

§425. Market orders and agreements

1. Market orders. To carry out the purposes of this subchapter, the commissioner may issue, administer and adopt orders regulating the marketing of any agricultural commodity or designated portion of that commodity. Before issuing a proposed market order or market agreement under this subsection, the commissioner shall, by rule, define the commodity, area and persons proposed to be affected and may, to the extent the commissioner considers necessary, establish by rule the procedures for adopting and implementing that proposal. Such market orders must be proposed and adopted after public hearing, in a manner consistent with the rulemaking provisions of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. All testimony at the hearings must be received under oath.

[RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. B, §66 (COR).]

2. Referendum approval. No market order adopted under this subchapter may take effect unless and until the commissioner determines that the adoption of the order is favored by:

A. Not less than 66 2/3% of the persons participating in a referendum in the area affected and having marketed not less than 51% of the total quantity of the commodity which was marketed in the preceding marketing season by all persons that participated in the referendum; or [PL 1981, c. 154, §1 (NEW).]

B. Not less than 51% of the persons participating in a referendum in the area affected and having marketed not less than 66 2/3% of the total quantity of the commodity which was marketed in the preceding marketing season by all persons that participated in the referendum. [PL 1981, c. 154, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 1981, c. 154, §1 (NEW).]

3. Market agreements. To carry out the declared purposes of this subchapter, the commissioner may enter into market agreements with producers, handlers or processors of agricultural commodities. These market agreements shall be binding only upon the signatories. The market agreements shall be proposed and adopted, after public hearing, in a manner consistent with the rulemaking provisions of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. All testimony at the hearings shall be received under oath. The commissioner may, by rule, establish the minimum number of signatories necessary to effectuate a market agreement.

[PL 1981, c. 154, §1 (NEW).]

4. Coexistence of market orders and market agreements. The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, hold concurrent hearings upon proposed market agreements and proposed market orders. The commissioner may issue a market order without executing a market agreement or may execute a market agreement without issuing a market order covering the same commodity. The execution of a market agreement in no manner affects the issuance, administration or enforcement of any market order for the same agricultural commodity.

[RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. B, §67 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1981, c. 154, §1 (NEW). RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. B, §§66, 67 (COR).

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