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reason(s) for disapproval within the same timeframe.

(e) An importer who imports products that are eligible to be labeled as “organic” or “100 percent organic” under the NOP, or certified as “organic” or “100 percent organic” under a U.S. equivalency arrangement established under the NOP, shall be exempt from the payment of assessments on those products. Such importer may submit documentation to the Board and request an exemption from assessment on certified “organic” or “100 percent organic” mangos on an *Organic Exemption Request Form* (Form AMS–15) at any time initially, and annually thereafter on or before the beginning of the fiscal period, as long as the importer continues to be eligible for exemption. This documentation shall include the same information required of first handlers 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 within the applicable timeframe. If Customs collects the assessment on exempt product that is identified as “organic” by a number in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, the Board must reimburse the exempt importer the assessments paid upon receipt of such assessments from Customs. For all other exempt organic product for which Customs collects the assessment, the importer may apply to the Board for a reimbursement of assessments paid, and the importer must submit satisfactory proof to the Board that the importer paid the assessment on exempt organic product. Any importer so exempted shall continue to be obligated to pay assessments under this part that are associated with any imported agricultural products that do not qualify for an exemption under this section.

(f) The exemption will apply immediately following the issuance of the certificate of exemption.

(g) An importer who is exempt from payment of assessments under paragraph (e) of this section shall be eligible for reimbursement of assessments collected by the CBP on certified “organic” or “100 percent organic” mangos and may apply to the Secretary for

a reimbursement. The importer would be required to submit satisfactory proof to the Secretary that the importer paid the assessment on exempt organic products.

[69 FR 59122, Oct. 4, 2004, as amended at 80 FR 82023, Dec. 31, 2015]

PART 1207—POTATO RESEARCH AND PROMOTION PLAN

Subpart—Potato Research and Promotion Plan

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91-670, 91st Congress, approved January 11, 1971, 84 Stat. 2041, as amended.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

[56 FR 40229, Aug. 14, 1991]

DEFINITIONS

1207.500 Definitions.

§ 1207.303 Plan.

Plan means this potato research and promotion plan issued by the Secretary pursuant to the act.

GENERAL

- 1207.501 [Reserved]
- 1207.502 Determination of membership.
- 1207.503 Nominations.
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§ 1207.304 Person.

Person means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other entity.

ASSESSMENTS

- 1207.510 Levy of assessments.
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§ 1207.305 Producer.

Producer means any person engaged in the growing of 5 or more acres of potatoes who owns or shares the ownership and risk of loss of such potato crop.

RECORDS

- 1207.532 Retention period for records.
- 1207.533 Availability of records.
- 1207.534 OMB control number assigned pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

§ 1207.306 Potatoes.

Potatoes means any or all varieties of Irish potatoes grown by producers in the 50 states of the United States and grown in foreign countries and imported into the United States.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

- 1207.540 Confidential books, records, and reports.
- 1207.545 Right of the Secretary.
- 1207.546 Personal liability.

[56 FR 40229, Aug. 14, 1991]

§ 1207.307 Handle.

Handle means to grade, pack, process, sell, transport, purchase, or in any other way to place potatoes or cause potatoes to be placed in the current of commerce. Such term shall not include the transportation or delivery of field-run potatoes by the producer thereof to a handler for grading, storage, or processing.

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 2611-2627 and 7 U.S.C. 7401.

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§ 1207.308 Handler.

Handler means any person (except a common or contract carrier of potatoes owned by another person) who handles potatoes, including a producer who handles potatoes of his own production.

SOURCE: 37 FR 5008, Mar. 9, 1972, unless otherwise noted.

DEFINITIONS

§ 1207.301 Secretary.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act in his stead.

§ 1207.309 Board.

Board means the National Potato Promotion Board, hereinafter established pursuant to § 1207.320.

§ 1207.302 Act.

Act means the Potato Research and Promotion Act, *Title III of Public Law*

§ 1207.310 Fiscal period and marketing year.

Fiscal period and *marketing year* mean the 12-month period from July 1 through June 30 of the following year

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or such other period which may be approved by the Secretary.

§ 1207.311 Programs and projects.

Programs and *projects* mean those research, development, advertising or promotion programs or projects developed by the Board pursuant to § 1207.335.

§ 1207.312 Importer.

Importer means any person who imports tablestock, frozen or processed potatoes for ultimate consumption by humans, or seed potatoes into the United States.

[56 FR 40229, Aug. 14, 1991]

§ 1207.313 Customs Service.

Customs Service means the United States Customs Service of the United States Department of the Treasury.

[56 FR 40229, Aug. 14, 1991]

NATIONAL POTATO PROMOTION BOARD

§ 1207.320 Establishment and membership.

(a) There is hereby established a National Potato Promotion Board, hereinafter called the “Board”, composed of producers, importers, and a public member appointed by the Secretary. Producer members shall be appointed from nominations submitted by producers in the various States or groups of States pursuant to § 1207.322. Importer members shall be appointed from nominations submitted by importers pursuant to § 1207.322. The public member shall be nominated by Board members in such manner as recommended by the Board and approved by the Secretary, and shall be appointed by the Secretary.

(b) Producer membership upon the Board shall be determined on the basis of the potato production reported in the latest Crop Production Annual Summary Report issued by the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If a State’s potato production data is not provided by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Board may use an alternative data source that reliably reflects potato production in the United States. Unless the Secretary,

upon recommendation of the Board, determines an alternate basis, for each 10 million hundredweight of such production, or major fraction thereof, produced within each State, such State shall be entitled to one member. However, each State shall initially be entitled to at least one member.

(c) The number of importer member positions on the Board shall be based on the hundredweights of potatoes, potato products equivalent to fresh potatoes, and seed potatoes imported into the United States but shall not exceed two importer members. Unless the Secretary, upon recommendation of the Board, determines an alternate basis, there shall be one importer member position for each 10 million hundredweight, or major fraction thereof, of potatoes, potato product equivalents, and seed potatoes imported into the United States.

(d) Any State in which the potato producers fail to respond to an officially called nomination meeting may be combined with an adjacent State for the purpose of representation on the Board, in which case the Board’s producer member selected by the Secretary will represent both States, but such member’s voting power under § 1207.325 shall not be increased.

(e) The Secretary, upon recommendation of the Board, may establish, through rule making procedure, districts or groups of States in order to change the representation requirements for membership on the Board. In such event the voting power of members under § 1207.325 would be based upon the total production within the new district or group of States.

(f) Should the Board fail to nominate a public member, the Secretary may appoint such member.

[37 FR 5008, Mar. 9, 1972, as amended at 49 FR 20806, May 17, 1984; 49 FR 31390, Aug. 7, 1984; 56 FR 40229, Aug. 14, 1991; 87 FR 22435, Apr. 15, 2022; 89 FR 863, Jan. 8, 2024]

§ 1207.321 Term of office.

(a) The term of office of Board members shall be 3 years, beginning March 1, or such other beginning date as may be approved pursuant to regulations.

(b) The terms of office of the Board’s producer members shall be so determined that approximately one-third of

the terms will expire each year. Importer and public member terms shall run concurrently. All members serving on the Board on the effective date of this amendment to the Plan shall continue serving the term to which they were appointed.

(c) Board members shall serve during the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified, and until their successors are selected and have qualified.

(d) No member shall serve for more than two full successive terms of office.

[37 FR 5008, Mar. 9, 1972, as amended at 56 FR 40229, Aug. 14, 1991; 89 FR 863, Jan. 8, 2024]

§ 1207.322 Nominations and appointment.

The Secretary shall select the producer, importer, and public members of the Board from nominations which may be made in the following manner.

(a) A meeting or meetings of producers shall be held in each State to nominate producer members for the Board. For nominations to the initial Board the meetings shall be announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Department may call upon other organizations to assist in conducting the meetings such as State and national organizations of potato producers. Such nomination meetings shall be held not later than 60 days after the issuance of this subpart. Any organization designated to hold such nomination meetings shall give adequate notice of such meetings to the potato producers affected; also to the Secretary so that a representative of the Secretary, if available, may conduct such meetings or act as secretary of such nomination meetings.

(b) After the establishment of the initial Board, the nominations for subsequent Board producer members shall be made by producers at meetings in the producing sections or States. The Board shall hold such meetings, or cause them to be held, in accordance with rules established pursuant to recommendation of the Board.

(c) Only producers may participate in designating producer nominees. Each producer is entitled to one vote only on behalf of himself, his partners, agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and representa-

tives for each position for which nominations are being held. If a producer is engaged in producing potatoes in more than one State, he shall elect the State in which he shall vote. In no event shall he vote in nominations in more than one meeting.

(d) The importer members shall be nominated by importers of potatoes, potato products and/or seed potatoes. The number of importer members on the Board shall be announced by the Secretary and shall not exceed two members. The Board may call upon organizations of potato, potato products and/or seed potato importers to assist in nominating importers for membership on the Board. If such organizations fail to submit nominees or are determined by the Board to not adequately represent importers, then the Board may conduct meetings of importers to nominate eligible importers for Board member positions. In determining if importer organizations adequately represent importers, the Board shall consider:

(1) How many importers belong to the association;

(2) What percentage of the total number of importers is represented by the association;

(3) Is the association representative of the potato, potato product, and seed potato import industry;

(4) Does the association speak for potato, potato product, and seed potato importers; and

(5) Other relevant information as may be warranted.

(e) The public member shall be nominated by the producer and importer members of the Board. The public member shall have no direct financial interest in the commercial production or marketing of potatoes except as a consumer and shall not be a director, stockholder, officer or employee of any firm so engaged. The Board shall prescribe such additional qualifications, administrative rules and procedures for selection and voting for each candidate as it deems necessary and the Secretary approves.

[37 FR 5008, Mar. 9, 1972, as amended at 49 FR 20806, May 17, 1984; 56 FR 40229, Aug. 14, 1991; 89 FR 863, Jan. 8, 2024]

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§ 1207.323 Acceptance.

Each person selected by the Secretary as a member of the Board shall qualify by filing a written acceptance with the Secretary promptly after being notified of such selection.

§ 1207.324 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy caused by the failure of any person selected as a member of the Board to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member, a successor shall be nominated and selected in the manner specified in § 1207.322. In the event of failure to provide nominees for such vacancies, the Secretary may select other eligible persons.

§ 1207.325 Procedure.

(a) Each State (or district or group of States established pursuant to § 1207.320) which has a member on the Board shall be entitled to not less than one vote for any production up to 1 million hundredweight, plus one additional vote for each additional 1 million hundredweight of production, or major fraction thereof, as determined by the latest crop production annual summary report issued by the Crop Reporting Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The casting of the votes for each State shall be determined by the members of the Board from that State.

(b) A majority of the Board members shall constitute a quorum and any action of the Board shall require a majority of concurring votes of those present and voting. At assembled meetings all votes shall be cast in person or by duly authorized proxy.

(c) For routine and noncontroversial matters which do not require deliberation and the exchange of views, and for matters of an emergency nature when there is not enough time to call an assembled meeting, the Board may act upon a majority of concurring votes of its members cast by mail, telephone, electronic mail, facsimile, or any other means of communication. Any vote cast by telephone shall be confirmed promptly in writing.

[37 FR 5008, Mar. 9, 1972, as amended at 57 FR 40083, Sept. 2, 1992; 89 FR 863, Jan. 8, 2024]

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§ 1207.326 Compensation and reimbursement.

Members of the Board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members of the Board.

§ 1207.327 Powers.

The Board shall have the following powers subject to § 1207.361:

(a) To administer the provisions of this plan in accordance with its terms and conditions;

(b) To make rules and regulations to effectuate the terms and conditions of this plan;

(c) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of this plan; and

(d) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this plan.

§ 1207.328 Duties.

The Board shall, among other things, have the following duties:

(a) To meet and organize and to select from among its members a president and such other officers as may be necessary; to select committees and subcommittees of Board members to nominate the public member; to adopt such rules for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable; and it may establish advisory committees of persons other than Board members;

(b) To employ such persons as it may deem necessary and to determine the compensation and define the duties of each; and to protect the handling of Board funds through fidelity bonds;

(c) At the beginning of each fiscal period, to prepare and submit to the Secretary for his approval a budget on a fiscal period basis of the anticipated expenses in the administration of this plan including the probable costs of all programs or projects and to recommend a rate of assessment with respect thereto;

(d) To develop programs and projects and to enter into contracts or agreements for the development and carrying out of programs or projects of research, development, advertising or promotion, and the payment of the costs thereof with funds collected pursuant to this plan;

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(e) To keep minutes, books, and records which clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the Board. Minutes of each Board meeting shall be promptly reported to the Secretary;

(f) To cause the books of the Board to be audited by a certified public accountant at least once each fiscal period, and at such other time as the Board may deem necessary. The report of such audit shall show the receipt and expenditure of funds collected pursuant to this part. Two copies of each such report shall be furnished to the Secretary and a copy of each such report shall be made available at the principal office of the Board for inspection by producers, handlers, and importers;

(g) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the Board and its subcommittees as is given to its members;

(h) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any producer, handler, or importer;

(i) To furnish the Secretary such information as he may request.

(j) To prepare and submit to the Secretary such reports from time to time as may be prescribed by the Secretary for appropriate accounting with respect to the receipt and disbursement of funds entrusted to the Board; and

[37 FR 5008, Mar. 9, 1972, as amended at 49 FR 20806, May 17, 1984; 56 FR 40230, Aug. 14, 1991; 57 FR 40083, Sept. 2, 1992]

RESEARCH AND PROMOTION

§ 1207.335 Research and promotion.

The Board shall develop and submit to the Secretary for approval any programs or projects authorized in this section. Such programs or projects shall provide for:

(a) The establishment, issuance, effectuation and administration of appropriate programs or projects for the advertising and promotion of potatoes and potato products: *Provided, however*, That any such program or project shall be directed toward increasing the general demand for potatoes and potato products;

(b) Establishing and carrying on research and development projects and studies to the end that the marketing and utilization of potatoes may be en-

couraged, expanded, improved, or made more efficient: *Provided*, That quality control, grade standards and supply management programs shall not be conducted under, or as a part of, this plan; and

(c) The development and expansion of potato and potato product sales in foreign markets.

(d) No advertising or promotion program shall make any reference to private brand names or use false or unwarranted claims in behalf of potatoes or their products or false or unwarranted statements with respect to the attributes or use of any competing products.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 1207.341 Budget and expenses.

(a) At the beginning of each fiscal period, or as may be necessary thereafter, the Board shall prepare and recommend a budget on a fiscal period basis of its anticipated expenses and disbursements in the administration of this plan, including probable costs of research, development, advertising, and promotion. The Board shall also recommend a rate of assessment calculated to provide adequate funds to defray its proposed expenditures and to provide for a reserve as set forth in § 1207.344.

(b) The Board is authorized to incur such expenses for research, development, advertising, or promotion of potatoes and potato products, such other expenses for the administration, maintenance, and functioning of the Board, and any referendum and administrative costs incurred by the Department of Agriculture as are approved pursuant to § 1207.361.

[37 FR 5008, Mar. 9, 1972, as amended at 49 FR 20806, May 17, 1984]

§ 1207.342 Assessments.

(a) The funds to cover the Board's expenses shall be acquired by the levying of assessments upon handlers and importers as designated in regulations recommended by the Board and issued by the Secretary. Such assessments shall be levied at a rate fixed by the Secretary which shall not exceed one-half of one per centum of the immediate past ten calendar years United

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States average price received for potatoes by growers as reported by the Department of Agriculture and not more than one such assessment may be collected on any potatoes.

(b) Each designated handler, as specified in regulations, shall pay assessments to the Board on all potatoes handled by him, including potatoes he produced. Assessments shall be paid to the Board at such time and in such manner as the Board shall direct pursuant to regulations issued hereunder. The designated handler may collect the assessments from the producer, or deduct such assessments from the proceeds paid to the producer on whose potatoes the assessments are made, provided he furnishes the producer with evidence of such payment.

(c) The importer of imported potatoes, potato products, or seed potatoes shall pay the assessment to the Board at the time of entry, or withdrawal, for consumption of such potatoes and potato products into the United States.

(d) The assessment on imported tablestock potatoes and frozen or processed potato products for ultimate consumption by humans and on seed potatoes shall be established by the Board so that the effective assessment shall be equal to that on domestic production.

(e) The Board may authorize other organizations to collect assessments in its behalf.

(f) The Board may exempt potatoes used for nonfood purposes, other than seed, from the provisions of this plan and shall establish adequate safeguards against improper use of such exemptions.

[37 FR 5008, Mar. 9, 1972, as amended at 49 FR 20806, May 17, 1984; 56 FR 40230, Aug. 14, 1991]

§ 1207.343 [Reserved]

§ 1207.344 Operating reserve.

The Board may establish an operating monetary reserve and may carry over to subsequent fiscal periods excess funds in a reserve so established: *Provided*, That funds in the reserve shall not exceed approximately two fiscal periods' expenses. Such reserve funds may be used to defray any expenses authorized under this part.

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REPORTS, BOOKS, AND RECORDS

§ 1207.350 Reports.

(a) Each designated handler shall maintain a record with respect to each producer for whom he handled potatoes and for potatoes handled which he himself produced. He shall report to the Board at such times and in such manner as it may prescribe by regulations such information as may be necessary for the Board to perform its duties under this part. Such reports may include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

(1) Total quantity of potatoes handled for each producer and for himself, including those which are exempt under the plan;

(2) Total quantity of potatoes handled for each producer and for himself subject to the plan and assessments, and

(3) Name and address of each person from whom he collected an assessment, the amount collected from each person, and the date such collection was made.

(b) Each importer shall report to the Board at such times and in such manner as it may prescribe such information as may be necessary for the Board to perform its duties under this part.

[37 FR 5008, Mar. 9, 1972, as amended at 56 FR 40230, Aug. 14, 1991]

§ 1207.351 Books and records.

Each handler or importer subject to this part shall maintain and make available for inspection by authorized employees of the Board and the Secretary such books and records as are appropriate and necessary to carry out the provisions of this Plan and the regulations issued thereunder, including such records as are necessary to verify any reports required. Such records shall be maintained for at least 2 years beyond the marketing year of their applicability.

[37 FR 5008, Mar. 9, 1972, as amended at 56 FR 40230, Aug. 14, 1991]

§ 1207.352 Confidential treatment.

All information obtained from books, records, or reports required pursuant to this part shall be kept confidential by all employees of the Department of Agriculture and of the Board, and by

all contractors and agents retained by the Board, and only such information so furnished or acquired as the Secretary deems relevant shall be disclosed by them, and then only in a suit or administrative hearing brought at the direction, or upon the request, of the Secretary, or to which the Secretary or any officer of the United States is a party, and involving this Plan. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit:

(a) The issuance of general statements based upon the reports of a number of handlers or importers subject to this Plan, which statements do not identify the information furnished by any person; or

(b) The publication by direction of the Secretary of the name of any person violating this Plan, together with a statement of the particular provisions of this Plan violated by such person.

[56 FR 40230, Aug. 14, 1991]

MISCELLANEOUS

§ 1207.360 Influencing governmental action.

No funds collected by the Board under this plan shall in any matter be used for the purpose of influencing governmental policy or action except in recommending to the Secretary amendments to this subpart.

§ 1207.361 Right of the Secretary.

All fiscal matters, programs or projects, rules or regulations, reports, or other substantive action proposed and prepared by the Board shall be submitted to the Secretary for his approval.

§ 1207.362 Suspension or termination.

(a) The Secretary shall, whenever he finds that this plan or any provision thereof obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act, terminate or suspend the operation of this plan or such provision thereof.

(b) The Secretary may conduct a referendum at any time, and shall hold a referendum on request of the Board or of 10 percent or more of the potato producers and importers to determine whether potato producers and importers favor termination or suspension of

this plan. The Secretary shall suspend or terminate such plan at the end of the marketing year whenever the Secretary determines that its suspension or termination is favored by a majority of the potato producers and importers voting in such referendum who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production or importation of potatoes or potato products, and who produced or imported more than 50 percent of the volume of the potatoes or potato products produced or imported by the producers and importers voting in the referendum.

[37 FR 5008, Mar. 9, 1972, as amended at 56 FR 40230, Aug. 14, 1991]

§ 1207.363 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of this plan, the Board shall recommend not more than five of its members to the Secretary to serve as trustees for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the Board. Such persons, upon designation by the Secretary, shall become trustees of all funds and property then in the possession or under control of the Board including claims for any funds unpaid or property not delivered or any other claim existing at the time of such termination.

(b) The said trustees shall (1) continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary; (2) carry out the obligations of the Board under any contracts or agreements entered into by it pursuant to this plan; (3) account for all receipts and disbursements and deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the Board and of the trustees, to such person or persons as the Secretary may direct; and (4) upon the request of the Secretary execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such person or persons full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the Board of the trustees pursuant to this section.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered pursuant to this section shall be subject to the same obligation imposed upon the Board and upon the trustee.

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(d) A reasonable effort shall be made by the Board or its trustees to return to producers and importers any residual funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation. If it is found impractical to return such remaining funds to producers and importers, such funds shall be disposed of in such manner as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate.

[37 FR 5008, Mar. 9, 1972, as amended at 56 FR 40231, Aug. 14, 1991]

§ 1207.364 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this plan or of any regulation issued pursuant thereto, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not (a) affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may thereafter arise in connection with any provision of this plan or any regulation issued thereunder, or (b) release or extinguish any violation of this plan or any regulation issued thereunder, or (c) affect or impair any rights or remedies of the United States, or of the Secretary, or of any other person, with respect to any such violation.

§ 1207.365 Personal liability.

No member of the Board shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever to any person for errors in judgments, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member except for acts of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or those which are criminal in nature.

§ 1207.366 Separability.

If any provision of this plan is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this plan or applicability thereof to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Subpart—Rules and Regulations

SOURCE: 37 FR 17379, Aug. 26, 1972, unless otherwise noted.

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DEFINITIONS

§ 1207.500 Definitions.

(a) Unless otherwise defined in this subpart, definitions of terms used in this subpart shall have the same meaning as the definitions of such terms which appear in Subpart—Potato Research and Promotion Plan.

(b) *Processor.* *Processor* means any person who commercially processes potatoes into potato products, including, but not restricted to, frozen, dehydrated, or canned potato products, potato chips and shoestrings, and flour.

(c) *Imported frozen or processed potatoes for ultimate consumption by humans.* *Imported frozen or processed potatoes for ultimate consumption by humans* means products which are imported into the United States which the Secretary determines contain a substantial amount of potato.

[37 FR 17379, Aug. 26, 1972, as amended at 56 FR 40231, Aug. 14, 1991; 57 FR 40083, Sept. 2, 1992]

GENERAL

§ 1207.501 [Reserved]

§ 1207.502 Determination of membership.

(a) Pursuant to §1207.320 and the recommendation of the Board, annual producer memberships on the Board shall be determined on the basis of the average potato production of the 3 preceding years in each State as set forth in the Crop Production Annual Summary Reports issued by the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If a State's potato production data is not provided by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Board may use an alternative data source that reliably reflects potato production in the United States.

(b) Pursuant to §1207.320 and the recommendation of the Board, annual importer memberships on the Board shall be determined on the basis of the average potato, potato product, and seed potato importation of the 3 preceding years as determined by the Board's records.

[56 FR 40231, Aug. 14, 1991, as amended at 87 FR 22435, Apr. 15, 2022]

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 1207.507

§ 1207.503 Nominations.

(a) Pursuant to §1207.322 of the plan, the Board shall assist producers in producing sections or States each year to nominate producer members for the Board. Such nominations may be conducted at meetings or with ballots submitted by mail, electronic mail, facsimile, or any other means of communication. One individual shall be nominated for each position to become vacant. A list of nominees shall be submitted to the Secretary for consideration by November 1 of each year.

(b) Pursuant to §1207.322 of the plan, the Board shall assist importers each year to nominate importer members for the Board. Such nominations may be conducted at meetings or with ballots submitted by mail, electronic mail, facsimile, or any other means of communication.

(c) Nomination meetings or balloting by mail, electronic mail, facsimile, or any other means of communication shall be well publicized with notice given to producers, importers, and the Secretary at least 10 days prior to each meeting or distribution of ballots.

(d) The public member shall be nominated by the producer and importer members of the Board.

[37 FR 17379, Aug. 26, 1972, as amended at 49 FR 2093, Jan. 18, 1984; 56 FR 40231, Aug. 14, 1991; 62 FR 46179, Sept. 2, 1997; 89 FR 863, Jan. 8, 2024]

§ 1207.504 Term of office.

(a) The term of office of Board members shall be for three years and shall begin March 1 and end on the last day of February.

(b) Board members shall serve during the term of office for which they are selected and have qualified and until their successors are selected and have qualified.

[38 FR 7123, Mar. 16, 1973, as amended at 49 FR 2093, Jan. 18, 1984; 89 FR 863, Jan. 8, 2024]

§ 1207.505 Procedure.

(a) The procedure for conducting the Board's meetings shall be in accordance with the bylaws adopted by the Board on June 7, 1972, and approved by the Secretary and any subsequent amendments adopted by the Board and approved by the Secretary.

(b) Each importer member shall be entitled to not less than one vote. Importer members shall also be entitled to one additional vote for each 1 million hundredweight, or major fraction thereof, on a fresh-weight basis, of imported tablestock potatoes, potato products, or seed potatoes, as determined by data on imports provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The casting of such votes shall be determined by the importer members.

[62 FR 46179, Sept. 2, 1997]

§ 1207.506 Policy.

(a) It shall be the policy of the Board to carry out an effective and continuous coordinated program of marketing research, development, advertising, and promotion in order to help maintain and expand existing domestic and foreign markets for potatoes and to develop new or improved markets.

(b) It shall be the objective of the Board to carry out programs and projects which will provide maximum benefit to the potato industry and no undue preference shall be given to any of the various industry segments.

§ 1207.507 Administrative Committee.

(a) The Board shall annually select from among its members an Administrative Committee composed of producer members as provided for in the Board's bylaws, one or more importer members, and the public member. Selection shall be made in such manner as the Board may prescribe: Except that such committee shall include the Chairperson and nine Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom shall also serve as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Board.

(b) The Administrative Committee shall act for the Board in implementing such marketing research, development, advertising, and/or promotion activities as directed by the Board, and shall, subject to such direction, be charged with developing and submitting to the Secretary for his approval specific programs or projects in the name of the Board. The Administrative Committee shall further act for the Board in authorizing contracts or agreements for the development and carrying out of such programs or projects and the payment of the costs

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thereof with funds collected pursuant to §1207.342 of the plan.

(1) The Administrative Committee also shall act for the Board in contracting with cooperating agencies for the collection of assessments pursuant to §1207.513(d).

(2) [Reserved]

(c) The Board may assign such other administrative powers and duties to the Administrative Committee as it shall determine, and the Administrative Committee shall act on behalf of and in the name of the Board in all administrative matters.

[37 FR 17379, Aug. 26, 1972, as amended by Amdt. 6, 42 FR 55879, Oct. 20, 1977; 44 FR 25621, May 2, 1979; 50 FR 25199, June 18, 1985; 56 FR 40231, Aug. 14, 1991; 59 FR 44036, Aug. 26, 1994; 71 FR 76901, Dec. 22, 2006; 78 FR 52082, Aug. 22, 2013; 89 FR 863, Jan. 8, 2024]

§ 1207.508 USDA costs.

Pursuant to §1207.341 of the Plan the Board shall pay those administrative costs incurred by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the conduct of its duties under the Plan as are determined periodically by the Secretary. Payment shall be due promptly after billing for such costs.

[49 FR 26202, June 27, 1984]

ASSESSMENTS

§ 1207.510 Levy of assessments.

(a) *Domestic assessments.* (1) An assessment rate of 3 cents per hundredweight shall be levied on all potatoes produced within the 50 states of the United States.

(2) No assessment shall be levied on potatoes grown in the 50 States of the United States by producers of less than 5 acres of potatoes.

(b) *Assessments on imports.* (1) An Assessment rate of 3 cents per hundredweight shall be levied on all tablestock potatoes imported into the United States for ultimate consumption by humans and all seed potatoes imported into the United States. An assessment rate of 3 cents per hundredweight shall be levied on the fresh weight equivalents of imported frozen or processed potatoes for ultimate consumption by humans. The importer of imported tablestock potatoes, potato products, or seed potatoes shall pay the assess-

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ment to the Board through the U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the time of entry or withdrawal for consumption of such potatoes and potato products into the United States.

(2) The following conversion factors shall be used to determine the fresh weight equivalents of frozen and processed potato products:

Frozen potato products50
Canned potatoes636
Potato chips and shoestring potatoes245
Dehydrated potato products14
Potato starch1111

(3) The Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) categories and assessment rates on imported tablestock potatoes and frozen or processed potatoes for ultimate consumption by humans and on imported seed potatoes are listed in the following table. In the event that any HTS number subject to assessment is changed and such change is merely a replacement of a previous number and has no impact on the description of the potatoes, assessments will continue to be collected based on the new numbers.

Tablestock potatoes, frozen or processed potatoes, and seed potatoes	Assessment	
	Cents/cwt	Cents/kg
0701.10.0020	3.0	0.066
0701.10.0040	3.0	0.066
0701.90.1000	3.0	0.066
0701.90.5015	3.0	0.066
0701.90.5025	3.0	0.066
0701.90.5035	3.0	0.066
0701.90.5045	3.0	0.066
0701.90.5055	3.0	0.066
0701.90.5065	3.0	0.066
0710.10.0000	6.0	0.132
2004.10.4000	6.0	0.132
2004.10.8020	6.0	0.132
2004.10.8040	6.0	0.132
2005.20.0070	4.716	0.104
0712.90.3000	21.429	0.472
1105.10.0000	21.429	0.472
1105.20.0000	21.429	0.472
2005.20.0040	21.429	0.472
2005.20.0020	12.240	0.27
1108.13.0010	27.0	0.595

(4) No assessments shall be levied on otherwise assessable potatoes which are contained in imported products wherein potatoes are not a principal ingredient.

(c) Potatoes and potato products used for nonhuman food purposes, other than seed, are exempt from assessment but are subject to the disposition of exempted potatoes provisions of §1207.515 of this subpart.

(d) No more than one such assessment shall be made on any potatoes or potato products.

[57 FR 40083, Sept. 2, 1992, as amended at 58 FR 3359, Jan. 8, 1993; 59 FR 44036, Aug. 26, 1994; 71 FR 11296, Mar. 7, 2006; 71 FR 50330, Aug. 25, 2006; 74 FR 63543, Dec. 4, 2009; 75 FR 14491, Mar. 26, 2010; 87 FR 22436, Apr. 15, 2022]

§ 1207.511 Determination of assessable quantity.

The assessable quantity of potatoes in any lot shall be determined on the basis of utilization. Assessments shall be due on the entire lot handled for human consumption, seed, or unspecified purposes if there is no accounting made on the basis of the utilization of such lot. However, if the accounting identifies all or portions of such lot on the basis of utilization, assessments shall be due only on that portion utilized for human consumption and seed.

§ 1207.512 Designated handler.

The assessment on each lot of potatoes produced in the 50 States of the United States and handled shall be paid by the designated handler as hereafter set forth.

(a) Unless otherwise provided in paragraphs (a)(8), (b), and (c) of this section, the designated handler shall be the first handler of such potatoes. The first handler is the person who initially performs a handler function as heretofore defined. Such person may be a fresh shipper, processor, or other person who first places the potatoes in the channels of commerce. A producer who grades, packs, or otherwise performs handler functions thereby becomes a handler and as such assumes first handler responsibilities under this part. The following examples are provided to aid in identification of first handlers who are designated handlers:

(1) Producer delivers field-run potatoes of his own production to a handler for preparation for market. The handler in this instance is the designated handler, regardless of whether he subsequently handles such potatoes for his own account or for the account of the producer.

(2) Producer delivers field-run potatoes of his own production to a handler who takes title to such potatoes and places them in storage for subsequent

handling. The handler who purchases such potatoes from the producer is the designated handler.

(3) Producer delivers field-run potatoes to a commercial storage facility for the purpose of holding such potatoes under his own account for later sale. There is no designated handler in this instance since such potatoes have not been handled as heretofore defined and no assessment is due. The designated handler of such potatoes would be identified on the basis of subsequent handling of such potatoes.

(4) Fresh shipper purchases a lot of potatoes from a producer, packs a portion of such potatoes for fresh market, and delivers the balance to a processor. The fresh shipper is the designated handler for all potatoes in the lot.

(5) Handler purchases potatoes from a producer's field or storage for the purpose of preparing such potatoes for market or for transporting such potatoes to storage for subsequent handling. The handler who purchases such potatoes from the producer is the designated handler.

(6) Producer packs and sells potatoes of his own production from the field, roadside stand, or storage to a consumer, itinerant trucker, or other buyer. In performing such handler functions the producer assumes the responsibility of designated handler.

(7) Processor utilizes potatoes of his own production in the manufacture of potato chips, frozen, dehydrated, or canned products for human consumption. In so handling potatoes, the processor assumes the responsibility of designated handler.

(8) Producer utilizes potatoes of his own production for seed in planting his subsequent crop. Such seed potatoes do not enter the current of commerce; there is no designated handler in this instance since the potatoes have not been handled as heretofore defined and no assessment is due. However, seed potatoes sold or shipped to other producers for planting or to other persons for subsequent disposition enter the current of commerce and are subject to assessment. The producer of seed potatoes shall be the designated handler of such potatoes shipped to other producers for planting and the assessment is due when he first sells or otherwise

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handles such potatoes. The first person who acquires seed potatoes from the producer thereof for subsequent disposition other than planting by said person shall be the designated handler of such potatoes. However, the seed producer will be the designated handler responsible for filing reports and making payments, unless he can show that the first person who obtained the potatoes from him disposed of them other than by planting. To show this the seed producer must submit to the Potato Board the name and address of the first person who obtained the potatoes from him and an invoice of sale or settlement sheet on which it is indicated that such person will be the designated handler and therefore will be responsible for the payment of the assessments. Only by showing this is the seed producer no longer considered the designated handler and therefore not liable for the assessments.

(b) Any person who handles potatoes for a producer thereof under oral or written contract or agreement providing for the sale thereof shall be the designated handler for such potatoes, notwithstanding the fact that the producer may have graded, packed, or otherwise handled such potatoes and thereby became the first handler of such potatoes.

Examples. A cooperative marketing association, or other person, who makes an accounting to the producer, or pay the proceeds of the sale to the producer would be the designated handler responsible for the assessment.

(c) Any processor who purchases potatoes from the producer thereof shall be the designated handler even though the producer may have graded, packed, or otherwise handled such potatoes and thereby became the first handler of such potatoes.

[37 FR 17379, Aug. 26, 1972, as amended by Amdt. 4, 40 FR 7893, Feb. 24, 1975; Amdt. 7, 43 FR 9133, Mar. 6, 1978; Amdt. 8, 43 FR 51001, Nov. 2, 1978; 56 FR 40231, Aug. 14, 1991]

§ 1207.513 Payment of assessments.

(a) *Time of payment.* The assessment on domestically produced potatoes shall become due at the time a determination of assessable potatoes is made in the normal handling process, pursuant to §1207.511. If no determina-

tion is made of the utilization of a lot, assessments shall be due on the entire lot when it enters the current of commerce. The assessment on imported potatoes, potato products, and seed potatoes shall become due at the time of entry, or withdrawal, for consumption into the United States.

(b) *Responsibility for payment.* (1) The designated handler is responsible for payment of the assessment on domestically produced potatoes. He may pay with no reimbursement from the producer. In the alternative, he may collect the assessment from the producer, or deduct such assessment from the proceeds paid to the producer on whose potatoes the assessment is made, provided he furnishes the producer with evidence of such payment. Any such collection or deduction of assessment shall be made not later than the time when the assessment becomes payable by the handler to the Board. Failure of the handler to collect or deduct such assessment does not relieve the handler of his obligation to remit the assessment to the Board.

(2) The Customs Service shall collect payment of assessment on imported potatoes, potato products, and seed potatoes from importers and forward such assessment per agreement between the Customs Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Importers shall be responsible for payment of assessment directly to the Board of any assessment due but not collected by the Customs Service at the time of entry, or withdrawal, for consumption into the United States. An importer may apply to the Board for reimbursement of assessments paid on exempted products.

(c) *Payment directly to the Board.* (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (d) of this section, each designated handler or importer shall remit assessments directly to the Board by check or electronic payment. Checks are to be made payable to the National Potato Promotion Board or the Board's official doing business as name. Payment is due not later than 10 days after the end of the month such assessment is due together with a report (preferably on Board forms) thereon.

(2) All designated handlers, including a designated handler whose own production is handled and assessments to

the Board paid by another designated handler, shall report to the Board:

(i) Date of report (which is also date of payment to the Board).

(ii) The name and address of the designated handler;

(iii) The period potatoes were handled;

(iv) The total quantity of potatoes determined to be assessable during the period potatoes were handled, pursuant to § 1207.511.

(3) Designated handlers who collect assessments from producers or withhold assessments from their accounts or pay the assessment themselves shall also include a list of all such producers whose potatoes were handled during the period, their addresses and the total assessable quantities handled for each such producer.

(i) In lieu of such a list, the designated handler may substitute authentic copies of settlement sheets given to each producer provided such settlement sheets contain all the information listed above.

(ii) The words "final report" shall be shown on the last report at the close of his marketing season or at the end of each fiscal period if such handler markets potatoes on a year-round basis.

(4) Prepayment of assessment: (i) In lieu of the monthly assessment and reporting requirements of paragraph (b) of this section, the Board may permit designated handlers to make advance payments of their total estimated assessments for the season to the Board prior to their actual determination of assessable potatoes. Such procedure may be permitted when it is considered by the designated handler to be the more practical method of payment.

(ii) Persons using such procedure shall provide a final annual accounting of actual handling and assessments.

(iii) Specific requirements, instructions, and forms for making such advance payments shall be provided by the Board upon request.

(d) *Payment through cooperating agency.* The Board may authorize other organizations to collect assessments in its behalf. In any State or area in which the Board has negotiated an agreement to collect assessments with an agency such as a State Potato Commission or a Potato Association ap-

proved by the Secretary, the designated handler shall pay the assessment to such agency in the time and manner, and with such identifying information as specified in such agreement. Such an agreement shall not provide any cooperating agency with authority to collect confidential information from handlers; to qualify, the cooperating agency must on its own accord have access to all information required by the Board for collection purposes. If the Board requires further evidence of payment than provided, it may acquire such evidence from individual designated handlers.

(1) All such agreements are subject to the requirement of § 1207.352 *Confidential treatment*, of the plan, the provisions of section 310(c) of the Act, and all applicable rules and regulations and financial safeguards in effect under the Act and the plan; and all affected persons shall agree to, and conduct their operations and activities in accordance with, such requirements.

(2) [Reserved]

[37 FR 17379, Aug. 26, 1972, as amended by Amdt. 6, 42 FR 55879, Oct. 20, 1977; 56 FR 40231, Aug. 14, 1991; 62 FR 46179, Sept. 2, 1997; 87 FR 22436, Apr. 15, 2022]

§ 1207.514 Exemption for organic potatoes.

(a) A producer who operates under an approved National Organic Program (7 CFR part 205) (NOP) organic production system plan may be exempt from the payment of assessments under this part, provided that:

(1) Only agricultural products certified as "organic" or "100 percent organic" (as defined in the NOP) are eligible for exemption;

(2) The exemption shall apply to all certified "organic" or "100 percent organic" (as defined in the NOP) products of a producer regardless of whether the agricultural commodity subject to the exemption is produced by a person that also produces conventional or non-organic agricultural products of the same agricultural commodity as that for which the exemption is claimed;

(3) The producer maintains a valid certificate of organic operation as issued under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501-6522)(OFPA) and the NOP regulations

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issued under OFPA (7 CFR part 205); and

(4) Any producer so exempted shall continue to be obligated to pay assessments under this part that are associated with any agricultural products that do not qualify for an exemption under this section.

(b) To apply for exemption under this section, the producer shall submit a request to the Board on an *Organic Exemption Request Form* (Form AMS-15) at any time during the year initially, and annually thereafter on or before July 1, for as long as the producer continues to be eligible for the exemption.

(c) The producer request for exemption shall include the following:

(1) The applicant’s full name, company name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address;

(2) Certification that the applicant maintains a valid certificate of organic operation issued under the OFPA and the NOP;

(3) Certification that the applicant produces organic products eligible to be labeled “organic” or “100 percent organic” under the NOP;

(4) A requirement that the applicant attach a copy of their certificate of organic operation issued by a USDA-accredited certifying agent under the OFPA and the NOP;

(5) Certification, as evidenced by signature and date, that all information provided by the applicant is true; and

(6) Such other information as may be required by the Board, with the approval of the Secretary.

(d) If a producer complies with the requirements of this section, the Board will grant an assessment exemption and issue a Certificate of Exemption to the producer within 30 days. If the application is disapproved, the Board will notify the applicant of the reason(s) for disapproval within the same time-frame.

(e) A producer approved for exemption under this section shall provide a copy of the Certificate of Exemption to each handler to whom the producer sells potatoes. 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 products that are eligible to be labeled as “or-

ganic” or “100 percent organic” under the NOP, or certified as “organic” or “100 percent organic” under a U.S. equivalency arrangement established under the NOP, shall be exempt from the payment of assessments on those products. Such importer may submit documentation to the Board and request an exemption from assessment on certified “organic” or “100 percent organic” potatoes, potato products, and seed potatoes on an *Organic Exemption Request Form* (Form AMS-15) at any time initially, and annually thereafter on or before July 1, 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. If Customs collects the assessment on exempt product that is identified as “organic” by a number in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, the Board must reimburse the exempt importer the assessments paid upon receipt of such assessments from Customs. For all other exempt organic product for which Customs collects the assessment, the importer may apply to the Board for a reimbursement of assessments paid, and the importer must submit satisfactory proof to the Board that the importer paid the assessment on exempt organic product. Any importer so exempted shall continue to be obligated to pay assessments under this part that are associated with any imported agricultural products that do not qualify for an exemption under this section.

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

[70 FR 2755, Jan. 14, 2005, as amended at 80 FR 82024, Dec. 31, 2015]

§ 1207.515 Safeguards.

The Board may require reports by designated handlers and importers on the handling, importation, and disposition of exempted potatoes. Also, authorized employees of the Board or the Secretary, may inspect such books and

records as are appropriate and necessary to verify the reports on such disposition.

[37 FR 17379, Aug. 26, 1972, as amended at 56 FR 40232, Aug. 14, 1991]

RECORDS

§ 1207.532 Retention period for records.

Each handler and importer required to make reports pursuant to this subpart shall maintain and retain such records for at least 2 years beyond the end of the marketing year of their applicability:

(a) One copy of each report made to the Board; and

(b) Such records as are necessary to verify such reports.

[37 FR 17379, Aug. 26, 1972, as amended at 56 FR 40232, Aug. 14, 1991]

§ 1207.533 Availability of records.

(a) Each handler and importer required to make reports pursuant to this subpart shall make available for inspection by authorized employees of the Board or the Secretary during regular business hours, such records as are appropriate and necessary to verify reports required under this subpart.

(b) Importers shall also maintain for 2 years records on the total quantities of potatoes imported and on the total quantities of potato products imported, and a record of each importation of potatoes, potato products, and seed potatoes including quantity, date, and port of entry, and shall make such records available for inspection by authorized employees of the Board or the Secretary during regular business hours.

[56 FR 40232, Aug. 14, 1991]

§ 1207.534 OMB control number assigned pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

The information collection requirements contained in this part have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the provisions of 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35 and have been assigned OMB Control number 0581-0093.

[49 FR 23826, June 8, 1984]

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

§ 1207.540 Confidential books, records, and reports.

All information obtained from the books, records, and reports of handler and importers and all information with respect to refunds of assessments made to individual producers and importers shall be kept confidential in the manner and to the extent provided for in § 1207.352 of the Plan.

[56 FR 40232, Aug. 14, 1991]

§ 1207.545 Right of the Secretary.

All fiscal matters, programs or projects, rules or regulations, reports, or other substantive action proposed and prepared by the Board shall be submitted to the Secretary for his approval.

§ 1207.546 Personal liability.

No member of the Board shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts, either of commission or omission, as such member, except for acts of willful misconduct, gross negligence, or those which are criminal in nature.

PART 1209—MUSHROOM PROMOTION, RESEARCH, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION ORDER

Subpart A—Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order

DEFINITIONS

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