

CHAPTER 6250

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PRIVATE FISH HATCHERIES

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6250.0100 DEFINITIONS.

Subpart 1. **Scope.** The terms used in this chapter have the meanings given them in this part.

Subp. 2. **Approved laboratory methods.** "Approved laboratory methods" means methods described in the latest edition of the Procedures for the Detection and Identification of Certain Fish Pathogens published by the American Fisheries Society Fish Health Section, also known as the Fish Health Blue Book.

Subp. 3. **Aquatic life.** "Aquatic life" has the meaning given to "private aquatic life" as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 17.47, and for purposes of commercial transactions, aquatic life is livestock.

Subp. 4. **Certifiable diseases.** "Certifiable diseases" include channel catfish virus, bacterial kidney disease, bacterial furunculosis, enteric redmouth disease, enteric septicemia of catfish, infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus, infectious pancreatic necrosis virus, whirling disease, proliferative kidney disease, viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus, ceratomyxosis, epizootic epitheliotropic virus, and any emergency disease.

Subp. 5. **Containment facility.** "Containment facility" means a licensed facility for salmonids or catfish that complies with items A, C, and D, or B, C, and D:

A. disinfects its effluent to the standards provided by part 6250.0800 before the effluent is discharged to public waters;

B. does not discharge into public waters or into waters of the state directly connected to public waters;

C. raises aquatic life for food consumption only;

D. contains aquatic life requiring a fish health inspection prior to transportation.

Subp. 6. **Emergency fish disease.** "Emergency fish disease" means a designated disease not already present in this state that could impact populations of aquatic life if inadvertently released by infected aquatic life including, but not limited to, viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus, infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus, infectious pancreatic necrosis virus, whirling disease, ceratomyxosis, proliferative kidney disease, channel catfish virus, epizootic epitheliotropic virus disease, or any other disease listed in a rule or published by the commissioner in the State Register on an emergency basis to be effective for not more than 240 days.

Subp. 7. **Enzootic.** "Enzootic" means a disease that is known to occur within well-defined geographic boundaries.

Subp. 8. **Fish health inspection.** "Fish health inspection" means an on-site statistically based sampling in accordance with procedures set forth in the Fish Health Blue Book for all lots of fish on the facility.

Subp. 9. **Fish health inspector.** "Fish health inspector" means an individual certified as a fish health inspector by the American Fisheries Society or a state, federal, or provincial resource management agency, except that a certification may not be made by an inspector who has a conflict of interest in connection with the outcome of the certification.

Subp. 10. **Game fish.** "Game fish" is defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.015, except that green or orange spotted sunfish are not considered game fish for purposes of determining fish of significant public value.

Subp. 11. **Intensive culture.** "Intensive culture" means the rearing of fish at densities greater than can be supported in the natural environment.

Subp. 12. **Licensed facility.** "Licensed facility" means a licensed private fish hatchery including all licensed waters.

Subp. 13. **Lot.** "Lot" means a group of fish of the same species and age that originated from the same discrete spawning population and that always have shared a common water supply. Various age groups of adult brood stock of the same species may comprise the same lot if they have shared the same containers for one brood cycle.

Subp. 14. **Minnows.** "Minnows" is defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.015, except the 12-inch restriction on sucker minnows does not apply.

Subp. 15. **Public waters.** "Public waters" is defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.005.

Subp. 16. **Quarantine facility.** "Quarantine facility" means a culture system that is enclosed in a building and is separated from other fish culture facilities where fish can be isolated and maintained while preventing their introduction or pathogen introduction into the environment.

Subp. 17. **Standard facility.** "Standard facility" means a licensed facility with a continual or intermittent discharge of effluent to public waters.

Subp. 18. **Waters of the state.** "Waters of the state" is defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.005.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.211*

History: *18 SR 83*

6250.0200 FISH HATCHERY OPERATIONS.

Subpart 1. **Acquisition and sale of private aquatic life.** Aquatic life legally possessed may be bought, acquired, and sold by licensed facilities as provided by this chapter.

Subp. 2. **Acquisition from state.** The commissioner may sell aquatic life to licensed facilities at fair market value. Fair market value must be determined by the average market price charged in this state and contiguous states and provinces for similar quantities.

Subp. 3. **Methods to harvest aquatic life.** Licensed facilities may use all reasonable methods to operate and harvest aquatic life from licensed facilities, including nets.

Subp. 4. **Discharge may require permit.** The discharge from a private fish hatchery must comply with discharge permits required by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Subp. 5. **Ownership of aquatic life.** The following provisions apply to the ownership of aquatic life:

A. Notwithstanding other provisions of law, aquatic life lawfully acquired and possessed by a licensed facility is private aquatic life and property of the owner of the licensed facility.

B. Private aquatic life in public waters may become property of the state if the waters are not part of a licensed facility. The commissioner will notify the licensee that the aquatic life in a facility that is no longer licensed will become property of the state if the aquatic life is not removed. If the licensee does not respond in writing within 30 days after receiving the notice and make alternative arrangements, or does not remove the aquatic life by 60 ice-free days after receiving the notice, the private aquatic life becomes property of the state.

C. Private aquatic life that is transferred to the state or released into public waters that are not part of a licensed facility is owned by the state and may be considered wildlife.

Subp. 6. **Control of licensed waters.** The following provisions apply to the use of licensed waters by the public:

A. If the public cannot legally access waters of the state that are part of a licensed private fish hatchery except by permission of the licensee, the use of the waters by the public is subject to restriction by the licensee.

B. Waters of the state may not be licensed for aquaculture use to more than one licensee.

Subp. 7. **Angling in licensed waters.** A person may not take fish by angling from waters subject to subpart 6, unless the person has written permission from the licensee and:

A. has an invoice when in possession of fish; or

B. takes fish under an angling license, subject to the limits and conditions in the game and fish laws.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.211*

History: *18 SR 83*

6250.0300 FISH HATCHERY LICENSE.

Subpart 1. License required. The following provisions apply to the licensing of a private fish hatchery:

A. A person or entity may not operate a private fish hatchery without first obtaining a private fish hatchery license from the commissioner.

B. An application for a private fish hatchery license must be made on a form provided by the commissioner.

C. A license issued by the commissioner is not a determination of private property rights, but is only based on a determination that the private fish hatchery does not have a significant detrimental impact on the public resource.

Subp. 2. Listed waters. The following provisions apply to the listing of waters for private fish hatcheries:

A. A private fish hatchery license must list:

(1) the specific waters of the state that may be used in connection with the licensed private fish hatchery and whether the hatchery is a standard, containment, or quarantine facility as defined by part 6250.0100;

(2) whether aeration requiring a permit is approved;

(3) whether piscicide use is approved; and

(4) those waters where nonindigenous species will be kept.

B. The right to use waters licensed for private fish hatchery or aquatic farm purposes may be transferred between licensees with prior approval by the commissioner if requirements for species to be raised are met. Waters that are continually connected by a permanent watercourse to other waters must not be approved for private fish hatchery use, except that connected waters that are isolated from other waters may be licensed as a single body of water. Waters that are intermittently connected or may become connected with other waters may be denied, or screening or other measures may be required to prevent passage of aquatic life. Listed waters may be changed on approval by the commissioner.

C. The commissioner will conduct an inspection of waters to be licensed prior to approving or denying initial licensing of the waters.

D. Waters containing game fish of significant public value may be denied licensing unless the applicant can demonstrate exclusive riparian control.

E. Waters containing game fish of significant public value may be denied licensing unless the game fish of significant public value are sold to the licensee, removed for other state use by the department, or disposed of as provided in writing by the commissioner.

F. Waters licensed under a private fish hatchery license may be aerated during open water periods without a separate aeration permit.

Subp. 3. Listed species. The following provisions apply to the listing of species for licensed waters:

A. A private fish hatchery license must list the species of aquatic life approved for each licensed water. Listed species of aquatic life may be changed on written request to and approval by the commissioner. Species of aquatic life regulated by Minnesota Statutes, chapters 97A, 97B, and 97C, may not be cultured unless listed on the license.

B. All waters licensed before July 1, 1992, under a private fish hatchery license must be approved for species listed under current licenses if other conditions for licensing are met.

C. If licensed waters are located within a 25-year floodplain and are not enclosed within a building, species of aquatic life may be licensed at the discretion of the commissioner.

D. Licensed waters located outside of a 25-year floodplain or enclosed within a building may be licensed for any species, except that the commissioner may deny licensing for species not present in the state.

Subp. 4. **Inspections and enforcement.** The premises, property, vehicles, private aquatic life, and equipment where private fish hatchery operations are being conducted are subject to inspection as provided by Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.215.

Subp. 5. **Records.** The following provisions apply to the maintenance and retention of records:

A. Licensees must keep complete, up-to-date records of the operation of the private fish hatchery. The records must be kept for at least three years.

B. The records must include the following information:

(1) for each species acquired, the number and pounds of fish or eggs acquired, the names and addresses of the sources from which acquired, and the dates of receipt;

(2) for each species sold or disposed of, the number and pounds of fish sold or disposed of, the names and addresses of the purchasers or persons to whom the conveyances are made, and the dates of sale; and

(3) for fish sperm or viable eggs, the amount acquired or sold, the names and addresses of the sources from which acquired, the purchasers to whom conveyed, and the dates of purchase or sale.

C. On or before March 1 of each year, the licensee must submit a complete annual report, on a form provided by the commissioner, covering the quantity of all species sold or purchased in the preceding license year.

D. Records are subject to inspection by the commissioner during reasonable hours.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.211*

History: *18 SR 83*

6250.0400 TRANSPORTATION OF AQUATIC LIFE.

Subpart 1. **Requirements for importation, transportation within the state, or stocking of fish.** Except as provided in subpart 3, an operator of a private fish hatchery may not import aquatic life into the state, transport aquatic life within the state, or stock waters of the state with aquatic life without first obtaining a bill of lading or transportation permit from the commissioner, with disease certification, if applicable.

Subp. 2. **Bill of lading.** The following provisions apply to the use of a bill of lading:

A. A person may transport aquatic life except salmonids or catfish with a completed bill of lading for:

(1) intrastate transportation of aquatic life between licensed private fish hatcheries, aquatic farms, or aquarium facilities licensed for the same species and of the proper classification for the aquatic life; and

(2) stocking of waters other than public waters.

B. When aquatic life is transported between licensed private fish hatcheries, aquatic farms, or aquarium facilities, a copy of the bill of lading must be submitted to the regional fisheries manager:

(1) at least 72 hours before the transportation, if species transported into a watershed are not found in it or have their original source outside this state and contiguous states; or

(2) within 30 days in cases not covered by subitem (1).

C. A bill of lading is also required at least 72 hours before any transportation between licensed waters of the same licensee, if species transported into a watershed are not found in it or have their original source outside this state and contiguous states.

D. For transportation and stocking of waters that are not public waters:

(1) a bill of lading must be submitted to the regional fisheries manager 72 hours before transporting fish for stocking;

(2) a bill of lading must be submitted to the regional fisheries manager within five days after stocking if the waters to be stocked are confirmed not to be public waters by telecopy or telephone prior to stocking by the regional fisheries office; or

(3) a completed bill of lading may be submitted to the regional fisheries office by telecopy prior to transporting fish for stocking. Confirmation that the waters to be stocked

are not public waters may be made by returning the bill of lading by telecopy or in writing, in which cases additional copies need not be submitted to the department.

E. Bill of lading forms may only be issued by the Department of Natural Resources office located in St. Paul, and new bill of lading forms may not be issued until all previously issued forms have been returned.

Subp. 3. Exemptions for transportation permits and bills of lading. The following provisions apply to exemptions for transportation permits and bills of lading:

A. A bill of lading or transportation permit is not required by a private fish hatchery licensee for importation, transportation, or export for the following:

(1) minnows taken under a private fish hatchery license in this state and transported intrastate;

(2) aquarium or ornamental fish including tropical, subtropical, and saltwater species that cannot survive in the waters of the state, which may be imported or transported if accompanied by shipping documents;

(3) fish or fish eggs that have been processed for use as food, bait, or other purposes unrelated to fish propagation;

(4) live fish, except salmonids and catfish, from a licensed private fish hatchery, which are transported directly to an outlet for processing or for other food purposes if accompanied by shipping documents;

(5) fish being exported if accompanied by shipping documents;

(6) sucker eggs, sucker fry, or fathead minnows transported intrastate for bait propagation or feeding of cultured aquatic life;

(7) species of fish that are found within the state used in connection with public shows, exhibits, demonstrations, or fishing pools for periods not exceeding 14 days; or

(8) transfer of aquatic life between licensed waters of the same licensee, except when required in subpart 2.

B. Shipping documents required under this subpart must show the place of origin, owner or consignee, destination, number, and species.

Subp. 4. Transportation permit requirements. A transportation permit is required for all importation, transportation, or stocking of private aquatic life not covered by subpart 2 or exempted in subpart 3. A transportation permit may be used for multiple shipments within the 30-day term for the permit if the source and the destination remain the same. *Transportation permits, which may authorize importation or stocking of public waters, may be issued through department regional offices or the St. Paul office, and must be obtained prior to shipment.*

Subp. 5. Permit application. An application for a transportation permit must be made on forms provided by the commissioner. An application for a transportation permit for salmonids and catfish, their eggs, or sperm must be accompanied by certification that the source of the eggs or sperm are free of certifiable diseases, except that eggs with enteric redmouth, whirling disease, or furunculosis may be imported, transported, or stocked following treatment approved by the commissioner, and fish with bacterial kidney disease may be imported, transported, or stocked into areas where the disease has been previously introduced. A copy of the transportation permit showing the date of certification inspection must accompany the shipment of fish while in transit and must be available for inspection by the commissioner. By 14 days after a completed application is received, the commissioner will approve or deny the importation permits as provided in this part.

Subp. 6. Vehicle identification. The following provisions apply to the identification of vehicles used in the operation of a private fish hatchery:

A. A vehicle used by a licensee for transporting aquatic life must be identified with the licensee's name and town of residence as it appears on the license and the license number.

B. A vehicle used by a licensee must have identification displayed so that it is readily visible from either side of the vehicle in letters and numbers not less than 2-1/2 inches high and with a three-eighths inch wide stroke. Identification may be permanently affixed to

vehicles or displayed on removable plates or placards placed on opposite doors of the vehicle or on the tanks carried on the vehicle.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.211*

History: *18 SR 83*

6250.0500 IMPORTATION OF AQUATIC LIFE.

Subpart 1. **Licensed facilities.** The following provisions apply to the importation of aquatic life:

A. The commissioner may issue transportation permits to import:

(1) indigenous and naturalized species except trout, salmon, and catfish from any source to a standard facility;

(2) trout, salmon, and catfish from a nonemergency disease area to a containment facility if the fish are certified within the previous year to be free of certifiable diseases, except that eggs with enteric redmouth, whirling disease, or furunculosis may be imported following treatment approved by the commissioner, and fish with bacterial kidney disease may be imported into areas where the disease has been previously introduced; and

(3) trout, salmon, and catfish from a facility in a nonemergency disease area with a disease-free history of three years or more to a standard facility, except that eggs with enteric redmouth, whirling disease, or furunculosis may be imported following treatment approved by the commissioner, and fish with bacterial kidney disease may be imported into areas where the disease has been previously introduced.

B. If a source facility in a nonemergency disease area cannot demonstrate a history free from disease, aquatic life may only be imported into a quarantine facility.

Subp. 2. **Enzootic disease area.** The following provisions apply to the importation of aquatic life in enzootic disease areas:

A. Except as otherwise provided and except that eggs with enteric redmouth, whirling disease, or furunculosis may be imported following treatment approved by the commissioner, and fish with bacterial kidney disease may be imported into areas where the disease has been previously introduced, fish may be imported from emergency disease enzootic areas only as fertilized eggs under the following conditions:

(1) to be imported into a standard facility, fertilized eggs must have a disease-free history for at least five years;

(2) to be imported into a containment facility, fertilized eggs must have a disease-free history for at least three years; or

(3) to be imported into a quarantine facility, fertilized eggs may have a disease-free history of less than three years.

B. A hatchery inspection must occur at least once a year and fish must have been tested for all certifiable diseases. The inspection must include at least viral testing of ovarian fluids at the 95 percent confidence level of detecting two percent incidence of disease (ovarian fluids must be sampled for certification of viral hemorrhagic septicemia and infectious hematopoietic necrosis). Bacterial diseases must be sampled at the 95 percent confidence level with a five percent incidence of disease. The inspection must be performed by a fish health inspector in cooperation with the producer with subsequent examination of the collected tissues and fluids for the detection of certifiable diseases.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.211*

History: *18 SR 83*

6250.0600 STOCKING PRIVATE AQUATIC LIFE.

A person may not release private aquatic life into public waters that are not licensed as part of a private fish hatchery without first obtaining a transportation permit from the commissioner. The commissioner may deny issuance of a permit if releasing the private aquatic life is not consistent with the management plan for the public waters.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.211*

History: *18 SR 83*

6250.0700 LICENSE AND INSPECTION FEES.

Subpart 1. **Private fish hatchery.** The private fish hatchery license must contain endorsements for the rights and privileges of the following licenses under the game and fish laws. The endorsements must be made upon payment of the license fee provided by Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.475, for the following licenses:

- A. minnow dealer license;
- B. minnow retailer license for sale of minnows as bait;
- C. minnow exporting license;
- D. minnow dealer helper license;
- E. private fish hatchery vehicle endorsement, which includes a minnow dealer vehicle license, a minnow retailer vehicle license, an exporting minnow hauler vehicle license, and a fish vendor vehicle license;
- F. sucker egg taking license; and
- G. game fish packers license.

Subp. 2. **Inspection fees.** The fees for the following inspections are:

- A. initial inspection of each water to be licensed, \$50;
- B. fish health inspection and certification, \$20 plus \$80 per lot thereafter; and
- C. initial inspection for containment and quarantine facility inspections, \$50.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.211*

History: 18 SR 83

6250.0800 DISEASE TRANSMISSION.

Subpart 1. **Facility designation.** The following provisions apply to the designation of facilities to prevent disease transmission:

A. The licensee may apply to the commissioner for designation of all or a portion of a facility as a standard, containment, or quarantine facility on forms provided by the commissioner either as part of the license application or separately.

B. By 15 business days after an application is received, the commissioner must notify the applicant if there are any deficiencies in the application. By 30 business days after a complete application is received, the commissioner will approve or deny the designation requested.

Subp. 2. **Disinfection.** The following provisions apply to disinfection of effluent from containment facilities:

A. Containment facilities must disinfect effluent prior to discharge to public waters. The effluent required to be disinfected includes water used by a containment facility in the production of the aquatic life of concern, waste or mortalities from the aquatic life of concern, and live forage or commercial feed discarded from the containment facility. Runoff from precipitation and excess water from natural springs, wells, or other sources that is not used in the production of aquatic life is not effluent to be disinfected.

B. Disinfection treatment may include chlorination or other processes. If chlorine disinfection is utilized, a measurable residual level of 1.0 part per million of active chlorine in the effluent must be maintained for one hour of retention time. The effluent must comply with chapter 7050.

C. A disinfection treatment process must ensure uninterrupted effluent treatment in the event of electrical power failure, a primary system failure, or other similar events that would cause treatment interruptions.

D. The effluent disinfection process must be sited, designed, and operated in a manner that allows inspection by the commissioner at all times to determine whether adequate effluent disinfection is maintained.

E. The commissioner may prescribe reasonable documentation of daily monitoring of treatment system performance to be included in the licensee's annual report. The records must be available for daily inspection by the commissioner during normal business hours and maintained for three years.

Subp. 3. **Fish health inspection.** The following provisions apply to fish health inspections:

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A. A private fish hatchery propagating trout, salmon, or catfish and having an effluent discharge from the private fish hatchery into public waters must have an annual fish health inspection conducted by a certified fish health inspector. Testing must be conducted according to approved laboratory methods.

B. A fish health inspection fee must be charged based on each lot of fish sampled. The fee, by check or money order payable to the department, must be prepaid or paid at the time a bill or notice is received from the commissioner that the inspection and processing of samples is completed.

C. Upon receipt of payment and completion of inspection, the commissioner will notify the operator and issue a fish health certificate. The certification must be made according to the Fish Health Blue Book by a person certified as a fish health inspector.

D. All aquatic life in transit or held at transfer stations within the state may be inspected by the commissioner. This inspection may include the collection of stock for purposes of pathological analysis. Sample size necessary for analysis will follow guidelines listed in the Fish Health Blue Book.

Subp. 4. Emergency disease determination. If an emergency disease exists, the commissioner may order the fish in the facility to be impounded, confiscated, sold, or destroyed and the facility disinfected. The commissioner will make every effort to allow disposed fish to be sold for market if there is no imminent danger of a significant adverse impact on natural fish populations or human health or of escape of the pathogen to public waters.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.211*

History: *18 SR 83*

6250.0900 GAME FISH.

Subpart 1. Acquisition and purchase. Game fish sperm, viable game fish eggs, or live game fish may not be taken from public waters for aquaculture purposes but may be purchased from the state or acquired from licensed aquatic farms or private fish hatcheries.

Subp. 2. Restriction on sale of game fish. Species of the family salmonidae or ictaluriidae, except bullheads, must be free of certifiable diseases if sold for stocking or transfer to another private fish hatchery or aquatic farm, except that eggs with enteric redmouth, whirling disease, or furunculosis may be transferred or stocked following treatment approved by the commissioner, and fish with bacterial kidney disease may be transferred or stocked to areas where the disease has been previously introduced.

Subp. 3. Acquisition of fish for brood stock. Game fish brood stock may be sold to private fish hatcheries by the state at fair market value. As a one-time purchase for brood stock development, up to 20 pairs of adults may be provided, if available, by the state through normal operations.

Subp. 4. Sale of eggs by state. The commissioner may offer for sale as eggs or fry up to two percent of the department's annual game fish egg harvest. Additional eggs or fry may be sold if they are surplus to this state's program needs.

Subp. 5. Purchase of eggs dependent upon facility. A licensee may purchase game fish eggs or fry from the state at a rate based on the capacity of the facility to hatch and rear fish. A licensee may purchase walleye at a rate of no more than one-half quart of eggs or 5,000 fry for each acre of licensed surface water. This limitation may be waived if a private fish hatchery is an intensive facility. The allowable purchase of trout or salmon eggs must be based on the capacity of rearing tanks and flow of water through the private fish hatchery.

Subp. 6. Stocking walleye north of marked state Highway 210. Walleye from outside of the area of the state north of marked state Highway 210 may not be stocked in waters of the state north of marked state Highway 210 without approval by the commissioner.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.211*

History: *18 SR 83*

6250.1000 MINNOWS.

Subpart 1. Taking from public waters. A licensee may take minnow sperm, minnow eggs, and live minnows from public waters for private fish hatchery purposes under a private fish hatchery license.

Subp. 2. **Importation of live minnows.** Minnows from outside of this state may not be imported live except as provided by Minnesota Statutes, section 97C.515.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.211*

History: *18 SR 83*

6250.1100 SUCKER EGGS.

Sucker eggs may be taken from public waters with a sucker egg license endorsement, which authorizes sucker eggs to be taken at a rate of one quart of eggs for each 1-1/2 acres of licensed surface waters, except that for intensive culture systems, sucker eggs may be taken at a rate of two quarts per 1,000 muskellunge fry being reared.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.211*

History: *18 SR 83*

6250.1200 WHITE EARTH INDIAN RESERVATION.

Until the commissioner reaches an agreement with the White Earth Indian Reservation regarding the acquisition and sale of aquatic life from public waters, a private fish hatchery licensee may acquire and transport rough fish, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.015, and yellow perch lawfully acquired and possessed by a tribal member for sale under tribal laws and regulations on the White Earth Indian Reservation. Transportation of rough fish and yellow perch off the reservation must be accompanied by documentation showing the source and number of the yellow perch.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 97C.211*

History: *18 SR 83*