

The National Agricultural
Law Center



University of Arkansas • Division of Agriculture

An Agricultural Law Research Project

Requirements for Grain Dealers

State of Indiana

Bonding

www.NationalAgLawCenter.org



Requirements for Grain Dealers

STATE OF INDIANA

Current with legislation from the 2014 Second Regular Sess and Second Regular Technical Sess

IC 26-3-7-9

26-3-7-9 Bond, cash deposit or letter of credit

- (a) Each applicant for a license under this chapter shall, as a condition of licensure, file or have on file with the director:
- (1) a cash deposit;
 - (2) an irrevocable letter of credit;
 - (3) a bond; or
 - (4) any combination of the above;
- as provided in section 10 of this chapter.
- (b) A bond filed under this chapter shall:
- (1) be conditioned upon the faithful performance of all obligations of the licensee under this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter from the effective date of the bond until the earlier of the date the license is revoked or the bond is canceled as provided in this chapter; and
 - (2) be further conditioned upon the faithful performance of all obligations from the effective date of the bond and thereafter, regardless of whether the licensee's facility or facilities exist on the effective date of the bond or are thereafter assumed prior to the date the licensee's license is revoked or the bond is canceled as provided in this chapter.
- (c) The bond must remain in effect during a violation, a temporary suspension of the licensee's license, or a period during which the licensee is subject to a cease and desist order.

IC 26-3-7-10

26-3-7-10 Amount of bond, cash deposit or letter of credit; deficiencies

- (a) The minimum amount of bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit required from a licensee is as follows:
- (1) For a grain bank license or a warehouse license:
 - (A) ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); and
 - (B) ten cents (\$0.10) multiplied by the licensed bushel storage capacity of the grain bank or warehouse.
 - (2) For a grain buyer, including a grain buyer that is also a licensee under the warehouse act:
 - (A) ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); or
 - (B) five-tenths percent (0.5%) of the total amount the grain buyer paid for grain purchased from producers during the grain buyer's most recent fiscal year; whichever is greater.
 - (3) For a buyer-warehouse:

- (A) an amount equal to the sum of:
 - (i) ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); and
 - (ii) ten cents (\$0.10) multiplied by the licensed bushel storage capacity of the buyer-warehouse's facility; or
- (B) five-tenths percent (0.5%) of the total amount the buyer-warehouse paid for grain purchased from producers during the buyer-warehouse's most recent fiscal year; whichever is greater.

(b) Except as provided in subsections (g) and (h), the amount of bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit required by this chapter may not exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per license and may not exceed a total of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) per person.

(c) The licensed bushel storage capacity is the maximum number of bushels of grain that the licensee's facility could accommodate as determined by the director or the director's designated representative and shall be increased or reduced in accordance with the amount of space being used for storage from time to time.

(d) Instead of a bond or cash deposit, an irrevocable letter of credit in the prescribed amount may be provided with the director as the beneficiary. The director shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to establish acceptable form, substance, terms, and conditions for letters of credit. The director may not release a party from the obligations of the letter of credit within eighteen (18) months of the termination of the licensee's license.

(e) The director shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to provide for the receipt and retention of cash deposits. However, the director shall not return a cash deposit to a licensee until the director has taken reasonable precautions to assure that the licensee's obligations and liabilities have been or will be met.

(f) If a person is licensed or is applying for licenses to operate two (2) or more facilities in Indiana, the person may give a single bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit to satisfy the requirements of this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter to cover all the person's facilities in Indiana.

(g) If a licensee has a deficiency in the minimum positive net worth required under section 16(a)(2)(B), 16(a)(3)(B), 16(a)(4)(B), or 16(a)(5)(B) of this chapter, the licensee shall add to the amount of bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit determined under subsection (a) an amount equal to the deficiency or provide another form of surety as permitted under the rules of the agency.

(h) Except as provided in subsections (i) and (j), a licensee may not correct a deficiency in the minimum positive net worth required by section 16(a)(1), 16(a)(2)(A), 16(a)(3)(A), 16(a)(4)(A), or 16(a)(5)(A) of this chapter by adding to the amount of bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit required by subsection (a).

(i) A buyer-warehouse that has a bushel storage capacity of less than one million (1,000,000) bushels or purchases less than one million (1,000,000) bushels of grain per year may correct a deficiency in minimum positive net worth by adding to the amount of bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit determined under subsection (a) if the buyer-warehouse has a minimum positive net worth of at least fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), not including the amount added to the bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit.

(j) A buyer-warehouse that has a bushel storage capacity of at least one million (1,000,000) bushels, or purchases at least one million (1,000,000) bushels of grain per year, may correct a deficiency in minimum positive net worth by adding to the amount of bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit determined under subsection (a) if the buyer-warehouse has a minimum positive net worth of at least fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), not including the amount added to the bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit.

(k) If the director or the director's designated representative finds that conditions exist that warrant requiring additional bond or cash deposit, there shall be added to the amount of bond or cash deposit as

determined under the other provisions of this section, a further amount to meet the conditions.

(l) The director may accept, instead of a single cash deposit, letter of credit, or bond, a deposit consisting of any combination of cash deposits, letters of credit, or bonds in an amount equal to the licensee's obligation under this chapter. The director shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to establish standards for determining the order in which the forms of security on deposit must be used to pay proven claims if the licensee defaults.

(m) The director may require additional bonding that the director considers necessary.

IC 26-3-7-13

26-3-7-13 Additional bond, cash deposit, letter of credit, or insurance

Whenever the director determines that a previously approved bond, letter of credit, cash deposit, or previously approved insurance is insufficient, the director shall require an additional bond, letter of credit, cash deposit, or insurance to be given by the licensee in the form and upon the terms and conditions required by this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter.

IC 26-3-7-14

26-3-7-14 Cancellation of bond or insurance; approval; notice; suspension of license

(a) A licensee may not cancel an approved bond or approved insurance unless the director has given prior written approval for the cancellation and has received a substitute cash deposit or has approved a substitute bond or insurance. The surety on a bond may cancel a bond required by this chapter only after the expiration of ninety (90) days from the date the surety mailed a notice of intent to cancel, by registered or certified mail, to the director. An insurance company may cancel insurance required by this chapter only after the expiration of a thirty (30) day period from the mailing, by certified mail, of notice of intent to cancel, to the director. The surety and the insurance company shall, at the time of giving notice to the director, send a copy of the notice to the licensee.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the license of a licensee shall automatically be suspended for failure to:

(1) file a new bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit within the ninety (90) day period as provided in this section;

(2) file new evidence of insurance within the thirty (30) day period as provided in this section;
or

(3) maintain at all times a bond or cash deposit and insurance as provided in this chapter.

The suspension shall continue until the licensee complies with the bonding and insurance requirements of this chapter.

IC 26-3-7-16.5

26-3-7-16.5 Determination of shortages; payment of claims; hearings and procedures

(a) Upon learning of the possibility that a shortage exists, either as a result of an inspection or a report or complaint from a depositor, the agency, based on an on-premise inspection, shall make a preliminary determination as to whether a shortage exists. If a shortage is not discovered, the agency shall treat the audit as it would any other audit.

(b) If it is determined that a shortage may exist, the director or the director's designated representative shall hold a hearing as soon as possible to confirm the existence of a shortage as indicated by the licensee's books and records and the grain on hand. Only the licensee, the surety company named on the licensee's bond, the issuer of the irrevocable letter of credit, and any grain depositor who has made a claim or complaint to the agency in conjunction with the shortage shall be considered as interested parties for the purposes of that hearing, and each shall be given notice of the hearing. At the hearing, the director or the director's designated representative shall determine whether there appears to be a reasonable probability that a shortage exists. If it is determined that a reasonable probability exists and that the bond or letter of credit proceeds or the cash deposit should be distributed, a preliminary determination shall be entered to the effect that the licensee has failed to meet its obligations under this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter. At the hearing, the director or the director's designated representative may order that all proceeds from grain sales are to be held in the form in which they are received and to be kept separate from all other funds held by the licensee. The order may also provide for informal conferences between agency representatives and persons who have or who appear to have grain deposited with the licensee. The surety company shall be permitted to participate in those conferences.

(c) In the event that the director determines that the bond or letter of credit proceeds or cash deposit is to be distributed, the agency shall hold a hearing on claims. Notice shall be given to the surety company named on the licensee's bond, the issuer of the irrevocable letter of credit, and to all persons shown by the licensee's books and records to have interests in grain deposited with the licensee. If the agency has actual knowledge of any other depositor or person claiming rights in the grain deposited with the licensee, the bond, the irrevocable letter of credit, or the cash deposit, notice shall also be provided to that person. In addition, public notice shall be provided in newspapers of general circulation that serve the counties in which licensed facilities are located, and notices shall be posted on the licensed premises. At the hearing on claims, the director may accept as evidence of claims the report of agency representatives who in informal conferences with depositors have concluded that a claim is directly and precisely supported by the licensee's books and records. When there is disagreement between the claims of a depositor and the licensee's books and records, the director or the director's designated representative shall hear oral claims and receive written evidence of claims in order to determine the validity of the claim.

(d) Any depositor who does not present a claim at the hearing may bring the claim to the agency within fifteen (15) days after the conclusion of the hearing.

(e) Following the hearing on claims, the director shall make a determination as to the total proven storage obligation of the claimants and the loss sustained by each depositor who has proven a claim. Depositors found to have proven their claims shall be proven claimants. In arriving at that loss, in accordance with section 19 of this chapter, the director shall apply all grain on hand or its identifiable proceeds to meet the licensee's obligations to grain depositors of grain of that type. Initial determinations of loss shall be made on the amount of grain on hand, or identifiable proceeds, and shall reduce the amount to which a depositor may have a proven claim. With respect to the remaining unfulfilled obligations, the director shall, for the sole purpose of establishing each depositor's claim under this chapter, establish a date upon which the loss is discovered, shall price the grain as of that date, shall treat all outstanding grain storage obligations not covered by grain on hand or identifiable proceeds as being sold as of that date, and shall determine the extent of each depositor's loss as being the actual loss sustained as of that date. Grain of a specific type on the premises of a licensee must first be applied to meet the licensee's storage obligations with respect to that type of grain. If there is insufficient grain of a specific type on hand to meet all storage obligations with respect to that type of grain, the grain that is present shall be prorated in accordance with the procedures described in this

section and section 16.8 of this chapter.

(f) Upon the failure of the agency to begin an audit, which would serve as the basis for a preliminary administrative determination, within forty-five (45) days of the agency's receipt of a written claim by a depositor, a depositor shall have a right of action upon the bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit. A depositor bringing a civil action need not join other depositors. If the agency has undertaken an audit within the forty-five (45) day period, the exclusive remedy for recovery against the bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit shall be through the recovery procedure prescribed by this section.

(g) When the proven claims exceed the amount of the bond, letter of credit, or cash deposit, recoveries of proven claimants shall be prorated in the same manner as priorities are prorated under section 16.8 of this chapter.

(h) The proceedings and hearings under this section may be undertaken without regard to, in combination with, or in addition to those undertaken in accordance with section 17.1 of this chapter.

(i) The findings of the director shall be final, conclusive, and binding on all parties.

(j) The director may adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to determine how the agency may distribute the interest that may accrue from funds held by the agency for the payment of claims.

(k) A claim of a licensee for stored grain may not be honored until the proven claims of all other claimants arising from the purchase, storage, and handling of the grain have been paid in full.