

§ 354.3

criminal penalties for various specified offenses relating to official certificates, memoranda, marks or other identifications, and devices for making such marks or identifications, issued or authorized under section 203 of said Act, and certain misrepresentations concerning the inspection of agricultural products under said section. For the purposes of said subsection and the provisions in this part, the terms listed in this section shall have the respective meanings specified:

(a) *Official certificate* means any form of certification, either written or printed, used under this part to certify with respect to the inspection or class or condition of products.

(b) *Official memorandum* means any initial record of findings made by an authorized person in the process of inspecting or sampling, pursuant to this part, any processing or plant operation report made by an authorized person in connection with inspecting or sampling under this part, and any report made by an authorized person of services performed pursuant to this part.

(c) *Official mark* means the inspection mark, and any other mark, or any variations in such marks, approved by the Administrator and authorized to be affixed to any product, or affixed to or printed on the packaging material of any product, stating that the product was inspected, or indicating the condition of the product, or for the purpose of maintaining the identity of products inspected under this part, including, but not limited to, that set forth in § 354.65.

(d) *Official identification* means any symbol, stamp, label, or seal indicating that the product has been officially inspected and/or indicating the class or condition of the product approved by the Administrator and authorized to be affixed to any product, or affixed to or printed on the packaging material of any product.

(e) *Official device* means a stamping appliance, branding device, stencil, printed label, or any other mechanically or manually operated tool that is approved by the Administrator for the purpose of applying any official mark or other identification to any product or the packaging material thereof.

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ADMINISTRATION

§ 354.3 Administration.

The Administrator shall perform, for and under the supervision of the Secretary, such duties as are prescribed in the regulations in this part and as the Secretary may require in the administration of the regulations in this part. The Administrator is authorized to waive for limited periods any particular provisions of the regulations to permit experimentation so that new procedures, equipment, and processing techniques may be tested to facilitate definite improvements and, at the same time, to assure full compliance with the spirit and intent of the regulations. The Food Safety and Inspection Service and its officers and employees shall not be liable in damages through acts of commission or omission in the administration of this part.

BASIS OF SERVICE

§ 354.10 Inspection service.

Any inspection service in accordance with the regulations in this part shall be for condition and wholesomeness.

§ 354.12 Eligibility.

(a) Only rabbits which are processed in official plants in accordance with the regulations in this part may be inspected.

(b) All rabbits that are eviscerated in an official plant where inspection service is maintained shall be inspected for condition and wholesomeness and no dressed rabbits or uninspected products shall be brought into such official plant.

§ 354.13 Supervision.

All inspection service shall be subject to supervision at all times by the station supervisor, circuit supervisor, area supervisor, and national supervisor. Such service shall be rendered where the facilities and conditions are satisfactory for the conduct of the service and the requisite inspectors are available.

§ 354.14 Authority to waive provisions of § 354.12.

The Administrator is authorized to waive the provisions of § 354.12 which

pertain to the entry of uninspected edible products into official plants in specific instances where rabbits are to be brought into compliance with a law under the provisions of a court order. Such rabbits shall be handled in an official plant in accordance with such procedures as the Administrator may prescribe to insure proper segregation and identity of the rabbits or rabbit products until they are shipped from the official plant.

PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES

§ 354.20 Licensed or authorized inspectors.

(a) Any person who is a Federal or State employee or the employee of a local jurisdiction possessing proper qualifications as determined by an examination for competency, and who is to perform inspection service under this part may be licensed or otherwise authorized by the Secretary as an inspector.

(b) All licenses issued by the Secretary shall be countersigned by the officer in charge of the rabbit inspection service of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service or any other designated officer of such Service.

§ 354.21 Suspension of license; revocation.

Pending final action by the Secretary, any person authorized to countersign a license to perform inspection service may, whenever he deems such action necessary to assure that any inspection service is properly performed, suspend any license to perform inspection service issued pursuant to this part, by giving notice of such suspension to the respective licensee, accompanied by a statement of the reasons therefor. Within 7 days after the receipt of the aforesaid notice and statement of reasons, the licensee may file an appeal in writing, with the Secretary, supported by any argument or evidence that he may wish to offer as to why his license should not be further suspended or revoked. After the expiration of the aforesaid 7-day period and consideration of such argument and evidence, the Secretary will take such action as he deems appropriate with respect to such suspension or rev-

ocation. When no appeal is filed within the prescribed 7 days, the license to perform inspection service is revoked.

§ 354.22 Surrender of license.

Each license which is suspended, or revoked, or has expired shall promptly be surrendered by the licensee to his immediate superior. Upon termination of the services of a licensed inspector, the licensee shall promptly surrender his license to his immediate superior.

§ 354.23 Identification.

Each inspector shall have in his possession at all times, and present upon request while on duty, the means of identification furnished by the Department to such person.

§ 354.24 Financial interest of inspectors.

No inspector shall render service on any product in which he is financially interested.

§ 354.25 Political activity.

All inspectors are forbidden, during the period of their respective appointments or licenses, to take an active part in political management or in political campaigns. Political activity in city, county, State, or national elections, whether primary or regular, or in behalf of any party or candidate, or any measure to be voted upon, is prohibited. This applies to all appointees, including, but not being limited to, temporary and cooperative employees and employees on leave of absence with or without pay. Willful violation of §§ 354.20 to 354.25 will constitute grounds for dismissal in the case of appointees and revocation of licenses in the case of licensees.

§ 354.26 Schedule of operation of official plants.

Inspection operating schedules for services performed pursuant to § 354.107 shall be requested in writing and be approved by the Administrator. Normal operating schedules for a full week consist of a continuous 8-hour period per day (excluding not to exceed 1 hour for lunch), 5 consecutive days per week, within the period of Monday through Saturday, for each shift required. Less