2 Section 424 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7734) provides that persons who violate this act, or who forge, counterfeit or—without authority from the Secretary—use, alter, deface, or destroy any certificate, permit or other document may, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, be assessed a civil penalty that does not exceed the greater of:

(a) $50,000 for individuals, except that the civil penalty may not exceed $1,000 in the case of an initial violation by an individual moving regulated articles not for monetary gain; $250,000 for any other person or legal entity, such as partnerships, corporations, associations, or joint ventures; and $500,000 for all violations adjudicated in a single proceeding; or (b) twice the gross pecuniary gain derived from or loss caused by any violation, forgery, counterfeiting, unauthorized use, defacing, or destruction of a certificate, permit, or other document provided for by this act. Section 424 of the Plant Protection Act also provides penalties for criminal violations, under which knowing violators of the act may be found guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, fined in accordance with title 18 of the United States Code, imprisoned for a period not to exceed 1 year, or both.

Subpart—Movement of Soil, Stone, and Quarry Products

§ 330.300 Soil from foreign countries or Territories or possessions.

No soil shall be moved into or through the United States from any place outside thereof, or from any Territory or possession into or through any other Territory or possession, or the Continental United States, whether the soil is moved as such or incidentally adhering to means of conveyance or other articles, except as authorized in §318.60 or §319.69 of this chapter, or this subpart.

(a) Permits authorized. The Deputy Administrator may issue permits under this section for movements of soil not governed by §318.60 or §319.69 of this chapter, for research, analytical, religious, ceremonial, patriotic, or similar purposes, or such other purposes as he shall deem consistent with the objectives of this part, specifying in the permit or in the related correspondence,
the safeguards, including methods of treatment, or other conditions which he deems necessary for the purpose of preventing the dissemination of plant pests into the United States or interstate. Whenever it is possible to formulate a general rule specifying such conditions, it shall be promulgated in administrative instructions and the applicable provisions thereof may be incorporated into a permit by citation, but shall be applicable whether or not so cited.

(b) Application for permits. Only persons resident in the United States may apply for permits under this section to move soil into the United States from any place outside thereof, or from any territory or possession into or through any other Territory or possession or the Continental United States. Persons resident in the United States contemplating such movements, or any persons contemplating movement through the United States, of soil under this section shall first make application for permits authorizing such movement by submitting to the Plant Protection and Quarantine Programs the form provided therefor by the Plant Protection and Quarantine Programs or by submitting, in the form of a letter or other written communication, the following information: Origin of the shipment, destination, quantity, method of shipment, proposed port of first arrival in the United States, port of export (if applicable), approximate date of arrival in the United States, intended use, measures to be employed to prevent danger of plant pest dissemination, method of final disposition, and the number of parcels expected to be moved. In acting upon the application for permits for such movement of soil, the Deputy Administrator will follow the procedures outlined in §330.202 for the consideration of applications for permits to move plant pests insofar as they are applicable.

(c) Issuance of permits; conditions of permits. Upon the approval of an application for a permit authorizing the movement of soil under this section, the permit will be issued. The permit may contain any conditions which are necessary, in the opinion of the Deputy Administrator, to prevent dissemination of plant pests into the United States or interstate, including conditions with respect to routing, packing, and labeling of the soil. The Deputy Administrator may require the applicant to agree in writing to such conditions prior to the issuance of the permit. The importer will receive, as a part of the permit, information on the manner in which the importation is to be made. A permit without conditions may be issued orally.

(d) Containers; labels. All containers for soil moved under this section shall be stoutly constructed so as to prevent breakage in transit and danger of plant pest dissemination and shall be appropriately labeled as to contents. If the soil is moved by mail, special mailing labels will be issued to the importer, with instructions for their use, which he is to send to the foreign shipper. The quantity of mailing labels issued will be sufficient for the foreign shipper to attach one to each parcel moved by mail. Such mailing labels will indicate to the postal and the plant quarantine officials that the movement is authorized under the conditions specified in this permit. Importations arriving by mail without labels will be subject to refusal of entry into the United States, or interstate movement, by the inspector unless treated, at the expense of the owner, in a manner to remove danger of plant pest dissemination. The Deputy Administrator may issue mailing labels for movement into or through the United States from any place outside thereof, or from any Territory or possession into or through any other Territory or possession of the continental United States, of earth other than soil when the movement might otherwise be impeded because of the similarity to soil subject to this section.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0579–0054)

§ 330.300a Administrative instructions exempting soil from parts of Canada from certain restrictions.

Soil of Canadian origin except soil from Newfoundland and the Land District of Central Saanich on Vancouver Island of British Columbia may be