secretary under this chapter he is authorized to revoke the registration of such department or agency and to enforce such revocation as provided in section 216 of this title.

(Aug. 15, 1921, ch. 64, title III, §304, 42 Stat. 164; May 5, 1926, ch. 240, 44 Stat. 397; Pub. L. 90-446, §1(c), July 31, 1968, 82 Stat. 474.)

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1968—Pub. L. 90-446 inserted provision requiring that stockyard services which are furnished not be refused on any basis that is unreasonable or unjustly discriminatory.

1926—Act May 5, 1926, inserted proviso.

§ 206. Rates and charges generally; discrimination

All rates or charges made for any stockyard services furnished at a stockyard by a stockyard owner or market agency shall be just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory, and any unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory rate or charge is prohibited and declared to be unlawful: *Provided*, That rates and charges based upon percentages of the gross sales prices of livestock shall not be prohibited merely because they are based upon such percentages rather than on a per head basis.

(Aug. 15, 1921, ch. 64, title III, §305, 42 Stat. 164; Pub. L. 95-409, §1(a), Oct. 2, 1978, 92 Stat. 886.)

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1978—Pub. L. 95-409 inserted proviso that rates and charges based upon percentages of gross sales of livestock shall not be prohibited merely because based on such percentages rather than on a per head basis.

§ 207. Schedule of rates

(a) Filing; public inspection

Within sixty days after the Secretary has given public notice that a stockyard is within the definition of section 202 of this title, by posting copies of such notice in the stockyard, the stockyard owner and every market agency at such stockyard shall file with the Secretary, and print and keep open to public inspection at the stockyard, schedules showing all rates and charges for the stockyard services furnished by such person at such stockyard. If a market agency commences business at the stockyard after

the expiration of such sixty days such schedules must be filed before any stockyard services are furnished.

(b) Detail required; form

Such schedules shall plainly state all such rates and charges in such detail as the Secretary may require, and shall also state any rules or regulations which in any manner change, affect, or determine any part or the aggregate of such rates or charges, or the value of the stockyard services furnished. The Secretary may determine and prescribe the form and manner in which such schedules shall be prepared, arranged, and posted, and may from time to time make such changes in respect thereto as may be found expedient.

(c) Changes

No changes shall be made in the rates or charges so filed and published, except after ten days' notice to the Secretary and to the public filed and published as aforesaid, which shall plainly state the changes proposed to be made and the time such changes will go into effect; but the Secretary may, for good cause shown, allow changes on less than ten days' notice, or modify the requirements of this section in respect to publishing, posting, and filing of schedules, either in particular instances or by a general order applicable to special or peculiar circumstances or conditions.

(d) Rejection by Secretary

The Secretary may reject and refuse to file any schedule tendered for filing which does not provide and give lawful notice of its effective date, and any schedule so rejected by the Secretary shall be void and its use shall be unlawful.

(e) Determination of lawfulness; hearing; suspension

Whenever there is filed with the Secretary any schedule, stating a new rate or charge, or a new regulation or practice affecting any rate or charge, the Secretary may either upon complaint or upon his own initiative without complaint, at once, and if he so orders without answer or other formal pleading by the person filing such schedule, but upon reasonable notice, enter upon a hearing concerning the lawfulness of such rate, charge, regulation, or practice, and pending such hearing and decision thereon the Secretary, upon filing with such schedule and delivering to the person filing it a statement in writing of his reasons for such suspension, may suspend the operation of such schedule and defer the use of such rate, charge, regulation, or practice, but not for a longer period than thirty days beyond the time when it would otherwise go into effect; and after full hearing, whether completed before or after the rate, charge, regulation, or practice goes into effect, the Secretary may make such order with reference thereto as would be proper in a proceeding initiated after it had become effective. If any such hearing cannot be concluded within the period of suspension the Secretary may extend the time of suspension for a further period not exceeding thirty days, and if the proceeding has not been concluded and an order made at the expiration of such thirty