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shall so indicate and contain a statement that written submissions pursuant to the notice will be treated as confidential and withheld under the Freedom of Information Act. *Provided*, That the policy regarding availability of written submissions set forth in this paragraph may only be used with the prior approval of the Secretary, or the Under Secretary or Assistant Secretary that administers the program that is the subject of the notice.

[60 FR 66480, Dec. 22, 1995]

§ 1.28 Petitions.

Petitions by interested persons in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(e) for the issuance, amendment or repeal of a rule may be filed with the official that issued or is authorized to issue the rule. All such petitions will be given prompt consideration and petitioners will be notified promptly of the disposition made of their petitions.

[11 FR 177A-233, Sept. 11, 1946. Redesignated at 13 FR 6703, Nov. 16, 1948, as amended at 60 FR 66481, Dec. 22, 1995]

§ 1.29 Subpoenas relating to investigations under statutes administered by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(a) *Issuance of subpoena.* (1) When the Secretary is authorized by statute to issue a subpoena in connection with an investigation being conducted by the Department, the attendance of a witness and the production of evidence relating to the investigation may be required by subpoena at any designated place, including the witness' place of business. Upon request of any representative of the Secretary involved in connection with the investigation, the subpoena may be issued by the Secretary, the Inspector General, or any Department official authorized pursuant to part 2 of this title to administer the program to which the subpoena relates, if the official who is to issue the subpoena is satisfied as to the reasonableness of the grounds, necessity, and scope of the subpoena. Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the authority to issue subpoenas may not be delegated or redelegated by the head of an agency.

(2) The Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, may delegate the authority to

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issue subpoenas in connection with investigations being conducted under the Packers and Stockyards Act (7 U.S.C. 181-229), to the Deputy Administrator, Packers and Stockyards Programs.

(3) In the case of a subpoena issued under the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301-8317), Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701-7772), or Title V of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 2279e-2279f), the subpoena will be reviewed for legal sufficiency by the Office of the General Counsel, USDA.

(b) *Service of subpoena.* (1) A subpoena issued pursuant to this section may be served by:

(i) A U.S. Marshal or Deputy Marshal,

(ii) Any other person who is not less than 18 years of age, or

(iii) Certified or registered mailing of a copy of the subpoena addressed to the person to be served at his, her, or its last known residence or principal place of business or residence.

(2) Proof of service may be made by the return of service on the subpoena by the U.S. Marshal, or Deputy Marshal; or, if served by an individual other than a U.S. Marshal or Deputy Marshal, by an affidavit or certification of such person stating that he or she personally served a copy of the subpoena upon the person named in the subpoena; or, if service was by certified or registered mail, by the signed Postal Service receipt.

(3) In making personal service, the person making service shall leave a copy of the subpoena with the person subpoenaed; and the original, bearing or accompanied by the required proof of service, shall be returned to the official who issued the subpoena.

[39 FR 15277, May 2, 1974, as amended at 40 FR 58281, Dec. 16, 1975; 42 FR 65131, Dec. 30, 1977; 43 FR 12673, Mar. 27, 1978; 60 FR 66481, Dec. 22, 1995; 66 FR 36907, July 16, 2001; 67 FR 70674, Nov. 26, 2002]

Subpart C—Judicial Proceedings

§ 1.41 Service of process.

Process in any suit brought in Washington, District of Columbia, against the United States or any officer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in any matter involving the activities of this

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Department, shall be served on the General Counsel of the Department. A U.S. Marshal or other process server attempting to serve process in such a suit on any officer of the Department shall be referred to the Office of the General Counsel, in order that service of process may be made. In the event an officer of the Department of Agriculture is served with process in such a suit, the officer shall immediately notify the General Counsel. Any subpoena, summons, or other compulsory process requiring an officer or employee to give testimony, or to produce or disclose any record or material of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, shall be served on the officer or employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture named in the subpoena, summons, or other compulsory process.

[19 FR 4052, July 3, 1954, as amended at 33 FR 10273, July 18, 1968; 43 FR 6202, Feb. 14, 1978; 60 FR 66481, Dec. 22, 1995]

Subpart D—Claims

§ 1.51 Claims based on negligence, wrongful act or omission.

(a) *Authority of the Department.* Under the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA), as amended, 28 U.S.C. 2671-2680, and the regulations issued by the Department of Justice (DOJ) contained in 28 CFR part 14, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) may, subject to the provisions of the FTCA and DOJ regulations, consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, compromise, and settle claims for money damages against the United States for personal injury, death, or property loss or damage caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any employee of USDA while acting within the scope of his or her office or employment, under circumstances where the United States, if it were a private person, would be liable, in accordance with the law of the place where the act or omission occurred.

(b) *Procedure for filing claims.* Claims must be presented by the claimant, or by his or her duly authorized agent or legal representative as specified in 28 CFR 14.3. Standard Form 95, Claim for Damage or Injury, may be obtained from the agency within USDA that employs the employee who allegedly com-

mitted the negligent or wrongful act or omission. The completed claim form, together with appropriate evidence and information, as specified in 28 CFR 14.4, shall be filed with the agency from which it was obtained.

(c) *Determination of claims—(1) Delegation of authority to determine claims.* The General Counsel, and such employees of the Office of the General Counsel as may be designated by the General Counsel, are hereby authorized to consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, compromise, and settle claims pursuant to the FTCA, as amended, and the regulations contained in 28 CFR part 14 and in this section.

(2) *Disallowance of claims.* If a claim is denied, the General Counsel, or his or her designee, shall notify the claimant, or his or her duly authorized agent or legal representative.

[61 FR 57577, Nov. 7, 1996]

Subpart E—Cooperative Production of Television Films

SOURCE: 22 FR 2904, Apr. 25, 1957, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1.71 Purpose.

This subpart establishes procedures for developing special working relationships with the Department of Agriculture requested by producers of films for television use. These procedures are designed to guide Department employees and producers of commercial television pictures in entering into such arrangements.

§ 1.72 Policy.

(a) *General.* It is a basic policy of the Department of Agriculture to make information freely available to the public.

(b) *Cooperation with television film producers.* The Department recognizes that its people and programs constitute a rich source of materials on public services, often dramatic and interesting for their human values, which are suitable for production of films for television showings. The Department welcomes the interest of television film producers in its activities and maintains an “open door” policy with respect to the availability of factual information