

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 55.90

grading or inspection service issued pursuant to this part, by giving notice of such suspension to the respective licensee, accompanied by a statement of the reasons therefor. Within 7 days after the receipt of the aforesaid notice and statement of reasons, the licensee may file an appeal in writing, with the Secretary, supported by any argument or evidence that he may wish to offer as to why his license should not be further suspended or revoked. After the expiration of the aforesaid 7-day period and consideration of such argument and evidence, the Secretary will take such action as he deems appropriate with respect to such suspension or revocation. When no appeal is filed within the prescribed 7 days, the license to perform grading or inspection service is revoked.

§ 55.50 Cancellation of license.

Upon termination of his services as a grader or inspector, each licensee shall surrender his license immediately for cancellation.

§ 55.60 Surrender of license.

Each license which is canceled, suspended, or revoked shall immediately be surrendered by the licensee to the office of the service in the region in which he is located.

§ 55.70 Identification.

All graders, inspectors, and supervisors shall have in their possession at all times while on duty and present upon request the means of identification furnished by the Department to such person.

§ 55.80 Political activity.

All graders and inspectors are forbidden during the period of their respective appointments or licenses, to take an active part in political management or in political campaigns. Political activity in city, county, State, or national elections, whether primary or regular, or in behalf of any party or candidate is prohibited, except as authorized by law or regulation of the Department. This applies to all appointees, including, but not being limited to, temporary and cooperative employees and employees on leave of ab-

sence with or without pay. Willful violation of this section will constitute grounds for dismissal in the case of appointees and revocation of licenses in the case of licensees.

[36 FR 11795, June 19, 1971, as amended at 42 FR 2969, Jan. 14, 1977. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981]

§ 55.90 Authority and duties of inspectors performing service on a resident inspection basis.

(a) Each inspector is authorized:

(1) To make such observations and inspections as he deems necessary to enable him to certify that products have been prepared, processed, stored, and otherwise handled in conformity with the regulations in this part;

(2) To supervise the marking of packages containing products which are eligible to be identified with official identification;

(3) To retain in his custody, or under his supervision, labels with official identification, marking devices, samples, certificates, seals, and reports of inspectors;

(4) To deface or remove, or cause to be defaced or removed under his personal supervision, any official identification from any package containing products whenever he determines that such products were not processed in accordance with the regulations in this part or are not fit for human food;

(5) To issue a certificate upon request on any product processed in the official plant; and

(6) To use retention tags or other devices and methods as may be approved by the Administrator for the identification and control of products which are not in compliance with the regulations in this part or are held for further examination, and any equipment, utensils, rooms or compartments which are found to be unclean or otherwise in violation of any of the regulations in this part. No product, equipment, utensil, room or compartment shall be released for use until it has been made acceptable. Such identification shall not be removed by anyone other than inspector or grader.

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(b) Each inspector shall prepare such reports and records as may be prescribed by the officer-in-charge of the service.

[36 FR 11795, June 19, 1971, as amended at 42 FR 2969, Jan. 14, 1977. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981]

§ 55.95 Facilities and equipment to be furnished for use of graders and inspectors in performing service on a resident inspection basis.

(a) Facilities and equipment for proper sampling, weighing, examination of products and monitoring processing procedures shall be furnished by the official plant for use by inspectors and graders. Such facilities and equipment shall include but not be limited to a room or area suitable for sampling product, and acceptable candling light, flashlight, heavy duty, high speed drill with an eleven sixteenths-inch or larger bit of sufficient length to reach the bottom of containers used for frozen eggs, metal stem thermometer(s), test thermometer(s), stop watch, test weighing scale(s) and test weight(s), test kit for determining the bactericidal strength of sanitizing solutions, and stationary or adequately secured storage box or cage (capable of being locked only by the inspector) for holding official samples.

(b) Acceptable furnished office space and equipment, including but not being limited to, a desk, lockers or cabinets (equipped with a satisfactory locking device) suitable for the protection and storage of supplies, and with facilities for inspectors and graders to change clothing.

[60 FR 49168, Sept. 21, 1995]

§ 55.96 Schedule of operation of official plants.

Grading operating schedules for services performed pursuant to § 55.560 shall be requested in writing and be approved by the Administrator. Normal operating schedules for a full week consist of a continuous 8-hour period per day (excluding not to exceed 1 hour for lunch), 5 consecutive days per week, within the administrative workweek, Sunday through Saturday, for each shift required. Less than 8-hour schedules may be requested and will be ap-

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proved if a grader is available. Clock hours of daily operations need not be specified in the request, although as a condition of continued approval, the hours of operation shall be reasonably uniform from day to day. As an alternative, the normal operating schedule shall consist of a continuous 10-hour period per day (excluding not to exceed 1 hour for lunch), 4 consecutive days per week, within the administrative workweek, Sunday through Saturday for each full shift required. Graders are to be given reasonable advance notice by management of any change in the hours that grading service is requested.

[48 FR 20682, May 9, 1983, as amended at 60 FR 49168, Sept. 21, 1995]

APPLICATION FOR SERVICE

§ 55.100 Who may obtain service.

(a) An application for service may be made by any interested person, including, but not being limited to, the United States, any State, county, municipality, or common carrier, and any authorized agent of the foregoing.

(b) Where service is offered: Any product may be graded or inspected, wherever a grader or inspector is available and the facilities and the conditions are satisfactory for the conduct of the service.

§ 55.120 Authority of applicant.

Proof of the authority of any person applying for any service may be required at the discretion of the Administrator.

§ 55.130 How application for service may be made; conditions of resident service.

(a) *On a fee basis.* An application for any service may be made in any office of grading, or with any grader or inspector at or nearest the place where the service is desired. Such application for service may be made orally (in person or by telephone), in writing or by telegraph. If an application for grading service is made orally, the office of grading, grader or inspector with whom such application is made, or the Administrator may require that the application be confirmed in writing.

(b) *On a resident inspection basis.* An application for inspection on a resident