

or producer information activities under the order.

**(3) False or misleading claims**

A plan or project conducted under this chapter shall not make false or misleading claims on behalf of sheep or sheep products or against a competing product.

**(m) Books and records**

**(1) In general**

The order shall require that each person making payment to a producer, feeder, or handler for sheep or sheep products, each importer and exporter of sheep or sheep products, and each person marketing sheep products of the person's own production to maintain, and make available for inspection, such books and records as may be required by the order and file reports at the time, in the manner, and having the content prescribed by the order.

**(2) Use of information**

**(A) In general**

Information from the records or reports shall be made available to the Secretary for the administration or enforcement of this chapter, or any order or regulation issued under this chapter.

**(B) Other information**

The Secretary shall authorize the use under this chapter of information regarding persons paying producers, feeders, importers, handlers, or processors that is accumulated under a law or regulation other than this chapter or a regulation issued under this chapter.

**(3) Confidentiality**

**(A) In general**

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, all information obtained under paragraph (1) or (2) shall be kept confidential by all officers and employees of the Department and of the Board.

**(B) Disclosure**

Information referred to in subparagraph (A) may be disclosed only if—

- (i) the Secretary considers the information relevant;
- (ii) the information is revealed in a judicial proceeding or administrative hearing brought at the direction or on the request of the Secretary or to which the Secretary or any officer of the Department is a party; and
- (iii) the information relates to this chapter.

**(C) General statements**

Nothing in this paragraph prohibits—

- (i) the issuance of general statements, based on the reports, of the number of persons subject to an order or statistical data collected from the persons, which statements do not identify the information furnished by any person; or
- (ii) the publication, by direction of the Secretary, of the name of any person violating any order and a statement of the

particular provisions of the order violated by the person.

**(D) Administration**

No information obtained under this chapter may be made available to any agency or officer of the Federal Government for any purpose other than the implementation of this chapter or any investigatory or enforcement action necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

**(E) Penalty**

Any person who willfully violates this paragraph, on conviction, shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or to imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both, and if the person is an officer or employee of the Board or the Department, shall be removed from office.

**(n) Other terms and conditions**

The order shall provide such terms and conditions, not inconsistent with this section, as are necessary to carry out the order, including provisions for the assessment of a penalty for the late payment of an assessment due under the order.

(Pub. L. 103-407, § 5, Oct. 22, 1994, 108 Stat. 4213.)

**§ 7105. Referenda**

**(a) Initial referendum**

**(1) In general**

Following the issuance of an order under section 7103 of this title, the Secretary shall conduct a referendum among producers, feeders, and importers who, during a representative period as determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production, feeding, or importation of sheep or sheep products for the purpose of ascertaining whether the order shall go into effect.

**(2) Approval of order**

The order shall become effective only if the Secretary determines that the order has been approved by not less than a majority of the producers, feeders, and importers voting in the referendum or at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the production represented by persons voting in the referendum.

**(b) Additional referenda**

**(1) In general**

After the initial referendum, on the request of a representative group comprising 10 percent or more of the producers, feeders, and importers who, during a representative period as determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production, feeding, importation, or processing of sheep or sheep products, the Secretary shall conduct a referendum of producers, feeders, and importers to determine whether the producers, feeders, and importers favor the termination or suspension of the order.

**(2) Suspension or termination**

If the Secretary determines that suspension or termination of the order is favored by a majority of the producers, feeders, and importers

voting in the referendum or at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the production represented by the persons voting in the referendum, the Secretary shall suspend or terminate—

(A) collection of assessments under the order not later than 180 days after the determination; and

(B) the order in an orderly manner as soon as practicable after the determination.

**(c) Procedures**

**(1) Reimbursement**

**(A) In general**

Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Board shall reimburse the Secretary for any expenses incurred by the Secretary in connection with the conduct of any referendum under this section.

**(B) Federal employee salaries**

The Board shall not be required to reimburse the Secretary for the salaries of Federal employees under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that the reimbursement would be overly burdensome and costly.

**(2) Date**

Each referendum under this section shall be conducted on a date established by the Secretary, under a procedure by which producers, feeders, and importers intending to vote in the referendum shall certify that the producers, feeders, and importers were engaged in the production, feeding, or importation of sheep or sheep products during the representative period and, on the same day, shall be provided an opportunity to vote in the referendum.

**(3) Place**

Referenda under this section shall be conducted at locations determined by the Secretary. Absentee mail ballots shall be furnished by the Secretary on request made in person, by mail, or by telephone.

**(4) Allocation of production**

The Secretary shall determine a method of allocating, by a pro rata percentage of annual projected or actual assessments from importers, the volume of production represented by importers in referenda conducted pursuant to this section.

(Pub. L. 103-407, § 6, Oct. 22, 1994, 108 Stat. 4223.)

**§ 7106. Petition and review**

**(a) Petition**

**(1) In general**

A person subject to an order issued under this chapter may file with the Secretary a petition—

(A) stating that the order, any provision of the order, or any obligation imposed in connection with the order is not established in accordance with law; and

(B) requesting a modification of the order or an exemption from the order.

**(2) Hearings**

The petitioner shall be given an opportunity for a hearing on the petition, in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary.

**(3) Ruling**

After the hearing, the Secretary shall make a ruling on the petition. The ruling shall be final if the ruling is in accordance with law.

**(b) Review**

**(1) Commencement of action**

The district court of the United States for any district in which a person who is a petitioner under subsection (a) resides or carries on business shall have jurisdiction to review the ruling on the petition of the person, if a complaint for that purpose is filed not later than 20 days after the date of the entry of the ruling by the Secretary under subsection (a)(3).

**(2) Process**

Service of process in a proceeding may be conducted on the Secretary by delivering a copy of the complaint to the Secretary, under such rules or regulations as are considered necessary by the Secretary to facilitate the service of process.

**(3) Remands**

If the court determines that the ruling is not in accordance with law, the court shall remand the matter to the Secretary with directions—

(A) to make such ruling as the court shall determine to be in accordance with law; or

(B) to take such further action as, in the opinion of the court, the law requires.

(Pub. L. 103-407, § 7, Oct. 22, 1994, 108 Stat. 4224.)

**§ 7107. Enforcement**

**(a) Jurisdiction**

Each district court of the United States shall have jurisdiction specifically to enforce, and to prevent and restrain a person from violating, an order or regulation issued under this chapter.

**(b) Referral to Attorney General**

A civil action authorized to be brought under this section shall be referred to the Attorney General for appropriate action, except that the Secretary is not 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 the violation or by an administrative action under section 7106 of this title.

**(c) Civil penalties and orders**

**(1) Civil penalties**

A person who willfully violates an order or regulation issued by the Secretary under this chapter may be assessed by the Secretary—

(A) a civil penalty 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, an additional penalty equal to the amount of the assessment.

**(2) Separate offense**

Each violation shall be a separate offense.

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

In addition to, or in lieu of, the civil penalty, the Secretary may issue an order requir-