

area of production, may apply to the committee for exemptions from such regulations for the purpose of obtaining equitable treatment under such regulations.

**§ 948.29 Procedure.**

Rules and procedures for granting exemptions may be issued by the Secretary, upon recommendation of area committees. Such rules and procedures may provide for methods of determinations by area committees of average proportions of crops shipped or being shipped in respective areas or subdivisions thereof during any or all portions of a season, for processing applications for exemption, for issuing or denying certificates of exemption, for administrative compliance with certificates issued, for reports by handlers thereon, and for such other procedures as may be necessary to administration hereof.

**§ 948.30 Granting exemptions.**

An area committee may issue certificates of exemption to any qualified applicant who furnishes adequate evidence to such committee:

(a) That the grade, size, or quality of the applicant's potatoes have been adversely affected by acts beyond his control or reasonable expectations;

(b) That by reason of regulations issued pursuant to § 948.20 or § 948.22, the applicant will be prevented as a producer from shipping or having shipped as large a proportion of his production as the average proportion of production shipped by all producers in said applicant's immediate area of production during the season, or a specific portion thereof.

(c) Each such certificate issued shall permit the person identified therein to ship or have shipped the potatoes described thereon, and evidence of such certificates shall be made available to subsequent handlers thereof.

**§ 948.31 Investigation.**

An area committee shall be permitted at any time to make a thorough investigation of any applicant's claim pertaining to exemptions.

**§ 948.32 Appeal.**

If any applicant for exemption certificates is dissatisfied with the determination by an area committee with respect to his application, he may file an appeal with the committee. Any applicant filing an appeal shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the committee for a determination on the appeal.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

**§ 948.35 Research and development.**

The committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may provide for the establishment of marketing research and development projects designed to assist, improve, or promote the marketing, distribution, and consumption of potatoes and may make available committee information and data to any person, or to any employee of an agency or its agent, authorized by the committee as its agent with the approval of the Secretary, to conduct such projects.

INSPECTION

**§ 948.40 Inspection and certification.**

(a) During any period in which the handling of potatoes is regulated pursuant to § 948.20 through § 948.24, inclusive, no handler shall handle potatoes unless such potatoes are inspected by an authorized representative of the Federal or a Federal-State Inspection Service and are covered by a valid inspection certificate, except when relieved of such requirements by § 948.22(b), § 948.23, or § 948.40(b).

(b) Rules may be issued by the Secretary, upon recommendation of the Colorado Potato Committee requiring inspection on regraded, resorted or repacked lots, or providing for special inspection requirements or relief therefrom. Such rules may provide distinctions, insofar as practical, between handling at shipping point and handling in receiving markets within the production area.

(c) Upon recommendation of an area committee and approval by the Secretary, any or all potatoes so inspected and certified shall be identified by appropriate seals, stamps, or tags to be