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that effect not later than the previous March 20, in which event such handler shall return to the Board, for disposition by it, all reserve almonds remaining in his possession. In case a handler does not terminate his agency as of April 1, he shall be required to continue to serve as such agent until December 31 of the next crop year. The Board shall not terminate such an agency prior to December 31 unless the agent violates the terms and conditions specified by the Board or other provisions of the order. During the period of such agency the Board, as principal, shall not dispose of the reserve withheld from handling by said agent. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary may prescribe such rules and regulations as are necessary to regulate disposition of reserve almonds including methods for crediting as reserve any salable almonds sold and delivered to reserve outlets.

[35 FR 11372, July 16, 1970, as amended at 61 FR 32921, June 26, 1996]

RECORDS AND REPORTS

§ 981.70 Records and verification.

Each handler shall keep records which will clearly show the details of his or her receipts of almonds, withholdings, sales, shipments, inventories, reserve disposition, advertising and promotion activities, as well as other pertinent information regarding his or her operation pursuant to the provisions of this part: *Provided*, that, such records shall be kept in the State of California. Such records shall be retained by the handler for 2 years after the end of the crop year to which they apply. Each handler's premises shall be accessible to authorized representatives of the Board and the Secretary for examination and audit of the aforesaid records and for inspection and observation of almonds. The Board shall make such checks of almonds or audits of each handler's records as it deems appropriate or are requested by the Secretary to insure that accurate information as required in this part is being furnished by handlers.

[35 FR 11372, July 16, 1970, as amended at 37 FR 3984, Feb. 25, 1972; 61 FR 32921, June 26, 1996]

7 CFR Ch. IX (1-1-08 Edition)

§ 981.71 Record of receipts.

For the purpose of establishing the reserve obligation and furnishing statistical information to the Board necessary for the conduct of its operations, each handler, on receiving almonds for his own account, shall issue to the person from whom so received a receipt therefor. At least two duplicates thereof shall be made at the time of issuance, one of which shall be retained by the handler as a part of his records and the other submitted to the Board as hereinafter provided. Such receipts shall be serially numbered and shall accurately show for each lot received, the identity of the handler, the name and address of the person from whom received, the number of containers in the lot, the variety, whether shelled or unshelled, and the settlement weight for each such variety. The character and amount of all adjustments deducted from the gross weight shall be shown with the gross weight on the receipt issued by the handler.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 40 FR 4416, Jan. 30, 1975, § 981.71 was suspended indefinitely.

§ 981.72 Reports of receipts.

Each handler receiving almonds for his own account shall tabulate such receipts by varieties and shall submit reports thereof to the Board in such form and at such intervals as the Board may prescribe for all receipts issued by him. Such reports shall be accompanied by duplicate copies of the receipts issued pursuant to the provisions of § 981.71 for all almonds included in such report. The Board, after checking such reports in such manner as it deems desirable, shall determine in the manner specified in § 981.60 the kernel weight of the almonds so received.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 40 FR 4416, Jan. 30, 1975, in § 981.72, the second sentence was suspended indefinitely.

§ 981.73 Periodic reports.

On or before January 15, and April 15, and August 15 of each crop year, each handler shall file with the Board a written report, certified to the Board and to the Secretary by such handler as to its completeness and correctness, showing as of the close of business on

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December 31, March 31, and July 31, respectively, such information as may be prescribed by the Board for use in re-determination of kernel weight and marketing policy considerations.

[35 FR 11372, July 16, 1970, as amended at 61 FR 32922, June 26, 1996]

§ 981.74 Other reports.

Upon the request of the Board, made with the approval of the Secretary, every handler shall furnish to the Board in such manner and at such times as it prescribes (in addition to such other reports as are specifically provided for in this part) such other information as will enable the Board to perform its duties and exercise its powers hereunder.

§ 981.75 Confidential nature of records and reports.

All information contained in handler records made available to the Board or the Secretary, or in reports to the Board, constituting a trade secret or disclosing the trade position, financial condition, or business operations of any handler shall be considered as confidential information. Such information received by the Board, shall be kept in the custody and under the control of one or more employees of the Board, who shall disclose such information to no person except the Secretary.

§ 981.76 Handler list of growers.

No later than December 31 of each crop year, each handler other than a cooperative handler (hereinafter, referred to as independent handler) governed by this subpart shall, upon request, submit to the Board a complete list of growers who have delivered almonds to such independent handler during that crop year.

[61 FR 32921, June 26, 1996]

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 981.80 Expenses.

The Board is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary may find are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it during each crop year, for the maintenance and functioning of the Board, including the accumulation and maintenance of an operating reserve fund,

and for such purposes as the Secretary may, pursuant to the provisions of this subpart, determine to be appropriate. The recommendation of the Board as to the expenses for each such year, together with all data supporting such recommendation, shall be submitted to the Secretary on or before August 1 of the crop year in connection with which such recommendation is made.

[35 FR 11372, July 16, 1970, as amended at 37 FR, 3984, Feb. 25, 1972]

§ 981.81 Assessment.

(a) *Requirement for payment.* Each handler shall pay to the Board on demand by the Board, from time to time, such sum less any amounts credited pursuant to § 981.41, based on such rate per pound of almonds, kernel weight basis, received by him for his own account (except as to receipts from other handlers on which assessments have been paid) as the Secretary finds is necessary to provide funds to meet the authorized board expenses and the operating reserve requirements, and establishes for the crop year. Upon re-determination of the kernel weight of almonds received by handlers for their own account as provided in § 981.61, such redetermined kernel weight for each handler, adjusted for receipts on which assessments have been paid, shall be the basis upon which he shall pay assessments. At any time during or after a crop year, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessments to apply to all such almonds during such crop year to secure sufficient funds to cover the expenses authorized by § 981.80 or by any later finding by the Secretary relative to the expenses of the Board, and such additional assessments shall be paid to the Board by each handler on demand. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the Board may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.

(b) *Refunds.* Any money collected as assessments for either the administrative (maintenance and functioning) or research activities of the Board and not used for the expenses of the applicable crop year, may be used in paying the Board's expenses of the first four