§ 4279.100 OMB control number.

The information collection requirements contained in this regulation have been approved by OMB and have been assigned OMB control number 0575–0171. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to vary from 1 hour to 8 hours per response, with an average of 4 hours per response, including time for reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Department of Agriculture, Clearance Officer, OIRM, Stop 7630, Washington, D.C. 20250. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Subpart B—Business and Industry Loans

§ 4279.101 Introduction.

(a) Content. This subpart contains loan processing regulations for the Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program. It is supplemented by subpart A of this part, which contains general guaranteed loan regulations, and subpart B of part 4287 of this chapter, which contains loan servicing regulations.

(b) Purpose. The purpose of the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program is to improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. This purpose is achieved by bolstering the existing private credit structure through the guarantee of quality loans which will provide lasting community benefits. It is not intended that the guarantee authority will be used for marginal or substandard loans or for relief of lenders having such loans.

(c) Documents. Copies of all forms, regulations, and Instructions referenced in this subpart are available in any Agency office.

§ 4279.102 Definitions.

The definitions and abbreviations in §4279.2 of subpart A of this part are applicable to this subpart.

§ 4279.103 Exception authority.

Section 4279.15 of subpart A of this part applies to this subpart.

§ 4279.104 Appeals.

Section 4279.16 of subpart A of this part applies to this subpart.

§§ 4279.105–4279.106 [Reserved]

§ 4279.107 Guarantee fees.

For all new loans there are two types of non-refundable guarantee fees to be paid by the lender. The fees may be passed on to the borrower. The fees may be forwarded to the Agency through an electronic funds transfer system or, at the Agency’s discretion, by a check payable to USDA using a USDA-approved form.

(a) Initial guarantee fee. The initial fee is paid at the time the Loan Note Guarantee is issued. The fee may be included as an eligible loan purpose in the guaranteed loan. The fee will be the rate (a specified percentage not to exceed 2 percent) multiplied by the principal loan amount, multiplied by the percent of guarantee. Subject to specified annual limits set by the Agency, the initial guarantee fee may be reduced to 1 percent if the borrower’s business supports value-added agriculture and results in farmers benefiting financially, or

(1) Is a high impact business development investment in accordance with §4279.155(b)(5), and
(2) Is located in a rural community that:
   (i) Is experiencing long-term population decline and job deterioration, or
   (ii) Has remained persistently poor over the last 60 years, or
   (iii) Is experiencing trauma as a result of natural disaster, or
   (iv) Is experiencing fundamental structural changes in its economic base.

(b) Annual renewal fee. The annual renewal fee is paid once a year and is required to maintain the enforceability of the guarantee as to the lender.
(1) The rate of the annual renewal fee (a specified percentage) is established by Rural Development in an annual notice published in the Federal Register, multiplied by the outstanding principal loan balance as of December 31 of each year, multiplied by the percentage of guarantee. The rate is the rate in effect at the time the loan is obligated, and will remain in effect for the life of the loan.

(2) Annual renewal fees are due on January 31. Payments not received by April 1 are considered delinquent and, at the Agency’s discretion, may result in cancellation of the guarantee to the lender. Holders’ rights will continue in effect as specified in the Loan Note Guarantee and Assignment Guarantee Agreement. Any delinquent annual renewal fees will bear interest at the note rate and will be deducted from any loss payment due the lender. For loans where the Loan Note Guarantee is issued between October 1 and December 31, the first annual renewal fee payment will be due January 31 of the second year following the date the Loan Note Guarantee was issued.

§ 4279.108 Eligible borrowers.

(a) Type of entity. A borrower may be a cooperative organization, corporation, partnership, or other legal entity organized and operated on a profit or nonprofit basis; an Indian tribe on a Federal or State reservation or other Federally recognized tribal group; a public body; or an individual. A cooperative organization is a cooperative or an entity, not chartered as a cooperative, that operates as a cooperative in that it is owned and operated for the benefit of its members, including the manner in which it distributes its dividends and assets. A borrower must be engaged in or proposing to engage in a business. Business may include manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing, providing services, or other activities that will:

1. Provide employment;
2. Improve the economic or environmental climate;
3. Promote the conservation, development, and use of water for aquaculture; or
4. Reduce reliance on nonrenewable energy resources by encouraging the development and construction of solar energy systems and other renewable energy systems (including wind energy systems, geothermal energy systems, and anaerobic digesters for the purpose of energy generation).

(b) Citizenship. Individual borrowers must be citizens of the United States (U.S.) or reside in the U.S. after being legally admitted for permanent residence. Citizens and residents of the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands shall be considered U.S. citizens. Corporations or other nonpublic body organization-type borrowers must be at least 51 percent owned by persons who are either citizens of the U.S. or reside in the U.S. after being legally admitted for permanent residence.

(c) Rural area. The business financed with a B&I Guaranteed Loan must be located in a rural area, except for cooperative organizations financed in accordance with paragraph (d)(3) of this section. Loans to borrowers with facilities located in both rural and non-rural areas will be limited to the amount necessary to finance the facility in the eligible rural area, except for cooperative organizations financed in accordance with paragraph (d)(3) of this section. Rural areas are any areas other than:

1. A city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants; and
2. The urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town, as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census using the latest decennial census of the United States.

(d) Loans to cooperative organizations.

1. B&I loans to eligible cooperative organizations may be made in principal amounts up to $10 million if the project is located in a rural area, the cooperative facility being financed provides for the value-added processing of agricultural commodities, and the total amount of loans exceeding $25 million does not exceed 10 percent of the funds available for the fiscal year.

2. Cooperative organizations that are headquartered in a non-rural area may be eligible for a B&I loan if the