

Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA

§ 1499.19

(2) An audit that meets the requirements contained in subpart F of 2 CFR part 200.

(c) A recipient or subrecipient that is a for-profit entity or a foreign organization, and that expends, during its fiscal year, a total that is less than the audit requirement threshold in 2 CFR 200.501 in Federal awards, is exempt from requirements under this section for an audit for that year, except as provided in paragraphs (d) and (f) of this section, but it must make records available for review by appropriate officials of Federal agencies.

(d) CCC may require an annual financial audit of an agreement or subagreement when the audit requirement threshold in 2 CFR 200.501 is not met. In that case, CCC must provide funds under the agreement for this purpose, and the recipient or subrecipient, as applicable, must arrange for such audit and submit it to CCC.

(e) When a recipient or subrecipient that is a for-profit entity or a foreign organization is required to obtain a financial audit under this section, it

must provide a copy of the audit to CCC within 60 days after the end of its fiscal year.

(f) CCC, the USDA Office of Inspector General, or GAO may conduct or arrange for additional audits of any recipients or subrecipients, including for-profit entities and foreign organizations. Recipients and subrecipients must promptly comply with all requests related to such audits. If CCC conducts or arranges for an additional audit, such as an audit with respect to a particular agreement, CCC will fund the full cost of such an audit, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.503(d).

§ 1499.19 Paperwork Reduction Act.

The information collection requirements contained in this regulation have been submitted for approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, and have been assigned OMB control number 0551-0035. A person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

CHAPTER XV—FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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PARTS 1500–1519 [RESERVED]

PART 1520—AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552

SOURCE: 67 FR 45895, July 11, 2002, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1520.1 General statement.

This part is issued in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture 7 CFR, part 1—Administrative Regulations, Subpart A—Official Records, §1.3, Agency Implementing Regulations, for the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). The Secretary's Regulations, as implemented by the regulations in this part govern the availability of records of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to the public.

§ 1520.2 Location and hours.

Members of the public should contact the FAS FOIA Officer to arrange a place and time to review documents. Contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agriculture Service, Public Affairs Division, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–1004. The office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except national holidays, Tel.: 202–720–3448, Fax: 202–720–1727.

§ 1520.3 Indexes/Record systems.

5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2) required that each agency publish or otherwise make available a current index of all materials for public inspection and copying. The Foreign Agricultural Service maintains the following record systems. FAS regulations, manuals, and notices; attache reports; general publications; and statements of policy and procedures for various FAS programs. Copies of the FAS index may be obtained free of charge by contacting the office specified in §1520.2.

§ 1520.4 Agency FOIA Officer.

Requests for records shall be made to the Freedom of Information Officer, Public Affairs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, Ag Box 1004, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–1004. Tel.: 202–720–3448, Fax: 202–720–1727.

§ 1520.5 Agency Appeal Official.

Any person whose request under §1520.4 is denied shall have the right to appeal such a denial. For appeals, write to the following official and mark your letters “FOIA Appeal”: Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–1004, Attn: FOIA Appeal.

§ 1520.6 Other information.

Many documents are available to the public without having to file an FOIA request. These include press releases, speeches, congressional testimony, program regulations, and some letters and memoranda. Some of this information can be found on the FAS web site, *www.fas.usda.gov*. Also, the FAS annual FOIA report is available on the agency's web site at *www.fas.usda.gov*. Click on FOIA at the bottom of the page. To request a paper copy of the FAS FOAI annual report, write to: Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Ag Box 1004, Washington, DC 20250–1004, Attn: Freedom on Information Officer.

PART 1530—THE REFINED SUGAR RE-EXPORT PROGRAM, THE SUGAR CONTAINING PRODUCTS RE-EXPORT PROGRAM, AND THE POLYHYDRIC ALCOHOL PROGRAM

Sec.

- 1530.100 General statement.
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- 1530.109 Reporting.
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- 1530.114 Implementation.
- 1530.115 Paperwork Reduction Act assigned number.

AUTHORITY: Additional U.S. note 6 to chapter 17 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202); 19 U.S.C. 3314; Proc. 6641, 58 FR 66867, 3 CFR, 1994 Comp., p. 172; Proc. 6763, 60 FR 1007, 3 CFR, 1995 Comp., p. 146.

SOURCE: 64 FR 7062, Feb. 12, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1530.100 General statement.

This part provides regulations for the Refined Sugar Re-Export Program, the Sugar Containing Products Re-Export Program, and the Polyhydric Alcohol Program. Under these provisions, refiners may enter raw sugar unrestricted by the quantitative limit established for the raw sugar tariff-rate quota or the requirements of certificates of quota eligibility provided for in 15 CFR part 2011, as long as licensees under the programs export an equivalent quantity of refined sugar, either as refined sugar or as an ingredient in sugar containing products, or use the refined sugar in the production of certain polyhydric alcohols.

§ 1530.101 Definitions.

Affiliated persons means two or more persons where one or more of said persons directly or indirectly controls or has the power to control the other(s), or, a third person controls or has the power to control the others. Indications of control include, but are not limited to: interlocking management or ownership, identity of interests among family members, shared facilities and equipment, and common use of employees.

Agent means a person who represents the licensee in any program transaction. An agent shall not, at any time, own any of the product produced by the program licensee. Agents may include brokers, shippers, freight forwarders, expeditors, and co-packers.

Bond or letter of credit means an insurance agreement pledging surety for the entry of foreign sugar without the

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required re-export within the program guidelines.

Certain polyhydric alcohols means any polyhydric alcohol, except polyhydric alcohol produced by distillation or polyhydric alcohol used as a substitute for sugar as a sweetener in human food.

Co-packer means a person who adds value to a licensed manufacturer's product, or produces a product for export by a licensed manufacturer.

Date of entry means the date raw sugar enters the U.S. Customs Territory.

Date of export means the date refined sugar or sugar containing products are exported from the U.S. Customs Territory, or, if exported to a restricted foreign trade zone, the date shown on the U.S. Customs Service form designating the product as restricted for export.

Date of transfer means the date that ownership of program sugar is conveyed from a refiner to a manufacturer or producer licensee.

Day means calendar day. When the day for complying with an obligation under this part falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the obligation may be completed on the next business day.

Documentation agreement means a signed and notarized letter from a licensee specifying certain documentation that the licensee shall obtain and maintain on file before said licensee requests from USDA updating of a license balance.

Enter or entry means importation into the U.S. Customs Territory, or withdrawal from warehouse for consumption, as those terms are used by the U.S. Customs Service.

Export means the conveyance (shipment) of sugar or a sugar containing product from a licensee under this part to a country outside the U.S. Customs Territory, or to a restricted foreign trade zone.

Licensing Authority means a person designated by the Director, Import Policies and Programs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

Manufacturer means a person who produces or causes to be produced on their behalf a sugar containing product for export under the provisions of this part.

Person means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, estate, trust, or any other business enterprise or legal entity.

Program sugar means sugar that has been charged or credited to the license of a licensee in conformity with the provisions of this part.

Program transaction means an appropriate entry, transfer, use, or export of program sugar.

Refined sugar means any product that is produced by a refiner by refining raw cane sugar and that can be marketed as commercial, industrial or retail sugar.

Refiner means any person in the U.S. Customs Territory that refines raw cane sugar through affination or defecation, clarification, and further purification by absorption or crystallization.

Sugar containing product means any product, other than those products normally marketed by cane sugar refiners, that is produced from refined sugar or to which refined sugar has been added as an ingredient.

Transfer means the transfer of legal title of program sugar from a licensed refiner to a licensed manufacturer of a sugar containing product or a licensed producer of certain polyhydric alcohols for the production of sugar containing products or the production of certain polyhydric alcohols.

Unique number means a tracking number established by a licensee for a transaction (entry, transfer, export, or use). A unique number is established for a transaction to or from a specific country or licensee. The unique number is also assigned by the licensee to a file that contains all of the supporting documentation for the transaction for which it was established. The unique number is the means by which program transactions will be tracked.

§ 1530.102 Nature of the license.

(a) A person who wishes to participate in the Refined Sugar Re-export Program, the Sugar Containing Products Re-export Program, or the Polyhydric Alcohol Program must first obtain a license from the USDA, through the Licensing Authority.

(b) A license under the Refined Sugar Re-export Program permits a refiner to

enter raw cane sugar under subheading 1701.11.20 of the HTS, and export an equivalent quantity of refined sugar onto the world market or transfer an equivalent quantity of refined sugar to licensees under the Sugar Containing Products Re-export Program or the Polyhydric Alcohol Program.

(c) A license under the Sugar Containing Products Re-export Program or Polyhydric Alcohol Program permits licensees to receive transfers and export an equivalent quantity of sugar as an ingredient in sugar containing products, or use an equivalent quantity of sugar in the production of certain polyhydric alcohols.

(d) All refining, manufacturing, and production shall be accomplished in the U.S. Customs Territory, and within time-frames and quantity limitations prescribed in this part. Program sugar and non-program sugar are substitutable.

(e) A licensee must establish a bond or a letter of credit in favor of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to charge program sugar in anticipation of the export or transfer of refined sugar, the export of sugar in sugar containing products, or the production of certain polyhydric alcohols.

§ 1530.103 License eligibility.

(a) A raw cane sugar refiner, a manufacturer of sugar containing products, or a producer of certain polyhydric alcohols, that owns and operates a facility within the U.S. Customs Territory, is eligible for a license to participate in the Refined Sugar Re-export Program, the Sugar Containing Products Re-export Program, or the Polyhydric Alcohol Program, respectively.

(b) No person may apply for or hold more than one license, including a license held by an affiliated person.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this section, a person who owns one or more wholly-owned subsidiary corporations manufacturing sugar containing products or producing certain polyhydric alcohols, which would otherwise qualify for an individual license, is eligible for a consolidated license to cover the program transactions and other program activities of both the parent corporation and the subsidiary

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corporation(s). The program transactions and other program activities of the subsidiary corporation(s) covered by a consolidated license shall be treated as the activities of the corporation holding the consolidated license.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c) of this section, each wholly-owned subsidiary manufacturing sugar containing products or producing certain polyhydric alcohols may establish a license for program activities instead of the parent corporation establishing a consolidated license. The sum total of license limits for the parent corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiary corporation(s) shall not exceed the quantitative limits established in § 1530.105 of this part.

§ 1530.104 Application for a license.

(a) A person seeking a license shall apply in writing to the Licensing Authority and shall submit the following information:

(1) The name and address of the applicant;

(2) The address at which the applicant will maintain the records required under § 1530.110;

(3) The address(es) of the applicant's processing plant(s), including any wholly-owned subsidiary(s) and plant(s) in the case of a consolidated license, and including those of any co-packer(s);

(4) In the case of a refined sugar product, the polarity of the product and the formula proposed by the refiner for calculating the refined sugar in the product;

(5) In the case of a sugar containing product, the percentage of refined sugar (100 degree polarity), on a dry weight basis, contained in such product(s);

(6) In the case of polyhydric alcohol, the quantity of refined sugar used producing certain polyhydric alcohols; and

(7) A certification explaining that the applicant is not affiliated with any other licensee, or explaining any affiliations, should they exist.

(b) A documentation agreement must be concluded with the Licensing Authority.

(c) If any of the information required by paragraph (a) of this section changes, the licensee shall promptly

apply to the Licensing Authority to amend the application to include such changes.

§ 1530.105 Terms and conditions.

(a) A licensed refiner (refiner) shall, not later than 90 days after entering a quantity of raw cane sugar under sub-heading 1701.11.20 of the HTS, export or transfer an equivalent quantity of refined sugar if the entry results in a positive license balance.

(b) A licensed sugar containing products manufacturer (manufacturer) or a licensed polyhydric alcohol producer (producer) shall, not later than 18 months from the date of transfer of a quantity of refined sugar from a refiner, export an equivalent quantity of refined sugar as an ingredient in a sugar containing product if the transfer results in a positive license balance, or use an equivalent quantity of refined sugar in the production of certain polyhydric alcohols if the transfer results in a positive license balance, respectively.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, licensees may receive credit for the exportation or transfer of refined sugar, the exportation of a sugar containing product, or the production of certain polyhydric alcohols prior to the corresponding date of entry of raw cane sugar the date of transfer of refined sugar.

(d) Licensees are encouraged to submit monthly program transaction reports, but shall report no later than 90 days from the date of entry, transfer, export, or use.

(e) A refiner may enter raw sugar, or a manufacturer or producer may receive a transfer of refined sugar, in anticipation of the transfer or export of refined sugar (refiner), the export of sugar in sugar containing products (manufacturer) or the production of a polyhydric alcohol (producer) not to exceed the value of a bond or letter of credit, which must be established pursuant to § 1530.107 of this part. The value of a bond or letter of credit shall not exceed the license limits established in this section.

(f) A refiner shall not exceed a license balance of 50,000 metric tons, raw value for the sum of all charges and credits.

(g) A refiner may enter raw sugar from Mexico and re-export, within 30 days of entry, refined sugar to Mexico without a charge against the refiner's license balance. If the refined sugar is not re-exported to Mexico within 30 days of entry, the license shall be charged the quantity that has not been re-exported.

(h) A manufacturer or a producer shall not exceed a license balance of 10,000 short tons, refined value for the sum of all charges and credits.

(i) A manufacturer's or a producer's consolidated license balance, or the sum of a parent company and wholly-owned subsidiary license balances if held separately, shall not exceed a license balance of 25,000 short tons, refined value for the sum of all charges and credits.

(j) For the purposes of the programs governed by this part, sugar is fully substitutable. The refined sugar transferred, exported, or used does not need to be the same sugar produced by refining raw sugar entered under sub-heading 1701.11.20 of the HTS.

(k) A licensee may use an agent to carry out the requirements of participation in the program. The licensee must retain ownership of and responsibility for the product until exported from the U.S. Customs Territory, to a restricted foreign trade zone, or used in the production of certain polyhydric alcohols, and must establish and maintain sufficient documentation, as agreed in the documentation agreement pursuant to §1530.110, to substantiate export of the product or the production of certain polyhydric alcohols.

(l) A license may be assigned only with the written permission of the Licensing Authority and subject to such terms and conditions as the Licensing Authority may impose.

(m) The Licensing Authority may impose such conditions, limitations or restrictions in connection with the use of a license at such time and in such manner as the Licensing Authority, at his or her discretion, determines to be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of the relevant program.

§ 1530.106 License charges and credits.

(a) A license shall be charged or credited for the quantity of sugar entered,

transferred, exported, or used, adjusted to a dry weight basis. Refiner quantities shall be adjusted to raw value, using the formulas set forth in paragraphs (a) (1), (2), and (3) of this section. Manufacturer and producer quantities shall be adjusted to 100 degrees polarity on a dry weight basis.

(1) To adjust the raw value for sugar with a polarization of less than 92 degrees, divide the total sugar content by 0.972 (polarization × outturn weight/.972).

(2) To adjust the raw value for sugar with polarization of 92 degrees or above, multiply the polarization times 0.0175, subtract 0.68, and multiply the difference by the outturn weight ((polarization × 0.0175)–0.68) × outturn weight).

(3) To determine the quantity of refined sugar that must be transferred or exported to equal a corresponding quantity of entered raw sugar charged to a license, divide the quantity of entered raw sugar by 1.07 (raw quantity/1.07).

(b) [Reserved]

§ 1530.107 Bond or letter of credit requirements.

(a) The licensee may charge program sugar in anticipation of the transfer or export of refined sugar, the export of sugar in sugar containing products, or the production of certain polyhydric alcohols, if the licensee establishes a performance bond or a letter of credit with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which meets the criteria set forth in this section.

(b) The bond or letter of credit may cover entries made either during the period of time specified in the bond (a term bond) or for a specified entry (a single entry bond).

(c) Only the licensee who will refine the sugar, manufacture the sugar containing product, or produce certain polyhydric alcohols may be the principal on the bond or letter of credit covering such sugar to be re-exported or used in the production of certain polyhydric alcohols. The surety or sureties shall be among those listed by the Secretary of the Treasury as acceptable on Federal bonds.

(d) The obligation under the bond or letter of credit shall be made effective

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no later than the date of entry of the sugar for refiners or the date of transfer of the corresponding sugar for manufacture into a sugar containing product or certain polyhydric alcohols.

(e) The amount of the bond or letter of credit shall be equal to 20 cents per pound of sugar to be entered under the license.

(f) If a licensee fails to qualify for credit to a license within the specified time period of the date of export or use of corresponding sugar in an amount sufficient to offset the charge to the license for that corresponding sugar, payment shall be made to the U.S. Treasury. The payment shall be equal to the difference between the Number 11 contract price and the Number 14 contract price (New York Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange) in effect on the last market day before the date of entry of the sugar or the last market day before the end of the period during which export or use was required, whichever difference is greater. The difference shall be multiplied by the quantity of refined sugar, converted to raw value, that should have been exported in compliance with this part. If there was not a Number 11, or a Number 14 contract price for the relevant market day, the Licensing Authority may estimate such price as he or she deems appropriate.

§ 1530.108 Revocation or surrender of licenses.

(a) A license may be revoked upon written notice by the Licensing Authority.

(b) A licensee may surrender a license when the sum of all credits is equal to or greater than the sum of all charges.

§ 1530.109 Reporting.

(a) A licensee may submit as often as monthly for charges and credits against a license balance, but must submit at least a quarterly report to the Licensing Authority not later than 90 days after the earliest transaction in the report for which credits or charges are being submitted. The licensee need not report when there have not been transactions during the reporting period.

(b) Reports may be submitted by e-mail, U.S. mail, private courier, or in person, but must be in an integrated database format acceptable to the Licensing Authority. A copy of this format may be obtained from the Licensing Authority. Applicants unable to submit a report in the specified electronic format may seek a temporary waiver to permit them to submit the report on paper.

(c) The reports must include the following for all program transactions:

(1) A unique number associated with the transaction;

(2) The date of the entry, transfer (only a refiner shall report transfers to the Licensing Authority), export, or use;

(3) The quantity of program sugar entered, transferred, exported as refined sugar, or used in the production of certain polyhydric alcohols;

(4) The licensee's license number, or if a transfer is being reported, the licensee's license number as well as the transfer recipient's license number;

(5) The country of origin (entry of raw sugar) or final destination (refined exports), using the exact country code designated in the HTS; and

(6) The initial and final polarization, and final weight (when available) for entries of raw sugar.

(d) Licensees have an affirmative and continuing duty to maintain the accuracy of the information contained in previously submitted reports.

(1) The licensee shall immediately notify the Licensing Authority and promptly request that previously claimed credits be charged back upon discovery that previously claimed exports of refined sugar, refined sugar in sugar containing products, or refined sugar used in the production of polyhydric alcohol were re-entered into the U.S. Customs Territory without substantial transformation, not used in the production of certain polyhydric alcohols, made under a false underlying proof of export, or made but previously submitted exports do not otherwise satisfy the requirements of regulations or the documentation agreement.

(2) Charge backs shall be as of the date of the erroneously claimed credit.

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§ 1530.110 Records, certification, and documentation.

(a) A licensee shall establish a documentation agreement with the Licensing Authority before submitting for credit against a license. The licensee shall propose to the Licensing Authority a list of documents to substantiate entries, transfers, exports, or use as appropriate. The Licensing Authority shall consider the licensee's proposal to assure that it provides that a program transaction is fully substantiated, and shall then respond in writing to the licensee in a timely fashion outlining any deficiencies. Once agreed, the licensee shall submit a notarized letter specifying the documents to be maintained on file and certifying that the charges and credits made pursuant to § 1530.106 will be kept on file, identifiable by a unique number, and available for inspection pursuant to § 1530.110.

(b) For all transactions, the documentation shall:

(1) Substantiate the information required in § 1530.109 (c), and the completion of the reported transaction;

(2) Establish the buyer and seller specifications for a transaction;

(3) Include all U.S. Customs forms submitted in the entry or export process;

(4) Provide the correct telephone numbers and addresses of any agents, consignees, foreign purchasers, and non-vessel operating common carriers used in completing the transaction;

(5) Indicate the port of entry or export for the program transaction;

(6) Provide the percentage of sugar in a sugar containing product or certain polyhydric alcohols; and

(7) Provide the name of export carrier, vessel name, and container number.

(c) The licensee shall maintain the documentation established in the documentation agreement for 5 years from the date of such program transaction.

(d) Upon request, the licensee shall make the records, outlined by the documentation agreement and identified (associated) by the unique number assigned by the licensee to the program transaction as reported to the Licensing Authority for posting against a license balance, available for inspection and copying by the Licensing Author-

ity, the Compliance Review Staff of the Foreign Agricultural Service, and/or the Office of the Inspector General, USDA, the U.S. Department of Justice, or any U.S. Government regulatory or investigative office.

§ 1530.111 Enforcement and penalties.

(a) The Licensing Authority may revoke credits granted on a license if the credits granted do not meet the requirements set forth in the regulations of this part, or if the licensee does not voluntarily charge back credits erroneously claimed in accordance with these regulations. The Licensing Authority may also recommend revocation of a license, if the licensee has been in violation of § 1530.109 (c) of this part.

(b) The Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, may suspend or revoke a license upon recommendation of the Licensing Authority. Suspension of a license will be governed by 7 CFR part 3017, subpart D and debarment will be governed by 7 CFR part 3017, subpart C.

§ 1530.112 Administrative appeals.

(a) The licensee may appeal the Licensing Authority's determination by filing a written notice of appeal, signed by the licensee or the licensee's agent, with the Director, Import Policies and Programs Division, Foreign Agricultural Service (Director), or his or her designee. The decision on such an appeal shall be made by the Director, and will be governed by § 3017.515 of this title. The appeal must be filed not later than 30 days after the date of the Licensing Authority's determination, and shall contain the licensee's written argument.

(b) The licensee may request an informal hearing. The Director shall arrange a place and time for the hearing, except that it shall be held within 30 days of the filing date of the notice of appeal if the licensee so requests.

(c) The licensee may be represented by counsel, and shall have full opportunity to present any relevant evidence, documentary or testimonial. The Director may permit other individuals to present evidence at the hearing and the licensee shall have an opportunity to question those witnesses.

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(d) The licensee may request a verbatim transcript of the hearing, and shall be responsible for arranging for a professional reporter and shall pay all attendant expenses.

(e) The Director shall make the determination on appeal, and may affirm, reverse, modify or remand the Licensing Authority's determination. The Director shall notify the licensee in writing of the determination on appeal and of the basis thereof. The determination on appeal exhausts the licensee's administrative remedies.

§ 1530.113 Waivers.

Upon written application of the licensee or at the discretion of the Licensing Authority, and for good cause, the Licensing Authority may extend the period for transfer, export, or production, and/or may temporarily increase a maximum license limit, may extend the period for submitting regularly scheduled reports, or may temporarily waive or modify any other requirement imposed by this part if the Licensing Authority determines that such a waiver will not undermine the purpose of the relevant program or adversely affect domestic sugar policy objectives. The Licensing Authority may specify additional requirements or procedures in place of the requirements or procedures waived or modified.

§ 1530.114 Implementation.

Current program participants may qualify under this rule upon concluding a documentation agreement with the Licensing Authority, but must conclude a documentation agreement within 24 months of the effective date of this rule. Participant license balances, as of the effective date of this rule, shall continue under this rule.

§ 1530.115 Paperwork Reduction Act assigned number.

Licensees are not required to respond to requests for information unless the form for collecting information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. OMB has approved the information collection requirements contained in this part in accordance with 44 U.S.C. chapter 35. OMB number 0551-

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0015 has been assigned and will expire November 30, 1999.

PART 1540—INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Subpart A—Emergency Relief From Duty-Free Imports of Perishable Products

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- 1540.3 Who may file request.
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AUTHORITY: Sec. 213(f), Pub. L. 98-67, 97 Stat. 391 (19 U.S.C. 2703(f)); 5 U.S.C. 301; sec. 404, Pub. L. 98-573, 98 Stat. 3016, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2112 note); 5 U.S.C. 301.

Subpart A—Emergency Relief From Duty-Free Imports of Perishable Products

AUTHORITY: Sec. 213(f), Pub. L. 98-67, 97 Stat. 391 (19 U.S.C. 2703(f)); 5 U.S.C. 301.

SOURCE: 49 FR 22265, May 29, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

CROSS REFERENCE: For United States International Trade Commission regulations on investigations of import injury and the rules pertaining to the filing of a section 201 petition, see 19 CFR part 206.

Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA

§ 1540.5

§ 1540.1 Applicability of subpart.

This subpart applies to requests for emergency relief from duty-free imports of perishable products filed with the Department of Agriculture under section 213(f) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act of 1983, title II of Pub. L. 98-67, 97 Stat. 384 (19 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*) (the Act).

§ 1540.2 Definitions.

(a) *Perishable product* means:

(1) Live plants provided for in subpart A of part 6 of schedule 1 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States (TSUS);

(2) Fresh or chilled vegetables provided for in items 135.10 through 138.42 of the TSUS;

(3) Fresh mushrooms provided for in item 144.10 of the TSUS;

(4) Fresh fruit provided for in items 146.10, 146.20, 146.30, 146.50 through 146.62, 146.90, 146.91, 147.03 through 147.33, 147.50 through 149.21 and 149.50 of the TSUS;

(5) Fresh cut flowers provided for in items 192.17, 192.18, and 192.21 of the TSUS; and

(6) Concentrated citrus fruit juice provided for in items 165.25 and 165.35 of the TSUS.

(b) *Beneficiary country* means any country listed in section 212(b) of the Act with respect to which there is in effect a proclamation by the President designating such country as a beneficiary country for purposes of the Act.

§ 1540.3 Who may file request.

A request under this subpart may be filed by an entity, including a firm, or group or workers, trade association, or certified or recognized union which is representative of a domestic industry producing a perishable product like or directly competitive with a perishable product that such entity claims is being imported into the United States duty-free under the provisions of the Act from a beneficiary country(ies) in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat thereof, to such domestic industry.

§ 1540.4 Contents of request.

A request for emergency action under section 213(f) of the Act shall be submitted in duplicate to the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250. Such requests shall be supported by appropriate information and data and shall include to the extent possible:

(a) A description of the imported perishable product(s) allegedly causing, or threatening to cause, serious injury;

(b) The beneficiary country(ies) of origin of the allegedly injurious imports;

(c) Data showing that the perishable product allegedly causing, or threatening to cause, serious injury is being imported from the designated beneficiary country(ies) in increased quantities as compared with imports of the same product from the designated beneficiary country(ies) during a previous representative period of time (including a statement of why the period used should be considered to be representative);

(d) Evidence of serious injury or threat thereof to the domestic industry substantially caused by the increased quantities of imports of the product from the beneficiary country(ies); and

(e) A statement indicating why emergency action would be warranted under section 213(f) of the Act (including all available evidence that the injury caused by the increased quantities of imports from the beneficiary country(ies) would be relieved by the suspension of the duty-free treatment accorded under the Act).

A copy of the petition and the supporting evidence filed with the United States International Trade Commission under section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, must be provided with the request for emergency action.

§ 1540.5 Submission of recommendations.

If the Secretary has reason to believe that the perishable product which is the subject of a petition under § 1540.4 of this subpart is being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat thereof, to the domestic industry producing a perishable product like or directly

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competitive with the imported perishable product and that emergency action is warranted, the Secretary, within 14 days after the filing of the petition under § 1540.4 of this subpart, shall recommend to the President that the President take emergency action. If the Secretary determines not to recommend the imposition of emergency action, the Secretary shall publish a notice of such determination and will so advise the petitioner within 14 days after the filing of the petition.

§ 1540.6 Information.

Persons desiring information from the Department of Agriculture regarding the Department's implementation of section 213(f) of the Act should address such inquiries to the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

§ 1540.7 Paperwork Reduction Act assigned number.

The Office of Management and Budget has approved the information collection requirements contained in these regulations in accordance with 44 U.S.C. chapter 25, and OMB number 0551-0018 has been assigned.

Subpart B—Emergency Relief From Certain Perishable Products Imported From Israel

AUTHORITY: Sec. 404, Pub. L. 98-573, 98 Stat. 3016, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2112 note); 5 U.S.C. 301.

SOURCE: 50 FR 43692, Oct. 29, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

CROSS REFERENCE: For U.S. International Trade Commission regulations concerning investigations of import injury and the rules pertaining to the filing of a section 201 petition, see 19 CFR part 206.

§ 1540.20 Applicability of subpart.

This subpart applies to requests filed with the Department of Agriculture under section 404 of the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, Pub. L. 98-573, for emergency relief from imports of certain perishable products from Israel entering the United States at a reduced rate of duty or duty-free pursuant to a trade agreement between the United States

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and Israel entered into under section 102(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.

§ 1540.21 Definition.

Perishable product means:

(a) Live plants provided for in subpart A of part 6 of schedule 1 of the 1985 Tariff Schedules of the United States (the "TSUS");

(b) Fresh or chilled vegetables provided for in items 135.03 through 138.46 of the TSUS;

(c) Fresh mushrooms provided for in item 144.10 of the TSUS;

(d) Fresh fruits provided for in items 146.10, 146.20, 146.30, 146.50 through 146.62, 146.90, 146.91, 147.03 through 147.44, 147.50 through 149.21 and 149.50 of the TSUS;

(e) Fresh cut flowers provided for in items 192.17, 192.18, and 192.21 of the TSUS; and

(f) Concentrated citrus fruit juice provided for in items 165.25, 165.29 and 165.36 of the TSUS.

§ 1540.22 Who may file request.

A request under this subpart may be filed by an entity, including a firm, or group or workers, trade association, or certified or recognized union which is representative of a domestic industry producing a perishable product like or directly competitive with a perishable product that such entity claims is being imported from Israel into the United States at a reduced duty or duty-free under the provisions of a trade agreement between the United States and Israel entered into under section 102(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat thereof, to such domestic industry.

§ 1540.23 Contents of request.

A request for emergency action under section 404 of the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984 shall be submitted in duplicate to the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250. Such request shall be supported by appropriate information and data and shall include to the extent possible:

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(a) A description of the imported perishable product(s) allegedly causing, or threatening to cause, serious injury;

(b) Data showing that the perishable product allegedly causing, or threatening to cause, serious injury is being imported from Israel in increased quantities as compared with imports of the same product from Israel during a previous representative period of time (including a statement of why the period selected by the petitioner should be considered to be representative);

(c) Evidence of serious injury or threat thereof to the domestic industry substantially caused by the increased quantities of imports of the product from Israel; and

(d) A statement indicating why emergency action would be warranted under section 404 (including all available evidence that the injury caused by the increased quantities of imports from Israel would be relieved by the withdrawal of the reduction of the duty or elimination of the duty-free treatment provided to the product under the trade agreement). A copy of the petition and the supporting evidence filed with the United States International Trade Commission under section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, must be provided with the request for emergency action.

§ 1540.24 Determination of the Secretary of Agriculture.

If the Secretary of Agriculture has reason to believe that the perishable product(s) which is the subject of a petition under this subpart is being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat thereof, to the domestic industry producing a perishable product like or directly competitive with the imported perishable product and that emergency action is warranted, the Secretary, within 14 days after the filing of the petition under § 1540.23 shall recommend to the President that the President take emergency action. If the Secretary determines not to recommend the imposition of emergency action, the Secretary, within 14 days after the filing of the petition, will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a no-

tice of such determination and will so advise the petitioner.

§ 1540.25 Information.

Persons desiring information from the Department of Agriculture regarding the Department's implementation of section 404 of the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984 should address such inquiries to the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

§ 1540.26 Paperwork Reduction Act assigned number.

The Office of Management and Budget has approved the information collection requirements contained in these regulations in accordance with 44 U.S.C. chapter 25, and OMB number 0551-0023 has been assigned.

Subpart C—Emergency Relief From Duty-Free Imports of Perishable Products From Certain Andean Countries

AUTHORITY: Title II, sec. 204(e), Pub. L. 102-182, 105 Stat. 1239 (19 U.S.C. 3203(e)); 5 U.S.C. 301.

SOURCE: 58 FR 16104, Mar. 25, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

CROSS REFERENCE: For United States International Trade Commission regulations on investigations of import injury and the rules pertaining to the filing of a section 201 petition, see 19 CFR part 206.

§ 1540.40 Applicability of subpart.

This subpart applies to requests for emergency relief from duty-free imports of perishable products filed with the Department of Agriculture under section 204(e) of the Andean Trade Preference Act, title II of Public Law 102-182, 105 Stat. 1236 (19 U.S.C. 3201 *et seq.*) (the "Act").

§ 1540.41 Definitions.

(a) *Perishable product* means:

(1) Live plants and fresh cut flowers provided for in chapter 6 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS);

(2) Fresh or chilled vegetables provided in heading 0701 through 0709 (except subheading 0709.52.00) and heading 0714 of the HTS;

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(3) Fresh fruit provided for in subheadings 0804.20 through 0810.90 (except citrons of subheadings 0805.90.00, tamarinds and kiwi fruit of subheading 0810.90.20, and cashew apples, mameyes colorados, sapodillas, soursops and sweetsops of subheading 0810.90.40) of the HTS; or

(4) Concentrated citrus fruit juice provided for in subheadings 2009.11.00, 2009.19.40, 2009.20.40, 2009.30.20, and 2009.30.60 of the HTS.

(b) *Beneficiary country* means any country listed in subsection 203(b)(1) of the Act with respect to which there is in effect a proclamation by the President designating such country as a beneficiary country for purposes of the Act.

§ 1540.42 Who may file request.

A request under this subpart may be filed by an entity, including a firm, or group of workers, trade association, or certified or recognized union which is representative of a domestic industry producing a perishable product like or directly competitive with a perishable product that such entity claims is being imported into the United States duty-free under the provisions of the Act from a beneficiary country(ies) in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat thereof, to such domestic industry.

§ 1540.43 Contents of request.

(a) A request for emergency action under section 204(e) of the Act shall be submitted in duplicate to the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250. Such request shall be supported by appropriate information and data and shall include to the extent possible:

(1) A description of the imported perishable product(s) allegedly causing, or threatening to cause, serious injury;

(2) The beneficiary country(ies) of origin of the allegedly injurious imports;

(3) Data showing that the perishable product allegedly causing, or threatening to cause, serious injury is being imported from the designated beneficiary country(ies) in increased quantities as compared with imports of the same product from the designated ben-

eficiary country(ies) during a previous representative period of time (including a statement of why the period used should be considered to be representative);

(4) Evidence of serious injury or threat thereof to the domestic industry substantially caused by the increased quantities of imports of the product from the beneficiary country(ies); and

(5) A statement indicating why emergency action would be warranted under section 204(e) of the Act (including all available evidence that the injury caused by the increased quantities of imports from the beneficiary country(ies) would be relieved by the suspension of duty-free treatment accorded under the Act).

(b) A copy of the petition and the supporting evidence filed with the United States International Trade Commission under Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, must be provided with the request for emergency action.

§ 1540.44 Submission of recommendations by the Secretary of Agriculture.

If the Secretary has reason to believe that the perishable product(s) which is the subject of a petition under § 1504.43 of this subpart is being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat thereof, to the domestic industry producing a perishable product like or directly competitive with the imported perishable product and that emergency action is warranted, the Secretary, within 14 days after the filing of the petition under § 1540.43 of this subpart, shall recommend to the President that the President take emergency action. If the Secretary determines not to recommend the imposition of emergency action, the Secretary within 14 days after the filing of the petition shall publish a notice of such determination and so advise the petitioner.

§ 1540.45 Information.

Persons desiring information from the Department of Agriculture regarding the Department's implementation

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of section 204(e) of the Act should address such inquiries to the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250. Issued at Washington, DC this 19th day of March, 1993.

PART 1560—PROCEDURES TO MONITOR CANADIAN FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE IMPORTS

- Sec.
- 1560.1 Scope.
- 1560.2 Definitions.
- 1560.3 Determination of fresh fruit or vegetable.
- 1560.4 Calculation of data to support imposition of temporary duty.
- 1560.5 Calculation of data to support removal of temporary duty.

AUTHORITY: Secs. 105 and 301(a) of the United States-Canada Free-Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1988, Pub. L. 100-449 (102 Stat. 1855 and 1865-67).

SOURCE: 54 FR 1327, Jan. 13, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1560.1 Scope.

This part outlines the procedures that will be used by the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service to monitor and inform the Secretary of Agriculture of data regarding the importation of fresh fruits and vegetables from Canada.

§ 1560.2 Definitions.

The following definitions shall be applicable to this part:

(a) *Administrator* means the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

(b) *Average Monthly Import Price* means the average unit value for all shipments of a particular Canadian fresh fruit or vegetable imported into the United States from Canada during a particular calendar month based on official data from the U.S. Customs Service and/or the Bureau of Census, and shall be calculated by dividing the total value of the fresh fruit or vegetable imported in that month by the total quantity of the fresh fruit or vegetable imported in that month.

(c) *Average Planted Acreage* means the average of the annual planted acreage

in the U.S. for a particular fresh fruit or vegetable for the preceding five years excluding the years with the highest and lowest acreages based on available data from agencies within the United States Department of Agriculture and data from appropriate state agencies, as required.

(d) *Canadian fresh fruit or vegetable* means a fresh fruit or vegetable that is a product of Canada as determined in accordance with the rules of origin set forth in section 202 of the U.S.-Canada Free-Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1988.

(e) *Corresponding Five-Year Average Monthly Import Price* for a particular day means the average import price of a Canadian fresh fruit or vegetable imported into the United States from Canada, for the calendar month in which that day occurs, for that month in each of the preceding 5 years, excluding the years with the highest and lowest monthly averages.

(f) *F.O.B. Point of Shipment Price in Canada* means the daily average of prices of a particular Canadian fresh fruit or vegetable imported into the United States from Canada that are reported to the U.S. Customs Service at the U.S. border as part of the official documentation accompanying such shipments less freight costs where applicable.

(g) *Fresh Fruit or Vegetable* means a fruit or vegetable determined in accordance with § 1560.3 within one of the HS headings.

(h) *HS heading* means any of the following tariff headings of the Harmonized System (HS) as modified by the description for each heading:

HS tariff heading	Description
07.01	Potatoes, fresh or chilled.
07.02	Tomatoes, fresh or chilled.
07.03	Onions, shallots, garlic, leeks, and other alliaceous vegetables, fresh or chilled.
07.04	Cabbages, cauliflowers, kohlrabi, kale and similar edible brassicas, fresh or chilled.
07.05	Lettuce (<i>lactuca sativa</i>) and chicory (<i>cichorium</i> spp.), fresh or chilled.
07.06	Carrots, salad beets or beetroot, salsify, celeriac, radishes and similar edible roots (excluding turnips), fresh or chilled.
07.07	Cucumbers and gherkins, fresh or chilled.
07.08	Leguminous vegetables, shelled or unshelled, fresh or chilled.
07.09	Other vegetables (excluding truffles), fresh or chilled.
08.06.10	Grapes, fresh.

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HS tariff heading	Description
08.08.20	Pears and quinces, fresh.
08.09	Apricots, cherries, peaches (including nectarines), plums and sloes, fresh.
08.10	Other fruit (excluding cranberries and blueberries), fresh.

(i) *Import Price* means the unit value based on data available from the U.S. Customs Service of a particular Canadian fresh fruit or vegetable imported into the U.S. from Canada taking into account any other relevant data, as necessary.

(j) *Secretary* means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(k) *United States* means the United States Customs Territory which includes the fifty states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

(l) *Wine Grape* means grapes of *labrusca*, *vinifera* or hybrid *vinifera* varieties used for making wine.

(m) *Working Day* means a day which falls on a Monday through Friday, excluding holidays observed by the United States Government and days in which the U.S. Customs Service is not operating.

§ 1560.3 Determination of fresh fruit or vegetable.

The specific group of articles that will be monitored as a particular fresh fruit or vegetable will be determined based on the practicability of monitoring at the eight digit subheading level of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. The determination of practicability will be made by the Administrator taking into account: (a) The availability of reliable volume and price data on imports from Canada and data on U.S. planted acreage, (b) market differentiation for the group of articles, and (c) such other factors as the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

§ 1560.4 Calculation of data to support imposition of temporary duty.

The Administrator will inform the Secretary when the following conditions are met with respect to a particular fresh fruit or vegetable imported into the United States from Canada:

(a) If for each of five consecutive working days the import price of the

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fresh fruit or vegetable is below ninety percent of the corresponding five-year average monthly import price for such fresh fruit or vegetable excluding the years with the highest and lowest corresponding monthly import price; and

(b) The planted acreage in the United States for such fresh fruit or vegetable based on the most recent data available is no higher than the average planted acreage over the preceding five years excluding the years with the highest and lowest planted acreages. For the purposes of calculating any planted acreage increase attributed directly to a reduction in wine grape planted acreage existing on October 4, 1987 shall be excluded.

§ 1560.5 Calculation of data to support removal of temporary duty.

During the time a temporary duty on a particular fresh fruit or vegetable is imposed pursuant to section 301(a) of the United States-Canada Free-Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1988, the Administrator will inform the Secretary if the F.O.B. point of shipment price in Canada of such fresh fruit or vegetable exceeds, for five consecutive working days, ninety percent of the corresponding five-year average monthly import price excluding the years with the highest and lowest average corresponding monthly import price, adjusted to an F.O.B. point of shipment price, if necessary, for that fresh fruit or vegetable.

PART 1570—EXPORT BONUS PROGRAMS

Subpart A—Sunflowerseed Oil Assistance Program and Cottonseed Oil Assistance Program Criteria

- Sec.
- 1570.10 General statement.
- 1570.20 Criteria.

Subpart B—SOAP and COAP Drawback Certification

- 1570.1100 Drawback certification.

SOURCE: 56 FR 42223, Aug. 27, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Sunflowerseed Oil Assistance Program and Cottonseed Oil Assistance Program Criteria

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 5663.

§ 1570.10 General statement.

This subpart sets forth the criteria to be considered in evaluating and approving proposals for initiatives to facilitate export sales under the Sunflowerseed Oil Assistance Program (SOAP) and Cottonseed Oil Assistance Program (COAP) administered by the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). These criteria are interrelated and will be considered together in order to select eligible countries for SOAP and COAP initiatives which will best meet the programs' objective. The objective of the programs is to encourage the sale of additional quantities of sunflowerseed oil and cottonseed oil in world markets at competitive prices. Under the SOAP and the COAP, bonuses are made available by FAS to enable exporters to meet prevailing world prices for sunflowerseed oil and cottonseed oil in targeted destinations. In the operation of the SOAP and the COAP, FAS will make reasonable efforts to avoid the displacement of usual marketings of U.S. agricultural commodities.

§ 1570.20 Criteria.

The criteria considered by FAS in reviewing proposals for SOAP and COAP initiatives will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) The expected contribution which initiatives will make toward realizing U.S. agricultural export goals and, in particular, in developing, expanding, or maintaining markets for U.S. sunflowerseed and/or cottonseed oil;
- (b) The subsidy requirements of proposed initiatives in relation to the sums made available to operate the programs in any given fiscal year; and
- (c) The likelihood that sales facilitated by initiatives would have the unintended effect of displacing normal commercial sales of sunflowerseed and/or cottonseed oil.

Subpart B—SOAP and COAP Drawback Certification

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 5676.

§ 1570.1100 Drawback certification.

An offer submitted by an exporter to FAS for an export bonus under the SOAP or the COAP must contain, in addition to any other information required by FAS, a certification stating the following: "None of the eligible commodity (sunflowerseed oil and/or cottonseed oil) has been or will be used as the basis for a claim of a refund, as drawback, pursuant to section 313 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1313) of any duty, tax, or fee imposed under Federal law on an imported commodity or product." This certification must be signed by the exporter, if the exporter is an individual, or by a partner or officer of the exporter, if the exporter is a partnership or a corporation, respectively. FAS will reject any offer that does not contain the prescribed certification.

PART 1580—TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FARMERS

Sec.

- 1580.101 General statement.
- 1580.102 Definitions.
- 1580.201 Petitions for trade adjustment assistance.
- 1580.202 Hearings, petition reviews, and amendments.
- 1580.203 Determination of eligibility and certification by the Administrator (FAS).
- 1580.301 Application for trade adjustment assistance.
- 1580.302 Technical assistance and services.
- 1580.303 Adjustment assistance payments.
- 1580.401 Subsequent year petition recertification.
- 1580.501 Administration.
- 1580.502 Maintenance of records, audits, and compliance.
- 1580.503 Recovery of overpayments.
- 1580.504 Debarment, suspension, and penalties.
- 1580.505 Appeals.
- 1580.506 Judicial review.
- 1580.602 Paperwork Reduction Act assigned number.

AUTHORITY: 19 U.S.C. 2401.

SOURCE: 75 FR 9089, Mar. 1, 2010, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1580.101 General statement.

This part provides regulations for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers program as authorized by the Trade Act of 1974, amended by Subtitle C of Title I of the Trade Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107–210), and re-authorized and modified by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111–5). The regulations establish procedures by which a group of producers of raw agricultural commodities or fishermen (jointly referred to as “producers”) can petition for certification of eligibility and through which individual producers covered by a certified petition can apply for technical assistance and cash benefits for the development and implementation of approved business adjustment plans.

§ 1580.102 Definitions.

As used in the part, the following terms mean:

Agricultural commodity means any commodity in its raw or natural state; found in chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 23, 24, 41, 51, and 52 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

Articles like or *directly competitive* generally means products falling under the same HTS number used to identify the agricultural commodity in the petition. A “like” product means substantially identical in inherent or intrinsic characteristics, and the term “directly competitive” means articles that are substantially equivalent for commercial purposes (*i.e.*, adapted to the same uses and essentially interchangeable therefore). For fishery products, competition could be either from farm-raised or wild-caught products.

Authorized representative means an entity that represents a group of agricultural commodity producers or fishermen.

Average price received by the producer means the average of the 3 marketing year prices per unit received by the producer from the first level of sales for the commodity.

Cash receipts mean the value of commodity marketings during the calendar year, irrespective of the year of production, as calculated by the Economic Research Service of the USDA.

Certification of eligibility means the date on which the Administrator (FAS) announces in the FEDERAL REGISTER or by Department news release, whichever comes first, a certification of eligibility to apply for trade adjustment assistance.

Contributed importantly means a cause which is important, but not necessarily more important than any other cause.

County price maintained by the Secretary means a daily price obtained from a USDA agency for the commodity and producer location, except that weekly or monthly prices may be used if daily prices are unavailable.

Department means the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Deputy Administrator means the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs of the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Family member means an individual to whom a producer is related as spouse, lineal ancestor, lineal descendent, or sibling, including:

- (1) Great grandparent;
- (2) Grandparent;
- (3) Parent;
- (4) Children, including legally adopted children;
- (5) Grandchildren;
- (6) Great grandchildren;
- (7) Sibling of the family member in the farming operation; and
- (8) Spouse of a person listed in paragraphs (1) through (7) of this definition.

Filing period means the dates during which petitions may be submitted, as published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

FSA means the Farm Service Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Group means three or more producers who are not members of the same family.

Impacted area means one or more States of the United States.

Marketing year means the marketing season or year designated by the Administrator (FAS) with respect to an agricultural commodity. In the case of an agricultural commodity that does not have a designated marketing year, a calendar year will be used.

National average price means the average price paid to producers for an agricultural commodity in a marketing year as determined by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or

the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, when available, or when unavailable, as determined by the Administrator (FAS).

NIFA means the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the Federal agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture which administers the Federal agricultural extension programs.

Producer means a person who shares in the risk of producing an agricultural commodity and is entitled to a share of the commodity for marketing; including an operator, a sharecropper, or a person who owns or rents the land on which the commodity is produced; or a person who reports gain or loss from the trade or business of fishing on the person's annual Federal income tax return for the taxable year that most closely corresponds to the marketing year with respect to which a petition is filed.

Raw or natural state means unaltered by any process other than cleaning, grading, coating, sorting, trimming, mixing, conditioning, drying, dehulling, shelling, chilling, cooling, blanching, irradiating, or fumigating.

State Cooperative Extension Service means an organization established at the land-grant college or university under the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, as amended (7 U.S.C. 341-349); section 209(b) of the Act of October 26, 1974, as amended (D.C. Code, through section 31-1719(b)); or section 1444 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3221).

United States means the 50 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Value of production means the value of commodities produced during the crop year calculated as production times the marketing year average price. This may be equal to cash receipts when the crop year for the commodity runs from January through December.

§ 1580.201 Petitions for trade adjustment assistance.

(a) A group of producers in the United States or its authorized representative may file a petition for trade adjustment assistance.

(b) Filings may be written or electronic, as provided for by the Administrator (FAS), and submitted to FAS no later than the last day of the filing period announced in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Petitions received after this date will be returned to the sender.

(c) Petitions shall include the following information.

(1) Name, business address, phone number, and e-mail address (if available) of each producer in the group, or its authorized representative. The petition shall identify a contact person for the group.

(2) The agricultural commodity and its Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) number.

(3) The production area represented by the group or its authorized representative. The petition shall indicate if the group is filing on behalf of all producers in the United States, or if it is filing solely on behalf of all producers in a specifically identified impacted area. In the latter case, at least one member of the group must reside in each State within the impacted area.

(4) The beginning and ending dates for the marketing year upon which the petition is based. A petition may be filed for only the most recent full marketing year for which data are available for national average prices, or quantity of production, or value of production, or cash receipts.

(5) A justification statement explaining why the petitioners should be considered eligible for adjustment assistance.

(6) Supporting information justifying the basis of the petition, including required data for the petitioned marketing year and the previous 3 marketing years.

(i) Whenever possible, the petitioners shall use national average data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), to determine national average prices, or quantity of production, or value of production, or cash receipts. If NASS or NMFS has not compiled such data for the commodity, the petitioners shall provide alternative data for the marketing year under review and for the

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previous 3 marketing years, and identify the source of the data. In such cases the Administrator (FAS) shall determine if the alternative data is acceptable.

(ii) If the petition is filed on behalf of producers in a specifically identified impacted area, the petitioners shall provide the national average prices or county prices if applicable, or quantity of production or value of production, or cash receipts for the petitioned commodity in the impacted area for the marketing year under review and for the previous 3 marketing years, and identification of the data source.

(iii) The Administrator (FAS) may request petitioners to provide records to support their data.

(d) Once the petition is received, the Administrator (FAS) shall determine if it meets the requirements of §1580.201(c) of this part, and if so, publish notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER that a petition has been filed and that an investigation is being initiated. The notice shall identify the agricultural commodity, including any like or directly competitive commodities, the marketing year being investigated, the data being used, and the production area covered by the petition. The notice may also announce the scheduling of a public hearing, if requested by the petitioner. If the petition does not meet the requirements of §1580.201(c) of this part, the Administrator (FAS) shall notify as soon as practicable the contact person or the authorized representative for the group of the deficiencies.

§ 1580.202 Hearings, petition reviews, and amendments.

(a) If the petitioner, or any other person found by the Administrator (FAS) to have a substantial interest in the proceedings, submits not later than 10 days after the date of publication of notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER under §1580.201(d) of this part, a request in writing for a hearing, the Administrator (FAS) shall provide for a public hearing and afford such interested person an opportunity to be present, to produce evidence, and to be heard.

(b) If the petitioner or any other person having an interest in the proceedings takes issue with any of the in-

formation published in the FEDERAL REGISTER concerning the petition, such person may submit to the Administrator (FAS) their comments in writing or electronically for consideration by the Administrator (FAS) not later than 10 days after the date of publication of notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER under §1580.201(d) of this part.

(c) A producer or group of producers that resides outside of the State or region identified in the petition filed under paragraph (a) of this section, may file a request to become a party to that petition not later than 15 days after the date that the notice is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER under §1580.201(d) of this part. The Administrator (FAS) may amend the original petition to expand the impacted area and include the additional filer, or consider it a separate filing.

(d) The Administrator (FAS) shall publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER as soon as practicable any changes to the original notice resulting from any actions taken under this section.

§ 1580.203 Determination of eligibility and certification by the Administrator (FAS).

(a) As soon as practicable after the petition has been filed, but in any event not later than 40 days after that date, the Administrator (FAS) shall certify a group of producers as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under this chapter if the Administrator (FAS) determines:

(1) At least one of the following:

(i) The national average price of the agricultural commodity produced by the group during the most recent marketing year for which data are available is less than 85 percent of the average of the national average price for the commodity in the 3 marketing years preceding such marketing year; or

(ii) The quantity of production of the agricultural commodity produced by the group during such marketing year is less than 85 percent of the average of the quantity of production of the commodity produced by the group in the 3 marketing years preceding such marketing year; or

(iii) The value of production of the agricultural commodity produced by

the group during such marketing year is less than 85 percent of the average value of production of the commodity produced by the group in the 3 marketing years preceding such marketing year; or

(iv) The cash receipts for the agricultural commodity produced by the group during such marketing year are less than 85 percent of the average of the cash receipts for the commodity produced by the group in the 3 marketing years preceding such marketing year;

(2) The volume of imports of articles like or directly competitive with the agricultural commodity produced by the group in the marketing year with respect to which the group files the petition increased compared to the average volume of such imports during the 3 marketing years preceding such marketing year; and

(3) The increase in such imports contributed importantly to the decrease in the national average price, or quantity of production, or value of production, or cash receipts for, the agricultural commodity.

(b) In any case in which there are separate classes of goods within an agricultural commodity, the Administrator (FAS) shall treat each class as a separate commodity in determining:

(1) Group eligibility;

(2) The national average price, or quantity of production, or value of production, or cash receipts; and

(3) The volume of imports.

(c) Upon making a determination, whether affirmative or negative, the Administrator (FAS) shall promptly publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a summary of the determination, together with the reasons for making the determination.

(d) In addition, the Administrator (FAS) shall notify producers covered by a certification how to apply for adjustment assistance. Notification methods may include direct mailings to known producers, messages to directly affected producer groups and organizations, electronic communications, Web site notices on the Internet, use of broadcast print media, and transmittal through local USDA offices.

(e) Whenever a group of agricultural producers is certified as eligible to apply for assistance, the Administrator (FAS) shall notify NIFA, the Agricultural Marketing Service, and FSA who will assist in informing other producers about the TAA for Farmers program and how they may apply for trade adjustment assistance.

§ 1580.301 Application for trade adjustment assistance.

(a) Only producers covered by a certification of eligibility under §1580.203 of this title, may apply for adjustment assistance.

(b) An eligible producer may submit an application for adjustment assistance by submitting to FSA a designated application form at any time after the certification date but not later than 90 days after the certification date. If the 90-day application period ends on a weekend or legal holiday, the producer may apply the following business day.

(c) When submitting an application, the producer shall provide sufficient documentation to establish that:

(1) The producer produced the agricultural commodity in the marketing year for which the petition is filed and in at least 1 of the 3 marketing years preceding that marketing year;

(2) There has been a decrease in the quantity of the agricultural commodity produced by the producer in the marketing year for which the petition is certified from the most recent prior marketing year preceding that marketing year for which data is available; or

(3) There has been a decrease in the price of the agricultural commodity based on:

(i) The price received for the agricultural commodity by the producer during the marketing year with respect to which the petition is filed from the average price for the commodity received by the producer in the 3 marketing years preceding that marketing year; or

(ii) The effective posted county price maintained by the Secretary for the agricultural commodity on the date on which the Administrator (FAS) accepts a petition for consideration as published in the FEDERAL REGISTER from

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the average effective posted county level price for the commodity in the 3 marketing years preceding that date. If USDA prices are not available, prices from verifiable sources, including universities, cooperatives, or local markets, may be used.

(4) If a petition is certified with respect to a commodity not produced by the producer every year, the producer may establish the average price received by the producer for the commodity in the 3 marketing years preceding the year in which the petition is filed by using annual price data for the 3 most recent marketing years in which the producer produced the commodity.

(5) The producer must certify that the producer has not received cash benefits under the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers or Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms programs; or TAA for Farmers benefits based on the production of an agricultural commodity covered by another TAA for Farmers petition.

(d) The producer must certify that:

(1) For petitions certified for 2008 crops, their compliance with person determinations set forth in part 1400 of this title, subpart B and average adjusted gross income limitation requirements set forth in subpart G, effective July 18, 1996.

(2) For petitions certified for 2009 and subsequent crops, their average gross nonfarm income and average adjusted gross farm income meet requirements set forth in part 1400 of this title, subpart F, and payment limitation requirements set forth in part 1400 of this title, subparts A and B, effective December 29, 2008; and,

(e) The total amount of payments made to a producer for which the application was approved may not exceed the limitations on payments applicable to:

(1) For petitions certified for 2008 crops, counter-cyclical payments, set forth in part 1400 of this title, subpart A, effective July 18, 1996.

(2) For petitions certified for 2009 and subsequent crops, the counter-cyclical payments, including the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) set forth in part 1400 of this title, subparts A and B, effective December 29, 2008; and

(f) If requested by FSA, a producer must provide documentation regarding average adjusted gross income and payment limitations.

§ 1580.302 Technical assistance and services.

(a) *Initial Technical Assistance:* A producer covered by a certification who has been determined by FSA to meet the requirements of § 1580.301 of this part, is eligible to receive Initial Technical Assistance through NIFA to be completed within 180 days of petition certification. Such assistance shall include information regarding:

(1) Improving the yield and marketing of that agricultural commodity, and

(2) The feasibility and desirability, of substituting one or more agricultural commodities for that agricultural commodity.

(b) *Intensive Technical Assistance:* Upon completion of Initial Technical Assistance, a producer is eligible to participate in Intensive Technical Assistance. Intensive Technical Assistance shall consist of:

(1) A series of courses to further assist the producer in improving the competitiveness of producing the agricultural commodity certified under § 1580.203 of this part, or another agricultural commodity, and

(2) Assistance in developing an initial business plan based on the courses completed under paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) *During Intensive Technical Assistance:* NIFA shall deliver and the producer shall be required to attend a series of Intensive Technical Assistance workshops relevant to the circumstances of the producer.

(d) *Initial Business Plan:* Upon completion of the Initial and Intensive Technical Assistance, the producer shall be required to develop an Initial Business Plan recommended by NIFA and approved by the Administrator (FAS) before receiving an adjustment assistance payment. The Initial Business Plan will:

(1) Reflect the skills gained by the producer through the courses described in paragraph (c) of this section; and

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(2) Demonstrate how the producer will apply those skills to the circumstances of the producer.

(e) Upon approval of the Initial Business Plan, the producer will receive an amount not to exceed \$4,000 to implement the Initial Business Plan or develop a Long-Term Business Adjustment Plan.

(f) A producer who completes the Intensive Technical Assistance and whose Initial Business Plan has been approved shall be eligible, in addition to the amount under paragraph (e) of this section, for assistance in developing a Long-Term Business Adjustment Plan.

(g) *Long-Term Business Adjustment Plan:* The Long-Term Business Adjustment Plan shall:

(1) Include steps reasonably calculated to materially contribute to the economic adjustment of the producer to changing market conditions;

(2) Take into consideration the interests of the workers employed by the producer; and

(3) Demonstrate that the producer will have sufficient resources to implement the business plan.

(h) Upon recommendation by NIFA and approval of the producer's Long-Term Business Adjustment Plan by the Administrator (FAS), the producer shall be entitled to receive an amount not to exceed \$8,000 to implement their Long-Term Business Adjustment Plan.

(i) The Initial Business Plan and Long-Term Business Adjustment Plan must be completed and approved within 36 months after a petition is certified.

(j) A producer shall not receive a combined total of more than \$12,000 for the Initial Business Plan and the Long Term Business Adjustment Plan in the 36-month period following petition certification.

(k) The Administrator (FAS) may authorize supplemental assistance necessary to defray reasonable transportation and subsistence expenses incurred by a producer in connection with the initial technical assistance, if such initial technical assistance is provided at facilities that are not within normal commuting distance of the regular place of residence of the producer. NIFA and FSA will work with the pro-

ducer and the Administrator (FAS) to facilitate application for and proper payment of reasonable allowable supplemental expenses. The Administrator (FAS) will not authorize payments to a producer:

(1) For subsistence expenses that exceed the lesser of:

(i) The actual per diem expenses for subsistence incurred by a producer; or

(ii) The prevailing per diem allowance rate authorized under Federal travel regulations; or

(2) For travel expenses that exceed the prevailing mileage rate authorized under the Federal travel regulations.

§ 1580.303 Adjustment assistance payments.

(a) If the Administrator (FAS) determines that insufficient appropriated fiscal year funds are available to provide maximum cash benefits to all eligible applicants, after having deducted estimated transportation and subsistence payments and administrative and technical assistance costs, the Administrator (FAS) shall prorate cash payments to producers for the approved initial and long-term business plans.

(b) Any producer who may be entitled to a payment may assign their rights to such payment in accordance with 7 CFR part 1404 or successor regulations as designated by the Department.

(c) In the case of death, incompetency, disappearance, or dissolution of a producer that is eligible to receive benefits in accordance with this part, such producer or producers specified in 7 CFR part 707 may receive such benefits.

§ 1580.401 Subsequent year petition recertification.

(a) Prior to the anniversary of the petition certification date:

(1) Groups or authorized representatives that provided the data to justify their initial petition shall provide the Administrator (FAS) data for the most recent marketing year, and

(2) The Administrator (FAS) shall make a determination with respect to the re-certification of petitions for the subsequent year by applying criteria as set forth in § 1580.203 of this part for the most recent marketing year.

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(b) The Administrator (FAS) will promptly publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER the determination with the reasons for the determination.

(c) If a petition is re-certified, only eligible producers who did not receive training and cash benefits under this program may apply.

§ 1580.501 Administration.

(a) The petition process will be administered by FAS. FAS will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER the filing dates for commodity groups to file petitions.

(b) FSA will administer the producer application and payment process.

(c) State and county FSA committees and representatives do not have the authority to modify or waive any of the provisions of this part.

(d) The technical assistance process and the recommendation for approval of all producer business plans will be under the general supervision of NIFA. NIFA may award the technical assistance and services to a state cooperative extension service.

(e) The Deputy Administrator may, in consultation with the Administrator, FAS, authorize the State and County committees to waive or modify non-statutory deadlines or other program requirements in cases where lateness or failure to meet such other requirements by applicants does not adversely affect the operation of the program.

§ 1580.502 Maintenance of records, audits, and compliance.

(a) Producers making application for benefits under this program must maintain accurate records and accounts that will document that they meet all eligibility requirements specified herein, as may be requested. Such records and accounts must be retained for 2 years after the date of the final payment to the producer under this program.

(b) At all times during regular business hours, authorized representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof, the Comptroller General of the United States shall have access to the premises of the producer in order to inspect, examine, and make copies of the books, records, and ac-

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counts, and other written data as specified in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) Audits of certifications of average adjusted gross income may be conducted as necessary to determine compliance with the requirements of this subpart. As a part of this audit, income tax forms may be requested and if requested, must be supplied. If a producer has submitted information to FSA, including a certification from a certified public accountant or attorney, that relied upon information from a form previously filed with the Internal Revenue Service, such producer shall provide FSA a copy of any amended form filed with the Internal Revenue Service within 30 days of the filing.

(d) If requested in writing by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof, or the Comptroller General of the United States, the producer shall provide all information and documentation the reviewing authority determines necessary to verify any information or certification provided under this subpart, including all documents referred to in §1580.301(c) of this part, within 30 days. Acceptable production documentation may be submitted by facsimile, in person, or by mail and may include copies of receipts, ledgers, income statements, deposit slips, register tapes, invoices for custom harvesting, records to verify production costs, contemporaneous measurements, truck scale tickets, fish tickets, landing reports, and contemporaneous diaries that are determined acceptable. Failure to provide necessary and accurate information to verify compliance, or failure to comply with this part's requirements, will result in ineligibility for all program benefits subject to this part for the year or years subject to the request.

§ 1580.503 Recovery of overpayments.

(a) If the Administrator (FAS) determines that any producer has received any payment under this program to which the producer was not entitled, or has expended funds received under this program for purpose that was not approved by the Administrator (FAS) such producer will be liable to repay such amount. The Administrator (FAS) may waive such repayment if it is determined that:

(1) The payment was made without fault on the part of the producer; and

(2) Requiring such repayment would be contrary to equity and good conscience.

(b) Unless an overpayment is otherwise recovered, or waived under paragraph (a) of this section, the Administrator (FAS), shall recover the overpayment as a debt following the procedures in 7 CFR part 3. The requirement for demand and notice and opportunity for a hearing under the debt collection procedures in 7 CFR part 3 shall satisfy the notice and hearing requirements under 19 U.S.C. 2401f(c), and the appeal procedures in §1580.505 of this part shall not apply to collection of overpayments

§ 1580.504 Debarment, suspension, and penalties.

(a) *Generally.* The regulations governing Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement), 7 CFR part 3017, and Government Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance), 7 CFR part 3021, apply to this part.

(b) *Additional specific suspension and debarment provision for this program.* In addition to any other debarment or suspension of a producer under paragraph (a) of this section, in connection with this program, if the Administrator (FAS) or a court of competent jurisdiction, determines that a producer:

(1) Knowingly has made, or caused another to make, a false statement or representation of a material fact, or

(2) Knowingly has failed, or caused another to fail, to disclose a material fact; and, as a result of such false statement or representation, or of such nondisclosure, such producer has received any payment under this program to which the producer was not entitled, the Administrator (FAS) shall suspend and debar such producer from any future payments under this program, as provided in 19 U.S.C. 2401f(b).

(c) *Criminal penalty.* Whoever makes a false statement of a material fact knowing it to be false, or knowingly fails to disclose a material fact, for the purpose of obtaining or increasing for himself or for any other producer any payments authorized to be furnished

under this program shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.

§ 1580.505 Appeals.

(a) A producer adversely affected by a determination with respect to their application for trade adjustment assistance under §1580.301 of this part or with respect to the receipt of technical assistance or payments under §1580.302 of this part may file a notice of appeal within 30 days of the date that the notification of the adverse determination was sent.

(b) A producer may not seek judicial review of any adverse decision under this paragraph without receiving a final determination pursuant to this paragraph.

§ 1580.506 Judicial review.

Any producer aggrieved by a final agency determination under this part may appeal to the U.S. Court of International Trade for a review of such determination in accordance with its rules and procedures.

§ 1580.602 Paperwork Reduction Act assigned number.

The information collection requirements contained in this part have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the provisions of 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35 and been assigned OMB control number 0551-0040.

PART 1590—UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD AID PROCUREMENT PROGRAM

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 1726c.

SOURCE: 81 FR 43009, July 1, 2016, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1590.1 Purpose and applicability.

(a)(1) This part sets forth the general terms and conditions governing the award of funds by the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to recipients under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program (USDA LRP Program). Under the USDA LRP Program, recipients use FAS-provided funds to purchase eligible commodities in developing countries and pay for associated administrative and operational costs related to the implementation of field-based projects in a foreign country pursuant to an agreement with FAS.

(2) Funds provided by FAS under the USDA LRP Program may be used to provide food assistance in the form of development assistance, an emergency response, or both through a field-based project. Field-based projects intended to provide development assistance will be implemented for a period of not less than one year. Food assistance may be provided under the USDA LRP Program through local and regional procurement, food vouchers, and cash transfers.

(3) FAS will consult with the United States Agency for International Development in the development and implementation of field-based projects that will provide food assistance in the form of an emergency response.

(b)(1) The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued guidance on Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR part 200. In 2 CFR 400.1, USDA adopted OMB's guidance in subparts A through F of 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented by

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2 CFR part 400, as USDA's policies and procedures for uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for federal awards.

(2) The OMB guidance at 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented by 2 CFR part 400 and by this part, applies to the USDA LRP Program, except as provided in paragraph (e) of this section.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this part, other regulations that are generally applicable to grants and cooperative agreements of USDA, including the applicable regulations set forth in 2 CFR chapters I, II, and IV, also apply to the USDA LRP Program.

(d) In accordance with 7 U.S.C. 1726c(a)(4), assistance under the USDA LRP Program may be provided to a private voluntary organization or a cooperative that is, to the extent practicable, registered with the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development or to an intergovernmental organization, such as the World Food Program.

(e)(1) The OMB guidance at subparts A through E of 2 CFR part 200, and the corresponding provisions of 2 CFR part 400 and of this part, apply to all awards by FAS under the USDA LRP Program to all recipients that are private voluntary organizations or cooperatives, including a private voluntary organization that is a foreign organization, as defined in 2 CFR 200.47, and a cooperative that is a for-profit entity or a foreign organization. Subpart F of 2 CFR part 200, and the corresponding provisions of 2 CFR part 400 and this part, apply only to awards by FAS to recipients that are private voluntary organizations or non-profit cooperatives but that are not foreign organizations. The OMB guidance at 2 CFR part 200, and the provisions of 2 CFR part 400 and of this part, do not apply to an award by FAS under the USDA LRP Program to a recipient that is a foreign public entity, as defined in 2 CFR 200.46, and, therefore, they do not apply to an intergovernmental organization.

(2) The OMB guidance at subparts A through E of 2 CFR part 200, and the corresponding provisions of 2 CFR part 400 and of this part, apply to all subawards to all subrecipients under this part, except in cases:

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(i) Where the subrecipient is a foreign public entity; or

(ii) Where FAS determines that the application of these provisions to a subaward to a subrecipient that is a foreign organization would be inconsistent with the international obligations of the United States or the statutes or regulations of a foreign government or would not be in the best interest of the United States.

§ 1590.2 Definitions.

These are definitions for terms used in this part. The definitions in 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented in 2 CFR part 400, are also applicable to this part, with the exception that, if a term that is defined in this section is defined differently in 2 CFR part 200 or part 400, the definition in this section will apply to such term as used in this part.

Activity means a discrete undertaking within a project to be carried out by a recipient, directly or through a subrecipient, that is specified in an agreement and is intended to fulfill a specific objective of the agreement.

Agreement means a legally binding grant or cooperative agreement entered into between FAS and a recipient to implement a field-based project under the USDA LRP Program.

Codex Alimentarius means the program of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization that was created to develop food standards, guidelines, and related texts, such as codes of practice to protect the health of consumers, ensure fair trade practices in the food trade, and promote the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

Cooperative means a private sector organization whose members own and control the organization and share in its services and its profits and that provides business services and outreach in cooperative development for its membership.

Cost sharing or matching means the portion of project expenses, or necessary goods and services provided to carry out the project, not paid or acquired with Federal funds. The term may include cash or in-kind contribu-

tions provided by recipients, subrecipients, foreign public entities, foreign organizations, or private donors.

Country of origin means the country in which the procured commodities were produced.

Developing country means a country that has a shortage of foreign exchange earnings and has difficulty meeting all of its food needs through commercial channels.

Development assistance means an activity or activities that will enhance the availability of, access to, or the utilization of adequate food to meet the caloric and nutritional needs of populations suffering from chronic food insecurity, or enhance the ability of such populations to build assets to protect against chronic food insecurity.

Disaster means an event or a series of events that creates a need for emergency food assistance by threatening or resulting in significantly decreased availability of, or access to, food or the erosion of the ability of populations to meet food needs. Disasters include, but are not limited to, natural events such as floods, earthquakes, and drought; crop failure; disease; civil strife and war; and economic turmoil. Disasters can be characterized as slow or rapid-onset. The situation caused by a disaster is a "food crisis."

Disburse means to make a payment to liquidate an obligation.

Eligible commodity means an agricultural commodity, or the product of an agricultural commodity, that is produced in and procured from a developing country, and that meets each nutritional, quality, and labeling standard of the target country, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, as well as any other criteria specified in section § 1590.6(b).

Emergency response means an activity that is designed to meet the urgent food and nutritional needs of those affected by acute or transitory food insecurity as a result of a disaster.

FAS means the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

FAS-provided funds means U.S. dollars provided under an agreement to a recipient, or through a subagreement to a subrecipient, for expenses for the

purchase, ocean and overland transportation, and storage and handling of the procured commodities; expenses involved in the administration, monitoring, and evaluation of the activities under the agreement; and operational costs related to the implementation of the field-based project under the agreement.

Field-based project or project means the totality of the activities to be carried out by a recipient, directly or through a subrecipient, to fulfill the objectives of an agreement. It can either stand alone or be an add-on component to another program that provides other forms of assistance to the food insecure.

Food assistance means assistance that is provided to members of a targeted vulnerable group to meet their food needs.

Local procurement means the procurement of food by a recipient, directly or through a subrecipient, in the target country to assist beneficiaries within that same country. The use of food vouchers to obtain food under an agreement is a form of local procurement.

Overland transportation means any transportation other than ocean transportation. It includes internal transportation within the target country and regional transportation within the target region.

Private voluntary organization means a not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization (in the case of a United States organization, an organization that is exempt from Federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) that receives funds from private sources, voluntary contributions of money, staff time, or in-kind support from the public, and that is engaged in or is planning to engage in voluntary, charitable, or development assistance activities (other than religious activities).

Procured commodities means the eligible commodities that are procured by a recipient, directly or through a subrecipient, under an agreement.

Program Income means funds received by a recipient or subrecipient as a direct result of carrying out an approved activity under an agreement. The term includes but is not limited to income from fees for services performed, the

use or rental of real or personal property acquired under a Federal award, the sale of items fabricated under a Federal award, license fees, and royalties on patents and copyrights, and principal and interest on loans made with Federal award funds. Program income does not include FAS-provided funds or interest earned on such funds; or funds provided for cost sharing or matching contributions, refunds or rebates, credits, discounts, or interest earned on any of them.

Purchase country means a developing country in which the procured commodities are purchased.

Recipient means an entity that enters into an agreement with FAS and receives FAS-provided funds to carry out activities under the agreement. The term recipient does not include a subrecipient.

Regional procurement means the procurement of food by a recipient, directly or through a subrecipient, in a developing country that is located on the same continent as the target country. Regional procurement does not include the purchase of food in the target country.

Subrecipient means an entity that enters into a subagreement with a recipient for the purpose of implementing in the target country activities described in an agreement. The term does not include an individual that is a beneficiary under the agreement.

Target country means the developing country in which activities are implemented under an agreement.

Target region means the continent on which the target country is located or nearby.

USDA means the United States Department of Agriculture.

Voluntary committed cost sharing or matching contributions means cost sharing or matching contributions specifically pledged on a voluntary basis by an applicant in its proposal, which become binding as part of an agreement. Voluntary committed cost sharing or matching contributions may be provided in the form of cash or in-kind contributions.

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§ 1590.3 Eligibility and conflicts of interest.

(a)(1) A private voluntary organization or a cooperative is eligible to submit an application under this part to become a recipient under the USDA LRP Program if it is either registered with the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development or FAS has determined that such registration is impracticable. FAS will set forth specific eligibility information, including any factors or priorities that will affect the eligibility of an applicant or application for selection, in the full text of the applicable notice of funding opportunity posted on the U.S. Government Web site for grant opportunities.

(2) FAS may give preference for funding to eligible entities that have, or are working toward, projects under the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program established under section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1).

(b) Applicants, recipients, and sub-recipients must comply with policies established by FAS pursuant to 2 CFR 400.2(a), and with the requirements in 2 CFR 400.2(b), regarding conflicts of interest.

§ 1590.4 Application process.

(a) An applicant seeking to enter into an agreement with FAS must submit an application, in accordance with this section, that sets forth its proposal to carry out activities under the USDA LRP Program in a proposed target country(ies). An application must contain the items specified in paragraph (b) of this section and any other items required by the notice of funding opportunity and must be submitted electronically to FAS at the address set forth in the notice of funding opportunity.

(b) An applicant must include the following items in its application:

(1) A completed Form SF-424, which is a standard application for Federal assistance;

(2) An introduction and impact analysis, as specified in the notice of funding opportunity;

(3) A plan of operation that contains the elements specified in the notice of funding opportunity;

(4) A summary line item budget and a budget narrative that indicate:

(i) The amount(s) of any FAS-provided funds, program income, and voluntary committed cost sharing or matching contributions that the applicant proposes to use to fund:

(A) Administrative costs;

(B) Commodity procurement costs, including costs for locally and regionally procured commodities, and food vouchers;

(C) Transportation, storage, and handling costs; and

(D) Activity costs;

(ii) Where applicable, how the applicant's indirect cost rate will be applied to each type of expense; and

(iii) The amount of funding that will be provided to each proposed sub-recipient under the agreement;

(5) A project-level results framework that outlines the changes that the applicant expects to accomplish through the proposed project and is based on the USDA LRP Program-level results framework;

(6) Unless otherwise specified in the notice of funding opportunity, an evaluation plan that describes the proposed design, methodology, and time frame of the project's evaluation activities, and how the applicant intends to manage these activities, and that will include a baseline study, interim evaluation, final evaluation, and any applicable special studies; and

(7) Any additional required items set forth in the notice of funding opportunity.

(c) Each applicant (unless the applicant has an exception approved by FAS under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to:

(1) Be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting its application;

(2) Provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and

(3) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

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§ 1590.5 Agreements.

(a) After FAS approves a proposal by an applicant, FAS will negotiate an agreement with the applicant. The agreement will set forth the obligations of FAS and the recipient.

(b) The agreement will specify the general information required in 2 CFR 200.210(a), as applicable.

(c) The agreement will incorporate general terms and conditions, pursuant to 2 CFR 200.210(b), as applicable.

(d) To the extent that this information is not already included in the agreement pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, the agreement will also include the following:

(1) A plan of operation, which will include the following:

(i) The objectives to be accomplished under the project;

(ii) A detailed description of each activity to be implemented;

(iii) The target country(ies) and the areas of the target country(ies) in which the activities will be implemented;

(iv) The method(s) and criteria for selecting the beneficiaries of the activities;

(v) Any contributions for cost sharing or matching, including cash and non-cash contributions, that the recipient expects to receive from non-FAS sources that:

(A) Are critical to the implementation of the activities; or

(B) Enhance the implementation of the activities;

(vi) Any subrecipient that will be involved in the implementation of the activities, and the criteria for selecting a subrecipient that has not yet been identified;

(vii) Any other governmental or non-governmental entities that will be involved in the implementation of the activities; and

(viii) Any additional items specified by FAS during the negotiation of the agreement;

(2) Requirements relating to the procurement of the eligible commodities, as set forth in §1590.6;

(3) A budget, which will set forth the maximum amounts of FAS-provided funds, program income, and voluntary committed cost sharing or matching

contributions that may be used for each line item; and

(4) Performance goals for the agreement, including a list of results to be achieved by the activities and corresponding indicators, targets, and time frames.

(e) The agreement will also include specific terms and conditions, and certifications and representations, including the following:

(1) The agreement will prohibit the use of the procured commodities, food vouchers, or cash transfers for any purpose other than food assistance;

(2) The agreement will prohibit the resale or transshipment of the procured commodities by the recipient to a country other than the target country specified in the agreement for so long as the recipient has title to such commodities;

(3) The recipient will assert that it has taken action to ensure that any eligible commodities that will be procured regionally will be imported free from all customs, duties, tolls, and taxes. The recipient must submit information to FAS to support this assertion;

(4) The recipient will assert that, to the best of its knowledge, the eligible commodities can be procured locally or regionally without a disruptive impact on farmers located in, or the economy of, the target country or any country in the target region. The recipient will also assert that, to the best of its knowledge, the eligible commodities can be procured without unduly disrupting world prices for agricultural commodities or normal patterns of commercial trade with foreign countries. The recipient must submit information to FAS to support these assertions; and

(5) The recipient will assert that adequate transportation and storage facilities are available in the target country to prevent spoilage or waste of the eligible commodities. The recipient must submit information to FAS to support these assertions.

(f) FAS may enter into a multi-country agreement.

(g) FAS may provide funds under a multiyear agreement contingent upon the availability of funds.

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§ 1590.6 Procurement of eligible commodities.

(a)(1) When using funds provided by FAS under the USDA LRP Program to make a local or regional procurement of food, including through the use of food vouchers, the recipient, or a sub-recipient, must procure eligible commodities.

(2) The agreement will specify the types of eligible commodities approved for procurement; the approved purchase country(ies); and the approved method(s) of procurement (local procurement, regional procurement, food vouchers, or a combination of these methods). The agreement will prohibit the recipient from procuring eligible commodities from any country not specified in the agreement or utilizing methods of procurement that differ from those approved in the agreement.

(b) In carrying out an agreement, the recipient must comply with the following requirements, as applicable, relating to the procurement of eligible commodities under the agreement:

(1) The recipient must procure eligible commodities at a reasonable market price with respect to the economy of the purchase country, as determined by FAS.

(2) If the recipient procures eligible commodities that are grains, legumes, and pulses, the commodities must meet the food safety standards of the target country; provided, however, that if the target country does not have food safety standards for grains, legumes, and pulses, then the recipient must ensure that such commodities meet the Codex Alimentarius Recommended International Code of Practice: General Principles of Food Hygiene CAC/RCP 1-1969 Rev 4-2003, including Annex *Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System and Guidelines*.

(3) If the recipient procures eligible commodities that are food products other than grains, legumes or pulses, such as processed foods, fortified blended foods, and enriched foods, the commodities must comply, in terms of raw materials, composition, or manufacture, unless otherwise specified in the agreement, with the Codex Alimentarius Recommended International Code of Practice: General Principles of Food Hygiene CAC/RCP 1-

1969 Rev 4-2003 including Annex *Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System and Guidelines*.

(4) If the recipient procures eligible commodities that are cereals, groundnuts, or tree nuts, or food products derived from or containing cereals, groundnuts, or tree nuts, the commodities must be tested for aflatoxin and have their moisture content certified. The maximum acceptable total aflatoxin level is 20 parts per billion, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration action level for aflatoxin in human foods.

(5) If the recipient procures an unprocessed commodity, it must ensure that the commodity has been produced either in the target country or in another developing country within the target region.

(6) If the recipient purchases a processed commodity, it must ensure that the processing took place, and the primary ingredient has been produced, either in the target country or in another developing country within the target region. The primary ingredient is determined on the basis of weight in the case of solid foods, or volume in the case of liquids.

(7) If the recipient purchases eligible commodities through a competitive tender, the recipient must specify the minimally acceptable commodity specifications and food safety and quality assurance standards in the tender. Purchases that are made from commercial wholesalers in a local or regional market must meet the food safety and quality assurance standards specified in paragraphs (b)(2), (3) and (4) of this section.

(8) The recipient must enter into a contract that complies with this paragraph for every local or regional procurement of eligible commodities, other than through food vouchers, from a commodity vendor. The recipient must ensure that the contract between the recipient and the commodity vendor clearly specifies the country of origin and specific market(s) in which the procurement will take place, commodity safety and quality assurance standards, product specifications, price per metric ton, and delivery terms. Recipients will be required to make such

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contracts available to FAS upon request.

(9) The recipient must enter into a contract with an established inspection service to survey and report on the safety, quality, and condition of all procured commodities, other than those procured through food vouchers, prior to their shipment and distribution. The recipient will be required to submit any survey reports or certificates issued by such inspection service to FAS upon request.

(10) The recipient must enter into a contract with each vendor expected to redeem food vouchers distributed under an agreement that specifies the conditions under which the vouchers will be redeemed for food. The recipient must ensure that beneficiaries use food vouchers to purchase eligible commodities that meet the food safety and quality assurance standards specified in paragraphs (b)(2), (3) and (4) of this section.

(c) The agreement will require the recipient to submit a procurement plan for FAS's approval within the time period specified in the agreement. The procurement plan will include time periods, broken down by month, for commodity procurement, delivery, and distribution and, where applicable, the distribution of food vouchers. The agreement will require the recipient to comply with the procurement plan, as approved by FAS, and will prohibit the recipient from making any changes to the procurement plan without obtaining the prior written approval of FAS.

§ 1590.7 Payments.

(a) If the agreement authorizes the payment of FAS-provided funds, FAS will generally provide the funds to the recipient on an advance payment basis, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.305(b). In addition, the following procedures will apply to advance payments:

(1) A recipient may request advance payments of FAS-provided funds, up to the total amount specified in the agreement. When making an advance payment request, a recipient must provide, for each agreement for which it is requesting an advance, total expenditures to date; an estimate of expenses to be covered by the advance; total advances previously requested, if any; the

amount of cash on hand from the preceding advance; and, if necessary, a request to roll over any unused funds from the preceding advance to the current request period. The advance payment request must take into account any program income earned since the preceding advance.

(2) Whenever possible, the recipient should consolidate advance payment requests to cover anticipated cash needs for all food assistance program awards made by FAS to the recipient. A recipient may request advance payments with no minimum time required between requests.

(3) A recipient must minimize the amount of time that elapses between the transfer of funds by FAS and the disbursement of funds by the recipient. A recipient must fully disburse funds from the preceding advance before it submits a new advance request for the same agreement, with the exception that the recipient may request to retain the balance of any funds that have not been disbursed and roll it over into a new advance request if the new advance request is made within 90 days after the preceding advance was made.

(4) FAS will review all requests to roll over unexpended funds from the preceding advance that have not been disbursed and make a decision based on the merits of the request. FAS will consider factors such as the amount of funding that the recipient is requesting to roll over, the length of time that the recipient has been in possession of the funds, any unforeseen or extenuating circumstances, the recipient's history of performance, and findings from recent financial audits or compliance reviews.

(5) FAS will not approve any request for an advance or rollover of funds if the most recent financial report, as specified in the agreement, is past due, or if any required report, as specified in any open agreement between the recipient and FAS or the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), is more than three months in arrears.

(6)(i) A recipient must return to FAS any funds advanced by FAS that have not been disbursed as of the 91st day after the advance was made; provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(6)(ii) and

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(iii) of this section will apply if the recipient submits a request to FAS before that date to roll over the funds into a new advance.

(ii) If a recipient submits a request to roll over funds into a new advance, and FAS approves the rollover of funds, such funds will be considered to have been advanced on the date that the recipient receives the approval notice from FAS, for the purposes of complying with the requirement in paragraph (a)(6)(i) of this section.

(iii) If a recipient submits a request to roll over funds into a new advance, and FAS does not approve the rollover of some or all of the funds, such funds must be returned to FAS.

(iv) If the recipient must return funds to FAS in accordance with paragraph (a)(6) of this section, the recipient must return the funds on the later of five business days after the 91st day after the funds were advanced, or five business days after the date on which the recipient receives notice from FAS that it has denied the recipient's request to roll over the funds; provided, however, that FAS may specify a different date for the return of funds in a written communication to the recipient.

(7) Except as may otherwise be provided in the agreement, the recipient must deposit and maintain in an insured bank account located in the United States all funds advanced by FAS. The account must be interest-bearing, unless one of the exceptions in 2 CFR 200.305(b)(8) applies, or FAS determines that this requirement would constitute an undue burden. A recipient will not be required to maintain a separate bank account for advance payments of FAS-provided funds. However, a recipient must be able to separately account for the receipt, obligation, and expenditure of funds under each agreement.

(8) A recipient may retain, for administrative purposes, up to \$500 per Federal fiscal year of any interest earned on funds advanced under an agreement. The recipient must remit to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Payment Management System, any additional interest earned during the Federal fiscal year on such

funds, in accordance with the procedures in 2 CFR 200.305(b)(9).

(b) If a recipient is required to pay funds to FAS in connection with an agreement, the recipient must make such payment in U.S. dollars, unless otherwise approved in advance by FAS.

§ 1590.8 Transportation of procured commodities.

(a) The recipient must acquire all transportation of procured commodities under the USDA LRP Program. FAS will pay for the transportation, as provided for in the agreement, through an advance payment or reimbursement to the recipient.

(b) A recipient that acquires ocean transportation in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section must comply with the requirements of 46 U.S.C. 55305, regarding carriage on U.S.-flag vessels.

(c) The recipient may only use the services of a transportation company that is legally operating in the target country or another country within the target region, and that would not have a conflict of interest in transporting the commodities.

(d) The recipient must declare in the transportation contract the point at which the ocean carrier or overland transportation company will take custody of the eligible commodities to be transported.

§ 1590.9 Entry, handling, and labeling of procured commodities and notification requirements.

(a) The recipient must make all necessary arrangements for receiving regionally procured commodities in the target country, including obtaining appropriate approvals for entry and transit. The recipient must make arrangements with the target country government for all regionally procured commodities to be imported and distributed free from all customs duties, tolls, and taxes, unless otherwise specified in the agreement.

(b) The recipient must, as provided in the agreement, arrange for transporting, storing, and distributing the procured commodities from the designated point and time where title to the commodities passes to the recipient.

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(c) The recipient must store and maintain all of the procured commodities in good condition from the time of delivery at the port of entry or the point of receipt from the commodity vendor(s) until their distribution.

(d)(1) If a recipient arranges for the packaging or repackaging of the procured commodities, the recipient must ensure that the packaging:

(i) Is plainly labeled in the language of the target country;

(ii) Contains the name of the procured commodities;

(iii) Contains the name of the country of origin;

(iv) Includes a statement indicating that the procured commodities are being furnished through a project funded by the United States Department of Agriculture; and

(v) Includes a statement indicating that the procured commodities must not be sold, bartered, or exchanged.

(2) If a recipient distributes procured commodities that are prepackaged or not packaged, the recipient must display a sign at the distribution site that includes the name of the procured commodities, the country of origin, a statement indicating that the procured commodities are being furnished through a project funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, and a statement indicating that the procured commodities must not be sold, bartered, or exchanged.

(3) If a recipient distributes food vouchers or cash transfers, the recipient must display a sign at the distribution site that includes a statement indicating that the food vouchers or cash transfers are being furnished through a project funded by the United States Department of Agriculture. The recipient must ensure that all paper vouchers or receipts for electronic vouchers are printed with a statement indicating that the vouchers are being furnished through a project funded by the United States Department of Agriculture. The vouchers must also include a statement indicating that they must not be sold, bartered, or exchanged.

(e) The recipient must ensure that signs are displayed at all activity implementation and commodity, food voucher, or cash transfer distribution

sites to inform beneficiaries that funding for the project was provided by the United States Department of Agriculture.

(f) The recipient must also ensure that all public communications in relation to the project, the activities, or the procured commodities, whether made through print, broadcast, digital, or other media, include a statement acknowledging that funding was provided by the United States Department of Agriculture.

(g) FAS may waive compliance with one or more of the labeling and notification requirements in paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of this section if a recipient demonstrates to FAS that the requirement presents a safety or security risk in the target country. If a recipient determines that compliance with a labeling or notification requirement poses an imminent threat of destruction of property, injury, or loss of life, the recipient must submit a waiver request to FAS as soon as possible. The recipient will not have to comply with such requirement during the period prior to the issuance of a waiver determination by FAS. A recipient may submit a written request for a waiver at any time after the agreement has been signed.

(h) In exceptional circumstances, FAS may, on its own initiative, waive one or more of the labeling and notification requirements in paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of this section for programmatic reasons.

§ 1590.10 Damage to or loss of procured commodities.

(a) The recipient will be responsible for the procured commodities following the transfer of title to the procured commodities from the commodity vendor(s) to the recipient. FAS may require the recipient to purchase transportation insurance against commodity loss or damage.

(b) A recipient must inform FAS, in the manner and within the time period set forth in the agreement, of any damage to or loss of the procured commodities that occurs following the transfer of title to the procured commodities to the recipient. The recipient must take

all steps necessary to protect its interests and the interests of FAS with respect to any damage to or loss of the procured commodities that occurs after title has been transferred to the recipient.

(c) The recipient will be responsible for arranging for an independent cargo surveyor to inspect any procured commodities transported by ocean upon discharge from the vessel and to prepare a survey or outturn report. The report must show the quantity and condition of the procured commodities discharged from the vessel and must indicate the most likely cause of any damage noted in the report. The report must also indicate the time and place when the survey took place. All discharge surveys must be conducted contemporaneously with the discharge of the vessel, unless FAS determines that failure to do so was justified under the circumstances. For procured commodities shipped on a through bill of lading, the recipient must also obtain a delivery survey. All surveys obtained by the recipient must, to the extent practicable, be conducted jointly by the surveyor, the recipient, and the carrier, and the survey report must be signed by all three parties. The recipient must obtain a copy of each discharge or delivery survey report within 45 days after the completion of the survey. The recipient must make each such report available to FAS upon request, or in the manner specified in the agreement. FAS will reimburse the recipient for the reasonable costs of these services, as determined by FAS, in the manner specified in the agreement.

(d) When procured commodities are transported overland, the recipient will ensure that overland transportation contracts include a requirement that a loading and offloading report be prepared and provided to the recipient. The report must show the quantity and condition of the procured commodities loaded on the overland conveyance, as well as the time and place that the loading and offloading occurred. The recipient must obtain a copy of the report from the overland transportation company within 45 days after the completion of the commodity delivery. The recipient must make each such report

available to FAS upon request, or in the manner specified in the agreement. FAS will reimburse the recipient for the reasonable costs of these services, as determined by FAS, in the manner specified in the agreement.

(e) If procured commodities are damaged or lost during the time that they are in the care of an ocean carrier or overland transportation company:

(1) The recipient must ensure that any reports, narrative chronology, or other commentary prepared by the independent cargo surveyor, and any such documentation prepared by a port authority, stevedoring service, or customs official, or an official of the transit or target country government or the transportation company, are provided to FAS;

(2) The recipient must provide to FAS the names and addresses of any individuals known to be present at the time of discharge or unloading, or during the survey, who can verify the quantity of damaged or lost procured commodities;

(3) If the damage or loss occurred with respect to a bulk shipment on an ocean carrier, the recipient must ensure that the independent cargo surveyor:

(i) Observes the discharge of the cargo;

(ii) Reports on discharging methods, including scale type, calibrations, and any other factors that may affect the accuracy of scale weights, and, if scales are not used, states the reason therefor and describes the actual method used to determine weight;

(iii) Estimates the quantity of cargo, if any, lost during discharge through carrier negligence;

(iv) Advises on the quality of sweepings;

(v) Obtains copies of port or vessel records, if possible, showing the quantity discharged; and

(vi) Notifies the recipient immediately if the surveyor has reason to believe that the correct quantity was not discharged or if additional services are necessary to protect the cargo; and

(4) If the damage or loss occurred with respect to a container shipment on an ocean carrier, the recipient must ensure that the independent cargo surveyor lists the container numbers and

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seal numbers shown on the containers, indicates whether the seals were intact at the time the containers were opened, and notes whether the containers were in any way damaged.

(e) If the recipient has title to the procured commodities, and procured commodities valued in excess of \$5,000 are damaged at any time prior to their distribution under the agreement, regardless of the party at fault, the recipient must immediately arrange for an inspection by a public health official or other competent authority approved by FAS and provide to FAS a certification by such public health official or other competent authority regarding the exact quantity and condition of the damaged commodities. The value of damaged procured commodities must be determined on the basis of the commodity acquisition, transportation, and related costs incurred by the recipient and paid by FAS with respect to such commodities. The recipient must inform FAS of the results of the inspection and indicate whether the damaged procured commodities are:

(1) Fit for the use authorized in the agreement and, if so, whether there has been a diminution in quality; or

(2) Unfit for the use authorized in the agreement.

(f)(1) If the recipient has title to the procured commodities, the recipient must arrange for the recovery of that portion of the procured commodities designated as suitable for the use authorized in the agreement. The recipient must dispose of procured commodities that are unfit for such use in the following order of priority:

(i) Sale for the most appropriate use, *i.e.*, animal feed, fertilizer, industrial use, or another use approved by FAS, at the highest obtainable price;

(ii) Donation to a governmental or charitable organization for use as animal feed or another non-food use; or

(iii) Destruction of the procured commodities if they are unfit for any use, in such manner as to prevent their use for any purpose.

(2) The recipient must arrange for all U.S. Government markings to be obliterated or removed before the procured commodities are transferred by sale or

donation under paragraph (f)(1) of this section.

(g) A recipient may retain any proceeds generated by the disposal of the procured commodities in accordance with paragraph (f)(1) of this section and must use the retained proceeds for expenses related to the disposal of the procured commodities and for activities specified in the agreement.

(h) The recipient must notify FAS immediately and provide detailed information about the actions taken in accordance with paragraph (f) of this section, including the quantities, values, and dispositions of procured commodities determined to be unfit.

§ 1590.11 Claims for damage to or loss of procured commodities.

(a) The recipient will be responsible for claims arising out of damage to or loss of a quantity of the procured commodities after the transfer of title to the procured commodities from the commodity vendor(s) to the recipient.

(b) If the recipient has title to procured commodities that have been damaged or lost, and the value of the damaged or lost procured commodities is estimated to be in excess of \$20,000, the recipient must:

(1) Notify FAS immediately and provide detailed information about the circumstances surrounding such damage or loss, the quantity of damaged or lost procured commodities, and the value of the damage or loss;

(2) Promptly upon discovery of the damage or loss, initiate a claim arising out of such damage or loss, including, if appropriate, initiating an action to collect pursuant to a commercial insurance contract;

(3) Take all necessary action to pursue the claim diligently and within any applicable periods of limitations; and

(4) Provide to FAS copies of all documentation relating to the claim.

(c) If the recipient has title to procured commodities that have been damaged or lost, and the value of the damaged or lost procured commodities is estimated to be \$20,000 or less, the recipient must notify FAS in accordance with the agreement and provide detailed information about the damage or loss in the next report required to be filed under § 1590.14(e).

(d)(1) The value of a claim for lost procured commodities will be determined on the basis of the commodity acquisition, transportation, and related costs incurred by the recipient and paid by FAS with respect to such commodities.

(2) The value of a claim for damaged procured commodities will be determined on the basis of the commodity acquisition, transportation, and related costs incurred by the recipient and paid by FAS with respect to such commodities, less any funds generated if such commodities are sold in accordance with §1590.10(f)(1).

(e) If FAS determines that a recipient has not initiated a claim or is not exercising due diligence in the pursuit of a claim, FAS may require the recipient to assign its rights to pursue the claim to FAS. Failure by the recipient to initiate a claim or exercise due diligence in the pursuit of a claim will be considered by FAS during the review of proposals for subsequent food assistance awards.

(f)(1) The recipient may retain any funds obtained as a result of a claims collection action initiated by it in accordance with this section, or recovered pursuant to any insurance policy or other similar form of indemnification, but such funds must be expended as provided for in the agreement or for other purposes approved in advance by FAS.

(2) FAS will retain any funds obtained as a result of a claims collection action initiated by it under this section; provided, however, that if the recipient paid for the transportation of the procured commodities or a portion thereof, FAS will use a portion of such funds to reimburse the recipient for such expense on a prorated basis.

§ 1590.12 Use of procured commodities, FAS-provided funds, and program income.

(a) A recipient must use the procured commodities, FAS-provided funds, interest, and program income in accordance with the agreement.

(b) A recipient must not use procured commodities, FAS-provided funds, interest, or program income for any activity or any expense incurred by the recipient or a subrecipient prior to the

start date of the period of performance of the agreement or after the agreement is suspended or terminated, without the prior written approval of FAS.

(c) A recipient must not permit the distribution, handling, or allocation of procured commodities on the basis of political affiliation, geographic location, or the ethnic, tribal or religious identity or affiliation of the potential consumers or beneficiaries.

(d) A recipient must not permit the distribution, handling, or allocation of procured commodities by the military forces of any government or insurgent group without the specific authorization of FAS.

(e) A recipient must not use FAS-provided funds to acquire goods and services, either directly or indirectly through another party, in a manner that violates country-specific economic sanction programs, as specified in the agreement.

(f) A recipient may sell the procured commodities only if the recipient is disposing of damaged procured commodities as specified in §1590.10.

(g) A recipient must deposit and maintain all FAS-provided funds and program income in a bank account until they are used for a purpose authorized under the agreement or the FAS-provided funds are returned to FAS in accordance with §1590.7(a)(6). The account must be insured unless it is in a country where insurance is unavailable. The account must be interest-bearing, unless one of the exceptions in 2 CFR 200.305(b)(8) applies or FAS determines that this requirement would constitute an undue burden. The recipient must comply with the requirements in §1590.7(a)(7) with regard to the deposit of advance payments by FAS.

(h)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (h)(2) of this section, a recipient may make adjustments within the agreement budget between direct cost line items without further approval, provided that the total amount of adjustments does not exceed ten percent of the Grand Total Costs, excluding any voluntary committed cost sharing or matching contributions, in the agreement budget. Adjustments beyond these limits require the prior approval of FAS.

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(2) A recipient must not transfer any funds budgeted for participant support costs, as defined in 2 CFR 200.75, to other categories of expense without the prior approval of FAS.

(i) A recipient may use FAS-provided funds or program income to purchase real or personal property only if local law permits the recipient to retain title to such property. However, the recipient must not use FAS-provided funds or program income to pay for the acquisition, development, construction, alteration or upgrade of real property that is:

(1) Owned or managed by a church or other organization engaged exclusively in religious pursuits; or

(2) Used in whole or in part for sectarian purposes, except that a recipient may use FAS-provided funds or program income to pay for repairs to or rehabilitation of a structure located on such real property to the extent necessary to avoid spoilage or loss of procured commodities, but only if the structure is not used in whole or in part for any religious or sectarian purposes while the procured commodities are stored in it. If the use of FAS-provided funds or program income to pay for repairs to or rehabilitation of such a structure is not specifically provided for in the agreement, the recipient must not use the FAS-provided funds or program income for this purpose until it receives written approval from FAS.

(j) The recipient must comply with 2 CFR 200.321 when procuring goods and services in the United States. When procuring goods and services outside of the United States, the recipient should endeavor to comply with 2 CFR 200.321 where practicable.

(k) As provided for in the agreement, the recipient must enter into a written contract with each provider of goods, services, or construction work that is valued in excess of the Simplified Acquisition Threshold. Each such contract must require the provider to maintain adequate records to account for all donated commodities, funds, or both furnished to the provider by the recipient. The recipient must submit a copy of the signed contracts to FAS upon request.

§ 1590.13 Monitoring and evaluation requirements.

(a) The recipient will be responsible for designing a performance monitoring plan for the project, obtaining written approval of the plan from FAS before putting it into effect, and managing and implementing the plan, unless otherwise specified in the agreement.

(b) The recipient must establish baseline values, annual targets, and life of activity targets for each performance indicator included in the recipient's approved performance monitoring plan, unless otherwise specified in the agreement.

(c) The recipient must inform FAS, in the manner and within the time period specified in the agreement, of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that materially impair the recipient's ability to meet the objectives of the agreement. This notification must include a statement of any corrective actions taken or contemplated by the recipient, and any additional assistance requested from FAS to resolve the situation.

(d) The recipient will be responsible for designing an evaluation plan for the project, obtaining written approval of the plan from FAS before putting it into effect, and arranging for an independent third party to implement the evaluation, unless otherwise specified in the agreement. This evaluation plan will detail the evaluation purpose and scope, key evaluation questions, evaluation methodology, time frame, evaluation management, and cost. This plan will generally be based upon the evaluation plan that the recipient submitted to FAS as part of its application, pursuant to § 1590.4(b)(6), unless the notice of funding opportunity specified that an evaluation plan was not required to be included in the application. The recipient must ensure that the evaluation plan:

(1) Is designed using the most rigorous methodology that is appropriate and feasible, taking into account available resources, strategy, current knowledge and evaluation practices in the sector, and the implementing environment;

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(2) Is designed to inform management, activity implementation, and strategic decision-making;

(3) Utilizes analytical approaches and methodologies, based on the questions to be addressed, project design, budgetary resources available, and level of rigor and evidence required, which may be implemented through methods such as case studies, surveys, quasi-experimental designs, randomized field experiments, cost-effectiveness analyses, implementation reviews, or a combination of methods;

(4) Adheres to generally accepted evaluation standards and principles;

(5) Uses participatory approaches that seek to include the perspectives of diverse parties and all relevant stakeholders; and

(6) Where possible, utilizes local consultants and seeks to build local capacity in evaluation.

(e)(1) Unless otherwise provided in the agreement, the recipient must arrange for evaluations of the project to be conducted by an independent third party that:

(i) Is financially and legally separate from the recipient's organization; and

(ii) Has staff with demonstrated methodological, cultural and language competencies, and specialized experience in conducting evaluations of international development programs involving agriculture, trade, education, and nutrition.

(2) The recipient must provide a written certification to FAS that there is no real or apparent conflict of interest on the part of any recipient staff member or third party entity designated or hired to play a substantive role in the evaluation of activities under the agreement.

(f) FAS will be considered a key stakeholder in all evaluations conducted as part of the agreement.

(g)(1) The recipient is responsible for establishing the required financial and human capital resources for monitoring and evaluation of activities under the agreement. The recipient must maintain separate budgets for monitoring and evaluation, and separate budget line items for dedicated recipient monitoring and evaluation staff and independent third-party evaluation contracts.

(2) Personnel at the recipient's headquarters offices and field offices with specialized expertise and experience in monitoring and evaluation may be used by the recipient for dedicated monitoring and evaluation. Unless otherwise specified in the agreement or approved evaluation plan, all evaluations must be managed by the recipient's evaluation experts outside of the recipient's line management for the activities.

(h) FAS may independently conduct or commission an evaluation of a single agreement or an evaluation that includes multiple agreements. A recipient must cooperate, and comply with any demands for information or materials made in connection with any evaluation conducted or commissioned by FAS. Such evaluations may be conducted by FAS internally or by an FAS-hired external evaluation contractor.

§ 1590.14 Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

(a) A recipient must comply with the performance and financial monitoring and reporting requirements in the agreement and 2 CFR 200.327 through 200.329.

(b) The recipient must submit financial reports to FAS in accordance with the schedule provided in the agreement. Such reports must provide an accurate accounting of FAS-provided funds, interest earned, program income, and voluntary committed cost sharing or matching contributions.

(c)(1) The recipient must submit performance reports to FAS, in the manner specified in the agreement. These reports must include the information required in 2 CFR 200.328(b)(2), including additional pertinent information regarding the recipient's progress, measured against established indicators, baselines, and targets, towards achieving the expected results specified in the agreement. This reporting must include, for each performance indicator, a comparison of actual accomplishments with the baseline and the targets established for the period. When actual accomplishments deviate significantly from targeted goals, the recipient must provide an explanation in the report.

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(2) The recipient must ensure the accuracy and reliability of the performance data submitted to FAS in performance reports. At any time during the period of performance of the agreement, FAS may review the recipient's performance data to determine whether it is accurate and reliable. A recipient must comply with all requests made by FAS or an entity designated by FAS in relation to such reviews.

(d) Baseline, interim, and final evaluation reports are required for all agreements for development assistance projects, unless otherwise specified in the agreement. A rapid needs assessment and a final evaluation report are required for all agreements for emergency response projects, unless otherwise specified in the agreement. An interim evaluation report is not required for emergency response projects, unless otherwise specified in the agreement. The reports must be submitted in accordance with the timeline provided in the FAS-approved evaluation plan. Evaluation reports submitted to FAS will be made public in an effort to increase accountability and transparency and share lessons learned and best practices.

(e) A recipient must submit reports to FAS, using a form as prescribed by FAS, covering the receipt, handling, and disposition of the procured commodities and, if applicable, food vouchers and cash transfers. Such reports must be submitted to FAS, by the dates and for the reporting periods specified in the agreement, until all of the procured commodities and, if applicable, food vouchers and cash transfers have been distributed and such disposition has been reported to FAS.

(f) If requested by FAS, the recipient must provide to FAS additional information or reports relating to the agreement.

(g) If a recipient requires an extension of a reporting deadline, it must ensure that FAS receives an extension request at least five business days prior to the reporting deadline. FAS may decline to consider a request for an extension that it receives after this time period. FAS will consider requests for reporting deadline extensions on a case by case basis and make a decision based on the merits of each request.

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FAS will consider factors such as unforeseen or extenuating circumstances and past performance history when evaluating requests for extensions.

(h) A recipient must retain records and permit access to records in accordance with the requirements of 2 CFR 200.333 through 200.337. The date of submission of the final expenditure report, as referenced in 2 CFR 200.333, will be the final date of submission of the reports required by paragraph (e) of this section, as prescribed by FAS. The recipient must retain copies of and make available to FAS all sales receipts, contracts, or other documents related to the procurement of eligible commodities, as well as records of dispatch received from ocean carriers or overland transportation companies.

§ 1590.15 Subrecipients.

(a) A recipient may utilize the services of a subrecipient to implement activities under the agreement if this is provided for in the agreement. The subrecipient may receive procured commodities, FAS-provided funds, program income, or other resources from the recipient for this purpose. The recipient must enter into a written subagreement with the subrecipient and comply with the applicable provisions of 2 CFR 200.331. The recipient must provide a copy of each subagreement to FAS, in the manner set forth in the agreement, prior to the transfer of any procured commodities, FAS-provided funds, or program income to the subrecipient.

(b) The recipient must include the following requirements in the subagreement:

(1) The subrecipient is required to comply with the applicable provisions of this part and 2 CFR parts 200 and 400. The applicable provisions are those that relate specifically to subrecipients, as well as those relating to non-Federal entities that impose requirements that would be reasonable to pass through to subrecipients because they directly concern the implementation of one or more activities under the agreement. If there is a question about whether a particular provision is applicable, FAS will make the determination.

(2) The subrecipient is prohibited from using FAS-provided funds to acquire goods and services, either directly or indirectly through another party, in a manner that violates country-specific economic sanction programs, as specified in the agreement.

(3) The subrecipient must pay to the recipient the value of any procured commodities, FAS-provided funds, or program income that are not used in accordance with the subagreement, or that are lost, damaged, or misused as a result of the subrecipient's failure to exercise reasonable care.

(4) In accordance with § 1590.19 and 2 CFR 200.501(h), a description of the applicable compliance requirements and the subrecipient's compliance responsibility. Methods to ensure compliance may include pre-award audits, monitoring during the agreement, and post-award audits.

(c) The recipient must monitor the actions of a subrecipient as necessary to ensure that procured commodities, FAS-provided funds, and program income provided to the subrecipient are used for authorized purposes in compliance with applicable U.S. Federal laws and regulations and the subagreement and that performance indicator targets are achieved for both activities and results under the agreement.

§ 1590.16 Noncompliance with an agreement.

If a recipient fails to comply with a Federal statute or regulation or the terms and conditions of the agreement, and FAS determines that the non-compliance cannot be remedied by imposing additional conditions, FAS may take one or more of the actions set forth in 2 CFR 200.338, including initiating a claim as a remedy. FAS may also initiate a claim against a recipient if the procured commodities are damaged or lost, or the FAS-provided funds, interest, or program income are misused or lost, due to an action or omission of the recipient.

§ 1590.17 Suspension and termination of agreements.

(a) An agreement or subagreement may be suspended or terminated in accordance with 2 CFR 200.338 or 200.339.

FAS may suspend or terminate an agreement if it determines that:

(1) One of the bases in 2 CFR 200.338 or 200.339 for termination or suspension by FAS has been satisfied;

(2) The continuation of the assistance provided under the agreement is no longer necessary or desirable; or

(3) Storage facilities are inadequate to prevent spoilage or waste, or distribution of the procured commodities will result in substantial disincentive to, or interference with, domestic production or marketing in the target country.

(b) If an agreement is terminated, the recipient:

(1) Is responsible for the security and integrity of any undistributed procured commodities and must dispose of such commodities only as agreed to by FAS; and

(2) Must comply with the closeout and post-closeout procedures specified in the agreement and 2 CFR 200.343 and 200.344.

§ 1590.18 Opportunities to object and appeals.

(a) FAS will provide an opportunity to a recipient to object to, and provide information and documentation challenging, any action taken by FAS pursuant to § 1590.16. FAS will comply with any requirements for hearings, appeals, or other administrative proceedings to which the recipient is entitled under any other statute or regulation applicable to the action involved. In the absence of such other requirements, the requirements set forth in this section will apply.

(b) The recipient must submit its objection in writing, along with any documentation, to the FAS official specified in the agreement within 30 days after the date that FAS notified the recipient that FAS was taking the action being challenged. This official will endeavor to notify the recipient of his or her determination within 60 days after the date that FAS received the recipient's written objection.

(c) The recipient may appeal the determination of the official to the Administrator, FAS. An appeal must be in writing and be submitted to the Office of the Administrator within 30

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days after the date of the initial determination by the FAS official. The recipient may submit additional documentation with its appeal.

(d) The Administrator will base the determination on appeal upon information contained in the administrative record and will endeavor to make a determination within 60 days after the date that FAS received the appeal. The determination of the Administrator will be the final determination of FAS. The recipient must exhaust all administrative remedies contained in this section before pursuing judicial review of a determination by the Administrator.

§ 1590.19 Audit requirements.

(a) Subpart F, Audit requirements, of 2 CFR part 200 applies to recipients and subrecipients under this part other than those that are for-profit entities, foreign public entities, or foreign organizations.

(b) A recipient or subrecipient that is a for-profit entity or a foreign organization, and that expends, during its fiscal year, a total of at least the audit requirement threshold in 2 CFR 200.501 in Federal awards from FAS, is required to obtain an audit. Such a recipient or subrecipient has the following two options to satisfy this requirement:

(1)(i) A financial related audit (as defined in the Government Auditing Standards, GPO Stock #020-000-00-265-4) of the agreement or subagreement, in accordance with Government Auditing Standards, if the recipient or subrecipient receives Federal awards under only one FAS program; or

(ii) A financial related audit of all Federal awards from FAS, in accordance with Government Auditing Standards, if the recipient or subrecipient receives Federal awards under multiple FAS programs; or

(2) An audit that meets the requirements contained in subpart F of 2 CFR part 200.

(c) A recipient or subrecipient that is a for-profit entity or a foreign organization, and that expends, during its fiscal year, a total that is less than the audit requirement threshold in 2 CFR 200.501 in Federal awards from FAS, is exempt from requirements for a non-

Federal audit for that year, except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, but it must make records available for review by appropriate officials of Federal agencies.

(d) FAS may require an annual financial audit of an agreement or subagreement when the audit requirement threshold in 2 CFR 200.501 is not met. In that case, FAS must provide funds under the agreement for this purpose, and the recipient or subrecipient, as applicable, must arrange for such audit and submit it to FAS.

(e) When a recipient or subrecipient that is a for-profit entity or a foreign organization is required to obtain a financial audit under this section, it must provide a copy of the audit to FAS within 60 days after the end of its fiscal year.

(f) FAS, the USDA Office of Inspector General, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office may conduct or arrange for additional audits of any recipients or subrecipients, including for-profit entities and foreign organizations. Recipients and subrecipients must promptly comply with all requests related to such audits. If FAS conducts or arranges for an additional audit, such as an audit with respect to a particular agreement, FAS will fund the full cost of such an audit, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.503(d).

PART 1599—McGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

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AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 1736o-1.

SOURCE: 81 FR 62616, Sept. 12, 2016, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1599.1 Purpose and applicability.

(a) This part sets forth the general terms and conditions governing the award of donated commodities and funds by the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to recipients under the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (McGovern-Dole Program). Under the McGovern-Dole Program, recipients use the donated commodities, proceeds from any sale of such commodities, FAS-provided funds, and program income to implement a project in a foreign country pursuant to an agreement with FAS.

(b)(1) The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued guidance on Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR part 200. In 2 CFR 400.1, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) adopted OMB's guidance in subparts A through F of 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented by 2 CFR part 400, as USDA policies and procedures for uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for Federal awards.

(2) The OMB guidance at 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented by 2 CFR part 400 and this part, applies to the McGovern-Dole Program, except as provided in paragraphs (e), (f) and (g) of this section.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this part, other regulations that are generally applicable to grants and cooperative agreements of USDA, including the applicable regulations set forth in 2 CFR chapters I, II, and IV, also apply to the McGovern-Dole Program.

(d) In accordance with 7 U.S.C. 1736o-1(e), assistance under the McGovern-

Dole Program may be provided to private voluntary organizations, cooperatives, intergovernmental organizations, governments of developing countries and their agencies, and other organizations.

(e) The OMB guidance at 2 CFR part 200, and the provisions of 2 CFR part 400 and of this part, do not apply to an award by FAS under the McGovern-Dole Program to a recipient that is a foreign public entity, as defined in 2 CFR 200.46, and, therefore, they do not apply to a foreign government or its agency or an intergovernmental organization.

(f)(1) The OMB guidance at subparts A through E of 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented by 2 CFR part 400 and this part, applies to all awards by FAS under the McGovern-Dole Program to all recipients that are private voluntary organizations, including a private voluntary organization that is a foreign organization, as defined in 2 CFR 200.47; cooperatives, including a cooperative that is a for-profit entity or a foreign organization; or other organizations, including organizations that are for-profit entities or foreign organizations, but not including intergovernmental organizations.

(2) The OMB guidance at subparts A through E of 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented by 2 CFR part 400 and this part, applies to all subawards to all subrecipients under this part, except in cases:

(i) Where the subrecipient is a foreign public entity; or

(ii) Where FAS determines that the application of these provisions to a subaward to a subrecipient that is a foreign organization would be inconsistent with the international obligations of the United States or the statutes or regulations of a foreign government or would not be in the best interest of the United States.

(g)(1) The OMB guidance at subpart F of 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented by 2 CFR part 400 and this part, applies only to awards by FAS to recipients that are private voluntary organizations, cooperatives, or other organizations, but that are not for-profit entities or foreign organizations.

(2) The OMB guidance at subpart F of 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented by 2

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CFR part 400 and this part, applies to subawards to subrecipients under this part, except where the subrecipient is a for-profit entity, foreign public entity, or foreign organization.

(3) Audit requirements for recipients and subrecipients that are for-profit entities or foreign organizations are set forth in § 1599.18.

§ 1599.2 Definitions.

These are definitions for terms used in this part. The definitions in 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented in 2 CFR part 400, are also applicable to this part, with the exception that, if a term that is defined in this section is defined differently in 2 CFR part 200 or part 400, the definition in this section will apply to such term as used in this part.

Activity means a discrete undertaking within a project to be carried out by a recipient, directly or through a subrecipient, that is specified in an agreement and is intended to fulfill a specific objective of the agreement.

Agreement means a legally binding grant or cooperative agreement entered into between FAS and a recipient to implement a project under the McGovern-Dole Program.

Commodities mean agricultural commodities, or products of agricultural commodities, that are produced in the United States.

Cooperative means a private sector organization whose members own and control the organization and share in its services and its profits and that provides business services and outreach in cooperative development for its membership.

Cost sharing or matching means the portion of project expenses, or necessary goods and services provided to carry out a project, not paid or acquired with Federal funds. The term may include cash or in-kind contributions provided by recipients, subrecipients, foreign public entities, foreign organizations, or private donors.

Disburse means to make a payment to liquidate an obligation.

Donated commodities means the commodities donated by FAS to a recipient under an agreement. The term may include donated commodities that are used to produce a further processed product for use under the agreement.

FAS means the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

FAS-provided funds means U.S. dollars provided under an agreement to a recipient, or through a subagreement to a subrecipient, for expenses authorized in the agreement, such as expenses for the internal transportation, storage and handling of the donated commodities; expenses involved in the administration, monitoring, and evaluation of the activities under the agreement; and the costs of activities conducted in the target country that would enhance the effectiveness of the activities implemented under the McGovern-Dole Program.

McGovern-Dole Program means the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

Private voluntary organization means a not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization (in the case of a United States organization, an organization that is exempt from Federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) that receives funds from private sources, voluntary contributions of money, staff time, or in-kind support from the public, and that is engaged in or is planning to engage in voluntary, charitable, or development assistance activities (other than religious activities).

Program income means interest earned on proceeds from the sale of donated commodities, as well as funds received by a recipient or subrecipient as a direct result of carrying out an approved activity under an agreement. The term includes but is not limited to income from fees for services performed, the use or rental of real or personal property acquired under a Federal award, the sale of items fabricated under a Federal award, license fees and royalties on patents and copyrights, and principal and interest on loans made with Federal award funds. Program income does not include proceeds from the sale of donated commodities; FAS-provided funds or interest earned on such funds; or funds provided for cost sharing or matching contributions, refunds or rebates, credits, discounts, or interest earned on any of them.

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Project means the totality of the activities to be carried out by a recipient, directly or through a subrecipient, to fulfill the objectives of an agreement.

Recipient means an entity that enters into an agreement with FAS and receives donated commodities and FAS-provided funds to carry out activities under the agreement. The term recipient does not include a subrecipient.

Sale proceeds means funds received by a recipient from the sale of donated commodities.

Subrecipient means an entity that enters into a subagreement with a recipient for the purpose of implementing in the target country activities described in an agreement. The term does not include an individual that is a beneficiary under the agreement.

Target country means the foreign country in which activities are implemented under an agreement.

USDA means the United States Department of Agriculture.

Voluntary committed cost sharing or matching contributions means cost sharing or matching contributions specifically pledged on a voluntary basis by an applicant or recipient, which become binding as part of an agreement. Voluntary committed cost sharing or matching contributions may be provided in the form of cash or in-kind contributions.

§ 1599.3 Eligibility and conflicts of interest.

(a) A private voluntary organization, a cooperative, or another organization that is not an intergovernmental organization is eligible to submit an application under this part to become a recipient under the McGovern-Dole Program. FAS will set forth specific eligibility information, including any factors or priorities that will affect the eligibility of an applicant or application for selection, in the full text of the applicable notice of funding opportunity posted on the U.S. Government Web site for grant opportunities.

(b) Applicants, recipients, and subrecipients must comply with policies established by FAS pursuant to 2 CFR 400.2(a), and with the requirements in 2 CFR 400.2(b), regarding conflicts of interest.

§ 1599.4 Application process.

(a) An applicant seeking to enter into an agreement with FAS must submit an application, in accordance with this section, that sets forth its proposal to carry out activities under the McGovern-Dole Program in a proposed target country(ies). An application must contain the items specified in paragraph (b) of this section and any other items required by the notice of funding opportunity and must be submitted electronically to FAS at the address set forth in the notice of funding opportunity.

(b) An applicant must include the following items in its application:

(1) A completed Form SF-424, which is a standard application for Federal assistance;

(2) An introduction and a strategic analysis, which includes an impact analysis, as specified in the notice of funding opportunity;

(3) A plan of operation that contains the elements specified in the notice of funding opportunity;

(4) A summary line item budget and a budget narrative that indicate:

(i) The amounts of any sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, interest, program income, and voluntary committed cost sharing or matching contributions that the applicant proposes to use to fund:

(A) Administrative costs;

(B) Inland and internal transportation, storage and handling (ITSH) costs; and

(C) Activity costs;

(ii) Where applicable, how the applicant's indirect cost rate will be applied to each type of expense; and

(iii) The amount of funding that will be provided to each proposed subrecipient under the agreement;

(5) A project-level results framework that outlines the changes that the applicant expects to accomplish through the proposed project and is based on the McGovern-Dole Program-level results framework, as set forth in the notice of funding opportunity;

(6) Unless otherwise specified in the notice of funding opportunity, an evaluation plan that describes the proposed design, methodology, and time frame of the project's evaluation activities,

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and how the applicant intends to manage these activities, and that will include a baseline study, interim evaluation, final evaluation, and any applicable special studies; and

(7) Any additional required items set forth in the notice of funding opportunity.

(c) Each applicant (unless the applicant has an exception approved by FAS under 2 CFR 25.110(d)) is required to:

(1) Be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting its application;

(2) Provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and

(3) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency.

§ 1599.5 Agreements.

(a) After FAS approves an application by an applicant, FAS will negotiate an agreement with the applicant. The agreement will set forth the obligations of FAS and the recipient.

(b) The agreement will specify the general information required in 2 CFR 200.210(a), as applicable.

(c) The agreement will incorporate general terms and conditions, pursuant to 2 CFR 200.210(b), as applicable.

(d) To the extent that this information is not already included in the agreement pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, the agreement will also include the following:

(1) The kind, quantity, and use of the donated commodities and an estimated commodity call forward schedule, with the month and year indicated for each expected commodity shipment;

(2) A plan of operation, which will include the following:

(i) The objectives to be accomplished under the project;

(ii) A detailed description of each activity to be implemented;

(iii) The target country(ies) and the areas of the target country(ies) in which the activities will be implemented;

(iv) The methods and criteria for selecting the beneficiaries of the activities;

(v) Any contributions for cost sharing or matching, including cash and non-cash contributions, that the recipient expects to receive from non-FAS sources that:

(A) Are critical to the implementation of the activities; or

(B) Enhance the implementation of the activities;

(vi) Any subrecipient that will be involved in the implementation of the activities, and the criteria for selecting a subrecipient that has not yet been identified;

(vii) Any other governmental or non-governmental entities that will be involved in the implementation of the activities;

(viii) Any processing, packaging or repackaging of the donated commodities that will take place prior to their distribution, sale or barter by the recipient; and

(ix) Any additional provisions specified by FAS during the negotiation of the agreement;

(3) A budget, which will set forth the maximum amounts of sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, interest, program income, and voluntary committed cost sharing or matching contributions that may be used for each line item, as well as other applicable budget requirements; and

(4) Performance goals for the agreement, including a list of results, with long-term benefits where applicable, to be achieved by the activities and corresponding indicators, targets, and time frames.

(e) The agreement will also include specific terms and conditions, and certifications and representations, including the following:

(1) The agreement will prohibit the sale or transshipment of the donated commodities by the recipient to a country not specified in the agreement for as long as the recipient has title to such donated commodities;

(2) The recipient will assert that it has taken action to ensure that any donated commodities that will be distributed to beneficiaries will be imported and distributed free from all customs, duties, tolls, and taxes. The recipient must submit information to FAS to support this assertion;

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(3) The recipient will assert that, to the best of its knowledge, the importation and distribution of the donated commodities in the target country will not result in a substantial disincentive to or interference with domestic production or marketing in that country. The recipient must submit information to FAS to support this assertion;

(4) The recipient will assert that, to the best of its knowledge, any sale or barter of the donated commodities will not displace or interfere with any sales of like commodities that may otherwise be made within the target country. The recipient must submit information to FAS to support this assertion; and

(5) The recipient will assert that adequate transportation and storage facilities will be available in the target country to prevent spoilage or waste of the donated commodities. The recipient must submit information to FAS to support this assertion.

(f) FAS may enter into a multi-country agreement in which donated commodities are delivered to one country and activities are carried out in another.

(g) FAS may provide donated commodities and FAS-provided funds under a multiyear agreement contingent upon the availability of commodities and funds.

§ 1599.6 Payments.

(a) If a recipient arranges for transportation in accordance with § 1599.7(b)(2), FAS will, as specified in the agreement, pay the costs of such transportation to the ocean carrier or to the recipient. The recipient must, as specified in the agreement, submit to FAS, arrange to be submitted to FAS, or maintain on file and make available to FAS, the following documents:

(1) The original, or a true copy, of each on board bill of lading indicating the freight rate and signed by the originating ocean carrier;

(2) For all non-containerized cargoes:

(i) A signed copy of the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Official Stowage Examination Certificate;

(ii) A signed copy of the National Cargo Bureau Certificate of Readiness; and

(iii) A signed copy of the Certificate of Loading issued by the National Cargo Bureau or a similar qualified independent surveyor;

(3) For all containerized cargoes, a copy of the FGIS Container Condition Inspection Certificate;

(4) A signed copy of the U.S. Food Aid Booking Note or charter party covering ocean transportation of the cargo;

(5) In the case of charter shipments, a signed notice of arrival at the first discharge port, unless FAS has determined that circumstances that could not have been reasonably anticipated or controlled (force majeure) have prevented the ocean carrier's arrival at the first port of discharge; and

(6) A request for payment of freight, survey costs other than at load port, and other expenses approved by FAS.

(b) If the agreement specifies that some or all of the documents listed in paragraph (a) of this section will be submitted to FAS, then FAS will not render payment for transportation services until it has received all of the specified documents.

(c) If a recipient arranges for transportation in accordance with § 1599.7(b)(2), and the recipient uses a freight forwarder, the recipient must ensure that the freight forwarder is registered in the SAM and require the freight forwarder to submit the documents specified in paragraph (a) of this section. The recipient will ensure that the total commission or fees paid to intermediaries in the transportation procurement process will not exceed two and a half percent of the total transportation costs.

(d) In no case will FAS provide payment to a recipient for demurrage costs or pay demurrage to any other entity.

(e) If FAS has agreed to be responsible for the costs of transporting, storing, and distributing the donated commodities from the designated discharge port or point of entry, and if the recipient will bear or has borne any of these costs, in accordance with the agreement, FAS will either provide an advance payment or a reimbursement to the recipient in the amount of such costs, in the manner set forth in the agreement.

(f) If the agreement authorizes the payment of FAS-provided funds, FAS will generally provide the funds to the recipient on an advance payment basis, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.305(b). In addition, the following procedures will apply to advance payments:

(1) A recipient may request advance payments of FAS-provided funds, up to the total amount specified in the agreement. When making an advance payment request, a recipient must provide, for each agreement for which it is requesting an advance, total expenditures to date; an estimate of expenses to be covered by the advance; total advances previously requested, if any; the amount of cash on hand from the preceding advance; and, if necessary, a request to roll over any unused funds from the preceding advance to the current request period. The advance payment request must take into account any program income earned since the preceding advance.

(2) Whenever possible, a recipient should consolidate advance payment requests to cover anticipated cash needs for all food assistance program awards made by FAS to the recipient. A recipient may request advance payments with no minimum time required between requests.

(3) A recipient must minimize the amount of time that elapses between the transfer of funds by FAS and the disbursement of funds by the recipient. A recipient must fully disburse funds from the preceding advance before it submits a new advance request for the same agreement, with the exception that the recipient may request to retain the balance of any funds that have not been disbursed and roll it over into a new advance request if the new advance request is made within 90 days after the preceding advance was made.

(4) FAS will review all requests to roll over funds from the preceding advance that have not been disbursed and make a decision based on the merits of the request. FAS will consider factors such as the amount of funding that a recipient is requesting to roll over, the length of time that the recipient has been in possession of the funds, any unforeseen or extenuating circumstances, the recipient's history of performance,

and findings from recent financial audits or compliance reviews.

(5) FAS will not approve any request for an advance or rollover of funds if the most recent financial report, as specified in the agreement, is past due, or if any required report, as specified in any open agreement between the recipient and FAS or the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), is more than three months in arrears.

(6)(i) A recipient must return to FAS any funds advanced by FAS that have not been disbursed as of the 91st day after the advance was made; provided, however, that paragraphs (f)(6)(ii) and (iii) of this section will apply if the recipient submits a request to FAS before that date to roll over the funds into a new advance.

(ii) If a recipient submits a request to roll over funds into a new advance, and FAS approves the rollover of funds, such funds will be considered to have been advanced on the date that the recipient receives the approval notice from FAS, for the purposes of complying with the requirement in paragraph (f)(6)(i) of this section.

(iii) If a recipient submits a request to roll over funds into a new advance, and FAS does not approve the rollover of some or all of the funds, such funds must be returned to FAS.

(iv) If a recipient must return funds to FAS in accordance with paragraph (e)(6) of this section, the recipient must return the funds by the later of five business days after the 91st day after the funds were advanced, or five business days after the date on which the recipient receives notice from FAS that it has denied the recipient's request to roll over the funds; provided, however, that FAS may specify a different date for the return of funds in a written communication to the recipient.

(7) Except as may otherwise be provided in the agreement, a recipient must deposit and maintain in an insured bank account located in the United States all funds advanced by FAS. The account must be interest-bearing, unless one of the exceptions in 2 CFR 200.305(b)(8) applies or FAS determines that this requirement would constitute an undue burden. A recipient will not be required to maintain a

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separate bank account for advance payments of FAS-provided funds. However, a recipient must be able to separately account for the receipt, obligation, and expenditure of funds under each agreement.

(8) A recipient may retain, for administrative expenses, up to \$500 per Federal fiscal year of any interest earned on funds advanced under an agreement. The recipient must remit to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Payment Management System, any additional interest earned during a Federal fiscal year on such funds, in accordance with the procedures in 2 CFR 200.305(b)(9).

(g) If a recipient is required to pay funds to FAS in connection with an agreement, the recipient must make such payment in U.S. dollars, unless otherwise approved in advance by FAS.

§ 1599.7 Transportation of donated commodities.

(a) Shipments of donated commodities are subject to the requirements of 46 U.S.C. 55305, regarding carriage on U.S.-flag vessels.

(b) Transportation of donated commodities and other goods such as bags that may be provided by FAS under the McGovern-Dole Program will be arranged for under a specific agreement in the manner determined by FAS. Such transportation will be arranged for by:

(1) FAS in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) in chapter 1 of title 48, the Agriculture Acquisition Regulation (AGAR) in chapter 4 of title 48, and directives issued by the Director, Office of Procurement and Property Management, USDA; or

(2) The recipient, with payment by FAS, in the manner specified in the agreement.

(c) A recipient that is responsible for transportation under paragraph (b)(2) of this section must declare in the transportation contract the point at which the ocean carrier will take custody of donated commodities to be transported.

(d) A recipient that arranges for transportation in accordance with paragraph (b)(2) of this section may only use the services of a freight for-

warder that is licensed by the Federal Maritime Commission and that would not have a conflict of interest in carrying out the freight forwarder duties. To assist FAS in determining whether there is a potential conflict of interest, the recipient must submit to FAS a certification indicating that the freight forwarder:

(1) Is not engaged in, and will not engage in, supplying commodities or furnishing ocean transportation or ocean transportation-related services for commodities provided under any McGovern-Dole Program agreement to which the recipient is a party; and

(2) Is not affiliated with the recipient and has not made arrangements to give or receive any payment, kickback, or illegal benefit in connection with its selection as an agent of the recipient.

§ 1599.8 Entry, handling, and labeling of donated commodities and notification requirements.

(a) A recipient must make all necessary arrangements for receiving the donated commodities in the target country, including obtaining appropriate approvals for entry and transit. The recipient must make arrangements with the target country government for all donated commodities that will be distributed to beneficiaries to be imported and distributed free from all customs duties, tolls, and taxes. A recipient is encouraged to make similar arrangements, where possible, with the government of a country where donated commodities to be sold or bartered are delivered.

(b) A recipient must, as provided in the agreement, arrange for transporting, storing, and distributing the donated commodities from the designated point and time where title to the donated commodities passes to the recipient.

(c) A recipient must store and maintain the donated commodities in good condition from the time of delivery at the port of entry or the point of receipt from the originating carrier until their distribution, sale or barter.

(d)(1) If a recipient arranges for the packaging or repackaging of donated commodities that are to be distributed, the recipient must ensure that the packaging:

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(i) Is plainly labeled in the language of the target country;

(ii) Contains the name of the donated commodities;

(iii) Includes a statement indicating that the donated commodities are furnished by the United States Department of Agriculture; and

(iv) Includes a statement indicating that the donated commodities must not be sold, exchanged or bartered.

(2) If a recipient arranges for the processing and repackaging of donated commodities that are to be distributed, the recipient must ensure that the packaging:

(i) Is plainly labeled in the language of the target country;

(ii) Contains the name of the processed product;

(iii) Includes a statement indicating that the processed product was made with commodities furnished by the United States Department of Agriculture; and

(iv) Includes a statement indicating that the processed product must not be sold, exchanged or bartered.

(3) If a recipient distributes donated commodities that are not packaged, the recipient must display a sign at the distribution site that includes the name of the donated commodities, a statement indicating that the donated commodities are being furnished by the United States Department of Agriculture, and a statement indicating that the donated commodities must not be sold, exchanged, or bartered.

(e) A recipient must ensure that signs are displayed at all activity implementation and commodity distribution sites to inform beneficiaries that funding for the project was provided by the United States Department of Agriculture.

(f) A recipient must also ensure that all public communications relating to the project, the activities, or the donated commodities, whether made through print, broadcast, digital, or other media, include a statement acknowledging that funding was provided by the United States Department of Agriculture.

(g) FAS may waive compliance with one or more of the labeling and notification requirements in paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of this section if a recipient

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demonstrates to FAS that the requirement presents a safety or security risk in the target country. If a recipient determines that compliance with a labeling or notification requirement poses an imminent threat of destruction of property, injury, or loss of life, the recipient must submit a waiver request to FAS as soon as possible. The recipient will not have to comply with such requirement during the period prior to the issuance of a waiver determination by FAS. A recipient may submit a written request for a waiver at any time after the agreement has been signed.

(h) In exceptional circumstances, FAS may, on its own initiative, waive one or more of the labeling and notification requirements in paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of this section for programmatic reasons.

§ 1599.9 Damage to or loss of donated commodities.

(a) FAS will be responsible for the donated commodities prior to the transfer of title to the commodities to the recipient. The recipient will be responsible for the donated commodities following the transfer of title to the donated commodities to the recipient. The title will transfer as specified in the agreement.

(b) A recipient must inform FAS, in the manner and within the time period set forth in the agreement, of any damage to or loss of the donated commodities that occurs following the transfer of title to the donated commodities to the recipient. The recipient must take all steps necessary to protect its interests and the interests of FAS with respect to any damage to or loss of the donated commodities that occurs after title has been transferred to the recipient.

(c) A recipient will be responsible for arranging for an independent cargo surveyor to inspect the donated commodities upon discharge from the ocean carrier and prepare a survey or outturn report. The report must show the quantity and condition of the donated commodities discharged from the ocean carrier and must indicate the most likely cause of any damage noted

in the report. The report must also indicate the time and place when the survey took place. All discharge surveys must be conducted contemporaneously with the discharge of the ocean carrier, unless FAS determines that failure to do so was justified under the circumstances. For donated commodities shipped on a through bill of lading, the recipient must also obtain a delivery survey. All surveys obtained by the recipient must, to the extent practicable, be conducted jointly by the surveyor, the recipient, and the carrier, and the survey report must be signed by all three parties. The recipient must obtain a copy of each discharge or delivery survey report within 45 days after the completion of the survey. The recipient must make each such report available to FAS upon request, or in the manner specified in the agreement. FAS will reimburse the recipient for the reasonable costs of these services, as determined by FAS, in the manner specified in the agreement.

(d) If donated commodities are damaged or lost during the time that they are in the care of the ocean carrier:

(1) The recipient must ensure that any reports, narrative chronology, or other commentary prepared by the independent cargo surveyor, and any such documentation prepared by a port authority, stevedoring service, or customs official, or an official of the transit or target country government or the transportation company, are provided to FAS;

(2) The recipient must provide to FAS the names and addresses of any individuals known to be present at the time of discharge or unloading, or during the survey, who can verify the quantity of damaged or lost donated commodities;

(3) If the damage or loss occurred with respect to a bulk shipment on an ocean carrier, the recipient must ensure that the independent cargo surveyor:

(i) Observes the discharge of the cargo;

(ii) Reports on discharging methods, including scale type, calibrations, and any other factors that may affect the accuracy of scale weights, and, if scales are not used, states the reason therefor

and describes the actual method used to determine weight;

(iii) Estimates the quantity of cargo, if any, lost during discharge through carrier negligence;

(iv) Advises on the quality of sweepings;

(v) Obtains copies of port or ocean carrier records, if possible, showing the quantity discharged; and

(vi) Notifies the recipient immediately if the surveyor has reason to believe that the correct quantity was not discharged or if additional services are necessary to protect the cargo; and

(4) If the damage or loss occurred with respect to a container shipment on an ocean carrier, the recipient must ensure that the independent cargo surveyor lists the container numbers and seal numbers shown on the containers, indicates whether the seals were intact at the time the containers were opened, and notes whether the containers were in any way damaged.

(e) If a recipient has title to the donated commodities, and donated commodities valued in excess of \$5,000 are damaged at any time prior to their distribution or sale under the agreement, regardless of the party at fault, the recipient must immediately arrange for an inspection by a public health official or other competent authority approved by FAS and provide to FAS a certification by such public health official or other competent authority regarding the exact quantity and condition of the damaged donated commodities. The value of damaged donated commodities must be determined on the basis of the commodity acquisition, transportation, and related costs incurred by FAS with respect to such commodities, as well as such costs incurred by the recipient and paid by FAS. The recipient must inform FAS of the results of the inspection and indicate whether the damaged donated commodities are:

(1) Fit for the use authorized in the agreement and, if so, whether there has been a diminution in quality; or

(2) Unfit for the use authorized in the agreement.

(f)(1) If a recipient has title to the donated commodities, the recipient must

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arrange for the recovery of that portion of the donated commodities designated as fit for the use authorized in the agreement. The recipient must dispose of donated commodities that are unfit for such use in the following order of priority:

(i) Sale for the most appropriate use, *i.e.*, animal feed, fertilizer, industrial use, or another use approved by FAS, at the highest obtainable price;

(ii) Donation to a governmental or charitable organization for use as animal feed or another non-food use; or

(iii) Destruction of the donated commodities if they are unfit for any use, in such manner as to prevent their use for any purpose.

(2) A recipient must arrange for all U.S. Government markings to be obliterated or removed before the donated commodities are transferred by sale or donation under paragraph (f)(1) of this section.

(g) A recipient may retain any proceeds generated by the disposal of the donated commodities in accordance with paragraph (f)(1) of this section and must use the retained proceeds for expenses related to the disposal of the donated commodities and for activities specified in the agreement.

(h) A recipient must notify FAS immediately and provide detailed information about the actions taken in accordance with paragraph (f) of this section, including the quantities, values, and dispositions of donated commodities determined to be unfit.

§ 1599.10 Claims for damage to or loss of donated commodities.

(a) FAS will be responsible for claims arising out of damage to or loss of a quantity of the donated commodities prior to the transfer of title to the donated commodities to the recipient. The recipient will be responsible for claims arising out of damage to or loss of a quantity of the donated commodities after the transfer of title to the donated commodities.

(b) If a recipient has title to donated commodities that have been damaged or lost, and the value of the damaged or lost donated commodities is estimated to be in excess of \$20,000, the recipient must:

(1) Notify FAS immediately and provide detailed information about the circumstances surrounding such damage or loss, the quantity of damaged or lost donated commodities, and the value of the damage or loss;

(2) Promptly upon discovery of the damage or loss, initiate a claim arising out of such damage or loss, including, if appropriate, initiating an action to collect pursuant to a commercial insurance contract;

(3) Take all necessary action to pursue the claim diligently and within any applicable periods of limitations; and

(4) Provide to FAS copies of all documentation relating to the claim.

(c) If a recipient has title to donated commodities that have been damaged or lost, and the value of the damaged or lost donated commodities is estimated to be \$20,000 or less, the recipient must notify FAS in accordance with the agreement and provide detailed information about the damage or loss in the next report required to be filed under § 1599.13(f)(1) or (2).

(d)(1) The value of a claim for lost donated commodities will be determined on the basis of the commodity acquisition, transportation, and related costs incurred by FAS with respect to such commodities, as well as such costs incurred by the recipient and paid by FAS.

(2) The value of a claim for damaged donated commodities will be determined on the basis of the commodity acquisition, transportation, and related costs incurred by FAS with respect to such commodities, as well as such costs incurred by the recipient and paid by FAS, less any funds generated if such commodities are sold in accordance with § 1599.9(f)(1).

(e) If FAS determines that a recipient has not initiated a claim or is not exercising due diligence in the pursuit of a claim, FAS may require the recipient to assign its rights to initiate or pursue the claim to FAS. Failure by the recipient to initiate a claim or exercise due diligence in the pursuit of a claim will be considered by FAS during the review of applications for subsequent food assistance awards.

(f)(1) A recipient may retain any funds obtained as a result of a claims

collection action initiated by it in accordance with this section, or recovered pursuant to any insurance policy or other similar form of indemnification, but such funds must be expended in accordance with the agreement or for other purposes approved in advance by FAS.

(2) FAS will retain any funds obtained as a result of a claims collection action initiated by it under this section; provided, however, that if the recipient paid for the transportation of the donated commodities or a portion thereof, FAS will use a portion of such funds to reimburse the recipient for such expense on a prorated basis.

§ 1599.11 Use of donated commodities, sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, and program income.

(a) A recipient must use the donated commodities, any sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, interest, and program income in accordance with the agreement.

(b) A recipient must not use donated commodities, sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, interest, or program income for any activity or any expense incurred by the recipient or a sub-recipient prior to the start date of the period of performance of the agreement or after the agreement is suspended or terminated, without the prior written approval of FAS.

(c) A recipient must not permit the distribution, handling, or allocation of donated commodities on the basis of political affiliation, geographic location, or the ethnic, tribal or religious identity or affiliation of the potential consumers or beneficiaries.

(d) A recipient must not permit the distribution, handling, or allocation of donated commodities by the military forces of any government or insurgent group without the specific authorization of FAS.

(e) A recipient must not use sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, interest, or program income to acquire goods and services, either directly or indirectly through another party, in a manner that violates country-specific economic sanction programs, as specified in the agreement.

(f) A recipient may sell or barter donated commodities only if such sale or

barter is provided for in the agreement or the recipient is disposing of damaged donated commodities as specified in § 1599.9(f). The recipient must sell donated commodities at a reasonable market price. The recipient must obtain approval of its proposed sale price from FAS before selling donated commodities. The recipient must use any sale proceeds, interest, program income, or goods or services derived from the sale or barter of the donated commodities only as provided in the agreement.

(g) A recipient must deposit and maintain all sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, and program income in a bank account until they are used for a purpose authorized under the agreement or the FAS-provided funds are returned to FAS in accordance with § 1599.6(f)(6). The account must be insured unless it is in a country where insurance is unavailable. The account must be interest-bearing, unless one of the exceptions in 2 CFR 200.305(b)(8) applies or FAS determines that this requirement would constitute an undue burden. The recipient must comply with the requirements in § 1599.6(f)(7) with regard to the deposit of advance payments by FAS.

(h)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (h)(2) of this section, a recipient may make adjustments within the agreement budget between direct cost line items without further approval, provided that the total amount of adjustments does not exceed ten percent of the Grand Total Costs, excluding any voluntary committed cost sharing or matching contributions, in the agreement budget. Adjustments beyond these limits require the prior approval of FAS.

(2) A recipient must not transfer any funds budgeted for participant support costs, as defined in 2 CFR 200.75, to other categories of expense without the prior approval of FAS.

(i) A recipient may use sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, or program income to purchase real or personal property only if local law permits the recipient to retain title to such property. However, a recipient must not use sale

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proceeds, FAS-provided funds, or program income to pay for the acquisition, development, construction, alteration or upgrade of real property that is:

(1) Owned or managed by a church or other organization engaged exclusively in religious pursuits; or

(2) Used in whole or in part for sectarian purposes, except that a recipient may use sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, or program income to pay for repairs to or rehabilitation of a structure located on such real property to the extent necessary to avoid spoilage or loss of donated commodities, but only if the structure is not used in whole or in part for any religious or sectarian purposes while the donated commodities are stored in it. If the use of sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, or program income to pay for repairs to or rehabilitation of such a structure is not specifically provided for in the agreement, the recipient must not use the sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, or program income for this purpose until it receives written approval from FAS.

(j) A recipient must comply with 2 CFR 200.321 when procuring goods and services in the United States. When procuring goods and services outside of the United States, a recipient should endeavor to comply with 2 CFR 200.321 where practicable.

(k) A recipient must enter into a written contract with each provider of goods, services, or construction work that is valued at or above the Simplified Acquisition Threshold. Each such contract must require the provider to maintain adequate records to account for all donated commodities, funds, or both furnished to the provider by the recipient and to comply with any other applicable requirements that may be specified by FAS in the agreement. The recipient must submit a copy of the signed contracts to FAS upon request.

§ 1599.12 Monitoring and evaluation requirements.

(a) A recipient will be responsible for designing a performance monitoring plan for the project, obtaining written approval of the plan from FAS before putting it into effect, and managing

and implementing the plan, unless otherwise specified in the agreement.

(b) A recipient must establish baseline values, annual targets, and life of activity targets for each performance indicator included in the recipient's approved performance monitoring plan, unless otherwise specified in the agreement.

(c) A recipient must inform FAS, in the manner and within the time period specified in the agreement, of any problems, delays, or adverse conditions that materially impair the recipient's ability to meet the objectives of the agreement. This notification must include a statement of any corrective actions taken or contemplated by the recipient, and any additional assistance requested from FAS to resolve the situation.

(d) A recipient will be responsible for designing an evaluation plan for the project, obtaining written approval of the plan from FAS before putting it into effect, and arranging for an independent third party to implement the evaluation, unless otherwise specified in the agreement. This evaluation plan will detail the evaluation purpose and scope, key evaluation questions, evaluation methodology, time frame, evaluation management, and cost. This plan will generally be based upon the evaluation plan that the recipient submitted to FAS as part of its application, pursuant to § 1599.4(b)(6), unless the notice of funding opportunity specified that an evaluation plan was not required to be included in the application. The recipient must ensure that the evaluation plan:

(1) Is designed using the most rigorous methodology that is appropriate and feasible, taking into account available resources, strategy, current knowledge and evaluation practices in the sector, and the implementing environment;

(2) Is designed to inform management, activity implementation, and strategic decision-making;

(3) Utilizes analytical approaches and methodologies, based on the questions to be addressed, project design, budgetary resources available, and level of rigor and evidence required, which may be implemented through methods such

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as case studies, surveys, quasi-experimental designs, randomized field experiments, cost-effectiveness analyses, implementation reviews, or a combination of methods;

(4) Adheres to generally accepted evaluation standards and principles;

(5) Uses participatory approaches that seek to include the perspectives of diverse parties and all relevant stakeholders; and

(6) Where possible, utilizes local consultants and seeks to build local capacity in evaluation.

(e)(1) Unless otherwise provided in the agreement, a recipient must arrange for evaluations of the project to be conducted by an independent third party that:

(i) Is financially and legally separate from the recipient's organization; and

(ii) Has staff with demonstrated methodological, cultural and language competencies, and specialized experience in conducting evaluations of international development programs involving agriculture, trade, education, and nutrition, provided that FAS may determine that, for a particular agreement, the staff of the independent third party evaluator is not required to have specialized experience in conducting evaluations of programs involving one or more of these four areas.

(2) A recipient must provide a written certification to FAS that there is no real or apparent conflict of interest on the part of any recipient staff member or third party entity designated or hired to play a substantive role in the evaluation of activities under the agreement.

(f) FAS will be considered a key stakeholder in all evaluations conducted as part of the agreement.

(g)(1) A recipient is responsible for establishing the required financial and human capital resources for monitoring and evaluation of activities under the agreement. The recipient must maintain a separate budget for monitoring and evaluation, with separate budget line items for dedicated recipient monitoring and evaluation staff and independent third-party evaluation contracts.

(2) Personnel at a recipient's headquarters offices and field offices with specialized expertise and experience in

monitoring and evaluation may be used by the recipient for dedicated monitoring and evaluation. Unless otherwise specified in the agreement or approved evaluation plan, all evaluations must be managed by the recipient's evaluation experts outside of the recipient's line management for the activities.

(h) FAS may independently conduct or commission an evaluation of a single agreement or an evaluation that includes multiple agreements. A recipient must cooperate, and comply with any demands for information or materials made in connection, with any evaluation conducted or commissioned by FAS. Such evaluations may be conducted by FAS internally or by an FAS-hired external evaluation contractor.

§ 1599.13 Reporting and record keeping requirements.

(a) A recipient must comply with the performance and financial monitoring and reporting requirements in the agreement and 2 CFR 200.327 through 200.329.

(b) A recipient must submit financial reports to FAS, by the dates and for the reporting periods specified in the agreement. Such reports must provide an accurate accounting of sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, interest, program income, and voluntary committed cost sharing or matching contributions.

(c)(1) A recipient must submit performance reports to FAS, by the dates and for the reporting periods specified in the agreement. These reports must include the information required in 2 CFR 200.328(b)(2), including additional pertinent information regarding the recipient's progress, measured against established indicators, baselines, and targets, towards achieving the expected results specified in the agreement. This reporting must include, for each performance indicator, a comparison of actual accomplishments with the baseline and the targets established for the period. When actual accomplishments deviate significantly from targeted goals, the recipient must provide an explanation in the report.

(2) A recipient must ensure the accuracy and reliability of the performance

data submitted to FAS in performance reports. At any time during the period of performance of the agreement, FAS may review the recipient's performance data to determine whether it is accurate and reliable. The recipient must comply with all requests made by FAS or an entity designated by FAS in relation to such reviews.

(d) Baseline, interim, and final evaluation reports are required for all agreements, unless otherwise specified in the agreement. The reports must be submitted in accordance with the timeline in the FAS-approved evaluation plan. Evaluation reports submitted to FAS may be made public in an effort to increase accountability and transparency and share lessons learned and best practices.

(e) A recipient must, within 30 days after export of all or a portion of the donated commodities, submit evidence of such export to FAS, in the manner set forth in the agreement. The evidence may be submitted through an electronic media approved by FAS or by providing the carrier's on board bill of lading. The evidence of export must show the kind and quantity of commodities exported, the date of export, and the country where the commodities will be delivered. The date of export is the date that the ocean carrier carrying the donated commodities sails from the final U.S. load port.

(f)(1) A recipient must submit reports to FAS, using a form prescribed by FAS, covering the receipt, handling, and disposition of the donated commodities. Such reports must be submitted to FAS, by the dates and for the reporting periods specified in the agreement, until all of the donated commodities have been distributed, sold or bartered and such disposition has been reported to FAS.

(2) If the agreement authorizes the sale or barter of donated commodities, the recipient must submit to FAS, using a form prescribed by FAS, reports covering the receipt and use of the sale proceeds when the donated commodities were sold, the goods and services derived from barter when the donated commodities were bartered, and program income. Such reports must be submitted to FAS, by the dates and for the reporting periods

specified in the agreement, until all of the sale proceeds and program income have been disbursed and reported to FAS. When reporting financial information, the recipient must include the amounts in U.S. dollars and the exchange rate if proceeds are held in local currency.

(g) If requested by FAS, a recipient must provide to FAS additional information or reports relating to the agreement.

(h) If a recipient requires an extension of a reporting deadline, it must ensure that FAS receives an extension request at least five business days prior to the reporting deadline. FAS may decline to consider a request for an extension that it receives after this time period. FAS will consider requests for reporting deadline extensions on a case by case basis and make a decision based on the merits of each request. FAS will consider factors such as unforeseen or extenuating circumstances and past performance history when evaluating requests for extensions.

(i) A recipient must retain records and permit access to records in accordance with the requirements of 2 CFR 200.333 through 200.337. The date of submission of the final expenditure report, as referenced in 2 CFR 200.333, will be the final date of submission of the reports required by paragraphs (f)(1) and (2) of this section, as prescribed by FAS. The recipient must retain copies of and make available to FAS all sales receipts, contracts, or other documents related to the sale or barter of donated commodities and any goods or services derived from such barter, as well as records of dispatch received from ocean carriers.

§ 1599.14 Subrecipients.

(a) A recipient may utilize the services of a subrecipient to implement activities under the agreement if this is provided for in the agreement. The subrecipient may receive donated commodities, sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, program income, or other resources from the recipient for this purpose. The recipient must enter into a written subagreement with the subrecipient and comply with the applicable provisions of 2 CFR 200.331. The recipient must provide a copy of such

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subagreement to FAS, in the manner set forth in the agreement, prior to the transfer of any donated commodities, sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, or program income to the subrecipient.

(b) A recipient must include the following requirements in a subagreement:

(1) The subrecipient is required to comply with the applicable provisions of this part and 2 CFR parts 200 and 400. The applicable provisions are those that relate specifically to subrecipients, as well as those relating to non-Federal entities that impose requirements that would be reasonable to pass through to a subrecipient because they directly concern the implementation by the subrecipient of one or more activities under the agreement. If there is a question about whether a particular provision is applicable, FAS will make the determination.

(2) The subrecipient is prohibited from using sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, interest, or program income to acquire goods and services, either directly or indirectly through another party, in a manner that violates country-specific economic sanction programs, as specified in the agreement.

(3) The subrecipient must pay to the recipient the value of any donated commodities, sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, interest, or program income that are not used in accordance with the subagreement, or that are lost, damaged, or misused as a result of the subrecipient's failure to exercise reasonable care.

(4) In accordance with § 1599.18 and 2 CFR 200.501(h), a description of the applicable compliance requirements and the subrecipient's compliance responsibility. Methods to ensure compliance may include pre-award audits, monitoring during the agreement, and post-award audits.

(c) A recipient must monitor the actions of a subrecipient as necessary to ensure that donated commodities, sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, and program income provided to the subrecipient are used for authorized purposes in compliance with applicable U.S. Federal laws and regulations and the subagreement and that performance indicator targets are achieved for

both activities and results under the agreement.

§ 1599.15 Noncompliance with an agreement.

If a recipient fails to comply with a Federal statute or regulation or the terms and conditions of the agreement, and FAS determines that the non-compliance cannot be remedied by imposing additional conditions, FAS may take one or more of the actions set forth in 2 CFR 200.338, including initiating a claim as a remedy. FAS may also initiate a claim against a recipient if the donated commodities are damaged or lost, or the sale proceeds, goods received through barter, FAS-provided funds, interest, or program income are misused or lost, due to an action or omission of the recipient.

§ 1599.16 Suspension and termination of agreements.

(a) An agreement or subagreement may be suspended or terminated in accordance with 2 CFR 200.338 or 200.339. FAS may suspend or terminate an agreement if it determines that:

(1) One of the bases in 2 CFR 200.338 or 200.339 for termination or suspension by FAS has been satisfied;

(2) The continuation of the assistance provided under the agreement is no longer necessary or desirable; or

(3) Storage facilities are inadequate to prevent spoilage or waste, or distribution of the donated commodities will result in substantial disincentive to, or interference with, domestic production or marketing in the target country.

(b) If an agreement is terminated, the recipient:

(1) Is responsible for the security and integrity of any undistributed donated commodities and must dispose of such commodities only as agreed to by FAS;

(2) Is responsible for any sale proceeds, FAS-provided funds, interest, or program income that have not been disbursed and must use or return them only as agreed to by FAS; and

(3) Must comply with the closeout and post-closeout provisions specified in the agreement and 2 CFR 200.343 and 200.344.

§ 1599.17 Opportunities to object and appeals.

(a) FAS will provide an opportunity to a recipient to object to, and provide information and documentation challenging, any action taken by FAS pursuant to § 1599.15. FAS will comply with any requirements for hearings, appeals, or other administrative proceedings to which the recipient is entitled under any other statute or regulation applicable to the action involved. For example, if the action taken by FAS pursuant to § 1599.15 is to initiate suspension or debarment proceedings as authorized under 2 CFR parts 180 and 417, then the requirements in 2 CFR parts 180 and 417 will apply instead of the requirements in this section. In the absence of other applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, the requirements set forth in this section will apply.

(b) The recipient must submit its objection in writing, along with any documentation, to the FAS official specified in the agreement within 30 days after the date of FAS's written notification to the recipient of the FAS action being challenged. This official will endeavor to notify the recipient of his or her determination within 60 days after the date that FAS received the recipient's written objection.

(c) The recipient may appeal the determination of the official to the Administrator, FAS. An appeal must be in writing and be submitted to the Office of the Administrator within 30 days after the date of the initial determination by the FAS official. The recipient may submit additional documentation with its appeal.

(d) The Administrator will base the determination on appeal upon information contained in the administrative record and will endeavor to make a determination within 60 days after the date that FAS received the appeal. The determination of the Administrator will be the final determination of FAS. The recipient must exhaust all administrative remedies contained in this section before pursuing judicial review of a determination by the Administrator.

§ 1599.18 Audit requirements.

(a) Subpart F, Audit Requirements, of 2 CFR part 200 applies to recipients and subrecipients under this part other than those that are for-profit entities, foreign public entities, or foreign organizations.

(b) A recipient or subrecipient that is a for-profit entity or a foreign organization, and that expends, during its fiscal year, a total of at least the audit requirement threshold in 2 CFR 200.501 in Federal awards, is required to obtain an audit. Such a recipient or subrecipient has the following two options to satisfy this requirement:

(1)(i) A financial audit of the agreement or subagreement, in accordance with the Government Auditing Standards issued by the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), if the recipient or subrecipient expends Federal awards under only one FAS program during such fiscal year; or

(ii) A financial audit of all Federal awards from FAS, in accordance with GAO's Government Auditing Standards, if the recipient or subrecipient expends Federal awards under multiple FAS programs during such fiscal year; or

(2) An audit that meets the requirements contained in subpart F of 2 CFR part 200.

(c) A recipient or subrecipient that is a for-profit entity or a foreign organization, and that expends, during its fiscal year, a total that is less than the audit requirement threshold in 2 CFR 200.501 in Federal awards, is exempt from requirements under this section for an audit for that year, except as provided in paragraphs (d) and (f) of this section, but it must make records available for review by appropriate officials of Federal agencies.

(d) FAS may require an annual financial audit of an agreement or subagreement when the audit requirement threshold in 2 CFR 200.501 is not met. In that case, FAS must provide funds under the agreement for this purpose, and the recipient or subrecipient, as applicable, must arrange for such audit and submit it to FAS.

(e) When a recipient or subrecipient that is a for-profit entity or a foreign organization is required to obtain a financial audit under this section, it

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must provide a copy of the audit to FAS within 60 days after the end of its fiscal year.

(f) FAS, the USDA Office of Inspector General, or GAO may conduct or arrange for additional audits of any recipients or subrecipients, including for-profit entities and foreign organizations. Recipients and subrecipients must promptly comply with all requests related to such audits. If FAS conducts or arranges for an additional audit, such as an audit with respect to a particular agreement, FAS will fund

the full cost of such an audit, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.503(d).

§ 1599.19 Paperwork Reduction Act.

The information collection requirements contained in this regulation have been approved by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, and have been assigned OMB control number 0551-0035. A person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.