§ 1484.32 Must Cooperators follow specific employment practices?

(a) A Cooperator shall enter into written contracts with all overseas employees and shall ensure that all terms, conditions, and related formalities of such contracts conform to governing local law.

(b) A Cooperator shall, in its overseas offices, conform its office hours, work week, and holidays to local law and to the custom generally observed by U.S. commercial entities in the local business community.

(c) A Cooperator may pay salaries or fees in any currency (U.S. or foreign) in conformance with contract specifications. Cooperators are cautioned to consult local laws regarding currency restrictions.

§ 1484.33 Must Cooperators follow certain financial management guidelines?

(a) A Cooperator shall implement and maintain a financial management system that conforms to generally accepted accounting principles.

(b) A Cooperator shall institute internal controls and provide written guidance to commercial entities participating in its activities to ensure their compliance with these provisions. Each Cooperator shall maintain all original records and documents relating to program activities for 5 calendar years following the end of the applicable marketing plan year and shall make such records and documents available upon request to authorized officials of the U.S. Government. A Cooperator shall also maintain all documents related to employment, such as employment applications, contracts, position descriptions, leave records, and salary changes; and all records pertaining to contractors. A Cooperator shall also maintain adequate documentation related to the proper disposition of all property purchased by the Cooperator and for which the Cooperator is reimbursed with program funds.

(c) A Cooperator shall maintain its records of expenditures and contributions in a manner that allows it to provide information by marketing plan year, country or region, activity number, and cost category. Such records shall include:

1. Receipts for all STRE (actual vendor invoices or restaurant checks, rather than credit card receipts);
2. Original receipts for any other program related expenditure in excess of $25.00;
3. The exchange rate used to calculate the dollar equivalent of each expenditure made in a foreign currency and the basis for such calculation;
4. Copies of reimbursement claims;
5. An itemized list of claims charged to the Cooperator’s FMD account;
6. Documentation with accompanying English translation supporting each reimbursement claim, including original evidence to support the financial transactions, such as canceled checks, receipted paid bills, contracts or purchase orders, per diem calculations, and travel vouchers; and
7. Documentation supporting contributions including: the date(s), purpose, and location(s) of each activity for which cash, goods, or services were claimed as a contribution; who conducted the activity; the participating groups or individuals; and the method of computing the claimed contributions. Cooperators must retain, and make available for audit, documentation related to claimed contributions.

(d) Upon request, a Cooperator shall provide to FAS the original documents which support the Cooperator’s reimbursement claims. FAS may deny a claim for reimbursement if the claim is not supported by adequate documentation.

§ 1484.34 Must Cooperators adhere to specific standards of ethical conduct?

(a) A Cooperator shall conduct its business in accordance with the laws and regulations of the country(s) in which each activity is carried out.

(b) Neither a Cooperator nor its affiliates shall make export sales of agricultural commodities covered under the terms of a project agreement. Neither a Cooperator nor its affiliates