

**§§ 3550.120–3550.149**

**7 CFR Ch. XXXV (1–1–25 Edition)**

the Department of Health and Human Services.

(d) Must not be delinquent on any Federal debt.

(e) The household income must be verified at the time they apply for assistance through verification of employment and benefits. Federal tax returns are used as further verification of household income.

[61 FR 59779, Nov. 22, 1996, as amended at 67 FR 78331, Dec. 24, 2002]

**§§ 3550.120–3550.149 [Reserved]**

**§ 3550.150 OMB control number.**

The information collection requirements contained in this regulation have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and have been assigned OMB control number 0575–0172. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to vary from 5 minutes to 3 hours per response, with an average of 1½ hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

[61 FR 59779, Nov. 22, 1996, as amended at 67 FR 78331, Dec. 24, 2002; 80 FR 81738, Dec. 31, 2015]

**Subpart D—Regular Servicing**

**§ 3550.151 Servicing goals.**

This subpart sets forth the Rural Housing Service (RHS) policies for managing the repayment of loans made under sections 502 and 504 of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended.

**§ 3550.152 Loan payments.**

(a) *Payment terms.* Unless the loan documents specify other loan repayment terms, borrowers are required to make monthly payments. Borrowers with existing loans specifying annual payments may request conversion to monthly payments, and must convert to a monthly payment schedule before any subsequent loan or new payment assistance is approved. Suitable forms

of payment are: check, money order, or bank draft. Borrowers who make cash payments will be assessed a fee to cover the cost of conversion to a money order.

(b) *Application of payments.* If a borrower makes less than the scheduled payment, the payment is held in suspense and is not applied to the borrower's account. When subsequent payments are received in an amount sufficient to equal a scheduled payment, the amount will be applied in the following order:

(1) Protective advances charged to the account.

(2) Accrued interest due.

(3) Principal due.

(4) Escrow for taxes and insurance.

(c) *Multiple loans.* When a borrower with multiple loans for the same property makes less than the scheduled payment on all loans, the payment will be applied to the oldest loan and then in declining order of age. Future remittances will be applied beginning with the oldest unpaid installment.

(d) *Application of excess payments.* Borrowers can elect to make payments in excess of the scheduled amount to be applied to principal, provided there are no outstanding fees.

**§ 3550.153 Fees.**

RHS may assess reasonable fees including a tax service fee, fees for late payments, and fees for checks returned for insufficient funds.

**§ 3550.154 Inspections.**

RHS or its agent may make reasonable entries upon and inspections of any property used as security for an RHS loan as necessary to protect the interest of the Government. RHS will give the borrower notice at the time of or prior to an inspection.

**§ 3550.155 Escrow account.**

Escrow accounts will be administered in accordance with RESPA and section 501(e) of the Housing Act of 1949, as amended.

(a) Upon creation of the escrow account, RHS may require borrowers to deposit funds sufficient to pay taxes and insurance premiums applicable to the mortgage for the period since the