

CHAPTER 28

COLD STORAGE

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28.01 DEFINITIONS. Subdivision 1. **Terms.** Unless the language or context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended, the following terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter, be given the meanings subjoined to them.

Subd. 2. **Cold storage.** "Cold storage" means the storing or keeping of articles of food in a cold storage warehouse or in any refrigerated space leased for public use other than an individual locker.

Subd. 3. **Cold storage warehouse.** The term "cold storage warehouse" means and includes every place other than an individual locker, whether a single room or enclosed space, or a group of rooms that is cooled, mechanically or by any artificial means, including the cooling by use of ice, in which articles of food are placed and held for 30 days or more. Any room in a cold storage warehouse leased, controlled, and operated apart from the general storage business of such warehouse and to which the general public has not access for storage purposes, is hereby declared a separate cold storage warehouse, subject to licensing and supervision under this chapter. Refrigerator cars and ships, when used solely for the transportation, as distinguished from the storage, of foods shall not be regarded as cold storage warehouses, nor shall the ice boxes of retail food establishments, private homes, hotels, or restaurants, and chill-rooms used only for the holding of food for periods of less than 30 days be so regarded. The commissioner shall, for the proper enforcement of this chapter, have the right of inspection of such chill-rooms and as well of the food held therein.

Subd. 4. **Articles of food.** "Articles of food" mean fresh meat and fresh meat products and all fish, game, poultry, eggs, butter substitutes and lard substitutes intended for either human or animal consumption.

For the purpose of enforcing sanitation and public health and in order to make public all current tariff rates and the total amount of cold storage holdings, all other articles of food not hereinbefore specifically mentioned shall be included and come under the provisions of this chapter and for these purposes shall be subject to such inspection rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the commissioner of agriculture.

Subd. 5. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of agriculture.

[1921 c 310 s 1; 1923 c 233 s 1; 1943 c 232 s 1; 1961 c 113 s 1; 1961 c 128 s 10] (6207)

28.02 LICENSES; FEES. No person, firm, or corporation shall maintain or operate a cold storage warehouse without a license so to do issued by the commissioner. Any person, firm, or corporation desiring such license shall make written application to the commissioner for that purpose, stating the location of the warehouse. The commissioner shall cause an examination to be made of the warehouse and, if it be found by him to be in proper sanitary condition and otherwise properly equipped for its intended use, he shall issue a license authorizing the applicant to operate the same as a cold storage warehouse during one year. The license shall be issued upon payment by the applicant of a license fee of \$50 to the commissioner.

[1921 c. 310 s. 2; 1923 c. 233 s. 2] (6208)

28.03 LICENSES SUSPENDED OR REVOKED. The commissioner shall suspend or revoke the license of any cold storage warehouseman or dealer in cold storage products when it shall be made to appear to him by satisfactory evidence that any such licensee has violated any of the terms or provisions of this chapter. This suspension or revocation shall be made only after notice to the licensee and an opportunity to be heard with reference to the grounds for suspension or revoca-

tion, and this action by the commissioner shall in no way exempt such licensee from the penalties otherwise provided for in this chapter.

[1921 c. 310 s. 3; 1923 c. 233 s. 3] (6209)

28.04 RECORDS; REPORTS. Every licensee operating under section 28.02 shall keep accurate records of the articles of food received in, and of the articles of food withdrawn from, his cold storage warehouse and the commissioner shall have free access to such records at any time. Every licensee shall submit a monthly report to the commissioner setting forth its itemized particulars and the quantity and kinds of articles of food in his cold storage warehouse. These monthly reports shall be filed on or before the fifth day of each month and the reports so rendered shall show the conditions existing on the last day of the preceding month reported. A summary of these reports shall be prepared by the commissioner and be open to public inspection on or before the tenth day of each month.

[1921 c. 310 s. 4; 1923 c. 233 s. 4] (6210)

28.05 INSPECTION. The commissioner shall inspect and supervise all cold storage warehouses and make such inspection of articles of food therein as he may deem necessary to secure the proper enforcement of this chapter, and he shall have access to all cold storage warehouses, together with all related offices, toilet, wash and locker rooms, egg-candling rooms, power houses or rooms, loading and unloading platforms, passage-ways, approaches, and other spaces, the state of sanitation of which may affect the sanitary conditions of the cold storage foods, or which may require visitation or inspection for the enforcement of any of the provisions of this chapter, at all reasonable times. The commissioner may appoint such persons as he deems qualified to make any inspection under this chapter.

[1921 c. 310 s. 5; 1923 c. 233 s. 5] (6211)

28.06 FOOD WHICH MAY BE PLACED IN COLD STORAGE. No article of food intended for human consumption shall be placed, received, or kept in any cold storage warehouse unless the same is in an apparently pure and wholesome condition. A food will be deemed "wholesome" only when it is in all respects fit for human consumption. The commissioner may seize and condemn any articles of food in cold storage warehouses which are found to be unfit for human consumption, and these articles of food shall be destroyed or otherwise disposed of under such conditions as the commissioner shall prescribe.

[1921 c. 310 s. 6; 1923 c. 233 s. 6] (6212)

28.07 MARKING ARTICLES OF FOOD. No person, firm, or corporation shall place, receive, or keep in any cold storage warehouse in this state, articles of food unless the same shall be plainly marked, stamped, or tagged, either upon the container in which they are packed, or upon the articles of food itself, with a lot number; and no person, firm, or corporation shall remove or allow to be removed such articles of food from any cold storage warehouse unless the same shall be plainly marked, stamped, or tagged, either on the container in which it is enclosed or upon the article of food itself, with the lot number, and such marks, stamps, and tags shall be prima facie evidence by which to trace the receipt, and removal, and of the date thereof. It shall be unlawful to remove, deface, add to, alter, or change any mark, or marks placed upon the container, wrapper, or upon the articles of food itself, or upon the label or tag attached thereto, which marks are required under the provisions of this chapter, or in compliance with regulations adopted by the commissioner or under the provisions of the cold storage act of any other state, without permission of the commissioner or under his direction.

If the articles of food are stored by the lessee of a room or rooms in a cold storage warehouse, he shall be responsible for the goods placed by him or his employees in said leased space, and also for the placing upon them of the required marks. Cold storage products may be removed from one container to another for the purpose of grading or repacking into more convenient commercial form, either during cold storage or at the time of withdrawal therefrom providing that the old container was properly marked; the lot number or numbers, shall be marked also upon the new container.

[1921 c. 310 s. 7; 1923 c. 233 s. 7; 1943 c. 232 s. 2] (6213)

28.08 LENGTH OF STORAGE PERIOD. No person, firm, or corporation shall keep or permit to remain in any cold storage warehouse any article of food which has been held in cold storage either within or without the state for a longer aggregate period than 12 months, except with the consent of the commissioner, as herein provided.

The commissioner upon written application made and presented during the 12 months period may extend the allowable storage period for any particular article of food, provided the same upon examination is found to be in proper condition for further cold storage. If the commissioner shall grant the application for such further cold storage period he shall enter an order specifying the period for which such additional storage may be permitted. The commissioner shall make written report on each case in which such extension of storage is granted, including therein the information relating to the reason for the action taken, specifying the kinds and amounts of the articles of food covered by such extension order and the length of time for which the extension is granted, and this report and the order based thereon shall be kept on file in the office of the commissioner at all times open to the public.

In case the owner of any article of food in storage in a cold storage warehouse fails or refuses to remove the same before the expiration of the period of time within which the storage may lawfully be continued, then and in such case the commissioner may sell or order the same to be sold under a procedure specified by the commissioner.

[1921 c. 310 s. 8; 1923 c. 233 s. 8; 1943 c. 232 s. 3] (6214)

28.09 SHORTENING STORAGE PERIOD. When, in the opinion of the commissioner, the market condition of food articles, resulting from hoarding or deterioration is such as to require the release for immediate sale of food stuffs held in cold storage, so that there is immediate market therefor at fair and reasonable prices, the commissioner, by order, may shorten the 12 months storage period herein provided for as to any particular article of food and may, by his order, fix and establish a shorter storage period for the article of food, and thereupon the article covered by the order shall, upon the expiration of the shortened period, be released from storage and removed from the storage warehouse.

[1921 c. 310 s. 9; 1923 c. 233 s. 9] (6215)

28.12 RETURNING FOOD TO COLD STORAGE; TRANSFER. After food has been withdrawn from a cold storage warehouse, for the purpose of placing it on the market for sale, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to return such food, or any portion thereof, to that cold storage warehouse, or to any similar warehouse. Subject to such regulations as may be prescribed by the commissioner, food may be transferred from one cold storage warehouse or refrigerating plant to another. The total length of time this food shall remain in such cold storage for the purpose of sale shall not exceed the time specified in section 28.08.

[1921 c. 310 s. 12; 1923 c. 233 s. 12] (6218)

28.13 RULES AND REGULATIONS. In the manner provided by law, the commissioner shall have power, and it shall be his duty, from time to time, to make and publish uniform rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, to carry out and enforce the provisions of this chapter.

[1921 c. 310 s. 13; 1923 c. 233 s. 13; 1961 c. 128 s. 11] (6219)

28.14 FEES AND FINES PAID INTO STATE TREASURY. All license fees and fines accruing through the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the state revenue fund.

[1921 c. 310 s. 15; 1923 c. 233 s. 15] (6221)

28.15 PENALTIES. Any person, firm, or corporation violating any provision of this chapter relating to cold storage warehousing shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and, upon conviction, punished for the first offense by a fine of not to exceed \$500 or by imprisonment in the jail of the proper county for a period of not more than three months, or by both such fine and imprisonment, and for the second or subsequent offense by a fine of not to exceed \$1,000 or by imprisonment in the jail of the proper county for a period of not to exceed one year or by both such fine and imprisonment.

[1921 c. 310 s. 14; 1923 c. 233 s. 14] (6220)