



FEDERAL ACTIONS



Department of Commerce

NATIONAL PRODUCTION AUTHORITY

CONTROLLED MATERIALS DELIVERIES BY DISTRIBUTORS: Users of controlled materials may now receive them from distributors 15 days prior to the quarter for which the allotment is valid, the National Production Authority announced March 21.

NPA said the March 21 amendment to Controlled Materials Plan Regulation No. 4 (Deliveries of Controlled Materials by Distributors) now makes it possible for authorized controlled materials orders placed with distributors to call for delivery and be shipped during the 15 days prior to the quarter for which the related allotment is valid. In effect, the amendment provides for a 105-day quarter for purchases of controlled materials from distributors.

At the same time, NPA also announced several minor changes to CMP Regulation No. 4. These include:

1. An amplification of the definition of controlled materials so that the definitions in CMP Reg. 1 and CMP Reg. 4 are now identical.
2. A provision which allows a distributor to reject any order for controlled materials if the person seeking to place the order is unwilling or unable to meet such distributor's regularly-established prices and terms of sale or payment.

The amendments in CMP Reg. 4 were primarily to conform with recent amendments in CMP Reg. 1.

For details see: CMP Reg. 4 (Deliveries of Controlled Materials by Distributors) as amended Mar. 21, 1952; and news release NPA-2029 of same date.

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STEEL STRAPPING RESTRICTIONS REMOVED BY NPA: Revocation of the basic order M-59, controlling the use and inventory of metal strapping, was announced March 25 by the National Production Authority.

Order M-59 was issued May 1, 1951, to conserve steel by preventing unnecessary use of strapping on light packages. The order listed 14 acceptable uses for strapping and limited inventories to a 45-day supply.

NPA indicated that there are ample supplies of steel strapping to meet all immediate and foreseeable requirements. However, steel strapping will remain subject to the inventory limitations of NPA regulation 1.

NOTE: FULL TEXTS OF MATERIALS ORDERS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM NATIONAL PRODUCTION AUTHORITY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C., OR FROM ANY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE REGIONAL OR FIELD OFFICE.



Federal Trade Commission

PUBLIC REFRIGERATED STORAGE INDUSTRY TRADE PRACTICE RULES: Revised Trade Practice Rules for the Public Refrigerated Storage Industry, formerly known as the Commercial Cold Storage Industry, were issued by the Federal Trade Commission on April 4. The rules constitute a revision of those promulgated for the industry on November 9, 1931. Numerous changes embodying clarification of the applicable requirements of laws administered by the Commission have been made.

Primary objectives of the rules are the maintenance of free and fair competition in the industry and the elimination and prevention of unfair methods of competition, unfair acts or practices, and other trade abuses. The new rules become operative 30 days from the date of their promulgation--April 4.

Copies of Trade Practice Rules For The Public Refrigerated Storage Industry are available from the Federal Trade Commission, Washington 25, D. C.



Interstate Commerce Commission

TRUCK TRIP-LEASING RESTRICTION DELAYED: Further postponement of Ex Parte MC-43 "trip-leasing" regulations due to become effective April 1, 1952, was ordered by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The Commission's order of May 8, 1951, requires all trip-leases to be for a minimum period of 30 days and requires exclusive use of the leased equipment by the lessor for this period. The order of March 20, 1952, delayed the effective date of the regulations until the final disposition by the Supreme Court of the United States of the appeal from the decision of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana in *Eastern Motor Express, Inc. vs. United States and Interstate Commerce Commission*.

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NEW INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATES AND CHARGES AFFECTS FISHERY PRODUCTS: A further increase in freight rates and charges was granted by the Interstate Commerce Commission on April 11 as a result of the railroads' requests for increases. The latest authorizations under Ex Parte No. 175 granted by the Commission supersede all prior authorizations in this Docket and, generally speaking, for fishery products the increase is added to those rates and charges prevailing on April 3, 1951.

Except as otherwise provided, all basic freight rates and charges of petitioning railroads (including rates and charges for the transportation of milk and cream in passenger or freight service, including commodities listed in the milk and cream tariffs) may be justly and reasonably increased 15 percent. Such increases are to be applied as percentage increases in the amount of the total freight charges as shown by the freight bill, exclusive of the Federal transportation tax, and subject to the maximum amounts of increase specified by the Commission.

The railroads applied last year for a 15 percent increase. Last August subsequent to an earlier interim ruling made on March 12, 1951, the Commission ruled that instead of a straight 15 percent advance, the charges should be raised 9 percent in the East and 6 percent in the South and West. The new order now allows the full 15 percent across the country. This actually means another increase of 9 percent in the South and West and 6 percent in the East over what was granted last August. The full 15 percent increase applies to all fishery products rates and charges other than the following important exceptions made to this increase:

Carload shipments of canned or preserved food products (not cold-pack or frozen) in packages, as specified in Item 490 of Tariff X-162-B, may be increased as provided in the above paragraph, subject to a maximum of 12 cents per 100 pounds. Canned fishery products come under this category.

Line-haul rates on sand; gravel, stone, broken, crushed or ground; slag, other than expanded or ground open-hearth basic slag; shells, oyster, clam or mussel, whole, crushed or ground, or screenings; all in open-top cars not protected by tarpaulin or other protective coverings may be increased 12 percent.

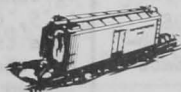
No increase is authorized in the charges for protective services published in Perishable Protective Tariff No. 15. Agent Quinn's I.C.C. No. 26; i.e. no further increase in icing charges is provided.

No further increase is proposed or authorized in amounts paid or allowances made by carriers for drayage or other services performed by shippers or receivers of freight.

Rates and charges for accessorial or terminal services such as storage, handling, trimming, floatage, lighterage, demurrage on lighters or car floats, loading, unloading, fabrication, other transit, weighing, et cetera, not otherwise specifically provided for in these findings may be increased 15 percent, except (a) no increase is proposed or authorized in charges for demurrage on freight cars, and (b) no increase is proposed or authorized in charges for handling, loading, or unloading export, import, coastwise or intercoastal traffic which do not affect the measure of the line-haul rates and are not in addition to the line-haul rates.

The increased rates and charges authorized may become effective not later than June 1, 1952, by filing with the Commission and publishing schedules, and upon 15 days' notice to the public. The authority to maintain the increases provided in these findings shall expire February 28, 1954, unless sooner modified or terminated. All previous findings in this proceeding are amended accordingly to be in conformity with the latest authorization. The record of this Docket will be held open for the purpose of re-examination of the increases authorized therein prior to the expiration date.

At this date it is expected the above authorizations will be placed into effect by the railroads on May 2.



Eighty-Second Congress (Second Session)

MARCH 1952

Listed below are public bills and resolutions introduced and referred to committees, or passed by the Eighty-Second Congress (Second Session) and signed by the President. However, the more pertinent reports, hearings, or chamber actions on some of the bills shown in this section from month to month are also listed.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED:

Abolish Wage Stabilization Board: H. J. Res. 409 (Kearns) - Joint resolution to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 so as to abolish the Wage Stabilization Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

Commercial Fishing Vessels--Marine Inspection: H. R. 7161 (Kennedy) - A bill for the safety of life and property by making certain commercial fishing vessels subject to the rules and regulations of the United States Coast Guard marine inspection; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. (Includes commercial fishing vessels of over 30 gross tons and operating more than 15 miles outside the line dividing the high seas from the inland waters.)

Conservation of Fish and Wildlife on Klamath Reservation: H. R. 7261 (Stockman) - A bill to provide for the conservation of fish and wildlife on the Klamath Reservation, in Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Defense Production Act of 1950 Amendment: S. 2873 (Ferguson) - A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended; to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

H. R. 7079 (McDonough); H. R. 7157 (Sadlak); H. R. 7326 (Rains) - Same as S. 2873; to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

Elimination of Salmon Traps in Alaska: H. R. 7247 (Bartlett) - A bill to provide for the gradual elimination of salmon traps in waters of Alaska; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Fishery Products Distribution: S. 2795 (Saltonstall) - A bill to further encourage the distribution of fishery products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

Food Shrinkage: H. R. 7128 (Osmers) - A bill to avoid false representations to the consuming public as to the true weight of food products subject to shrinkage; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Interior Appropriations: H. R. 7176 (Kirwan) - A bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1953, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations. (This bill includes appropriations for the Fish and Wildlife Service.)

CHAMBER ACTIONS:

Japanese Peace Treaty: By 66 yeas to 10 nays, Senate ratified the Japanese Peace Treaty (Exec. A, 82d Cong., 2d sess.); also adopted by voice vote Connally reservation (on behalf of Foreign Relations Committee) barring recognition of any claim by Russia to territory held by Japan on December 7, 1941, and barring recognition of provisions favoring Russia in Yalta Agreement regarding Japan.

Interior Appropriations: House reported H. R. 7176, Interior Department Appropriation bill for fiscal year 1953 (H. Rept. 1628).

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Defense Production Act: Senate Committee on Banking and Currency commenced executive meetings to consider amendments to the Defense Production Act of 1950 and the Housing and Rent Act of 1947, and announced, among others, the following actions:

Agreed to mark up S. 2594, which extends the present act for 1 year; rejected motion to terminate price and wage controls on June 30, 1952; rejected motion to terminate price and wage controls on March 31, 1953; substituted Public Law 590 of Eighty-first Congress for section 104, on import controls on fats and oils. Committee scheduled to continue March 31.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS:

Transcripts of hearings of interest to the fishery and allied industries (available only from the committee that held the hearings).

Tuna Imports, hearings before the Committee on Finance, United States Senate, Eighty-Second Congress, Second Session, on H. R. 5693 (An act to amend the Tariff Act of 1930, so as to impose certain duties upon the importation of tuna fish, and for other purposes); February 4, 5, 6, and 7, 1952; 422 p., printed, illus. This transcript contains the text of the bill and the testimony for and against the bill presented at the Senate hearings by Government agencies and various segments of the fishery industries. With this transcript the Senate Committee did not submit its recommendations to the Senate regarding passage of the bill. The Bill, which was introduced in October 1951 during the last session of Congress, provides for a duty of 3 cents a pound on imports of

fresh and frozen tuna, whether or not whole; for the U. S. Tariff Commission to undertake an investigation of the competitive position of the domestic tuna industry including the effect of imports of fresh or frozen tuna on the livelihood of American fishermen, and to report the results of this investigation to the Congress on or before January 1, 1953; and directs the Secretary of the Interior

to make a comprehensive study of the long-range position of the domestic tuna industry and recommend such measures as may be appropriate to promote necessary adjustments so that the industry may achieve and maintain a sound position in the domestic economy, with report to be submitted to Congress by Jan. 1, 1953. The bill passed the House of Representatives in October 1951.



NEW FISHERY PRODUCTS

The success with which Labrador natives froze fish by natural means is said to have been the forerunner of the modern frozen-food industry. Freezing foods during periods of abundance when supply costs are lower have brought prices for quality foods within the reach of nearly everyone's pocketbook the year round. This, plus providing foods in consumer-size packages which take a minimum of preparation, has made the frozen-food industry a multimillion dollar business.

New fishery products which seek consumer acceptance are entering frozen food cabinets all the time. Domestically packed, one-pound packages of frozen fresh-water fish fillets are a recent development. Frozen fillets of lake trout, wall-eyed pike, blue pike, yellow perch, whitefish, and northern pike or pickerel are among the products a Great Lakes' company plans to have on the market in the next few months.

A frozen shrimp cocktail for two persons is being packaged in a novel, circular, clear-plastic container as an addition to the specialty items available to time-conscious consumers. The cooked and de-veined shrimp are packed in an outer ring which surrounds an inner plastic container holding a prepared cocktail sauce. Since colored plastic cocktail picks are included, the busy homemaker only needs to thaw the product, and remove the lids of the outer and inner packages to serve a complete shrimp cocktail.

Another frozen shrimp product, now on the market in considerable volume, is also designed to ease the work of preparing shrimp in the home. Although not peeled, these shrimp are de-veined before packing by an ingenious method that results in little loss of weight. A cut is made through the shell to expose the vein so that it can be removed by jets of water under pressure. The processing of the shrimp before packing gives the homemaker another break--only two minutes of boiling and these shrimp are ready for the table.