

CHAPTER 5—JUDICIAL REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS

- Sec. 321. Limitation on pleading contract provisions relating to finality; standards of review.
- 322. Contract provisions making decisions final on questions of law.

§ 321. Limitation on pleading contract provisions relating to finality; standards of review

No provision of any contract entered into by the United States, relating to the finality or conclusiveness of any decision of the head of any department or agency or his duly authorized representative or board in a dispute involving a question arising under such contract, shall be pleaded in any suit now filed or to be filed as limiting judicial review of any such decision to cases where fraud by such official or his said representative or board is alleged: *Provided, however,* That any such decision shall be final and conclusive unless the same is fraudulent¹ or capricious or arbitrary or so grossly erroneous as necessarily to imply bad faith, or is not supported by substantial evidence.

(May 11, 1954, ch. 199, § 1, 68 Stat. 81.)

AGENCY ACTIONS GENERALLY, JUDICIAL REVIEW

Judicial review of agency actions generally, see section 701 et seq. of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 322. Contract provisions making decisions final on questions of law

No Government contract shall contain a provision making final on a question of law the decision of any administrative official, representative, or board.

(May 11, 1954, ch. 199, § 2, 68 Stat. 81.)

CHAPTER 6—SERVICE CONTRACT LABOR STANDARDS

- Sec. 351. Required contract provisions; minimum wages.
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- Sec. 357. Definitions.
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CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in title 25 section 450; title 29 sections 206, 653; title 39 section 410.

§ 351. Required contract provisions; minimum wages

(a) Every contract (and any bid specification therefor) entered into by the United States or the District of Columbia in excess of \$2,500, except as provided in section 356 of this title, whether negotiated or advertised, the principal purpose of which is to furnish services in the United States through the use of service employees, shall contain the following:

(1) A provision specifying the minimum monetary wages to be paid the various classes of service employees in the performance of the contract or any subcontract thereunder, as determined by the Secretary, or his authorized representative, in accordance with prevailing rates for such employees in the locality, or, where a collective-bargaining agreement covers any such service employees, in accordance with the rates for such employees provided for in such agreement, including prospective wage increases provided for in such agreement as a result of arm's length negotiations. In no case shall such wages be lower than the minimum specified in subsection (b) of this section.

(2) A provision specifying the fringe benefits to be furnished in the various classes of service employees, engaged in the performance of the contract or any subcontract thereunder, as determined by the Secretary or his authorized representative to be prevailing for such employees in the locality, or, where a collective-bargaining agreement covers any such service employees, to be provided for in such agreement, including prospective fringe benefits increases provided for in such agreement as a result of arm's-length negotiations. Such fringe benefits shall include medical or hospital care, pensions on retirement or death, compensation for injuries or illness resulting from occupational activity, or insurance to provide any of the foregoing, unemployment benefits, life insurance, disability and sickness insurance, accident insurance, vacation and holiday pay, costs of apprenticeship or other similar programs and other bona fide fringe benefits not otherwise required by Federal, State, or local law to be provided by the contractor or subcontractor. The obligation under this subparagraph may be discharged by furnishing any equivalent combinations of fringe benefits or by making equivalent or differential payments in cash under rules and regulations established by the Secretary.

(3) A provision that no part of the services covered by this chapter will be performed in buildings or surroundings or under working conditions, provided by or under the control or supervision of the contractor or any subcontractor, which are unsanitary or hazardous or dangerous to the health or safety of service employees engaged to furnish the services.

¹ So in original. Probably should be "fraudulent".

(4) A provision that on the date a service employee commences work on a contract to which this chapter applies, the contractor or subcontractor will deliver to the employee a notice of the compensation required under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, on a form prepared by the Federal agency, or will post a notice of the required compensation in a prominent place at the worksite.

(5) A statement of the rates that would be paid by the Federal agency to the various classes of service employees if section 5341 or section 5332 of title 5 were applicable to them. The Secretary shall give due consideration to such rates in making the wage and fringe benefit determinations specified in this section.

(b)(1) No contractor who enters into any contract with the Federal Government the principal purpose of which is to furnish services through the use of service employees and no subcontractor thereunder shall pay any of his employees engaged in performing work on such contracts less than the minimum wage specified under section 206(a)(1) of title 29.

(2) The provisions of sections 352 to 354 of this title shall be applicable to violations of this subsection.

(Pub. L. 89-286, §2, Oct. 22, 1965, 79 Stat. 1034; Pub. L. 92-473, §§1, 2, Oct. 9, 1972, 86 Stat. 789; Pub. L. 94-489, §§1, 2, Oct. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 2358.)

AMENDMENTS

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-489, §1(a), struck out “as defined herein” after “use of service employees”.

Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 94-489, §2, inserted “or section 5332” after “section 5341”.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 94-489, §1(b), struck out “as defined herein” after “use of service employees”.

1972—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 92-473, §1(a), provided for minimum monetary wages to be paid service employees where collective-bargaining agreement covers any such service employees in accordance with the rates for such employees provided for in such agreement, including prospective wage increases provided for in such agreement as a result of arm’s-length negotiations.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 92-473, §1(b), provided for fringe benefits to be furnished service employees where collective-bargaining agreement covers any such service employees, to be provided for in such agreement, including prospective fringe increases provided for in such agreement as a result of arm’s-length negotiations.

Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 92-473, §2, added par. (5).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 9 of Pub. L. 89-286 provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] shall apply to all contracts entered into pursuant to negotiations concluded or invitations for bids issued on or after ninety days from the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 22, 1965].”

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 89-286 provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Service Contract Act of 1965.’”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 352, 353, 357, 358 of this title; title 38 section 1720.

§ 352. Violations

(a) Liability of responsible party; withholding payments due on contract; payment of underpaid employees from withheld payments

Any violation of any of the contract stipulations required by section 351(a)(1) or (2) or of

section 351(b) of this title shall render the party responsible therefor liable for a sum equal to the amount of any deductions, rebates, refunds, or underpayment of compensation due to any employee engaged in the performance of such contract. So much of the accrued payment due on the contract or any other contract between the same contractor and the Federal Government may be withheld as is necessary to pay such employees. Such withheld sums shall be held in a deposit fund. On order of the Secretary, any compensation which the head of the Federal agency or the Secretary has found to be due pursuant to this chapter shall be paid directly to the underpaid employees from any accrued payments withheld under this chapter.

(b) Enforcement of section

In accordance with regulations prescribed pursuant to section 353 of this title, the Federal agency head or the Secretary is hereby authorized to carry out the provisions of this section.

(c) Cancellation of contract; contracts for completion of original contract; liability of original contractor for additional cost

In addition, when a violation is found of any contract stipulation, the contract is subject upon written notice to cancellation by the contracting agency. Whereupon, the United States may enter into other contracts or arrangements for the completion of the original contract, charging any additional cost to the original contractor.

(Pub. L. 89-286, §3, Oct. 22, 1965, 79 Stat. 1035.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 351 of this title.

§ 353. Law governing authority of Secretary

(a) Enforcement of chapter

Sections 38 and 39 of this title shall govern the Secretary’s authority to enforce this chapter, make rules, regulations, issue orders, hold hearings, and make decisions based upon findings of fact, and take other appropriate action hereunder.

(b) Limitations and regulations allowing variations, tolerances, and exemptions

The Secretary may provide such reasonable limitations and may make such rules and regulations allowing reasonable variation, tolerances, and exemptions to and from any or all provisions of this chapter (other than section 358 of this title), but only in special circumstances where he determines that such limitation, variation, tolerance, or exemption is necessary and proper in the public interest or to avoid the serious impairment of government business, and is in accord with the remedial purpose of this chapter to protect prevailing labor standards.

(c) Predecessor contracts; employees’ wages and fringe benefits

No contractor or subcontractor under a contract, which succeeds a contract subject to this chapter and under which substantially the same services are furnished, shall pay any service employee under such contract less than the wages and fringe benefits, including accrued wages and

fringe benefits, and any prospective increases in wages and fringe benefits provided for in a collective-bargaining agreement as a result of arm's-length negotiations, to which such service employees would have been entitled if they were employed under the predecessor contract: *Provided*, That in any of the foregoing circumstances such obligations shall not apply if the Secretary finds after a hearing in accordance with regulations adopted by the Secretary that such wages and fringe benefits are substantially at variance with those which prevail for services of a character similar in the locality.

(d) Duration of contract

Subject to limitations in annual appropriation Acts but notwithstanding any other provision of law, contracts to which this chapter applies may, if authorized by the Secretary, be for any term of years not exceeding five, if each such contract provides for the periodic adjustment of wages and fringe benefits pursuant to future determinations, issued in the manner prescribed in section 351 of this title no less often than once every two years during the term of the contract, covering the various classes of service employees.

(Pub. L. 89-286, § 4, Oct. 22, 1965, 79 Stat. 1035; Pub. L. 92-473, § 3, Oct. 9, 1972, 86 Stat. 789.)

AMENDMENTS

1972—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 92-473, § 3(a), excluded section 358 of this title from being subject to Secretary's authority to provide limitations and to make regulations respecting application of provisions of this chapter, substituted "but only in special circumstances where he determines that such limitation, variation, tolerance, or exemption is necessary and proper" for "as he may find necessary and proper", and authorized administrative action in accord with the remedial purpose of this chapter to protect prevailing labor standards.

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 92-473, § 3(b), added subsecs. (c) and (d).

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 351, 352 of this title.

§ 354. List of violators; prohibition of contract award to firms appearing on list; actions to recover underpayments; payment of sums recovered

(a) The Comptroller General is directed to distribute a list to all agencies of the Government giving the names of persons or firms that the Federal agencies or the Secretary have found to have violated this chapter. Unless the Secretary otherwise recommends because of unusual circumstances, no contract of the United States shall be awarded to the persons or firms appearing on this list or to any firm, corporation, partnership, or association in which such persons or firms have a substantial interest until three years have elapsed from the date of publication of the list containing the name of such persons or firms. Where the Secretary does not otherwise recommend because of unusual circumstances, he shall, not later than ninety days after a hearing examiner has made a finding of a violation of this chapter, forward to the Comptroller General the name of the individual or

firm found to have violated the provisions of this chapter.

(b) If the accrued payments withheld under the terms of the contract are insufficient to reimburse all service employees with respect to whom there has been a failure to pay the compensation required pursuant to this chapter, the United States may bring action against the contractor, subcontractor, or any sureties in any court of competent jurisdiction to recover the remaining amount of underpayments. Any sums thus recovered by the United States shall be held in the deposit fund and shall be paid, on order of the Secretary, directly to the underpaid employee or employees. Any sum not paid to an employee because of inability to do so within three years shall be covered into the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts.

(Pub. L. 89-286, § 5, Oct. 22, 1965, 79 Stat. 1035; Pub. L. 92-473, § 4, Oct. 9, 1972, 86 Stat. 790.)

AMENDMENTS

1972—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 92-473 authorized award of contracts to violators because of unusual circumstances and required the Secretary to forward names of violators to Comptroller General within ninety days of hearing examiner's finding of a violation where the Secretary does not recommend awards because of unusual circumstances.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 351 of this title.

§ 355. Exclusion of fringe benefit payments in determining overtime pay

In determining any overtime pay to which such service employees are entitled under any Federal law, the regular or basic hourly rate of pay of such an employee shall not include any fringe benefit payments computed hereunder which are excluded from the regular rate under the Fair Labor Standards Act [29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.] by provisions of section 7(d) thereof [29 U.S.C. 207(d)].

(Pub. L. 89-286, § 6, Oct. 22, 1965, 79 Stat. 1035.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Fair Labor Standards Act, referred to in text, is act June 25, 1938, ch. 676, 52 Stat. 1060, as amended, known as the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, which is classified generally to chapter 8 (§ 201 et seq.) of Title 29, Labor. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 201 of Title 29 and Tables.

§ 356. Exemptions

This chapter shall not apply to—

(1) any contract of the United States or District of Columbia for construction, alteration and/or repair, including painting and decorating of public buildings or public works;

(2) any work required to be done in accordance with the provisions of the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act [41 U.S.C. 35 et seq.];

(3) any contract for the carriage of freight or personnel by vessel, airplane, bus, truck, express, railway line or oil or gas pipeline where published tariff rates are in effect;

(4) any contract for the furnishing of services by radio, telephone, telegraph, or cable companies, subject to the Communications Act of 1934 [47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.];

(5) any contract for public utility services, including electric light and power, water, steam, and gas;

(6) any employment contract providing for direct services to a Federal agency by an individual or individuals; and

(7) any contract with the United States Postal Service, the principal purpose of which is the operation of postal contract stations.

(Pub. L. 89-286, §7, Oct. 22, 1965, 79 Stat. 1035; Pub. L. 91-375, §§4(a), 6(o), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 773, 783.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act, referred to in par. (2), probably means act June 30, 1936, ch. 881, 49 Stat. 2036, as amended, known as the Walsh-Healey Act, which is classified generally to sections 35 to 45 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note under section 35 of this title and Tables. See also section 262 of Title 29, Labor.

The Communications Act of 1934, as amended, referred to in par. (4), is act June 19, 1934, ch. 652, 48 Stat. 1064, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 5 (§151 et seq.) of Title 47, Telegraphs, Telephones, and Radiotelegraphs. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 609 of Title 47 and Tables.

CHANGE OF NAME

In par. (7), "United States Postal Service" substituted for "Post Office Department" pursuant to Pub. L. 91-375, §§4(a), 6(o), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 773, 783, which are set out as notes preceding section 101 of Title 39, Postal Service, and under section 201 of Title 39, respectively, which abolished Post Office Department, transferred its functions to United States Postal Service, and provided that references in other laws to Post Office Department shall be considered a reference to United States Postal Service.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 351, 357 of this title.

§ 357. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter—

(a) "Secretary" means Secretary of Labor.

(b) The term "service employee" means any person engaged in the performance of a contract entered into by the United States and not exempted under section 356 of this title, whether negotiated or advertised, the principal purpose of which is to furnish services in the United States (other than any person employed in a bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity, as those terms are defined in part 541 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, as of July 30, 1976, and any subsequent revision of those regulations); and shall include all such persons regardless of any contractual relationship that may be alleged to exist between a contractor or subcontractor and such persons.

(c) The term "compensation" means any of the payments or fringe benefits described in section 351 of this title.

(d) The term "United States" when used in a geographical sense shall include any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Outer Continental Shelf lands as defined in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, American Samoa,

Guam, Wake Island, Eniwetok Atoll, Kwajalein Atoll, Johnston Island, and Canton Island, but shall not include any other territory under the jurisdiction of the United States or any United States base or possession within a foreign country.

(Pub. L. 89-286, §8, Oct. 22, 1965, 79 Stat. 1036; Pub. L. 93-57, §1, July 6, 1973, 87 Stat. 140; Pub. L. 94-489, §3, Oct. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 2358.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, referred to in subsec. (d), is act Aug. 7, 1953, ch. 345, 67 Stat. 462, as amended, which is classified generally to subchapter III (§1331 et seq.) of chapter 29 of Title 43, Public Lands. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1331 of Title 43 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1976—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-489 substituted provision defining service employees to include all employees, but excluding bona fide executive, administrative, and professional employees, for provision defining service employees as guards, watchmen, any person engaged in a recognized trade or craft, or in unskilled, semiskilled, or skilled manual labor occupations; and any other employee including a foreman or supervisor in a position having trade, craft, or laboring experience as the paramount requirement.

1973—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 93-57 defined "United States" to include Canton Island.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Section 2 of Pub. L. 93-57 provided that: "The amendment made hereby [amending this section] shall be effective with respect to all contracts entered into at any time after the date of enactment [July 6, 1973]."

§ 358. Wage and fringe benefit determinations of Secretary

It is the intent of the Congress that determinations of minimum monetary wages and fringe benefits for the various classes of service employees under the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 351¹ of this title should be made with respect to all contracts subject to this chapter, as soon as it is administratively feasible to do so. In any event, the Secretary shall make such determinations with respect to at least the following contracts subject to this chapter which are entered into during the applicable fiscal year:

(1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1973, all contracts under which more than twenty-five service employees are to be employed.

(2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1974, all contracts, under which more than twenty service employees are to be employed.

(3) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, all contracts under which more than fifteen service employees are to be employed.

(4) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976, all contracts under which more than ten service employees are to be employed.

(5) On or after July 1, 1976, all contracts under which more than five service employees are to be employed.

(Pub. L. 89-286, §10, as added Pub. L. 92-473, §5, Oct. 9, 1972, 86 Stat. 790; amended Pub. L. 94-273, §29, Apr. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 380.)

¹ So in original. Probably should be section "351(a)".

AMENDMENTS

1976—Par. (5). Pub. L. 94-273 substituted “On or after July 1, 1976” for “For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1977, and for each fiscal year thereafter”.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 353 of this title.

CHAPTER 7—OFFICE OF FEDERAL PROCUREMENT POLICY

- Sec. 401, 402. Repealed.
- 403. Definitions.
- 404. Establishment of Office of Federal Procurement Policy; appointment of Administrator.
- 405. Authority and functions of the Administrator.
 - (a) Development of procurement policy; leadership.
 - (b) Government-wide procurement regulations.
 - (c) Noninterference with executive agencies.
 - (d) Enumeration of included functions.
 - (e) Consultation; assistance of existing executive agencies; advisory committees and interagency groups.
 - (f) Oversight of regulations promulgated by other agencies relating to procurement.
 - (g) Assignment, delegation, or transfer of functions prohibited.
 - (h) Real property procurement; Office of Management and Budget.
 - (i) Recipients of Federal grants or assistance.
 - (j) Policy regarding consideration of contractor past performance.
 - (k) Annual reporting requirement.
- 405a. Uniform Federal procurement regulations and procedures.
- 405b. Conflict of interest standards for individuals providing consulting services.
 - (a) Issuance of policy and regulations.
 - (b) Services subject to regulations.
 - (c) Report to Congress by Comptroller General on effectiveness of regulations.
 - (d) Intelligence activities exemption; annual report by Director of Central Intelligence.
 - (e) Adverse effect determination by President prior to issuance of regulations; report to Congressional committees; voiding of regulations requirement.
- 406. Administrative powers.
- 407. Repealed.
- 408. Applicability of existing laws.
- 409. Repealed.
- 410. Authorization of appropriations.
- 411. Delegation of authority by Administrator.
- 412. Comptroller General's access to information from Administrator; rule making procedure.
- 413. Tests of innovative procurement methods and procedures.
- 414. Executive agency responsibilities.
- 414a. Personnel evaluation.
- 415. Repealed.
- 416. Procurement notice.
 - (a) Covered executive agency activities; publication of notice; time limitations.
 - (b) Contents of notice.
 - (c) Exempted, etc., activities of executive agency.

- Sec. 417. Record requirements.
 - (d) Availability of complete solicitation package; payment of fee.
 - (a) Establishment and maintenance of computer file by executive agency; time period; coverage.
 - (b) Contents.
 - (c) Record categories.
 - (d) Transmission and data system entry of information.
- 417a. Procurement data.
 - (a) Reporting.
 - (b) Definitions.
- 418. Advocates for competition.
 - (a) Establishment, designation, etc., in executive agency.
 - (b) Duties and functions.
 - (c) Responsibilities.
- 418a. Rights in technical data.
 - (a) Regulations; legitimate proprietary interest of United States.
 - (b) Unlimited rights; technical data; developed with Federal funds; unrestricted, royalty-free right to use; rights under law.
 - (c) Factors; regulations.
 - (d) Provisions; contracts; regulations.
- 418b. Publication of proposed regulations.
 - (a) Effective date; procurement policy, regulations, procedure or form; publication in Federal Register.
 - (b) Publication in Federal Register.
 - (c) Notice; proposed policy; contents.
 - (d) Waiver.
- 419. Contracting functions performed by Federal personnel.
 - (a) Limitation on payment for advisory and assistance services.
 - (b) Covered personnel.
 - (c) Rule of construction.
- 420. Repealed.
- 421. Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council.
 - (a) Establishment.
 - (b) Membership.
 - (c) Functions.
 - (d) Additional responsibilities of membership.
 - (e) Governing policies.
 - (f) General authority with respect to FAR.
- 422. Cost Accounting Standards Board.
 - (a) Establishment; membership; terms.
 - (b) Senior staff.
 - (c) Other staff.
 - (d) Detailed and temporary personnel.
 - (e) Compensation.
 - (f) Cost accounting standards authority.
 - (g) Requirements for standards.
 - (h) Implementing regulations.
 - (i) Omitted.
 - (j) Effect on other standards and regulations.
 - (k) Examinations.
 - (l) Authorization of appropriations.
- 423. Restrictions on disclosing and obtaining contractor bid or proposal information or source selection information.
 - (a) Prohibition on disclosing procurement information.
 - (b) Prohibition on obtaining procurement information.
 - (c) Actions required of procurement officers when contacted by offerors regarding non-Federal employment.
 - (d) Prohibition on former official's acceptance of compensation from contractor.
 - (e) Penalties and administrative actions.
 - (f) Definitions.