

(d) The Recipient shall not use program activities or project funds to promote private self-interests or conduct private business.

(e) A Recipient shall not limit participation in its EMP activities to members of its organization. Recipients shall ensure that their EMP-funded programs and activities are open to all otherwise qualified individuals and entities on an equal basis and without regard to any non-merit factors.

(f) A Recipient shall select U.S. agricultural industry representatives to participate in activities based on criteria that ensure participation on an equitable basis by a broad cross section of the U.S. industry. If requested by CCC, a Recipient shall submit such selection criteria to CCC for approval.

(g) The Recipient must report any actions or circumstances that may have a bearing on the propriety of program activities to the appropriate Attaché/Counselor, and the Recipient's U.S. office shall report such actions or circumstances in writing to CCC.

(h) The officers, employees, board members, and agents of the Recipient shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, sub-contractors, or parties to sub-agreements. However, Recipients may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial, or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value. The standards of conduct shall provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, board members, or agents of the Recipient.

**§ 1486.508 Suspension and termination.**

(a) An agreement or subaward 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; or

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

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

(1) Is responsible for using or returning any CCC-provided funds, interest, or program income that have not been disbursed, as agreed to by FAS; and

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

**§ 1486.509 Noncompliance with an agreement.**

(a) If a Recipient fails to comply with any term in its agreement, approval letter, or this part, CCC may take one or more of the enforcement actions in 2 CFR part 200 and, if appropriate, initiate a claim against the Recipient, following the procedures set forth in this part. CCC may also initiate a claim against a Recipient if program income or CCC-provided funds are lost due to an action or omission of the Recipient. If any Recipient has engaged in fraud with respect to the EMP program, or has otherwise violated program requirements under this part, CCC may:

(1) Hold such Recipient liable for any and all losses to CCC resulting from such fraud or violation;

(2) Require a refund of any assistance provided to such Recipient plus interest as determined by FAS; and

(3) Collect liquidated damages from such Recipient in an amount determined appropriate by FAS.

(b) The provisions of this section shall be without prejudice to any other remedy that is available under any other provision of law.

**§ 1486.510 Paperwork reduction requirements.**

The paperwork and recordkeeping requirements imposed by this part have been approved by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. OMB has assigned control number 0551-0048 for this information collection.

**PART 1487—TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROPS**

Sec.	
1487.1	General purpose and scope.
1487.2	Definitions.
1487.3	Program eligibility.
1487.4	Limits on the scope of proposals.
1487.5	Application process.

## § 1487.1

- 1487.6 Application review and formation of agreements.
- 1487.7 Applicant notification.
- 1487.8 Reimbursements and advances.
- 1487.9 Reporting.
- 1487.10 Notification of international travel.
- 1487.11 Evaluation.
- 1487.12 Compliance reviews and notices.
- 1487.13 Records retention.
- 1487.14 Program income.
- 1487.15 Subrecipients.
- 1487.16 Suspension and termination of agreements.
- 1487.17 Audit requirements.
- 1487.18 Disclosure of program information.
- 1487.19 Ethical conduct.
- 1487.20 Amendments.
- 1487.21 Noncompliance with an agreement.
- 1487.22 Paperwork reduction requirements.

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 5623, 5662-5663, as amended.

SOURCE: 84 FR 70394, Dec. 23, 2019, unless otherwise noted.

### § 1487.1 General purpose and scope.

(a) Under the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) program, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), an agency and instrumentality of the United States within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), provides grant funds to eligible organizations to implement activities that are intended to address existing or potential sanitary, phytosanitary, or technical barriers that prohibit or threaten the export of U.S. specialty crops that are currently available on a commercial basis. The TASC program is intended to benefit the represented industry rather than a specific company or brand.

(b) This part sets forth the general terms, conditions, and policies governing CCC's operation of the TASC program.

(c)(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 U.S. 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.

## 7 CFR Ch. XIV (1-1-20 Edition)

(2) The OMB guidance at 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented by 2 CFR part 400 and this part, applies to the TASC program.

(3) In addition to the provisions of 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 TASC program, to the extent that these regulations do not directly conflict with the provisions of this part. The provisions of the CCC Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 *et seq.*) and any other statutory provisions or regulatory provisions that are generally applicable to CCC also apply to the TASC program.

(d) The TASC program generally operates on a reimbursement basis. The program is administered by the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), acting on behalf of CCC.

### § 1487.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this part, the following definitions apply:

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

*Agreement* means a legally binding grant entered into between CCC and a TASC applicant setting forth the terms and conditions to implement an approved project under the TASC program, including any subsequent amendments to such agreement.

*Approval letter* means a document by which CCC informs an applicant that its TASC proposal has been approved for funding. This letter may also approve specific activities and contain terms and conditions in addition to the agreement.

*Attaché/Counselor* means the FAS employee representing United States Department of Agriculture interests in a foreign country.

*Eligible organization* means any U.S. organization that demonstrates a role or interest in the exports of specialty crops, including, but not limited to:

## Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA

## § 1487.4

U.S. Government agencies, State government agencies, non-profit trade associations, universities, agricultural cooperatives, and private companies.

*Participant* means an entity that has entered into a TASC agreement with CCC.

*Specialty crop* means most cultivated plants produced in the United States, or the products thereof, except wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, cotton, rice, peanuts, sugar, and tobacco.

*Unified Export Strategy (UES) system* means the online internet system maintained by FAS through which applicants currently may apply to TASC and the other FAS market development programs. The system is currently accessible at <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/ues/webapp/>. FAS may prescribe a different system through which applicants may apply to TASC and will announce such system in the applicable Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

*United States* means each of the States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States.

### § 1487.3 Program eligibility.

(a) An eligible organization can submit an application under this part to become a Participant under the TASC 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 NOFO posted on the U.S. Government website for grant opportunities.

(b) In order to be eligible for funding under the TASC program, activities must address existing or potential sanitary, phytosanitary, or technical barriers to the export of U.S. specialty crops. Examples of expenses that CCC may agree to cover under the TASC program include but are not limited to expenses associated with: Initial pre-clearance programs, export protocol and work plan support, seminars and workshops, study tours, field surveys, development of pest lists, pest and disease research, database development, reasonable logistical and administrative support, and travel and per diem expenses.

(c) Eligible projects may take place in the United States or abroad.

(d) Proposals from research and consulting entities will be considered for funding assistance only with evidence of substantial participation in and financial support to the proposed project by U.S. industry. Such support is most credibly demonstrated through actual monetary contributions to the cost of the project.

(e) Foreign organizations, whether government or private, may participate as third parties in activities carried out by U.S. entities, but are not eligible for funding assistance from the program.

### § 1487.4 Limits on the scope of proposals.

(a) *Funding cap.* Proposals that request more than \$500,000 of CCC funding in a given year will not be considered.

(b) *Length of activities.* Awards will generally be granted for a project period not exceeding five calendar years. However, FAS will entertain requests to extend agreements beyond five years when valid justifications are submitted. Participants must submit in writing a valid justification for why an extension is necessary no later than 60 days before the end of the period of performance. Extensions generally will be granted in one-year increments, if warranted. A Participant must wait for written approval from FAS before proceeding with the project.

(c) *Target countries.* Proposals may target barriers in any eligible export market, including single countries or reasonable regional groupings of countries.

(d) *Multiple proposals.* Applicants may submit multiple proposals, but no Participant may have more than five approved projects underway at any given time.

(e) *Program funds only for specific uses.* Participants shall not use program funds to supplement the costs of normal day-to-day operations or to promote their own products or services beyond specific uses approved in a given project.

**§ 1487.5 Application process.**

(a) *Announcement for TASC program participant.* CCC will periodically announce that it is accepting applications for participation in the TASC program. All relevant information, including application deadlines and proposal content, will be noted in the announcement, and proposals must be submitted in accordance with the terms and conditions, as well as other requirements specified in the announcement and in this part. Currently, applicants are encouraged to submit applications through the UES system, but are not required to use the UES system. CCC may request any additional information it deems necessary from any applicant in order to properly evaluate any proposal.

(b) *Universal identifier and System for Award Management (SAM).* In accordance with 2 CFR part 25, each entity that applies to the TASC program and does not qualify for an exemption under 2 CFR 25.110 must:

(1) Be registered in the SAM prior to submitting an application or plan;

(2) 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 CCC; and

(3) Provide its DUNS number, or a unique identifier designated as a DUNS replacement, in each application or plan it submits to CCC.

(c) *Reporting subaward and executive compensation information.* In accordance with 2 CFR part 170, each entity that applies to the TASC program and does not qualify for an exception under 2 CFR 170.110(b) must ensure it has the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the applicable reporting requirements of 2 CFR part 170 should it receive TASC funding.

**§ 1487.6 Application review and formation of agreements.**

(a) *General.* Proposals received in accordance with the announcement and this part will undergo a multi-phase review by CCC to determine eligibility for the program, the qualifications, quality, and appropriateness of proposed projects, and the reasonableness of proposed project budgets.

(b) *Evaluation criteria.* CCC will review all proposals for eligibility and completeness. CCC will evaluate and score each proposal against the factors described in the NOFO. The purpose of this review is to identify meritorious proposals, recommend an appropriate funding level for each proposal, and submit the proposals and funding recommendations to appropriate officials for decision. CCC may, when appropriate to the subject matter of the proposal, request the assistance of other U.S. Government experts in evaluating the merits of a proposal. Demonstration of substantial U.S. industry participation in or financial or other support of a proposal will be a positive factor in the consideration of proposals. All reviewers will be required to sign a conflict of interest form, and when conflicts of interests are identified the reviewer will be recused from the objective review process.

(c) *Approval decision.* CCC will approve those applications that it determines best satisfy the criteria and factors specified in the announcement and this part. All decisions regarding the disposition of an application are final.

**§ 1487.7 Applicant notification.**

(a) CCC will notify each applicant in writing of the final decision on its application. CCC will send an agreement and an approval letter to each approved applicant. An applicant that accepts the terms and conditions contained in the agreement and approval letter must so indicate by having the appropriate authorizing official sign the agreement and submit it to CCC. The applicant may not begin to implement approved activities until the applicant's authorizing official and CCC have signed the agreement. The applicant is authorized to begin implementation of the project as of the date specified in the approval letter, unless otherwise indicated.

(b) The approval letter and agreement will outline the activities and budgets that are approved and will specify the terms and conditions applicable to the project, including the levels of TASC funding and cost share requirements.

**§ 1487.8 Reimbursements and advances.**

(a) *Reimbursement procedures.* (1) Following the implementation of a project for which CCC has agreed to provide funding, a Participant may submit claims for reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred in implementing a TASC project, to the extent that CCC has agreed to pay such expenses. Any changes to approved activities must be approved in writing by CCC before any reimbursable expenses associated with the change can be incurred. A Participant will be reimbursed after CCC reviews the claim and determines that it is complete.

(2) CCC will make all payments to the Participants in U.S. dollars. FAS will initiate payment within 30 days after receipt of the billing, unless the billing is improper.

(3) Participants will be authorized to submit requests for reimbursements or advances at least monthly when electronic fund transfers (EFTs) are not used, and as frequently as desired when electronic transfers are used, in accordance with the provisions of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693-1693r).

(4) Participants may submit claims for reimbursement of the expenses incurred in implementing TASC projects, to the extent CCC has agreed to pay for such costs, limited initially to 85 percent of the total amount specified in the agreement. The Participant may be reimbursed for the remaining 15 percent of the funds only after the final performance report containing the information required by the agreement is submitted to and approved by FAS.

(5) Final claims for reimbursement must be received no later than 90 calendar days after the completion date of the project or following the expiration or termination date of the agreement, whichever is sooner, and are subject to FAS approval of the Participant's final performance report. Participants are required to use a prescribed system to submit their claims. This system will be clearly stated in the NOFO. Currently the CCC's internet-based UES system is being used to request reimbursement for eligible TASC program expenses.

(6) Participants shall maintain complete records of all program expenditures, identified by TASC agreement number, program year, country or region, activity number, and cost category. Such records shall be accompanied by documentation that supports the expenditure and shall be made available to CCC upon request. CCC may deny a claim for reimbursement if the claim is not supported by acceptable documentation.

(7) In the event that a reimbursement claim is overpaid or is disallowed after payment already has been made, the Participant shall repay CCC within 30 calendar days of such overpayment or disallowance the amount overpaid or disallowed either by submitting a check payable to CCC and referencing the applicable project, or by offsetting its next reimbursement claim. The Participant shall make such payment in U.S. dollars, unless otherwise approved in advance by CCC.

(8) The Participant shall report any actions that may have a bearing on the propriety of any claims for reimbursement in writing to the appropriate Attaché/Counselor and FAS Division Director.

(b) *Advances—(1) Policy.* In general, CCC operates the TASC program on a cost reimbursable basis.

(2) *Exception.* Upon request, CCC may make advance payments to a Participant against an approved project budget. Participants may request an advance of up to 85 percent of the funding approved in any given program year. Advances should be limited to the minimum amounts needed and requested as close as is administratively feasible to the actual time of disbursement by the Participant. Reimbursement claims will be used to offset advances. Participants shall deposit and maintain advances in insured, interest-bearing accounts, unless the exceptions in 2 CFR part 200 apply. Interest earned by the Participant on funds advanced by CCC is not program income. Up to \$500 of interest earned per year may be retained by the Participant for administrative expenses. Any additional interest earned on Federal advance payments shall be remitted annually to the appropriate entity as required in 2 CFR part 200.

## § 1487.9

(3) *Refunds due CCC.* A Participant shall fully expend all advances on approved activities within 90 calendar days after the date of disbursement by CCC. By the end of 90 calendar days, the Participant must submit reimbursement claims to offset the advance and submit a check made payable to CCC for any unexpended balance. The Participant shall make such payment in U.S. dollars, unless otherwise approved in advance by CCC.

### § 1487.9 Reporting.

(a) Participants are required to submit regular financial and performance reports in accordance with their agreement. Reporting requirements and formats for both annual financial and performance reports and final financial and performance reports will be specified in the agreement between CCC and the Participant.

(b)(1) In addition to the information required in 2 CFR 200.328(b)(2), a Participant's performance reports must include pertinent information regarding the Participant'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 Participant must provide an explanation in the report.

(2) A Participant 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 Participant's performance data to determine whether it is accurate and reliable. The Participant must comply with all requests made by FAS or an entity designated by FAS in relation to such reviews.

(c) All final performance reports will be made available to the public.

(d) If requested by FAS, a Participant must provide to FAS additional information or reports relating to the agreement.

## 7 CFR Ch. XIV (1–1–20 Edition)

(e) If a Participant 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 will 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.

### § 1487.10 Notification of international travel.

The Participant shall notify the Attaché/Counselor in the destination countries in writing in advance of any proposed travel by the Participant or its consultants or other participants. The timing of such notice should be far enough in advance to enable the Attaché/Counselor to schedule appointments, make preparations, or otherwise provide any assistance being requested. Failure to provide advance notification of travel generally will result in disallowance of the expenses related to the travel, unless CCC determines it was impractical to provide such notification.

### § 1487.11 Evaluation.

Project evaluations may be carried out by CCC at its option with or without Participants. CCC may also seek outside expertise to conduct or participate in evaluations.

### § 1487.12 Compliance reviews and notices

(a) *Compliance review process.* (1) USDA staff may conduct compliance reviews of Participant's activities under the TASC program to ensure compliance with this part, applicable Federal laws and regulations, and the terms of the agreements and approval letters. Participants shall cooperate fully with relevant USDA staff conducting compliance reviews and shall comply with all requests from USDA staff to facilitate the conduct of such reviews. Program funds spent inappropriately or on unapproved activities must be returned to CCC.

(2) Any project or activity funded under the program is subject to review or audit at any time during the course of implementation or after the completion of the project.

(3) Upon conclusion of the compliance review, USDA staff will provide a written compliance report to the Participant. The compliance report will detail any instances where it appears that the Participant is not complying with any of the terms or conditions of the agreement, approval letter, or the applicable laws and regulations. The report will also specify if it appears that CCC may be entitled to recover funds from the Participant and will explain the basis for any recovery of funds from the Participant. If, as a result of a compliance review, CCC determines that further review is needed in order to ensure compliance with the requirements of the TASC program, CCC may require the Participant to contract for an independent audit.

(4) In addition, CCC may notify a Participant in writing at any time if CCC determines that CCC may be entitled to recover funds from the Participant. CCC will explain the basis for any recovery of funds from the Participant in the written notice. The Participant shall, within 30 calendar days of the date of the notice, repay CCC the amount owed either by submitting a check payable to CCC or by offsetting its next reimbursement claim. The Participant shall make such payment in U.S. dollars, unless otherwise approved in advance by CCC. If, however, a Participant notifies CCC within 30 calendar days of the date of the written notice that the Participant intends to file an appeal pursuant to the provisions of this part, the amount owed to CCC by the Participant is not due until the appeal procedures are concluded and CCC has made a final determination as to the amount owed.

(5) The fact that a compliance review has been conducted by USDA staff does not signify that a Participant is in full compliance with its agreement, approval letter, and/or applicable laws and regulations.

(b) *Participant response to compliance report.* (1) A Participant shall, within 60 calendar days of the date of the issuance of a compliance report, sub-

mit a written response to CCC. The response may include additional documentation for consideration or a request for reconsideration of any finding along with supporting justification. If the Participant does not wish to contest the compliance report, the response shall include any money owed to CCC, which may be returned by submitting a check payable to CCC or by offsetting a reimbursement claim. The Participant shall make any payments in U.S. dollars, unless otherwise approved in advance by CCC. CCC, at its discretion, may extend the period for response.

(2) After reviewing the response, CCC shall determine whether the Participant owes any funds to CCC and will inform the Participant in writing of the basis for the determination. CCC may initiate action to collect such amount by providing the Participant a written demand for payment of the debt pursuant to the debt settlement policies and procedures in 7 CFR part 1403.

(c) *Participant appeals of CCC determinations.* (1) Within 30 calendar days of the date of the issuance of a determination, the Participant may appeal the determination by making a request in writing that includes the basis for such reconsideration. The Participant may also request a hearing.

(2) If the Participant requests a hearing, CCC will set a date and time for the hearing. The hearing will be an informal proceeding. A transcript will not ordinarily be prepared unless the Participant bears the cost of a transcript; however, CCC may, at its discretion, have a transcript prepared at CCC's expense.

(3) CCC will base its final determination upon information contained in the administrative record. The Participant must exhaust all administrative remedies contained in this section before pursuing judicial review of a determination by CCC.

#### § 1487.13 Records retention.

All records related to the project, including records pertaining to sub-awards, shall be made available upon request to authorized officials of the U.S. Government.

**§ 1487.14 Program income.**

Program income means gross income earned by the Participant that is directly generated by a supported activity or earned as a result of the Federal award during the period of performance. Any such income generated from an activity, the expenditures for which have been wholly or partially reimbursed with TASC funds, shall be used by the Participant in furtherance of its approved activities in the program period during which the TASC funds are available for obligation by the Participant, or must be returned to CCC. The use of such income shall be governed by this part. Reasonable activity fees or registration fees, if identified as such in a project budget, may be charged for projects approved for program funding. The intent to charge a fee must be part of the original proposal, along with an explanation of how such fees are to be used. Any activity fees charged must be used to offset activity expenses or returned to CCC. Such fees may not be used as profit or counted as cost share.

**§ 1487.15 Subrecipients.**

(a) A Participant 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 CCC-provided funds, program income, or other resources from the Participant for this purpose. The Participant must enter into a written subaward with the subrecipient and comply with the applicable provisions of 2 CFR 200.331 and/or the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), if applicable. If required by the agreement, the Participant must provide a copy of such subaward to FAS, in the manner set forth in the agreement, prior to the transfer of CCC-provided funds or program income to the subrecipient.

(b) A Participant must include the following requirements in a subaward:

(1) The subrecipient is required to comply with the applicable provisions of this part and 2 CFR parts 200 and 400 and/or the FAR, if applicable. 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 must pay to the Participant the value of CCC-provided funds, interest, or program income that are not used in accordance with the subaward, or that are lost, damaged, or misused as a result of the subrecipient's failure to exercise reasonable care.

(3) In accordance with 2 CFR 200.501(h), subawards must include 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 Participant must monitor the actions of a subrecipient as necessary to ensure that CCC-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 subaward and that performance indicator targets are achieved for both activities and results under the agreement.

(d) Participants have full and sole responsibility for the legal sufficiency of all subawards they may enter into with one or more subrecipients in order to carry out an approved project and shall assume financial liability for any costs or claims resulting from suits, challenges, or other disputes based on subawards entered into by the Participant. Neither CCC nor any other agency of the United States Government nor any official or employee of CCC, FAS, USDA, or the United States Government has any obligation or responsibility with respect to Participant subawards with third parties.

(e) Participants are responsible for ensuring to the greatest extent possible that the terms, conditions, and costs of subawards constitute the most economical and effective use of project funds.

(f) All fees for professional and technical services paid to subrecipients in



## Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA

## § 1487.17

any part with project funds must be covered by written subawards.

(g) A Participant shall:

(1) Ensure that all expenditures for goods and services in excess of \$25 reimbursed by CCC are documented by a purchase order or invoice;

(2) Ensure that no employee, officer, board member, agent, or the employee's, officer's, board member's, or agent's family, partners, or an organization that employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, participates in the review, selection, award or administration of a subaward in which such entities or their affiliates have a financial or other interest;

(3) Conduct all contracting in an openly competitive manner. Individuals who develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, invitations for bids, or requests for proposals for procurement of any goods or services, and such individuals' families or partners, or an organization that employs or is about to employ any of the aforementioned shall be excluded from competition for such procurement;

(4) Conduct all awarding of grants and agreements in an openly competitive manner, except under the following conditions:

(i) Non-monetary awards of property or services;

(ii) Awards of less than \$75,000;

(iii) Awards to fund continuing work already started under a previous award;

(iv) Awards that cannot be delayed due to an emergency or a substantial danger to health or safety;

(v) Awards when it is impracticable to secure competition; or

(vi) Awards to fund unique and innovative unsolicited applications;

(5) Base each solicitation for professional or technical services on a clear and accurate description of and requirements related to the services to be procured;

(6) Perform and document some form of fee, price, or cost analysis, such as a comparison of price quotations to market prices or other price indicia, to determine the reasonableness of the offered fees or prices for procurements in

excess of the simplified acquisition threshold defined at 2 CFR 200.38; and

(7) Document the decision-making process.

### § 1487.16 Suspension and termination of agreements.

(a) An agreement or subaward 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; or

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

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

(1) Is responsible for using or returning any CCC-provided funds, interest, or program income that have not been disbursed, as agreed to by FAS; and

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

### § 1487.17 Audit requirements.

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

(b) A Participant or subrecipient that is a for-profit entity or a subrecipient that is 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 Participant or subrecipient has the following two options to satisfy the requirement in this paragraph (b):

(1)(i) A financial audit of the agreement or subaward, in accordance with the Government Auditing Standards issued by the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), if the Participant 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 Participant or subrecipient expends Federal awards under multiple

**§ 1487.18**

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 Participant or subrecipient that is a for-profit entity or a subrecipient that is 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 subaward 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 Participant or subrecipient, as applicable, must arrange for such audit and submit it to FAS.

(e) When a Participant or subrecipient that is a for-profit entity or a subrecipient that is 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 GAO may conduct or arrange for additional audits of any Participants or subrecipients, including for-profit entities and foreign organizations. Participants 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).

**§ 1487.18 Disclosure of program information.**

(a) Documents submitted to CCC by Participants are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, and 7 CFR part 1, subpart A, including, specifically, 7 CFR 1.11.

(b) Any research conducted by a Participant pursuant to an agreement and/or approval letter shall be subject to

**7 CFR Ch. XIV (1–1–20 Edition)**

the provisions relating to intangible property in 2 CFR part 200.

**§ 1487.19 Ethical conduct.**

(a) The Participant shall maintain written standards of conduct governing the performance of its employees engaged in the award and administration of contracts.

(b) A Participant shall conduct its business in accordance with the laws and regulations of the country(s) in which each activity is carried out and in accordance with applicable U.S. Federal, state, and local laws and regulations. A Participant shall conduct its business in the United States in accordance with applicable Federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

(c) Neither a Participant nor its affiliates shall make export sales of U.S. agricultural commodities covered under the terms of an agreement. Neither a Participant nor its affiliates shall charge a fee for facilitating an export sale. A Participant may collect check-off funds and membership fees that are required for membership in the Participant's organization.

(d) The Participant shall not use program activities or project funds to promote private self-interests or conduct private business.

(e) A Participant shall not limit participation in its TASC activities to members of its organization. Participants shall ensure that their TASC-funded programs and activities are open to all otherwise qualified individuals and entities on an equal basis and without regard to any non-merit factors.

(f) A Participant shall select U.S. agricultural industry representatives to participate in activities based on criteria that ensure participation on an equitable basis by a broad cross section of the U.S. industry. If requested by CCC, a Participant shall submit such selection criteria to CCC for approval.

(g) The Participant must report any actions or circumstances that may have a bearing on the propriety of program activities to the appropriate Attaché/Counselor, and the Participant's U.S. office shall report such actions or circumstances in writing to CCC.

(h) The officers, employees, board members, and agents of the Participant

shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, sub-contractors, or parties to sub-agreements. However, Participants may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial, or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value. The standards of conduct shall provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, board members, or agents of the Participant.

**§ 1487.20 Amendments.**

(a) Participants may request to modify approved projects if circumstances change in such a way that they would likely affect the progress and ultimate success of a project. Such modification must be made through a written amendment to the agreement. All requests for project modifications must be made in writing to CCC and must include:

(1) A justification as to why changes to the project as originally designed are needed;

(2) An explanation of the necessary adjustments in approach or strategy; and

(3) A description of necessary changes in the project's time line(s) and/or budget (*e.g.*, shifting of budgetary resources from one-line item to another in order to accommodate the changes).

(b) All requests for project modifications must be reviewed and approved by CCC. Upon approval, CCC will issue an amendment to the agreement, which must be signed by CCC and the Participant.

**§ 1487.21 Noncompliance with an agreement.**

(a) If a Participant fails to comply with any term in its project agreement, approval letter, or this part, CCC may take one or more of the enforcement actions in 2 CFR part 200 and, if appropriate, initiate a claim against the Participant, following the procedures set forth in this part. CCC may also initiate a claim against a Participant if program income or CCC-provided funds are lost due to an action or omission of the Participant. If any Participant has engaged in fraud with re-

spect to the TASC program, or has otherwise violated program requirements under this part, CCC may:

(1) Hold such Participant liable for any and all losses to CCC resulting from such fraud or violation;

(2) Require a refund of any assistance provided to such Participant plus interest as determined by FAS; and

(3) Collect liquidated damages from such Participant in an amount determined appropriate by FAS.

(b) The provisions of this section shall be without prejudice to any other remedy that is available under any other provision of law.

**§ 1487.22 Paperwork reduction requirements.**

The paperwork and recordkeeping requirements imposed by this part have been approved by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980. OMB has assigned control number 0551-0038 for this information collection.

**PART 1488—FINANCING OF SALES OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES**

**Subpart A—Financing of Export Sales of Agricultural Commodities from Private Stocks Under CCC Export Credit Sales Program (GSM-5)**

GENERAL

Sec.

1488.1 General statement.

1488.2 Definition of terms.

FINANCING EXPORT SALES

1488.3 General.

1488.4 Submission of requests for sale registrations.

1488.5 Acceptance of sale registrations.

1488.6 Amendments to financing agreement.

1488.7 Expiration of period(s) for delivery and/or export.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR FINANCING

1488.8 Documents required after delivery.

1488.9 Evidence of export.

1488.9a Evidence of export for commodities delivered before export.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED AFTER FINANCING

1488.10 Evidence of entry into country of destination.

DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS

1488.11 Liquidated damages.