

Branch Services

- Interpret the laws and regulations of the Processors Law and Produce Dealers Act for the industry.
- Verify license status.
- Determine if a Verified Complaint has been filed against a licensee or a California farm product business.
- Provide informal mediation services when disputes arise between growers/handlers and licensees.
- Inform growers and licensees of their rights and responsibilities through outreach presentations.
- Provide lists of licensees by geographical area, commodity, and license category.

Fees and Revenue

The primary source of funding for branch activities is derived from license fees paid by dealers, brokers, commission merchants, and processors, of California farm products and agents employed by these entities.

The amount of the fee due each year is determined by the annual dollar volume of business based on farm product value returned to the grower or licensee.

Market Enforcement Branch Locations

Los Angeles:
9300 Flair Drive, Suite 308
El Monte, California 91731
(626) 572-6762, Fax (626) 572-6768



San Francisco:
5 Thomas Mellon Circle, Suite 232
San Francisco, California 94134
(415) 469-6301, Fax (415) 469-6225

Sacramento (Headquarters):
1220 N Street (Mailing)
560 J Street, Suite 170 (Site)
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 900-5016, Fax (916) 900-5342

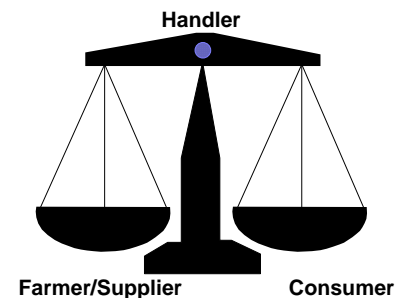
Visit our website at
www.cdfa.ca.gov/mkt/meb

*Distributed as a public service to assist
California Producers
Licensees and
The General Public*



MARKET ENFORCEMENT BRANCH

DIVISION OF MARKETING SERVICES



*EQUITY IN THE MARKET
PLACE FOR THOSE WHO
BUY AND SELL
FARM PRODUCTS*

Branch History



The Market Enforcement Branch (MEB) was established in 1928 with the enactment of the Deciduous Fruit Dealers Act.

In 1932, the Act was repealed and replaced by the present Produce Dealers Act, (Chapter 7, Division 20, Food and Agricultural Code), which covers all farm products grown or produced in California with the exception of milk, timber, cattle, and vegetable seed sold between dealers.

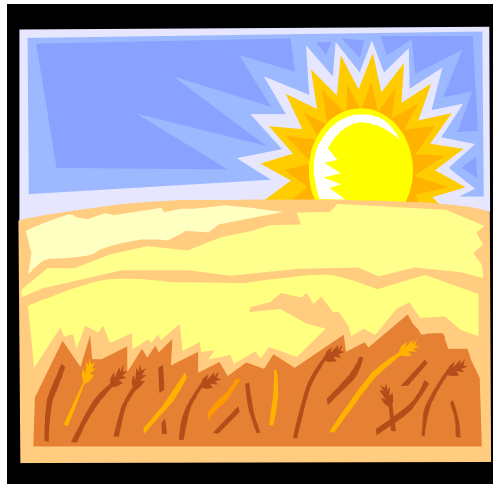
In 1935, the Processors Law, (Chapter 6, Division 20), was added to the Code which regulates all persons who purchase California farm products from growers for the purpose of processing.

In response to changes in California's agriculture industry, Chapters 6 and 7 have undergone significant amendments since their inception.

Effective January 1, 1998, Senate Bill 1198 made major changes to the licensing, investigative and settlement activities of the Branch, and impacted Branch license fees and revenues.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Market Enforcement Branch is to objectively enforce laws enacted to ensure confidence and stability in the agricultural marketplace and to protect against unfair business practices between producers, handlers, and processors of California farm products.



Vision Statement

To create the best agricultural regulatory program in state government.

Branch Functions

- License entities such as dealers, brokers, commission merchants, cash buyers, and processors that handle California farm products for the purpose of resale or processing.
- Process complaints filed by producers and licensees. The most common complaints filed are for failure to pay in full, failure to render a true and complete account of sales, and failure to comply with the provisions of a written agreement. Complaints involving fruits and vegetables moving in interstate commerce must first be filed with the United States Department of Agriculture/Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act. Market Enforcement Branch requires a letter of denial from the federal agency prior to taking any action.
- Investigate alleged violations by licensed or unlicensed entities to ensure that each is in compliance with the Food and Agricultural Code.
- Offer Expedited Arbitration for disputes less than \$30,000.
- Take disciplinary action when appropriate against licensees, principals, or agents. Actions may range from Notices of Violation(s), Probation, Suspension and Revocation of a license, or Denial of an application for license.
- Refer flagrant violators to local law enforcement agencies for civil and/or criminal prosecutions.