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AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 46.

Subpart A—Inquiries; Investigations; Compulsory Processes**§ 2.1 How initiated.**

Commission investigations and inquiries may be originated upon the request of the President, Congress, governmental agencies, or the Attorney General; upon referrals by the courts; upon complaint by members of the public; or by the Commission upon its own initiative. The Commission has delegated to the Director, Deputy Directors, and Assistant Directors of the Bureau of Competition, the Director, Deputy Directors, and Associate Directors of the Bureau of Consumer Protection and, the Regional Directors and Assistant Regional Directors of the Commission's regional offices, without power of redelegation, limited authority to initiate investigations.

[48 FR 41374, Sept. 15, 1983, as amended at 50 FR 53304, Dec. 31, 1985]

§ 2.2 Request for Commission action.

(a) Any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or organization may request the Commission to institute an investigation in respect to any matter over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(b) Such request should be in the form of a signed statement setting forth the alleged violation of law with such supporting information as is available, and the name and address of the person or persons complained of. No forms or formal procedures are required.

(c) The person making the request is not regarded as a party to any proceeding which might result from the investigation.

(d) It is the general Commission policy not to publish or divulge the name of an applicant or complaining party except as required by law or by the Commission's rules. Where a complaint is by a consumer or consumer representative concerning a specific consumer product or service, the Commission, in the course of a referral of the complaint or of an investigation, may disclose the identity of the complainant or complainants. In referring any such consumer complaint, the Commission specifically retains its right to take such action as it deems appropriate in the public interest and under any of the statutes which it administers.

[32 FR 8446, June 13, 1967, as amended at 35 FR 10146, June 20, 1970]

§ 2.3 Policy as to private controversies.

The Commission acts only in the public interest and does not initiate an investigation or take other action when the alleged violation of law is merely a matter of private controversy and does not tend adversely to affect the public.

[32 FR 8446, June 13, 1967]

§ 2.4 Investigational policy.

The Commission encourages voluntary cooperation in its investigations. Where the public interest requires, however, the Commission may, in any matter under investigation adopt a resolution authorizing the use