

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 1160.606

§1160.604(b)(1), the referendum agent shall review the challenge and make a final determination regarding the processor's eligibility to vote.

(3) Prior to the time of mailing ballots to fluid milk processors, the referendum agent shall prepare a final list of eligible voters and make such list available upon request.

(c) Verify the eligibility of all persons voting in the referendum by reviewing all ballots cast to assure that each ballot:

(1) Was mailed within the prescribed time;

(2) Contains all certifications required attesting to the eligibility of the person to vote, and that the person voting filed with the referendum agent prior to the voting period the advance registration required pursuant to §1160.606(a)(1); and

(3) Was completed with respect to all necessary information pertinent to the identification of the person voting so that additional verification can be conducted by the referendum agent to substantiate the eligibility of each such person to vote.

(d) Conduct further verification, as necessary, to determine the eligibility of each person to vote. Such verification may be completed by reviewing readily available sources of information, including the following:

(1) Records of the Department;

(2) Fluid milk processors' records; and

(3) Any other reliable sources of information which may be available to the referendum agent.

(e) Further verify ballots to avoid a duplication of votes. The following criteria shall serve as a guide:

(1) Each fluid milk processor that is other than an individual shall be regarded as one person for voting purposes;

(2) No more than one vote may be cast on behalf of any one fluid milk processor; and

(3) In the event that more than one individual claim the right to vote and cast a ballot for a fluid milk processor, concurring votes of such individuals shall be treated as one vote while any conflicting votes shall thereby invali-

date all ballots cast by such individuals.

[58 FR 62503, Nov. 29, 1993, as amended at 62 FR 3983, Jan. 28, 1997]

§ 1160.605 Scheduling of referendum.

A referendum shall be held:

(a) Whenever prescribed by the order;

(b) For the purpose of adjusting the rate of assessment:

(1) At the direction of the Secretary; or

(2) Upon request of the Board or upon request of any group of fluid milk processors that marketed during a representative period, as determined by the Secretary, 10 percent or more of the volume of fluid milk products marketed by all processors of fluid milk in the United States during that period; or

(c) For the purpose of suspending or terminating the order:

(1) At the direction of the Secretary; or

(2) Upon request of the Board or upon request of any group of fluid milk processors that marketed during a representative period, as determined by the Secretary, 10 percent or more of the volume of fluid milk products marketed by fluid milk processors voting in the preceding referendum.

[62 FR 3984, Jan. 28, 1997]

§ 1160.606 Notice of referendum.

The referendum agent shall provide at least 30 days' notice of any referendum authorized by the Act by:

(a) Mailing to each known person processing fluid milk products a notice of referendum, which shall include:

(1) An advance registration form to be filed with the referendum agent prior to the voting period by any person choosing to vote in the referendum, with a statement as to the time within which the registration form must be mailed to the referendum agent;

(2) A copy of the final rule, when applicable;

(3) A sample ballot containing a description of the question(s) upon which the referendum is being held; and

(4) Rules for participating in the referendum, including a statement as to the time within which the ballot must be mailed to the referendum agent; and