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7 CFR Ch. XIII (1-1-01 Edition)

of the provisions of the pricing regulation there are any obligations arising under the pricing regulation, the final accrual or ascertainment of which requires acts by any handler, by the compact commission, or by any other person, the power and duty to perform such further acts shall continue notwithstanding such suspensions or termination.

§ 1300.3 Handler responsibility for records and facilities.

Each handler shall maintain and retain records of his operations and make such records and his facilities available to the compact commission. If adequate records of a handler, or of any other person, that are relevant to the obligation of such handler are not maintained and made available, any fluid milk product required to be reported by such handler for which adequate records are not available shall not be considered accounted for or established as used in a class other than the highest price class.

(a) *Records to be maintained.* (1) Each handler shall maintain records of his operations (including, but not limited to, records of purchases, sales, processing, packaging and disposition) as are necessary to verify whether such handler has any obligation under the pricing regulation and if so, the amount of such obligation. Such records shall be such as to establish for each plant or other receiving point for each month:

(i) The quantities of fluid milk product contained in, or represented by, products received in any form, including inventories on hand at the beginning of the month, according to form, time and source of each receipt;

(ii) The utilization of all fluid milk product showing the respective quantities of such fluid milk product in each form disposed of or on hand at the end of the month; and

(iii) Payments to producers, dairy farmers and cooperative associations, including the amount and nature of any deductions and the disbursement of money so deducted.

(2) Each handler shall keep such other specific records as the compact commission deems necessary to verify

or establish such handler's obligation under the pricing regulation.

(b) *Availability of records and facilities.* Each handler shall make available all records pertaining to such handler's operation and all facilities the compact commission finds are necessary to verify the information required to be reported by the pricing regulation and/or to ascertain such handler's reporting, monetary or other obligation under the pricing regulation. Each handler shall permit the compact commission to observe plant operations and equipment and make available to the compact commission such facilities as are necessary to carry out their duties.

(c) *Retention of records.* All records required under the pricing regulation to be made available to the compact commission shall be retained by the handler for a period of three years to begin at the end of the month to which such records pertain. If, within such a three year period, the compact commission notifies the handler in writing that the retention of such records, or of specified records, is necessary in connection with a proceeding or court action specified in such notice, the handler shall retain such records, or specified records, until further written notification from the compact commission. The compact commission shall give further written notification to the handler promptly upon the termination of the litigation or when the records are no longer necessary in connection therewith.

§ 1300.4 Termination of obligation.

The provision of this section shall apply to any obligation under the pricing regulation for the payment of money:

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, the obligation of any handler to pay money required to be paid under the terms of the pricing regulation shall terminate two years after the last day of the month during which the compact commission receives the handler's report of receipts and utilization on which such obligation is based, unless within such a two year period, the compact commission notifies the handler in writing that such money is due and payable. Service of such written notice shall be

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complete upon mailing to the handler's last known address and it shall contain but need not be limited to the following information:

The amount of the obligation;

(2) The month(s) on which such obligation is based; and

(3) If the obligation is payable to one or more producers or to a cooperative association, the name of such producer(s) or such cooperative association, or if the obligation is payable to the compact commission, the account for which it is to be paid;

(b) If a handler fails or refuses, with respect to any obligation under the pricing regulation, to make available to the compact commission all records required by the pricing regulation to be made available, the compact commission may notify the handler in writing, within the two year period provided for in paragraph (a) of this section, of such failure or refusal. If the compact commission so notifies a handler, the said two year period with respect to such obligation shall not begin to run until the first day of the month following the month during which all such records pertaining to such obligation are made available to the compact commission;

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, a handler's obligation under the pricing regulation to pay money shall not be terminated with respect to any transaction involving fraud or willful concealment of a fact, material to the obligation, on the part of the handler against whom the obligation is sought to be imposed; and

(d) Unless the handler files a petition to the compact commission to commence litigation within the applicable two year period indicated below, the obligation of the compact commission:

(1) To pay a handler any money which such handler claims to be due him under the terms of the pricing regulation shall terminate two years after the end of the month during which the fluid milk product involved in the claim were received; or

(2) To refund any payment made by a handler (including a deduction or offset by the compact commission) shall terminate two years after the end of the

month during which payment was made by the handler.

PART 1301—DEFINITIONS

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§ 1301.1 Compact.

Compact means the Northeast Dairy Compact as approved by section 147 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (Fair Act), Pub. L. 104-127.

§ 1301.2 Commission.

Commission means the commission established by the Northeast Dairy Compact.

§ 1301.3 Northeast Dairy Compact Regulated Area.

Northeast Dairy Compact Regulated Area hereinafter called the *Regulated Area* means all territory within the boundaries of the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. All waterfront facilities connected therewith and craft moored thereat, and all territory therein occupied by any governmental installation, institution, or other similar establishment.