

§ 592.5

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part, relative to the class, quality, quantity, and condition of products.

*Inspection program personnel (employee)* means employees of the Department authorized by the Secretary to investigate and certify, in accordance with the Act and this part, to shippers of products and other interested parties the class, quality, quantity, and condition of such products.

*Interested party* means any person financially interested in a transaction involving any inspection or appeal inspection of any product.

*Official plant* means any plant in which the facilities and methods of operation therein have been found by the Administrator to be suitable and adequate for inspection in accordance with this part and in which such service is carried on.

*Person* means any individual, partnership, association, business trust, corporation, or any organized group of persons, whether incorporated or not.

*Product or products* means eggs (whether liquid, frozen, or dried), egg products, and any food product that is prepared or manufactured and contains eggs as an ingredient.

*Program employee* means any person employed by the Department or any cooperating agency who is authorized by the Secretary to do any work or perform any duty in connection with the program.

*Quality* means the inherent properties of any product that determine its relative degree of excellence.

*Regulations* mean the provisions in this part.

*Sampling* means the act of taking samples of any product for inspection.

*Secretary* means the Secretary of the Department or any other officer or employee of the Department to whom there has heretofore been delegated, or to whom there may hereafter be delegated, the authority to act in the Secretary's stead.

*Service means:* (1) Any inspection, in accordance with the Agriculture Marketing Act and the regulations in this part, of any product,

(2) Supervision, in any official plant, of the processing, packaging and identification, or

(3) Any appeal inspection of any previously inspected product.

*Shell eggs* mean the shell eggs of the domesticated chicken, turkey, duck, goose, and guinea.

**§ 592.5 Designation of official certificates, memoranda, marks, other identifications, and devices for purposes of the Agricultural Marketing Act.**

Subsection 203(h) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended by Public Law 272, 84th Congress, provides 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 below 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 sampling, inspection, class, quality, quantity, or condition of products (including the compliance of products with applicable specifications).

(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 symbol formulated pursuant to the regulations in this part, stating that the product was inspected, or for the purpose of maintaining the identity of the product.

(d) *Official identification* means any United States (U.S.) standard designation of class, quality, quantity, or condition specified in this part or any symbol, stamp, label, or seal indicating that the product has been officially inspected or indicating the class, quality, quantity, 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 printed label, or other method as approved by the Secretary for the purpose of applying any official mark or other identification to any product of the packaging material thereof.

#### ADMINISTRATION

##### § 592.10 Authority.

The Administrator shall perform, for and under the supervision of the Secretary, such duties as the Secretary may require in the enforcement or administration of the provisions of the Act and this part. The Administrator is authorized to waive for a limited period any particular provisions of the regulations in this part to permit experimentation so that new procedures, equipment, and processing techniques may be tested to facilitate definite improvements and at the same time to determine full compliance with the spirit and intent of the regulations in this part. The Food Safety 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.

#### GENERAL

##### § 592.20 Kinds of services available.

The regulations in this part provide for the following kinds of services:

- (a) Inspection of the processing in official plants of products containing eggs;
- (b) Sampling of products; and
- (c) Quantity and condition inspection of products.

##### § 592.22 Where service is offered.

Any product may be inspected wherever inspection program personnel are available and the facilities and the conditions are satisfactory for the conduct of the service.

##### § 592.24 Basis of service.

(a) Products shall be inspected in accordance with such standards, methods, and instructions as may be issued or approved by the Administrator. All service shall be subject to supervision at all times by the applicable FSIS des-

ignated supervisor. Whenever the supervisor of an inspection program person has evidence that such inspection program employee incorrectly inspected a product, such supervisor shall take such action as is necessary to correct the inspection and to cause any improper official identification that appears on the product or containers thereof to be corrected prior to shipment of the product from the place of the initial inspection.

(b) Whenever service is performed on a sample basis, such sample shall be drawn in accordance with the instructions as issued by the Administrator.

#### PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES

##### § 592.70 Identification.

All inspection program personnel and supervisors shall have in their possession at all times while on duty and present upon request the means of identification furnished by the Department to such person.

##### § 592.80 Political activity.

All inspection program personnel are forbidden during the period of their respective appointments, 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 is prohibited, except as authorized by law or regulation of the Department. 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 this section will constitute grounds for dismissal.

##### § 592.90 Authority and duties of inspection program personnel performing service.

(a) Inspection program personnel are authorized:

- (1) To make such observations and inspections as they deem necessary to enable them to certify that products have been prepared, processed, stored, and otherwise handled in conformity with the regulations in this part;