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this subpart or of any rule issued pursuant hereto, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not:

(a) Affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may hereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued thereunder;

(b) Release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or any regulation issued thereunder; or

(c) Affect or impair any rights or remedies of the United States, or of the Secretary, or of any person, with respect to any such violation.

§ 1220.253 Personal liability.

No member, employee or agent of the Board, including employees, agents or board members of Qualified State Soybean Boards, acting pursuant to authority provided in this subpart, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts of either commission or omission, of such member or employee, except for acts of dishonesty or willful misconduct.

§ 1220.254 Patents, copyrights, inventions, and publications.

(a) Any patents, copyrights, inventions, or publications developed through the use of funds remitted to the Board under the provisions of this subpart shall be the property of the U.S. Government as represented by the Board, and shall, along with any rents, royalties, residual payments, or other income from the rental, sale, leasing, franchising, or other uses of such patents, copyrights, inventions, or publications, inure to the benefit of the Board. Upon termination of this subpart, § 1220.251 shall apply to determine disposition of all such property.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, if patents, copyrights, inventions, or publications are developed by the use of funds remitted to the Board under this subpart. Should patents, copyrights, inventions or publications be developed through the use of funds remitted to the Board under this subpart and funds contributed by another organization or person, ownership and related rights to

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such patents, copyrights, inventions, or publications shall be determined by agreement between the Board and the party contributing funds towards the development of such patent, copyright, invention or publication.

§ 1220.255 Amendments.

Amendments to this subpart may be proposed, from time to time, by the Board, or by any Qualified State Soybean Board recognized, or by any interested person affected by the provisions of the Act, including the Secretary.

§ 1220.256 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart of the applicability thereof to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

§ 1220.257 OMB control numbers.

The control number assigned to the information collection requirements by the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, Public Law 96-511, is OMB number 0581-0093, except Board member nominee information sheets are assigned OMB number 0505-0001.

[56 FR 31049, July 9, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 50694, Sept. 27, 1996]

Subpart B—Rules and Regulations

SOURCE: 57 FR 29439, July 2, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

DEFINITIONS

§ 1220.301 Terms defined.

As used throughout this subpart, unless the context otherwise requires, terms shall have the same meaning as the definition of such terms as appears in subpart A of this part.

§ 1220.302 Exemption.

(a) A producer who operates under an approved National Organic Program (NOP) (7 CFR part 205) system plan; produces only products that are eligible to be labeled as 100 percent organic under the NOP, except as provided for

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in paragraph (g) of this section; and is not a split operation shall be exempt from the payment of assessments.

(b) To apply for an exemption under this section, the producer shall submit the request to the Board or other party as designated by the Board—on a form provided by the Board—at any time initially and annually thereafter on or before January 1 as long as the producer continues to be eligible for the exemption.

(c) The request shall include the following: the producer's name and address, a copy of the organic farm or organic handling operation certificate provided by a USDA-accredited certifying agent as defined in section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502), a signed certification that the applicant meets all of the requirements specified for an assessment exemption, and such other information as may be required by the Board and with the approval of the Secretary.

(d) If the producer complies with the requirements of this section, the Board or designee will grant the exemption and issue a Certificate of Exemption to the producer. For exemption requests received on or before August 15, 2005, the Board will have 60 days to approve the exemption request; after August 15, 2005, the Board will have 30 days to approve the exemption request. If the application is disapproved, the Board will notify the applicant of the reason(s) for disapproval within the same time-frame.

(e) The producer shall provide a copy of the Certificate of Exemption to each first purchaser. The first purchaser shall maintain records showing the exempt producer's name and address and the exemption number assigned by the Board.

(f) The exemption will apply at the first reporting period following the issuance of the exemption.

(g) Agricultural commodities produced and marketed under an organic system plan, as described in 7 CFR 205.201, but not sold, labeled, or represented as organic, shall not disqualify a producer from exemption under this section, except that producers who produce both organic and non-organic agricultural commodities

as a result of split operations shall not qualify for exemption. Reasons for conventional sales include lack of demand for organic products, isolated use of antibiotics for humane purposes, chemical or pesticide use as the result of State or emergency spray programs, and crops from a buffer area as described in 7 CFR part 205, provided all other criteria are met.

[70 FR 2759, Jan. 14, 2005]

ASSESSMENTS

§ 1220.310 Assessments.

(a) A 0.5 percent of the net market price per bushel assessment on soybeans marketed shall be paid by the producer of the soybeans in the manner designated in § 1220.311.

(b) If more than one producer shares the proceeds received for the soybeans marketed, each such producer is obligated to pay that portion of the assessments which is equivalent to each producer's proportionate share of the proceeds.

(c) Failure of the first purchaser to collect the assessment on each bushel of soybeans marketed as designated in § 1220.311 shall not relieve the producer of the producer's obligation to pay the assessment to the appropriate Qualified State Soybean Board or the United Soybean Board as required in § 1220.312.

§ 1220.311 Collection and remittance of assessments.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each first purchaser making payment to a producer for soybeans marketed by a producer shall collect from that producer at the time of settlement of that producer's account an assessment at the rate of 0.5 percent of the net market price per bushel of soybeans marketed and shall be responsible for remitting the assessment to the Qualified State Soybean Board or the United Soybean Board as provided in § 1220.312. The first purchaser shall give to the producer a receipt indicating payment of the assessment. The receipt shall be any document issued by the first purchaser that contains the information requested in § 1220.314(a).

(b) A first purchaser who purchases soybeans pursuant to a contract with a