DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Housing Service

Notice of Intent to Accept Applications To Be an Intermediary Under the Certified Loan Application Packaging Process Within the Section 502 Direct Single Family Housing Program

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Housing Service (RHS or Agency) published a final rule on April 29, 2015, in the Federal Register that amended its regulations for the section 502 direct single family housing loan program to create a certified loan application packaging process. The section 502 direct single family housing loan program is authorized in Title V of the Housing Act of 1949.

Under the certified loan application packaging process, a certified loan application packager and its qualified employer will submit applications to the Agency via an intermediary (unless the applicable Rural Development State Director approves the certified packager to opt not to go through an intermediary). The intermediary will perform quality assurance reviews on the packaged loan applications as well as provide supplemental training, technical assistance, and support to certified packagers and qualified employers to promote quality standards and accountability.

Through this notice, the Agency will accept applications to be an intermediary under the certified loan application packaging process outlined in 7 CFR 3550.75 and other applicable regulations. Approval will be subject to fully meeting the conditions outlined within this notice and regulations, a recommendation by a review panel consisting of Agency staff at the state and national levels, and approval by the RHS Administrator.

Intermediaries operating under the loan application packaging pilot program, which expires on September 30, 2015, are not guaranteed an intermediary role beyond their participation in the pilot program and must apply under this application process should they wish to serve as an intermediary under the regulation.

DATES: Eligible parties interested in serving as an intermediary under the regulatory certified loan application packaging process must submit the requested items to the RHS Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division by July 9, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Submissions may be sent electronically to SFHDIRECTPROGRAM@wdc.usda.gov or by mail to Brooke Baumann, Branch Chief, Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division, USDA Rural Development, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 2211, Washington, DC 20250–0783.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

To apply to be an Agency-approved intermediary under the certified loan application packaging process, an interested party must furnish sufficient documentation to demonstrate to the Agency’s satisfaction that they meet each of the conditions specified below.

(1) Be a Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization as evidenced by the organization’s Internal Revenue Service (IRS) nonprofit determination letter for 501 (c) (3) status.

(2) Be engaged in affordable housing loan application packaging, originating, or underwriting affordable housing loans. Provide a resume for each quality assurance staff member. The breadth and depth of their combined skills and qualifications will be considered during the Agency’s application review process.

(3) Be financially viable and demonstrate positive operating performance as evidenced by an independent audit paid for by the applicant seeking to be an intermediary.

(4) Have at least five years of verifiable experience with the Agency’s direct single family housing programs (specifically the section 502 direct single family housing loan program, the section 504 single family housing repair programs, and/or the section 523 mutual self-help housing technical assistance program). Verifiable experiences would include, but are not exclusive to, routinely leveraging resources for individual transactions (e.g. providing affordable housing products to Agency borrowers), packaging loan applications, serving as an intermediary under the loan application packaging pilot program, and/or being a self-help grantee or technical and management assistance contractor. To the greatest extent possible, the submission should detail collaborations and dollars leveraged.

(5) Demonstrate that its quality assurance staff has experience with packaging, originating, or underwriting affordable housing loans. Provide a resume for each quality assurance staff member. The breadth and depth of their combined skills and qualifications will be considered during the Agency’s application review process.

(6) Provide a quality control plan that is customized to the applicant’s organization. The quality control plan should show there are controls in place to process application packages that will likely result in an eligibility determination by the Agency. At a minimum, but not limited to, the plan should include: procedures for obtaining and evaluating loan application documents (e.g. credit checks and income verification); measures the applicant will take to prevent the submission of incomplete or ineligible application packages to the Agency; the standard operating procedures for employees who will be involved with or affected by the quality control process; and, procedures for ensuring accurate information is submitted to the Agency.

(7) Ensure that their quality assurance staff completes an Agency-approved loan application packaging course and successfully pass any corresponding test within a reasonable amount of time if selected. Until other methods can be considered and vetted, the sole delivery method for the loan application packaging course will be the three-day classroom training presented by a designated Agency staff member and sponsored by the NeighborWorks...
Training Institute, the Housing Assistance Council, or the Rural Community Assistance Corporation. Given the limited availability of this classroom training, the quality assurance staff will have no more than one year from the date of the intermediary’s selection to complete this requirement. Intermediaries selected in this application process must submit documentation of the successful completion of the Agency-approved loan application packaging course within 30 days of course completion.

(8) Provide a letter jointly signed by the organization’s Executive Director and Board President affirming the organization will not be the developer, builder, seller of, or have any other such financial interest in the properties for which the application packages are submitted by the organization as an intermediary pursuant to this notice.

(9) Provide a training and support plan that focuses on the measures the applicant will take to provide supplemental training, technical assistance, and support to certified loan application packagers and qualified employers to promote quality standards and accountability. (Note that the Agency may require implementation of Agency-developed and/or approved training and support plan once accepted as an intermediary pursuant to this notice.)

A State Housing Finance Agency interested in being an Agency-approved intermediary must apply under this notice. A State Housing Finance Agency, however, does not need to demonstrate meeting items 1 through 5 above, given the States’ HFAs purpose, vision, and structure.

If selected as an intermediary under the certified loan application packaging process, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the intermediary and the Agency must be signed. The MOU will detail the roles and responsibilities of all parties; will require the intermediary’s quality assurance staff to obtain Level 2 eAuthentication identifications and submit loan application packages to the Agency via its eForms Web site (once this process is fully tested); and will require the intermediary to periodically demonstrate that it still meets the requirements under the regulation. This notice should not be construed as containing all those roles and responsibilities.

Decisions by the Agency on intermediary applications are not appealable to the National Appeals Division.

Non-Discrimination Statement

USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Complaint Form, found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA Office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 5301 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250; by fax at (202) 690-7442; or by email at: program.intake@usda.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and who wish to file a program complaint should please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. The full “Non-Discrimination Statement” is found at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/portal/usda/usdahome?navtype=Non_Discrimination.

Dated: May 28, 2015.

David Lipsetz,
Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
International Trade Administration
[A-520–804]

Certain Steel Nails From the United Arab Emirates: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2013–2014

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce

SUMMARY: On February 6, 2015, the Department of Commerce (the Department) published the preliminary results of the administrative review of the antidumping duty order on certain steel nails from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The period of review (POR) is May 1, 2013, through April 30, 2014. The review covers two producers/exporters of the subject merchandise, Dubai Wire FZE (Dubai Wire) and Precision Fasteners, L.L.C. (Precision). For these final results, we continue to find that subject merchandise has been sold in the United States at less than normal value.

DATES: Effective Date: June 9, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dmitry Vladimirov or Michael Romani, AD/CVD Operations, Office I, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–0665 or (202) 482–0198, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On February 6, 2015, the Department published the preliminary results of the administrative review of the antidumping duty order on certain steel nails from the UAE.1 We invited interested parties to comment on the Preliminary Results. We received a case brief from Mid Continent Steel & Wire, Inc. (the petitioner) on March 9, 2015, and a rebuttal brief from Dubai Wire’s affiliated importer, Itochu Building Products Inc., and affiliated distributor, PrimeSource Building Products Inc., (together, IBP) on March 16, 2015, both concerning Dubai Wire. We received no case or rebuttal briefs concerning Precision.

The Department conducted this administrative review in accordance with section 751 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act) and 19 CFR 351.213.

Scope of the Order

The merchandise subject to the Order1 is certain steel nails from the UAE. The products are currently classifiable under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheadings 7317.00.55, 7317.00.65, and 7317.00.75. The HTSUS numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes. The written


2 See Certain Steel Nails from the United Arab Emirates: Amended Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Antidumping Duty Order, 77 FR 27421 (May 10, 2012) [Order].