

§ 1205.518

(i) The name of any collecting handler will be subject to publication if the collecting handler:

(A) is sent two certified mail notices of past due assessments and/or collecting handler reports from the Cotton Board in any one marketing year (August 1–July 31), or

(B) is required by the Cotton Board to establish an escrow account for depositing assessments, in accordance with paragraph (a)(2) of this section, and does not comply with the deposit procedures established by the Cotton Board with approval of the Secretary.

(ii) The name of any collecting handler who is subject to publication will be published by the Cotton Board with the approval of the Secretary in a monthly listing during the primary cotton marketing season (September through March) and a bi-monthly listing during the remainder of the year. The published listing will be distributed by the Cotton Board.

(iii) The Cotton Board, with approval of the Secretary, may notify individual producers that the assessments collected by such producer's collecting handler, whose name is subject to publication in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (a)(4)(i) of this section, have not been remitted to the Cotton Board as required.

(b) Any importer who fails to submit reports to the Cotton Board pursuant to request made according to §1205.516 or assessments to the Customs Service, shall be subject to one or more of the following actions:

(1) Audits of the importer's books and records to determine the amount owed the Cotton Board.

(2) A deduction for the amount of any unpaid assessment by the Customs Service from the importers surety bond.

(3) Referral to the Secretary for appropriate enforcement action.

[57 FR 29191, July 1, 1992]

§ 1205.518 Receipts for payment of assessments.

Each collecting handler who is required by §1205.512 and §1205.513 to give the producer a receipt showing payment of cotton research and promotion assessments shall provide the producer with an invoice or settlement sheet for

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the cotton. Such document shall serve as a receipt shall contain the following information:

(a) Name and address of collecting handler.

(b) Gin code number of gin at which cotton was ginned.

(c) Name and address of producer who paid assessment.

(d) Number of bales on which assessment was paid.

(e) Gross price per pound received by the producer.

(f) Total assessments paid by the producer.

(g) Date on which assessment was paid by producer.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0581–0115)

[42 FR 35974, July 13, 1977, as amended at 49 FR 8420, Mar. 7, 1984. Redesignated and amended at 51 FR 6099, Feb. 20, 1986. Further redesignated at 57 FR 29190, July 1, 1992]

§ 1205.519 Organic exemption.

(a) A producer who operates under an approved National Organic Program (NOP) (7 CFR part 205) system plan; produces only products that are eligible to be labeled as 100 percent organic under the NOP, except as provided for in paragraph (h) of this section; and is not a split operation shall be exempt from the payment of assessments.

(b) To apply for an exemption under this section, an eligible cotton producer shall submit a request for exemption to the Board—on a form provided by the Board—at any time initially and annually thereafter on or before the beginning of the crop year as long as the producer continues to be eligible for the exemption.

(c) The request shall include the following: The producer's name and address, a copy of the organic farm or organic handling operation certificate provided by a USDA-accredited certifying agent as defined in section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502), a signed certification that the applicant meets all of the requirements specified in paragraph (a) of this section for an assessment exemption, and such other information as may be required by the Board and with the approval of the Secretary.

(d) If the producer complies with the requirements of this section, the Board will grant the exemption and issue a Certificate of Exemption to the producer. For exemption requests received on or before August 15, 2005, the Board will have 60 days to approve the exemption request; after August 15, 2005, the Board will have 30 days to approve the exemption request. If the application is disapproved, the Board will notify the applicant of the reason(s) for disapproval within the same timeframe.

(e) The producer shall provide a copy of the Certificate of Exemption to each handler to whom the producer sells cotton. The handler shall maintain records showing the exempt producer's name and address and the exemption number assigned by the Board.

(f) An importer who imports only products that are eligible to be labeled as 100 percent organic under the NOP (7 CFR part 205) and who is not a split operation shall be exempt from the payment of assessments. That importer may submit documentation to the Board and request an exemption from assessment on 100 percent organic cotton and 100 percent organic cotton products—on a form provided by the Board—at any time initially and annually thereafter as long as the importer continues to be eligible for the exemption. This documentation shall include the same information required of producers in paragraph (c) of this section. If the importer complies with the requirements of this section, the Board will grant the exemption and issue a Certificate of Exemption to the importer. The Board will also issue the importer a 9-digit alphanumeric Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) classification valid for 1 year from the date of issue. This HTS classification should be entered by the importer on the Customs entry documentation. Any line item entry of 100 percent organic cotton and cotton products bearing this HTS classification assigned by the Board will not be subject to assessments.

(g) The exemption will apply immediately following the issuance of the Certificate of Exemption.

(h) Agricultural commodities produced and marketed under an organic system plan, as described in 7 CFR

205.201, but not sold, labeled, or represented as organic, shall not disqualify a producer from exemption under this section, except that producers who produce both organic and non-organic agricultural commodities as a result of split operations shall not qualify for exemption. Reasons for conventional sales include lack of demand for organic products, isolated use of antibiotics for humane purposes, chemical or pesticide use as the result of State or emergency spray programs, and crops from a buffer area as described in 7 CFR part 205, provided all other criteria are met.

[70 FR 2754, Jan. 14, 2005]

REIMBURSEMENTS

§ 1205.520 Procedure for obtaining reimbursement.

Each importer against whose imports of cotton or cotton-containing products any assessments are made and collected may obtain a reimbursement on that portion of the assessment that was collected on cotton produced in the United States or cotton other than Upland cotton by following the procedures prescribed in this section.

(a) *Application form.* An importer shall obtain a reimbursement application form from the Cotton Board. Such form may be obtained by written request to the Cotton Board and the request shall bear the importer's signature or the importer's properly-witnessed mark.

(b) *Submission of reimbursement application to Cotton Board.* Any importer requesting a reimbursement shall mail the application on the prescribed form to the Cotton Board. The application shall be postmarked within 180 days from the date the assessments were paid on the cotton by such importer. The reimbursement application shall show:

(1) The importer's name, address, phone number and Customs Service identification number;

(2) Weight of the cotton in each HTS category for which the reimbursement is requested;

(3) Subtotal amounts to be reimbursed for each HTS number and grand total to be reimbursed;