

or before the deadline, for all questions related to the meeting. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received upon request.

**Meeting Accommodations:** If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make a request in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices, or other reasonable accommodation. For access to proceedings, please contact the person listed in the section titled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case-by-case basis.

Equal opportunity practices, in accordance with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policies, will be followed in all membership appointments to the Council.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Dated: March 17, 2026.

**Cikena Reid,**

*USDA Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2026-05416 Filed 3-18-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3411-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Housing Service

[Docket No. RHS-25-SFH-0200]

#### Single Family Housing Section 502 Guaranteed Loan Program Lender Interactive Test Environment (LITE) Delegated Authority Pilot Program

**AGENCY:** Rural Housing Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Housing Service (RHS), a division of the Rural Development Agency within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is implementing the Lender Interactive Test Environment (LITE) Delegated Authority Pilot Program for the Section 502 Single Family Housing

Guaranteed Loan Program (SFHGLP). The purpose of this pilot program is to test a change in the SFHGLP loan approval process by replacing the Agency's pre-closing loan approval requirement with the delegation of loan approval authority to eligible lenders, consistent with the Delegated Authority final rule (**Federal Register** Docket Number RHS-21-SFH-0017). This pilot program is authorized under 42 U.S.C. 1476(b). This notice provides detailed information about the pilot program, including eligibility criteria, application process, operational procedures, monitoring, and oversight mechanisms.

**DATES:** The effective date of the pilot program is September 1, 2026. The pilot program will continue for two years, ending September 28, 2028.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sara Thieleke, Deputy Director, Policy, Analysis, and Communications Branch, Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Division, Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Email: [sara.thieleke@usda.gov](mailto:sara.thieleke@usda.gov); Phone: (314) 457-5242.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Authority

Title V, Section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended; 42 U.S.C. 1472; 42 U.S.C. 1476(b).

##### Acronyms

CFR Code of Federal Regulations  
GUS Guaranteed Underwriting System  
LITE Lender Interactive Test Environment  
RHS Rural Housing Service  
§ Section  
SFHGLP Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program  
USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture

##### Background

The Section 502 Guaranteed Loan Program, regulated by 7 CFR part 3555, offers a 90% loan note guarantee to approved lenders to assist low- and moderate-income households in purchasing adequate, modest, safe, and sanitary dwellings as their primary residence in eligible rural areas. The SFHGLP provides opportunities for applicants lacking sufficient resources to acquire, build, rehabilitate, improve, or relocate a dwelling in a rural area.

To streamline the SFHGLP, the RHS has been working on incorporating a delegated authority process for eligible lenders through a final rule ("Delegated Authority") (**Federal Register** Docket Number RHS-21-SFH-0017). While the necessary technology advancements needed for full implementation of Delegated Authority are in process, RHS has established the LITE Delegated Authority Pilot Program to phase in and

test Delegated Authority in a controlled environment. The pilot will permit participating LITE Delegated Lenders to approve loans and obtain Loan Note Guarantees with limited Agency involvement. The objective of this pilot is to test the implementation of Delegated Authority by streamlining and expediting loan approvals, similar to the efficiencies seen in the Federal Housing Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs programs, thereby leveraging the expertise of private-sector lenders to balance growing demand and limited federal resources.

This notice outlines the new LITE Delegated Authority Pilot Program under the Section 502 SFHGLP.

#### Eligibility Requirements

Lenders interested in participating must notify the Agency at [LITEPilot@usda.gov](mailto:LITEPilot@usda.gov). To qualify for the pilot program, lenders must demonstrate above-average loan performance based on delinquencies, loss claims, and default rates over the past two years when compared to the SFHGLP portfolio; have originated at least 10 SFHGLP loans in the last 12 months; and be current on all lender certifications, fees, and loan requirements. Lenders must have a satisfactory compliance record, with no failed Corrective Action Reviews or Reduced Sample Reviews for the past 24 months. The Agency will review qualifications for the pilot program as lenders submit notifications. The number of lenders approved for LITE Delegated Lender status will be contingent on the progress of the Agency's system modifications, budgetary constraints, portfolio performance, and availability of resources required to perform lender oversight and monitoring. Selection criteria will include lender performance metrics and the number of volunteer lenders.

#### Operational Procedures

Approved lenders and their agents operating under the LITE Delegated program must continue to utilize the Agency's automated loan underwriting and closing systems for all supported loan submissions. When manual submissions are necessary due to Guaranteed Underwriting System (GUS) limitations, lenders must follow the Manual Submission Job Aid procedures which can be located on the USDA LINC Training and Resource Library located at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/resources/usda-linc-training-resource-library/loan-origination>. All aspects of loan origination, processing, closing,

and servicing must strictly comply with published regulations and handbook guidelines. For LITE Delegated Lenders, the organization will perform the pre-closing loan approval process and manage post-closing issuance of the Loan Note Guarantee with minimal Agency oversight. These lenders have the delegated authority to approve loans either through the Agency's automated underwriting system, or by manually underwriting a file not supported by GUS. Processing times vary by submission type. GUS submissions will be completed within 2 business hours, while manual submissions will follow standard processing timeframes.

After closing, LITE Delegated Authority submissions qualify for a streamlined closing process. LITE Delegated Lenders will use the Lender Loan Closing system to enter basic loan closing information and authorize electronic payment of the upfront Guarantee Fee and USDA Technology Fee via the *Pay.gov* system. Documentation uploads are only required if specifically requested by the Agency. The Agency will issue the Loan Note Guarantee within two business days of receipt, retrievable from the Agency's Lender Loan Closing system. The Loan Note Guarantee is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States as per § 3555.108. Consequently, the LITE Delegated Lender is responsible for ensuring that both the applicant and the property meet the eligibility requirements and certification for the loan guarantee under subparts C, D, and E of 7 CFR part 3555, as well as the environmental requirements in § 3555.5.

#### **Variance From Procedures (for LITE Delegated Lenders)**

The Agency is modifying the procedures for LITE Delegated Lenders as follows:

*Environmental Reviews:* SFHGLP loans are generally considered categorical exclusions under 7 CFR 1b. If there is an extraordinary circumstance, the LITE Delegated Lender must notify the Agency to decide the appropriate course of action.

*Appraisal Reviews:* Agency administrative appraisal reviews under § 3555.107(d)(4) are inapplicable to loans approved via LITE delegated authority. LITE Delegated Lenders are responsible for ensuring that appraisal reports meet all requirements under § 3555.107(d).

*Application Priority Processing:* The requirements under § 3555.107(a) for prioritizing applications do not apply to LITE Delegated Lenders as adequate budget authority exists.

*Conflict of Interest:* When a conflict of interest is disclosed by either the borrower or a Rural Development employee, as described in § 3555.8, the LITE Delegated Lender is required to document the disclosure in the permanent loan file. However, since Delegated Lenders will process pre-closing and post-closing activities with limited Agency assistance, reassignment of the application as described in § 3555.8(d) is not required.

#### **Pilot Program Evaluation and Oversight**

The LITE Delegated Authority Pilot Program will be tested in a controlled environment. Any technological shortcomings encountered during the pilot program will be addressed through a workaround process provided to participating lenders. The program's effectiveness will be evaluated through comprehensive file reviews. Participating lenders will be required to submit fully documented, post-closing, loan submissions for evaluation. Initially, the Agency will review the first 5 to 15 loan files submitted by participating lenders, depending on loan volume. Additionally, 2% of files originated each month, per lender, will be reviewed utilizing the existing compliance review process. Should any concerns regarding regulatory or statutory non-compliance be identified during these reviews, participating lenders will be given 90 days from the date of notification by the Agency to make the necessary corrections. Failure to address these issues within the stipulated timeframe will result in the lender's removal from the pilot program. Furthermore, SFHGLP Senior Leadership retains the right to withdraw approval and participation in the program for any lender found to be engaging in misconduct. If a lender violates program guidelines or fails to meet eligibility standards, the Agency may issue cease and desist letters to halt improper actions. Additionally, all loans are subject to future indemnification per § 3555.108(d).

The requirements for LITE Delegated Lender status include meeting the general eligibility criteria in § 3555.51, having participated in the SFHGLP for at least two years, and maintaining above-average performance standards in delinquency, default, and loss claim rates. Eligibility is reassessed every two years, requiring lenders to be registered in SAM, complete mandatory recertification training, and respond within the timeframe specified in the agency notification provided to the Lender. Guarantee fees must be paid electronically at loan closing. LITE Delegated Lenders are required to

continuously maintain these standards and are subject to regular assessments. To maintain eligibility, lenders must enter into a User Agreement to receive automated notifications and ensure compliance with § 3555.107. The Agency reserves the right to adjust, modify, or cancel the pilot program based on budget, performance, and integrity considerations.

In the event that modifications are made to the performance metrics for new LITE Delegated Lenders, existing LITE Delegated Lenders will retain their status, and the Agency will provide a reasonable timeframe to meet the new performance metrics to continue retaining LITE Delegated Lender status. Any modifications made to the performance metrics for LITE Delegated Lenders will be publicly announced through a notice in the **Federal Register**. The Agency will conduct lender approvals at a limited pace to foster smooth implementation of the LITE Delegated Authority Pilot Program. The rollout will be phased in to allow the Agency some control over the number of loans guaranteed by LITE Delegated Lenders throughout the pilot program. The Agency will evaluate the performance and efficacy of the process and make any necessary adjustments. The Agency will continue to phase in new lenders as the process is refined. The number of lenders approved for LITE Delegated Lender status will be contingent on the progress of the Agency's systems modifications, budgetary constraints, portfolio performance, and availability of resources required to perform lender oversight and monitoring.

The Agency has the right to suspend or terminate any lender's delegated status for reasons including, but not limited to, approving loans that do not meet Agency loan program guidelines; providing data to the Agency's automated underwriting system that is not supported by documentation retained by the lender; maintaining a portfolio that does not meet the established delinquency, loss claim, and default rate performance metrics; and an inability to meet the criteria described in § 3555.51, "Lender eligibility." Adverse decisions made by the Agency may be appealed to the USDA National Appeals Division in accordance with 7 CFR 3555.4.

The Agency is implementing ongoing monitoring and oversight for LITE Delegated Lenders from two perspectives: Monitoring Performance and Lender Oversight.

*Monitoring Performance:* Loan-level data is collected from lenders each month through the Electronic Status

Reporting system. This data is compiled, reviewed, and monitored by the Agency every month to determine portfolio performance as well as risks and trends in delinquency, default, and loss claim rates. This loan level data will be collected and analyzed to provide the Agency with information regarding their performance.

*Lender Oversight Reviews/Examinations:* The Agency's Quality Assurance and Lender Oversight Division will establish a regular process specifically for LITE Delegated Lenders to ensure adherence to Agency loan program requirements in 7 CFR part 3555 and ongoing eligibility for the program. This process involves reviewing and examining multiple aspects of mortgage origination and servicing, based on a representative sample of loans, financial requirements, and portfolio performance.

Lender Oversight reviews will be conducted on lenders within the first 12 months of participation in the LITE Delegated Authority Pilot Program. Lenders will be notified of the current process, and the oversight review will be consistent with established procedures.

Participating lenders will be required to submit fully documented loan submissions for evaluation. Lenders must provide comprehensive and complete documentation for each loan they originate under the program. The documentation must include all necessary information to support the loan application and ensure it meets the program's eligibility criteria.

The Agency may request a fully documented case file at any time from the lender for review if additional loan documentation is determined necessary for risk management. An ineligible loan may result in future indemnification and/or loss claim payment reduction/denial.

A report will be provided, with findings and observations recorded and communicated back to the lender or servicer, along with any suggestions for improvement. If necessary, the lender will have the opportunity to implement a Corrective Action Plan to address any deficiencies and will receive guidance, be provided with training, and given the opportunity to improve their performance. Recurring findings identified through the Lender Oversight process may result in additional reviews and examinations and may adversely affect a lender's LITE Delegated Lender status.

#### **Paperwork Reduction Act**

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the information

collection requirements associated with the programs, as covered in this notice, have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0575-0179. The regulatory waivers for this pilot program contain no new reporting or recordkeeping burdens.

#### **National Environmental Policy Act**

All recipients under this notice are subject to the requirements of 7 CFR part 1b.

#### **Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act**

All applicants, in accordance with 2 CFR part 25, must be registered in SAM and have a UEI number as stated in Section D.3 of this notice. All recipients of Federal financial assistance are required to report information about first-tier sub-awards and executive total compensation in accordance with 2 CFR part 170.

#### **Civil Rights Act**

All awards of Federal financial assistance made under this NOFO are subject to applicable civil rights laws, which may include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1973, and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974.

#### **Equal Opportunity for Religious Organizations**

a. Faith-based organizations may apply for this award on the same basis as any other organization, as set forth at, and subject to the protections and requirements of, this part and any applicable constitutional and statutory requirements, including 42 U.S.C. 2000bb *et seq.* USDA will not, in the selection of recipients, discriminate for or against an organization on the basis of the organization's religious character, motives, or affiliation, or lack thereof, or on the basis of conduct that would not be considered grounds to favor or disfavor a similarly situated secular organization.

b. A faith-based organization that participates in this program will retain its independence from the Government and may continue to carry out its mission consistent with religious freedom and conscience protections in Federal law. Religious accommodations may also be sought under many of these religious freedom and conscience protection laws.

c. A faith-based organization may not use direct Federal financial assistance

from USDA to support or engage in any explicitly religious activities except when consistent with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment and any other applicable requirements. An organization receiving Federal financial assistance also may not, in providing services funded by USDA, or in their outreach activities related to such services, discriminate against a program beneficiary or prospective program beneficiary on the basis of religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to attend or participate in a religious practice.

#### **Non-Discrimination Statement**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (*e.g.*, Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-assistant-secretary-civil-rights/how-file-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, Washington, DC 20250-9410; or

(2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

(3) Email: [Program.Intake@usda.gov](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov).

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George Kelly,

Administrator, Rural Housing Service.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B-31-2026]

#### Foreign-Trade Zone 183; Application for Subzone; Dongjin Semichem Texas, Inc.; Killeen, Texas

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board by the Foreign Trade Zone of Central Texas, Inc., grantee of FTZ 183, requesting subzone status for the facility of Dongjin Semichem Texas, Inc., located in Killeen, Texas. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally docketed on March 17, 2026.

The proposed subzone (41.86 acres) is located at 705 Rickey Carlisle Circle, Killeen, Texas. No authorization for production activity has been requested at this time.

In accordance with the FTZ Board's regulations, Camille Evans of the FTZ Staff is designated examiner to review the application and make recommendations to the FTZ Board.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions shall be addressed to the FTZ Board's Executive Secretary and sent to: [ftz@trade.gov](mailto:ftz@trade.gov). The closing period for their receipt is April 28, 2026. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted through May 13, 2026.

A copy of the application will be available for public inspection in the "Online FTZ Information Section" section of the FTZ Board's website, which is accessible via [www.trade.gov/ftz](http://www.trade.gov/ftz).

For further information, contact Camille Evans at [Camille.Evans@trade.gov](mailto:Camille.Evans@trade.gov).

Dated: March 17, 2026.

Elizabeth Whiteman,  
Executive Secretary.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-570-082, C-570-083]

#### Certain Steel Wheels From the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Circumvention Inquiries on the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders

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

**SUMMARY:** In response to a request from Accuride Corporation (Accuride) and Maxion Wheels USA LLC (Maxion) (domestic interested parties), the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) is initiating a country-wide circumvention inquiry to determine whether imports of certain steel wheels from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Vietnam) are circumventing the antidumping duty (AD) and countervailing duties (CVD) orders on certain steel wheels from the People's Republic of China (China).

**DATES:** Applicable March 19, 2026.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas Cloyd, AD/CVD Operations, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-1246.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On January 14, 2026, pursuant to section 781(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), and 19 CFR 351.226(i), Accuride and Maxion (domestic interested parties) filed a circumvention inquiry request alleging that certain steel wheels finished in Vietnam, using hot-rolled steel (HRS) produced in China, and subsequently exported from Vietnam to the United States are circumventing the AD and CVD *Orders* on certain steel wheels from China<sup>1</sup> and, accordingly, should be included within the scope of the *Orders*.<sup>2</sup> On January 26, 2026, NCC Vietnam Company, Ltd. (NCC Vietnam) submitted adequacy comments alleging the legal requirements to initiate a circumvention inquiry have not been met.<sup>3</sup> On February 2, 2026, domestic interested parties submitted rebuttal

<sup>1</sup> See *Certain Steel Wheels from the People's Republic of China: Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders*, 84 FR 24098 (May 24, 2019) (*Orders*).

<sup>2</sup> See Domestic Interested Parties' Letter, "Request for Circumvention Ruling (Vietnam)" dated January 14, 2026 (Circumvention Inquiry Request).

<sup>3</sup> See NCC Vietnam's Letter, "Comments on Accuride and Maxion Circumvention Inquiry Request," dated January 26, 2026.

comments.<sup>4</sup> On February 9, 2026, we issued a supplemental questionnaire to domestic interested parties to clarify the period of inquiry and period of comparison.<sup>5</sup> The domestic interested parties responded on February 12, 2026.<sup>6</sup>

#### Scope of the Orders

The merchandise subject to the *Orders* is certain on-the-road steel wheels, discs, and rims for tubeless tires, with a nominal rim diameter of 22.5 inches and 24.5 inches, regardless of width. Imports of the subject merchandise are currently classified under the following Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheadings: 8708.70.4530, 8708.70.4560, 8708.70.6030, 8708.70.6060, and 8716.90.5059. Merchandise meeting the scope description may also enter under the following HTSUS subheadings: 4011.20.1015, 4011.20.5020, and 8708.99.4850. While HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of the *Orders* is dispositive. For a full description of the scope of the *Orders*, see the Initiation Checklist.<sup>7</sup>

#### Merchandise Subject to the Circumvention Inquiry

The circumvention inquiry covers certain steel wheels finished in Vietnam using HRS produced in China and subsequently exported from Vietnam to the United States.

#### Initiation of Circumvention Inquiry

Section 351.226(d) of Commerce's regulations states that if Commerce determines that a request for a circumvention inquiry satisfies the requirements of 19 CFR 351.226(c), then Commerce "will accept the request and initiate a circumvention inquiry." Section 351.226(c)(1) of Commerce's regulations, in turn, requires that each request for a circumvention inquiry allege "that the elements necessary for a circumvention determination under section 781 of the Act exist" and be "accompanied by information

<sup>4</sup> See Domestic Interested Parties' Letter, "Response to Comments on the Adequacy of the Request for a Circumvention Inquiry," dated February 2, 2026.

<sup>5</sup> See Commerce's Letter, "Request for Circumvention Inquiry (Vietnam) Supplemental Questionnaire" dated February 9, 2026.

<sup>6</sup> See Domestic Interested Parties' Letter, "Response to Supplemental Questionnaire" dated February 12, 2026.

<sup>7</sup> See Checklist, "Vietnam Assembly Circumvention Initiation Checklist," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Initiation Checklist).