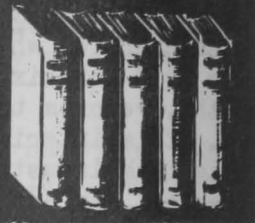




FEDERAL ACTIONS



Department of Commerce

NATIONAL PRODUCTION AUTHORITY ^{1/}

MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND OPERATING SUPPLIES ORDER ISSUED: Civilian industries and institutions are granted the right to use a priority rating to procure equipment and supplies for maintenance, repair, and operation (MRO) of their present facilities by Regulation 4 issued on February 27 by the National Production Authority.

Regulation 4 (February 27, 1951): The MRO program provided for in this regulation is permissive in character. No one is required to use the ratings assigned to purchase his MRO supplies, but if he does so, he becomes bound by the limitations of the regulation.

The regulation permits application of the rating, identified as DO-97, by business concerns and other institutions without individual authorization by NPA. The rating may be used solely to acquire maintenance, repair, and operating supplies and may not be used to purchase production material (i.e. material or components to be incorporated in end products) nor to purchase major capital items. The rating is equal to all other DO ratings and is fully extendible. Ratings are applied in accordance with the provisions of NPA Regulation 2.

If a concern elects to use a DO-97 rating even on a single occasion, it must then limit its MRO purchases in accordance with Regulation 4.

Under the regulation, MRO purchases are limited in any one calendar quarter to one-fourth of the firm's dollar purchases for maintenance, repair, and operating purposes in 1950 (or the fiscal year ending nearest to December 31, 1950). If this quota is too small to provide sufficient MRO supplies, the firm may file with NPA an application for an increased quota.

To provide for seasonal businesses, the new regulation permits quarterly MRO quotas equal to the amount spent by the business for MRO in the corresponding quarter of 1950 (or fiscal year).

Businesses which were in operation only a part of 1950 are permitted a quota in proportion to the amount they spent for MRO while they were in operation, with reasonable adjustments for seasonal and other variable factors. New firms started after December 31, 1950, are permitted to acquire for MRO purposes the minimum amounts necessary for operation, up to \$5,000 a quarter. They must obtain special NPA authorization for MRO expenditures above this amount. When the quarterly quotas for these businesses exceed \$1,000, the NPA must be informed in writing of the base period used, the reasons for selecting it, and what adjustments have been made.

^{1/}COPIES OF REGULATIONS, NOTICES, PRESS RELEASES, ETC., ISSUED BY THE NPA ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE NATIONAL PRODUCTION AUTHORITY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WASHINGTON 25, D. C., OR FROM DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FIELD OFFICES.

Small businesses are permitted to extend DO-97 ratings for MRO purchases up to \$1,000 a quarter, without regard to the quota restrictions. All other firms making MRO purchases under DO-97 ratings are required to follow the procedures established in the regulation for figuring their quotas.

In all cases where DO-97 ratings are used to procure MRO supplies, the firm is required to charge against its MRO quota purchases made without use of the rating.

Direction 1 (February 27, 1951): To provide for the orderly transition to the MRO program, NPA also issued a direction (Direction 1 to Reg. 4) governing MRO procurement during the remainder of the first quarter of 1951.

Regulation 2 as Amended and Interpretation No. 1 (February 27, 1951): This order states the basic rules of the priorities system to be administered by the National Production Authority in the Department of Commerce. It states what kind of orders are rated orders, how to place them, and the preference status of such orders. These rules apply to all business transactions within the jurisdiction of NPA.

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PROVIDES FOR REPAIR AND CONVERSION OF SEAGOING VESSELS: Steel products will be provided during April through June this year for delivery to United States shipyards for the repair and conversion of seagoing vessels, the National Production Authority announced on February 16 in issuing Supplement 4 to Order M-1 (Repair and Conversion of Seagoing Vessels).

Under the terms of Supplement 4 to M-1, persons engaged in the repair and conversion of seagoing vessels may apply to MPA for an authorization to issue certified orders for specific tonnages of specific steel products for shipment in the months of April, May, and June 1951 and, if authorized by NPA, may place certified orders for such specific products.

While the major part of the allowed tonnage has already been allotted to named yards participating in the Repair and Conversion Program, a reserve has been set aside for small unnamed yards. Shipyards engaged in the repair and conversion of seagoing vessels who are experiencing difficulty in obtaining steel may apply by letter, in triplicate, to the Maritime Administration, Division of Maintenance and Repair. A detailed justification should be presented, including the following information:

1. Type and volume of repairs to seagoing vessels the yard has customarily performed.
2. Present inventory position.
3. The specific quantities of specific steel products for which authorization to place certified orders is requested for shipment in the months of April, May, and June 1951. Quantities and specifications should be set forth fully just as they would be shown on a purchase order.

The quantities requested must be minimum quantities actually required and should be limited to such basic shapes and forms as are carried by a steel warehouse.

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FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF ALUMINUM: Stepped up military requirements for aluminum require greater savings in civilian uses, the National Production Authority announced February 3.

To effect the savings needed to meet the increased defense demands, NPA announces these steps:

1. Rules for handling defense orders for aluminum under the priorities system are revised (M-5, Amend. 1) to require aluminum producers and fabricators to accept a larger percentage of defense rated (DO) orders. There is no change in the percentage of DO orders distributors and jobbers must accept, and the 60-day "lead time" provision of the previous order is also continued.
2. The aluminum conservation order is amended (M-7, Amend. 2) to provide the necessary savings in civilian uses. The revised order lists more than 200 less essential items in which aluminum may not be used after April 1. It does not permit the use of aluminum in the manufacture of decorative or ornamental items, or the use of more or better grade aluminum than is necessary for the functional operation of any item. In addition, the revised order continues the previously announced aluminum use limitations of 75 percent in February and 65 percent in March of the average monthly use during the first half of 1950.

NPA explained that although aluminum production was expanded greatly during World War II and further expansions are underway, the present rapid acceleration of the mobilization program requires that larger supplies of aluminum be made available for defense purposes in the second quarter of this year.

Inevitable dislocations will occur in certain industries, under the new controls NPA said. The action was taken only after very careful review, however, and is necessary to assure sufficient aluminum for defense and essential defense-supporting needs.

Provision is made for appeals in cases where an undue and exceptional hardship, not suffered by others in the same trade or industry, occurs.

NPA Order M-7, Amend. 2 provides that:

1. Effective April 1 aluminum cannot be used in the manufacture or assembly of more than 200 items. The list includes the following items of interest to the fishing and allied industries:
 - Cans, including ignition coil and motion picture humidors.
 - Kitchen utensils and tools, and food processing equipment (except cooking and baking utensils)
 - Marine construction:
 - Boats: pleasure boats and fittings of all kinds
 - Canoes
 - Rowboats
 - Sailboats
 - Foil for:
 - Capsules
 - Over wraps (except food)
 - Pleasure boat fastenings, fittings and hardware
2. Effective April 1 the use of more or better grade aluminum than is necessary for the functional operation of any item is prohibited.

3. Effective June 1 aluminum cannot be used in the manufacture of any item to be used solely for decorative or ornamental purposes.

However, the items on List A of this order may be completed if they were in the process of manufacture on or before March 31, and completed by May 31. Items on the list which are completed by May 31 may be sold after that date.

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SUFFICIENT TIN TO CAN PERISHABLE FOODS PROMISED: Assistance in obtaining sufficient pig tin for packaging foods was requested by the representatives of the tin plate industry on February 15 from the National Production Authority.

NPA informed the industry advisory committee that sufficient tin would be made available to can all perishable foods, but that it might be necessary to further reduce the amounts of tin available for less essential purposes.

The present tin plate and terneplate order requires certification of all non-defense use of tin plate and terneplate. The metal can order permits the unrestricted packing of perishable foods, but reduces the weight of tin coating on all cans wherever possible. Some non-food products, and beer and pet foods, are allowed to pack 90 percent of their first quarter 1950 or first quarter 1949 base in tin cans.

Reference was made to new developments in plating procedures, such as a process recently initiated in one plant to reduce the tin coating on the outside of the container. Wide use of such processes, however, will depend on the success of the initial experiments, industry said.

The committee recommended that NPA require consumers to certify, at the time of purchase, the end product in which the tin plate will be used. It also expressed concern over the possibility of losing skilled workers who would be difficult to replace.

NPA officials cited figures indicating that some 26 million hot-dip plated containers will be required this year, 25 million of which will be used to pack food. They said more than 42 million are expected to be electro-plated and about 17 million will be made of black plate.

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SHORTAGE OF GLASS CONTAINERS AND CARTONS FORECAST: Members of the Glass Containers Manufacturers Industry Advisory Committee informed the National Production Authority on February 1 that the need for glass containers created by the shift from critical defense materials is taxing their present productive capacity.

Committee members said that a lack of basic materials is retarding an increase in the production of jars, bottles, and other glass containers now in demand because of steel, tin, and other metal shortages.

They said that the shortage of paper for cartons is beginning to be felt by the industry, and they feared the situation would become worse.

NPA appointed a task group to study glass container simplification techniques, which the industry said would boost production rates. Officials said a paper conservation and salvage system is being considered, which if adopted, would make more carton stock available. Industry members said that paper conservation is important, and that they are taking steps to save paper wherever possible.

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TIGHT COOPERAGE INDUSTRY FACED WITH SCARCITY OF PRODUCTION MATERIALS: Members of the Tight Cooperage Industry Advisory Committee on February 9 discussed with the National Production Authority problems which may develop in their industry as the use of other containers is curtailed to conserve critical materials for the defense effort.

Committee members said they are faced with a scarcity of barrel staves and headings (tops) and steel for hoops. They explained that lack of demand for staves last year forced wood mills to cut back production. For this reason, they added, most barrel makers are now operating below capacity.

Industry representatives told NPA they are studying substitution but pointed out that their products can be used to supplement use of steel and other containers.

NPA appointed a six-man task group to study production bottlenecks and standardization of barrels and their components.



Economic Stabilization Agency OFFICE OF PRICE STABILIZATION

RETAIL CEILING PRICE REGULATION 7 DOES NOT INCLUDE FOODS: Certain retail items were brought under a "margin" type of price control on February 28 by the Office of Price Stabilization. Major retail items not affected by Ceiling Price Regulation 7 are food, beverages, fuel, building supplies and hardware, and a number of other items.

This regulation is the first of a series designed to replace the General Ceiling Price Regulation,¹ the freeze order of January 26, 1951, with an effective price control system for stabilizing the economy, according to the Office of Price Stabilization.

¹/SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, FEBRUARY 1951, P. 85.

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"HIGHEST PRICE" PROVISION OF GENERAL PRICE CEILING REGULATION AMENDED: In order to reduce the prices of some manufacturers and wholesalers, who were taking advantage of isolated sales before the freeze to establish abnormally high ceiling prices for their goods and services, the Director of Price Stabilization on February 23 issued Amendment 2 to the General Price Ceiling Regulation. The amendment also corrects certain pricing distortions which have arisen as a result of the freeze, and clarifies certain sections of the original order.

Under the general freeze order of January 26, sellers' prices were set at the highest price they "delivered" goods and services during the base period of December 19, 1950, to January 25, 1951, to the same class of purchaser. Some manufacturers and wholesalers have claimed ceilings at substantially higher prices than those which they were generally charging in the base period because of a few isolated sales.

To remove inequities among sellers' the GCPR has been amended so that the "highest price" provision will apply only to sales which amounted to 10 percent or more of all deliveries to a class of purchasers during the base period. In other words, prices charged in fewer than 10 percent of all deliveries to a class of customers during the base period will not serve as a legal basis for ceiling prices.

The amendatory provisions of Amendment 2 (dated February 23, 1951) to General Ceiling Price Regulation follow:

AMENDATORY PROVISIONS

The General Ceiling Price Regulation is amended in the following respects:

1. Section 3 is amended to read as follows:

SEC. 3. *General ceiling prices*—(a) *Ceiling prices for all sellers for commodities or services sold in base period.* Your ceiling price for sale of a commodity or service is the highest price at which you delivered it during the base period to a purchaser of the same class. If you did not deliver the commodity or service during the base period, your ceiling price is the highest price at which you offered it for base period delivery to a purchaser of the same class. The offer must have been made in writing, but in the case of a retailer may have been made by display. If you are a manufacturer or a wholesaler, you cannot, unless permitted by paragraph (b) (1) of this section use a price as your ceiling price to a class of purchaser unless you made at least 10 percent of your total deliveries during the base period to that class of purchaser at that price. (b) *General increases by manufacturers and wholesalers.* If you are a manufacturer or wholesaler of a commodity, you may apply the following pro-

visions in determining your ceiling prices.

(i) *General increases to all of a class of purchasers.* If, during the base period, you announced in writing and put into effect a price increase for a class of purchaser by making all deliveries to that class for the remainder of the base period at the higher price (except deliveries pursuant to firm commitments made before the price increase), the increased price becomes your ceiling price for that class of purchaser, even though less than 10 percent of your base period deliveries to that class were made at the higher price.

(ii) *General increases to several classes of purchasers.* If, during the base period, you announced in writing a general increase for sales to more than one class of purchasers and if you made deliveries which, under the preceding paragraphs of this section, established the increased price or prices as the ceilings to all purchasers of one or more classes and if those classes accounted during the year 1950 for at least 30 percent of your dollar sales of the commodity, then the announced increased prices are your ceiling prices for all classes of purchasers for whom increases were announced.

(iii) *General increases on several items.* If during the base period you announced in writing a price increase on a list of commodities, and if you made deliveries which, under the preceding paragraphs of this section, established the increased price or prices as the ceilings to all classes of purchasers of one or more of the commodities covered by the price list, and if those commodities accounted during the year 1950 for at least 30 percent of your dollar sales of the commodities covered by the price list, then the price list prices are your ceiling prices for all the items on the list.

2. Section 22 is amended by striking out of the definition of the word "Seller" the words "at retail"; by striking out of the definition of the word "Commodity" the words "and contracts to buy, sell or deliver any of the foregoing"; and by striking out of the definition of the word "Service" the words "and contracts to sell or supply such service."

(Sec. 704, Pub. Law 774, 81st Cong. Interpret or apply Title IV, Pub. Law 774, 81st Cong.: E. O. 10161, Sept. 9, 1950, 15 F. R. 6105)

This amendment shall become effective the 28th day of February 1951.

MICHAEL V. DiSALLE,
Director of Price Stabilization.

This amendment became effective on March 7.

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ADDITIONAL DISTRICT OFFICES: The opening of 29 additional district offices was planned for February and March, the Office of Price Stabilization announced on February 6.

These will be in addition to 42 district offices which already have been opened in the 14 OPS regions.

The opening of the 21 district offices on or about February 19 were to be located in Springfield, Mass.; Rochester, N. Y.; New York, N. Y.; Trenton, N. J.; Erie, Pa.; Raleigh, N. C.; Nashville, Tenn.; Montgomery, Ala.; Miami, Fla.; Toledo, Ohio; Columbus, Ohio; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Peoria, Ill.; Green Bay, Wis.; St. Paul, Minn.; San Antonio, Texas; FortWorth, Texas; Shreveport, La.; Tulsa, Okla.; Oakland, Calif.; and Spokane, Wash.

The opening of the 8 other district offices planned on or about March 5 were to be located in Syracuse, N. Y.; Camden, N. J.; Norfolk, Va.; Savannah, Ga.; Springfield, Ill.; Duluth, Minn.; Lubbock, Texas; and San Diego, Calif.

WAGE STABILIZATION BOARD

SEVERAL CLARIFYING REGULATIONS ISSUED AFFECTING WAGES AND SALARIES: The Wage Stabilization Board of the Economic Stabilization Agency in discharge of its responsibilities under the provisions of the Defense Production Act of 1950, Executive

Order 10161, General Order No. 3, and General Wage Stabilization Regulation 1 of the Economic Stabilization Administrator, has issued several General Regulations regarding the stabilization of wages and salaries.

General Regulation No. 1, issued on January 30, is a statement of the adoption by the Board of General Wage Stabilization Regulation 1.

General Regulation No. 2, issued on January 30, reports in part that "Collective bargaining conferences, arbitration proceedings and other proceedings directed to the resolution of wage questions were in progress prior to January 25, 1951, the effective date of General Wage Stabilization Regulation 1. In some instances collective bargaining agreements were reached, wage determinations made and awards issued prior to the effective date of that regulation. In the interest of furthering and maintaining sound working relations including collective bargaining and avoiding the imposition of inequities and hardships it is necessary and desirable to recognize and give effect to such agreements, determinations and awards applicable to work performed within a relatively short period of time after January 25, 1951, without prior approval of the Wage Stabilization Board." Approval of this regulation by the Board was not unanimous and a dissenting opinion was released on January 31 by the three industry members of the Board.

General Regulation No. 3 issued on January 31 is an authorization for "increases in wages, salaries, and other compensation to bring such wages, salaries and other compensation into compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, and such other statutes and orders establishing minimum rates of compensation."

General Regulation No. 4 issued on January 31 applies to increases in wages, salaries, and other compensation of state, county, municipal and other non-federal governmental employees, whose wages, salaries, and other compensation are fixed by statute, ordinance, or regulation of duly constituted authorities of such governmental bodies. Prior authorization of the Board, subject to certain provisions, is not required for these increases.

NOTE: COPIES OF THESE GENERAL REGULATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC STABILIZATION AGENCY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



Federal Trade Commission

AMENDS STIPULATIONS REGARDING USE OF WORD "LOBSTER": The unqualified word "lobster" may not be used in advertising to describe any species of food fish other than that properly known as lobster (the macrurous crustacean of the genus Homarus), but the common names "Spiny Lobster" and "Rock Lobster" may be used to describe a species of the crawfish (Panulirus interruptus) if the word "spiny" or the word "rock" appears in direct connection with the word "lobster" and in type of equal size and prominence.

This was the purport of two amended stipulations accepted by the Federal Trade Commission from Hudgins Fish Co., West Palm Beach, Fla., and East Coast Fisheries, Inc., Miami, Fla.

Previously the Commission had approved stipulations whereby the firms agreed not to use the word "lobster" as descriptive of any food fish other than the true lobster unless the term "lobster" was accompanied by "appropriate language identifying the species or locality of such product."

The amended stipulations were approved by the Commission in accordance with its policy of encouraging law observance through cooperation in certain types of cases where there has been no intent to defraud or mislead.



Department of State

POINT FOUR AGREEMENT WITH PAKISTAN INCLUDES CONSTRUCTION OF A FISH HARBOR:

Pakistan and the United States on February 9 concluded a General Point Four Agreement, the Department of State announced. The signing took place in Karachi. Three other South Asian nations--India, Ceylon, and Nepal--have already signed agreements providing for cooperation under President Truman's Point IV Program.

Like the General Agreements previously concluded with Middle Eastern, African, Latin-American, and other South Asian countries, the Pakistan agreement sets forth the basic terms of cooperation and paves the way for specific project agreements.

At the present time the Pakistan Government has 92 development projects under active consideration, many of which have already received final approval. Included among these is the construction of a fish harbor at Karachi.



Eighty-Second Congress (First Session)

FEBRUARY 1951

Listed below are public bills and resolutions introduced and referred to committees, or passed by the Eighty-Second Congress (First Session) and signed by the President, that affect in any way the fisheries and allied industries. Public bills and resolutions are shown in this section only when introduced and, if passed when they are signed by the President. 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:

Columbia River Waters Apportionment: H. R. 2470 (D'Ewart) - A bill granting the consent of Congress to the States of Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming to negotiate and enter into a compact for the disposition, allocation, diversion, and apportionment of the waters of the Columbia River and its tributaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Facilities to Protect Federal Resources Affected by Dam Projects: S. 989 (Murray) - A bill to provide for the installation of improvements and facilities needed for the protection, development, and utilization of Federal resources affected by dam and water reservoir projects constructed by the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Fishery Products Distribution: H. R. 2482 (Kennedy) - A bill to further encourage the distribution of fishery products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Food Prices: H. R. 2333 (Yorty) - A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 so as to authorize the President to control food prices under that act to the same extent as other commodities; to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

Foreign Trade Agreements "Peril Points": H. R. 2194 (Scudder) - A bill to provide for the determination of "peril points" with respect to foreign trade agreements, for the taking of action to incorporate an "escape clause" in existing and future foreign trade agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Great Lakes Sea Lampreys Investigations Appropriations: H. R. 2995 (Potter) - A bill to amend the joint resolution of August 8, 1946, as amended, with respect to appropriations authorized for the conduct of investigations and studies (Great Lakes sea lampreys) thereunder; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Japanese Fishing Vessels: Memorial of the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska was presented to the

House, relating to their senate joint resolution No. 1 urging that in the peace treaty with Japan there be included a provision prohibiting Japanese fishing vessels from engaging in fishing in certain waters of the Pacific coast; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Navigation Laws: H. R. 2641 (Hart) - A bill to revise, consolidate, and codify the navigation laws relating to admeasurement, documentation, entry, clearance, coastwise trade, foreign trade, and United States fisheries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Price and Wage Roll-Back to June 25, 1950: H. R. 2615 (Mansfield) - A bill to roll prices and wages back to the June 25, 1950, level and to impose a 100-percent tax on excess profits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Water Pollution Control: H. R. 2752 (Simpson of Pennsylvania) - A bill to encourage the prevention of water pollution by allowing the amounts paid for in-

dustrial waste treatment works to be amortized at an accelerated rate for income-tax purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

CHAMBER ACTION-HOUSE:

Trade Agreements Extension: Passed by voice vote, H. R. 1612, to extend for 3 years, the authority of the President under section 350 of the Tariff Act of 1930 to enter into foreign-trade agreements. A motion to recommit the bill was rejected by a voice vote. Prior to passage a peril-point amendment was adopted providing for congressional notification by the President prior to any reduction of tariffs below a level determined by the Tariff Commission to be a peril point. Adopted an amendment barring extension of any tariff reductions or trade concessions to Russia and Soviet-dominated countries, as a result of any trade agreements hereafter entered into. Adopted an escape-clause amendment designed to provide a simple procedure whereby industries injured by tariff reductions can get relief upon appeal to Tariff Commission.



THE MEXICAN FISHERIES INDUSTRY

The next most important fishery in Mexican waters and the most important from the Mexican industry standpoint is that for shrimp. The Pacific area at present most heavily fished is in the Gulf of California between San Felipe, Baja California, and Altata, Sinaloa. This section represents the principal shrimp fishery of the Republic. Other shrimp grounds not now being heavily fished lie between Mazatlan and Cape Corrientes and between Salina Cruz and the Guatemalan border.

On the Gulf of Mexico the heaviest concentration of shrimp is found in the Campeche-Tabasco area. The shrimp catch in this region is large, while there is more limited shrimp fishing along the coast of Veracruz and Tamaulipas in the Gulf of Mexico. Indications are that both the shrimp fishery in the Gulf of California and that off the coast of Tabasco and western Campeche have already reached their maximum productivity and that the future production in these areas will depend upon the variation in the annual productivity of the shrimp. There are no other known areas along the Mexican coast that even approach the potentiality for shrimp production of the Gulf of California and the Campeche areas.