

Wage and Hour Division, Labor

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(c) The decision of the Administrative Law Judge shall be limited to a determination whether the respondent has violated the Act or these regulations, and the appropriateness of the remedy or remedies imposed by the Secretary. The Administrative Law Judge shall not render determinations on the legality of a regulatory provision or the constitutionality of a statutory provision.

(d) The decision of the Administrative Law Judge, for purposes of the Equal Access to Justice Act (5 U.S.C. 504), shall be limited to determinations of attorney fees and/or other litigation expenses in adversary proceedings requested pursuant to §500.212 which involve the modification, suspension or revocation of a Certificate of Registration issued under the Act and these Regulations, and/or the imposition of a civil money penalty assessed for a violation of the Act or these Regulations. The Administrative Law Judge shall have no power or authority to award attorney fees and/or other litigation expenses pursuant to the provisions of the Equal Access to Justice Act or Regulations issued thereunder in any proceeding under MSPA or these Regulations involving the refusal to issue or renew a Certificate of Registration.

(e) The decision of the Administrative Law Judge shall include a statement of findings and conclusions, with reasons and basis therefor, upon each material issue presented on the record. The decision shall also include an appropriate order which may be to affirm, deny, reverse, or modify, in whole or in part, the determination of the Secretary. The reason or reasons for such order shall be stated in the decision.

(f) The Administrative Law Judge shall transmit to the Chief Administrative Law Judge the entire record including the decision. The Chief Administrative Law Judge shall serve copies of the decision on each of the parties.

(g) The decision when served shall constitute the final order of the Secretary unless the Secretary, pursuant to section 103(b)(2) or section 503(b)(2) of the Act, modifies or vacates the decision and order of the Administrative Law Judge.

(h) Except as provided in §§500.263 through 500.268, the administrative remedies available to the parties under the Act will be exhausted upon service of the decision of the Administrative Law Judge.

[48 FR 36741, Aug. 12, 1983, as amended at 61 FR 24866, May 16, 1996]

MODIFICATION OR VACATION OF ORDER OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

§ 500.263 Authority of the Secretary.

The Secretary may modify or vacate the Decision and Order of the Administrative Law Judge whenever he concludes that the Decision and Order:

(a) Is inconsistent with a policy or precedent established by the Department of Labor,

(b) Encompasses determinations not within the scope of the authority of the Administrative Law Judge,

(c) Awards attorney fees and/or other litigation expenses pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act which are unjustified or excessive, or

(d) Otherwise warrants modifying or vacating.

[54 FR 13330, Mar. 31, 1989]

§ 500.264 Procedures for initiating review.

(a) Within twenty (20) days after the date of the decision of the Administrative Law Judge, the respondent, the Administrator, or any other party desiring review thereof, may file with the Secretary an original and two copies of a petition for issuance of a Notice of Intent as described under §500.265. The petition shall be in writing and shall contain a concise and plain statement specifying the grounds on which review is sought. A copy of the Decision and Order of the Administrative Law Judge shall be attached to the petition.

(b) Copies of the petition shall be served upon all parties to the proceeding and on the Chief Administrative Law Judge.

[54 FR 13330, Mar. 31, 1989]

§ 500.265 Implementation by the Secretary.

(a) Whenever, on the Secretary's own motion or upon acceptance of a party's petition, the Secretary believes that a

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Decision and Order may warrant modifying or vacating, the Secretary shall issue a Notice of Intent to modify or vacate.

(b) The Notice of Intent to Modify or Vacate a Decision and Order shall specify the issue or issues to be considered, the form in which submission shall be made (i.e., briefs, oral argument, etc.), and the time within which such presentation shall be submitted. The Secretary shall closely limit the time within which the briefs must be filed or oral presentations made, so as to avoid unreasonable delay.

(c) The Notice of Intent shall be issued within thirty (30) days after the date of the Decision and Order in question.

(d) Service of the Notice of Intent shall be made upon each party to the proceeding, and upon the Chief Administrative Law Judge, in person or by certified mail.

[54 FR 13330, Mar. 31, 1989]

§ 500.266 Responsibility of the Office of Administrative Law Judges.

Upon receipt of the Secretary's Notice of Intent to Modify or Vacate a Decision and Order of an Administrative Law Judge, the Chief Administrative Law Judge shall, within fifteen (15) days, index, certify and forward a copy of the complete hearing record to the Secretary.

[48 FR 36741, Aug. 21, 1983. Redesignated at 54 FR 13330, Mar. 31, 1989]

§ 500.267 Filing and service.

(a) *Filing.* All documents submitted to the Secretary shall be filed with the Secretary of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210.

(b) *Number of copies.* An original and two copies of all documents shall be filed.

(c) *Computation of time for delivery by mail.* Documents are not deemed filed with the Secretary until actually received by that office. All documents, including documents filed by mail, must be received by the Secretary either on or before the due date.

(d) *Manner and proof of service.* A copy of all documents filed with the Secretary shall be served upon all other parties involved in the proceeding.

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Service under this section shall be by personal delivery or by mail. Service by mail is deemed effected at the time of mailing to the last known address.

[54 FR 13330, Mar. 31, 1989]

§ 500.268 Final decision of the Secretary.

(a) The Secretary's final Decision and Order shall be issued within 120 days from the notice of intent granting the petition, except that in cases involving the review of an Administrative Law Judge decision in a certificate action as described in § 500.224(b), the Secretary's final decision shall be issued within ninety (90) days from the date such notice. The Secretary's Decision and Order shall be served upon all parties and the Chief Administrative Law Judge, in person or by certified mail.

(b) Upon receipt of an Order of the Secretary modifying or vacating the Decision and Order of an Administrative Law Judge, the Chief Administrative Law Judge shall substitute such Order for the Decision and Order of the Administrative Law Judge.

[54 FR 13330, Mar. 31, 1989, as amended at 61 FR 24866, May 16, 1996]

§ 500.269 Stay pending decision of the Secretary.

(a) The filing of a petition seeking review by the Secretary of a Decision and Order of an Administrative Law Judge, pursuant to § 500.264, does not stop the running of the thirty-day time limit in which respondent may file an appeal to obtain a review in the United States District Court of an administrative order, as provided in section 103(b)(2) or section 503(b)(2) of the Act, unless the Secretary issues a Notice of Intent pursuant to § 500.265.

(b) In the event a respondent has filed a notice of appeal of the Administrative Law Judge's Decision and Order in a United States District Court and the Secretary issues a Notice of Intent, the Secretary will seek a stay of proceedings in the Court until such time as the Secretary issues the final decision, as provided in § 500.268.

(c) Where the Secretary has issued a Notice of Intent, the time for filing an appeal under sections 103(b)(2) or 503(b)(2) of the Act shall commence