Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA

§ 1450.101 Qualified biomass conversion facility.

(a) To be considered a qualified biomass conversion facility, a biomass conversion facility must enter into an agreement with CCC and must:

(1) Meet all applicable regulatory and permitting requirements by applicable Federal, State, or local authorities;

(2) Agree in writing to:

(i) Maintain accurate records of all eligible material purchases and related documents regardless of whether matching payments will be sought by the seller; and

(ii) Make available at one place and at all reasonable times for examination by representatives of USDA, all books, papers, records, contracts, scale tickets, settlement sheets, invoices, written price quotations, or other documents related to BCAP for not less than 3 years after the date that eligible material was delivered to the qualified biomass conversion facility;

(iii) Clearly indicate the actual tonnage delivered on the scale ticket or equivalent to be provided to the eligible material owner;

(iv) Calculate a total dry ton weight equivalent of the actual tonnage delivered and provide that measurement to the eligible material owner;

(v) Use commercial weight scales that are certified for accuracy by applicable State or local authorities and

§ 1450.12 Filing of false claims.

(a) If CCC determines that any participant has knowingly supplied false information or has knowingly filed a false claim, such participant will be ineligible for payments under this part with respect to the fiscal year in which the false information or claim was filed and the contract may be terminated, in which case CCC may demand a full refund of all prior payments.

(b) False information or false claims include, but are not limited to, claims for payment for practices that do not comply with the conservation plan, forest stewardship plan, or equivalent plan. Any amounts paid under these circumstances must be refunded to CCC, together with interest as determined by CCC, and any amounts otherwise due the participant will be withheld.

(c) The remedies provided for in this section will be in addition to any other remedy available to CCC and in addition to any criminal penalty or any other remedy available to the United States.

§ 1450.13 Miscellaneous.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this part, in the case of death, incompetency, or disappearance of any participant, any payments due under this part may be paid to the participant’s successor(s) in accordance with part 707 of this title.

(b) Unless otherwise specified in this part, payments under this part will be subject to the compliance requirements of part 12 of this title concerning highly erodible land and wetland conservation and payments.

(c) Any remedies permitted CCC under this part will be in addition to any other remedy, including, but not limited to, criminal remedies or actions for damages in favor of CCC, or the United States as may be permitted by law.

(d) Absent a scheme or device to defeat the purposes of BCAP, when an owner loses control of BCAP acreage enrolled under subpart C of this part due to foreclosure and the new owner chooses not to continue the contract in accordance with §1450.215 refunds will not be required from any participant on the contract to the extent that the Deputy Administrator determines that forgiving such repayment is appropriate in order to provide fair and equitable treatment.
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accurate moisture measurement equipment to determine the dry ton weight equivalent of actual tonnage delivered;
(vi) Pay fair market value for eligible material regardless of whether the seller has applied for or receives a matching payment authorized by this subpart.
(b) For a qualified biomass conversion facility, CCC can:
(1) Periodically inform the public that payments may be available for deliveries of eligible material to such qualified biomass conversion facility;
(2) Maintain a listing of qualified biomass conversion facilities for general public access and distribution that may include general information about the facility and its eligible material needs; and
(3) Suspend, terminate, or take other actions as appropriate when CCC determines a qualified biomass conversion facility fails to comply with the agreement.
§ 1450.102 Eligible material owner.
(a) In order to be eligible for a payment under this subpart, a person or legal entity must:
(1) Be a producer of an eligible crop that is produced on contract acreage authorized by subpart C of this part; or
(2) Have the right to collect or harvest eligible material and such person may only receive payment if the risk of loss for the material transferred to that person occurred prior to the time the payment is made that will be used to determine the matching payment that is requested under this subpart; and
(3) Certify that the eligible material for which a payment may be issued according to §1450.106 has been harvested according to a conservation plan, forest stewardship plan, or equivalent plan, and, if not crop residues, are byproducts of preventative treatments that are removed to reduce hazardous fuels, to reduce or contain disease or insect infestation, or to restore ecosystem health.
(b) A qualified biomass conversion facility that meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section may be considered an eligible material owner if it otherwise meets the definition in this part.
§ 1450.103 Eligible material that qualifies for payment.
(a) Except for paragraph (b) of this section, in order to qualify, as determined by CCC, for a payment under this subpart:
(1) Eligible material must be renewable biomass that, at a minimum, meets the definition in §1450.2 and is listed on the official Web site for BCAP as an eligible material at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/energy;
(2) Eligible material must be collected or harvested by the eligible material owner:
(i) Directly from:
(A) National Forest System land, Bureau of Land Management land;
(B) Non-Federal land; or
(C) Land belonging to an Indian or Indian tribe that is held in trust by the United States or subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States;
(ii) Consistent with a conservation plan, forest stewardship plan, or plan that CCC determined to be an equivalent plan, that provides the following:
(A) The purpose of the harvest of the eligible material;
(B) The expected volume of the harvest;
(C) The total number of acres to be harvested;
(D) The name of the eligible material owner(s); and
(E) Any additional information, as determined by CCC; and
(iii) Consistent with Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species.");
(3) Woody eligible material produced on land other than contract acreage must be:
(i) Byproducts of preventative treatments that are removed to reduce hazardous fuels, to reduce or contain disease or insect infestation, or to restore ecosystem health; and
(ii) If harvested from Federal lands then done so in accordance with the requirements for old-growth maintenance, restoration, and management direction provided by 16 U.S.C. 6512 for Federal lands; and
(4) Eligible material must be delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility (as specified in §1450.101 and other provisions of these regulations).