

(b) The Secretary may consider various criteria when determining whether the arbitration process provided in a production contract provides a meaningful opportunity for the poultry grower, livestock producer, or swine production contract grower to participate fully in the arbitration process. These criteria include, but are not limited to:

(1) Whether the contract discloses sufficient information in bold, conspicuous print describing all the costs of arbitration to be paid by the poultry grower, swine production contract grower, or livestock producer, and the arbitration process and any limitations on legal rights and remedies in such a manner as to allow the poultry grower, livestock producer or swine contract production grower to make an informed decision on whether to elect arbitration for dispute resolution;

(2) Whether provisions in the entire arbitration process governing the costs and time limits are reasonable;

(3) Whether the poultry grower, livestock producer, or swine production contract grower is provided access to and opportunity to engage in reasonable discovery of information held by the packer, swine contractor or live poultry dealer;

(4) Whether arbitration is required to be used to resolve only disputes relevant to the contractual obligations of the parties; and

(5) Whether a reasoned, written opinion based on applicable law, legal principles and precedent for the award is required to be provided to the parties.

[76 FR 76889, Dec. 9, 2011]

## PART 202—RULES OF PRACTICE GOVERNING PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT

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### RULES OF PRACTICE APPLICABLE TO ALL OTHER PROCEEDINGS

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- 202.210 Stipulations.

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 228(a); 7 CFR 2.22 and 2.81.

SOURCE: 43 FR 30510, July 14, 1978, unless otherwise noted.

### RULES OF PRACTICE APPLICABLE TO RATE PROCEEDINGS

SOURCE: Sections 202.1 through 202.7 appear at 53 FR 51236, Dec. 21, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 202.1 Applicability of other rules.

The Rules of Practice Governing Formal Adjudicatory Proceedings Instituted by the Secretary Under Various Statutes, 7 CFR part 1, subpart H, are applicable to all rate proceedings under Sections 304, 305, 306, 307 and 310 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 205, 206, 207, 208 and 211, except insofar as those Rules are in conflict with any provision herein.

#### § 202.2 Definitions.

As used in these rules:

(a) *Rate proceeding* means a proceeding involving the determination and prescription of any rate or charge made or proposed to be made for any stockyard service furnished at a stockyard by a stockyard owner or market agency, or a proceeding involving any rule, regulation or practice affecting any such rate or charge; and

(b) *Administrator* means the Administrator of the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (Packers and Stockyards Programs) (GIPSA), or any officer or employee of GIPSA to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act for the Administrator.

### § 202.3 Institution of proceedings.

(a) *Informal complaint*. Any interested person desiring to complain of the lawfulness of any rate or charge made or proposed to be made for any stockyard service furnished at a stockyard by a stockyard owner or market agency, or rule, regulation or practice affecting any such rate or charge, may file an informal complaint with the Administrator.

(b) *Investigation*. If there appears to be any reasonable ground for doing so, the Administrator will investigate the matter complained of. If the Administrator reasonably believes that there are not sufficient facts to form the basis for further proceeding, the matter may be dropped. If it is dropped, the person filing the informal complaint will be informed.

(c) *Status of person filing*. A person filing an informal complaint will be a party to a rate proceeding if the Administrator files such person's informal complaint as a formal complaint, or if the Judge permits such person to intervene upon written application.

(d) *Formal complaint*. A rate proceeding may be instituted only upon filing of a formal complaint by the Administrator. A formal complaint may be filed on the initiative of the Administrator, or on the basis of an informal complaint, or by filing the informal complaint as a formal complaint. A formal complaint filed by the Administrator, or a summary thereof, will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, together with notice of the time by

which, and the place where, any interested person may file a written request to be heard.

### § 202.4 Answer and reply.

Respondent is not required to file an answer. If an answer is filed, complainant is not required to file a reply.

### § 202.5 Hearing.

The hearing will be oral unless all parties waive oral hearing. It will be written if not oral. Notice of the date, time and place of oral hearing, or of the date and place for filing of written submissions in a written hearing, will be served on the Administrator and the respondent, and on such other persons as have requested in writing to be heard.

### § 202.6 Taking no position on the merits.

The proceeding may be instituted by filing of the informal complaint as a formal complaint, and the Administrator may take no position on the merits of the case.

### § 202.7 Modification or vacation of final order.

(a) *Informal petition*. Any interested person may file an informal petition to modify or vacate a final order at any time. Any such petition must be filed with the Administrator, be based on matters arising after the issuance of the final order, and set forth such matters, and the reasons or conditions relied on, with such particularity as is practicable. Any such informal petition will be handled as otherwise provided for an informal complaint.

(b) *Formal motion*. A final order may be modified or vacated at any time only upon filing of a formal motion by the Administrator. Such a motion may be filed on the initiative of the Administrator, on the basis of an informal petition, or by filing of an informal petition as a formal motion.

(c) *Publication*. If the modification or vacation sought would involve an increase of a rate or charge lawfully prescribed by the Secretary, or involve a rate or charge in addition to what is specified in the final order, or involve a regulation or practice so affecting such a rate or charge, the formal motion, or