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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Commodity Credit Corporation

7 CFR Part 1499

RIN 0551-AA89

Food for Progress Program

AGENCY: Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) revises the regulations governing the award of agricultural commodities to recipients under the Food for Progress Program. This revision is necessary to clarify requirements for applicants for, and recipients of, awards under the Food for Progress Program and to inform interested parties that the OMB guidance on Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, as supplemented by USDA regulations, applies to awards under the Food for Progress Program other than awards to foreign public entities. The revised regulations will enable applicants and recipients to better understand program requirements and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), on behalf of CCC, to more effectively implement the Food for Progress Program.

DATES: This rule is effective September 12, 2016. Written comments must be received by CCC or carry a postmark or equivalent no later than October 12, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to Director, Food Assistance Division, Office of Capacity Building and Development, Foreign Agricultural Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 1034, Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Benjamin Muskovitz, Director, Food

Assistance Division, Office of Capacity Building and Development, Foreign Agricultural Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 1034, Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 720-4221; Fax: (202) 690-0251; Email: FAD_Contact@fas.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Food for Progress Program provides for the donation of U.S. agricultural commodities to developing countries and emerging democracies committed to introducing and expanding free enterprise in the agricultural sector. The commodities are generally sold on the local market and the proceeds are used to support agricultural development activities. The program has two principal objectives: To improve agricultural productivity and expand trade in agricultural products. The Food for Progress Program is authorized in section 1110 of the Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o).

FAS implements the Food for Progress Program on behalf of CCC. FAS uses the regulations in 7 CFR part 1499, Food for Progress Program, in the administration of the Food for Progress. The previous version of the regulations was published as a final rule on March 26, 2009 (74 FR 13062).

On December 26, 2013, 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 (78 FR 78608). 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 (79 FR 75982, December 19, 2014).

Revision of Regulations

FAS, on behalf of CCC, is revising the Food for Progress Program regulations in 7 CFR part 1499 through this final rule. Many of the changes to the regulations are technical in nature and intended to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Food for Progress Program. Some of the detail that was previously included in the program

regulations will now be included in the applicable notice of funding opportunity.

The more significant changes to 7 CFR part 1499 include:

(1) Updating 7 CFR part 1499 to make it clear that the guidance in 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented by 2 CFR part 400 and 7 CFR part 1499, applies to awards under the Food for Progress Program other than awards to foreign public entities. Applicants for, and recipients of, awards under the Food for Progress Program must consult all three parts to be informed of all regulatory requirements. Because 7 CFR part 1499 deals specifically with the Food for Progress Program, the provisions of 7 CFR part 1499 will apply if they differ from the provisions of 2 CFR part 200 or part 400.

(2) Clarifying the types of entities eligible for awards under the Food for Progress Program and the applicability of the regulations in 7 CFR part 1499 to each type of eligible entity (7 CFR 1499.1(d)-(g) and 1499.3(a)).

In accordance with 7 U.S.C. 1736o(b)(5), assistance under the Food for Progress Program may be provided to governments of emerging agricultural countries, intergovernmental organizations, private voluntary organizations, nonprofit agricultural organizations or cooperatives, nongovernmental organizations, and any other private entities. However, the regulations do not apply to all of these entities. The guidance in 2 CFR part 200 does not generally apply to for-profit entities, foreign public entities, or foreign organizations. According to 2 CFR 200.101(c), Federal awarding agencies may apply subparts A through E of 2 CFR part 200 to for-profit entities, foreign public entities, or foreign organizations, except where the Federal awarding agency determines that the application of these subparts would be inconsistent with the international obligations of the United States or the statutes or regulations of a foreign government.

CCC has determined not to apply 2 CFR parts 200 and 400 and 7 CFR part 1499 to foreign public entities. Therefore, they do not apply to intergovernmental organizations (such as the World Food Program) or foreign governments, because these entities are included within the definition of a foreign public entity in 2 CFR 200.46.

CCC has determined to apply subparts A through E of 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented by 2 CFR part 400 and 7 CFR part 1499, to for-profit entities and foreign organizations. Accordingly, they apply to applicants for, and recipients of, awards under the Food for Progress Program that are private voluntary organizations, including those that are foreign organizations; nonprofit agricultural organizations or cooperatives, including those that are foreign organizations; nongovernmental organizations, including those that are for-profit entities or foreign organizations; and other private entities, including those that are for-profit entities or foreign organizations.

CCC has determined to apply subparts A through E of 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented by 2 CFR part 400 and 7 CFR part 1499, to all subawards to all subrecipients under this part, except where the subrecipient is a foreign public entity or where CCC determines that the application of these provisions 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.

Subpart F of 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented by 2 CFR part 400 and 7 CFR part 1499, applies only to awards by CCC to recipients that are private voluntary organizations, agricultural organizations or cooperatives, nongovernmental organizations, or other private entities, but that are not for-profit entities or foreign organizations. Subpart F of 2 CFR part 200, as supplemented by 2 CFR part 400 and 7 CFR part 1499, applies to subawards to subrecipients, except where the subrecipient is a for-profit entity, foreign public entity, or foreign organization. In 7 CFR part 1499, CCC sets forth other audit requirements that apply to recipients and subrecipients that are for-profit entities or foreign organizations (7 CFR 1499.18).

(3) Adding and updating definitions of terms used in the regulations and removing definitions of terms that are no longer needed (7 CFR 1499.2).

(4) Including a requirement for an applicant to include in its application the amount of funding that will be provided to each proposed subrecipient under the agreement (7 CFR 1499.4(b)(4)(iii)).

(5) Adding new and modifying existing provisions relating to cash advances and reimbursements for expenses (7 CFR 1499.6(f)).

(6) Adding new and modifying existing labeling and notification

requirements applicable to the packaging, identification, source, funding, and use of the donated commodities, while allowing for the waiver of these labeling and notification requirements in exceptional circumstances (7 CFR 1499.8(d)–(h)).

(7) Updating and clarifying language requiring recipients to report on the loss of or damage to donated commodities and pursue claims in the event of loss or damage (7 CFR 1499.9 and 1499.10).

(8) Incorporating new performance monitoring and evaluation requirements (7 CFR 1499.12).

(9) Updating reporting requirements (7 CFR 1499.13).

(10) Adding a section setting forth audit requirements for recipients and subrecipients (7 CFR 1499.18). Although the audit requirements in subpart F of 2 CFR part 200 do not apply to recipients or subrecipients that are for-profit entities or foreign organizations, CCC has determined to require such recipients and subrecipients to obtain an audit, provided that they expend, during the fiscal year, a total of at least the audit requirement threshold in 2 CFR 200.501 in Federal awards. The regulations lay out two options for satisfying this audit requirement.

Notice and Comment

This rule is being issued as a final rule without prior notice and opportunity for comment. The Administrative Procedure Act exempts rules “relating to agency management or personnel or to public property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts” from the statutory requirement for prior notice and opportunity for comment (5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2)). Accordingly, this rule may be made effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. However, members of the public may participate in this rulemaking by submitting written comments, data, or views. CCC will consider the comments received and may conduct additional rulemaking based on the comments. Written comments must be received by CCC or carry a postmark or equivalent no later than October 12, 2016.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

The program covered by this regulation is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) under the following FAS CFDA number: 10.606, Food for Progress.

E-Government Act Compliance

CCC is committed to complying with the E-Government Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. chapter 36), to promote the use of the Internet and other information technologies to provide increased

opportunities for citizens’ access to Government information and services, and for other purposes.

Executive Order 12866

This rule is issued in conformance with Executive Order 12866, “Regulatory Planning and Review.” It has been determined to be not significant for the purposes of Executive Order 12866 and, therefore, was not reviewed by OMB.

Executive Order 12988

This rule has been reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 12988, “Civil Justice Reform.” This rule does not preempt State or local laws, regulations, or policies unless they present an irreconcilable conflict with this rule. This rule will not be retroactive.

Executive Order 12372

Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs,” requires consultation with officials of State and local governments that would be directly affected by the proposed Federal financial assistance. The objectives of the Executive Order are to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened federalism by relying on State and local processes for the State and local government coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development. This rule will not directly affect State or local officials and, for this reason, it is excluded from the scope of Executive Order 12372.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612), as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally requires an agency to prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis of any rule that is subject to notice and comment rulemaking under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) or any other law, unless the agency certifies that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The Regulatory Flexibility Act does not apply to this rule because CCC is not required by the APA or any other law to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking with respect to the subject matter of the rule.

Executive Order 13132

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 13132, “Federalism.” This rule will not have any substantial direct effect on States, on the relationship between the Federal

government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government, except as required by law. This rule does not impose substantial direct compliance costs on State and local governments. Therefore, consultation with the States was not required.

Executive Order 13175

This rule has been reviewed in accordance with the requirements of Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments." Executive Order 13175 requires Federal agencies to consult and coordinate with tribes on a government-to-government basis on policies that have tribal implications, including regulations, legislative comments or proposed legislation, and other policy statements or actions that have substantial direct effects on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes. CCC does not expect this rule to have any effect on Indian tribes.

Unfunded Mandates

Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) does not apply to this rule because it does not impose any enforceable duty or contain any unfunded mandate as described under the UMRA.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 1499

Agricultural commodities, Cooperative agreements, Exports, Food assistance programs, Foreign aid, Grant programs—agriculture, Technical assistance.

■ For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Commodity Credit Corporation revises 7 CFR part 1499 to read as follows:

PART 1499—FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM

Sec.

- 1499.1 Purpose and applicability.
- 1499.2 Definitions.
- 1499.3 Eligibility and conflicts of interest.
- 1499.4 Application process.
- 1499.5 Agreements.
- 1499.6 Payments.
- 1499.7 Transportation of donated commodities.
- 1499.8 Entry, handling, and labeling of donated commodities and notification requirements.
- 1499.9 Damage to or loss of donated commodities.
- 1499.10 Claims for damage to or loss of donated commodities.

- 1499.11 Use of donated commodities, sale proceeds, CCC-provided funds, and program income.
- 1499.12 Monitoring and evaluation requirements.
- 1499.13 Reporting and record keeping requirements.
- 1499.14 Subrecipients.
- 1499.15 Noncompliance with an agreement.
- 1499.16 Suspension and termination of agreements.
- 1499.17 Opportunities to object and appeals.
- 1499.18 Audit requirements.
- 1499.19 Paperwork Reduction Act.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1736o; and 15 U.S.C. 714b and 714c.

§ 1499.1 Purpose and applicability.

(a) This part sets forth the general terms and conditions governing the award of donated commodities and funds by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to recipients under the Food for Progress (FFPr) Program. Under the FFPr Program, recipients use the donated commodities, proceeds from any sale of such commodities, CCC-provided funds, and program income to implement a project in a foreign country pursuant to an agreement with CCC. The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers the FFPr Program on behalf of CCC.

(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, 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 FFPr 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 FFPr Program. The provisions of the CCC Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 *et seq.*) and any other statutory provisions that are generally applicable to CCC apply to the FFPr Program.

(d) In accordance with 7 U.S.C. 1736o(b)(5), assistance under the FFPr Program may be provided to governments of emerging agricultural

countries, intergovernmental organizations, private voluntary organizations, nonprofit agricultural organizations or cooperatives, nongovernmental organizations, and any other private entities.

(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 CCC under the FFPr 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 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 CCC under the FFPr 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; nonprofit agricultural organizations or cooperatives, including a nonprofit agricultural organization or cooperative that is a foreign organization; nongovernmental organizations, including a nongovernmental organization that is a for-profit entity or a foreign organization; or other private entities, including a private entity that is a for-profit entity or a foreign organization.

(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 CCC 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 CCC to recipients that are private voluntary organizations, agricultural organizations or cooperatives, nongovernmental organizations, or other private entities, 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 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 institution.

(3) Audit requirements for recipients and subrecipients that are for-profit entities or foreign organizations are set forth in § 1499.18.

§ 1499.2 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 CCC and a recipient to implement a project under the FFPr Program.

CCC means the Commodity Credit Corporation, an agency and instrumentality of the United States within USDA, and includes any official of the United States delegated the responsibility to act on behalf of CCC.

CCC-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 technical assistance related to the monetization of the donated commodities.

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 CCC 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.

FFPr Program means the Food for Progress Program.

Nongovernmental organization means an organization that works at the local level to solve development problems in a foreign country in which the organization is located, except that the term does not include an organization that is primarily an agency or instrumentality of the government of the foreign country.

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; CCC-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.

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 CCC and receives donated commodities and CCC-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.

§ 1499.3 Eligibility and conflicts of interest.

(a) A private voluntary organization, a nonprofit agricultural organization or cooperative, a nongovernmental organization, or any other private entity is eligible to submit an application under this part to become a recipient under the Food for Progress Program. CCC 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 CCC pursuant to 2 CFR 400.2(a), and with the requirements in 2 CFR 400.2(b), regarding conflicts of interest.

§ 1499.4 Application process.

(a) An applicant seeking to enter into an agreement with CCC must submit an application, in accordance with this section, that sets forth its proposal to carry out activities under the FFPr Program in a proposed target country(ies). An application must contain the items specified in paragraph (b) of this section as well as any other items required by the notice of funding opportunity and must be submitted electronically to CCC 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 detailed budget narrative that indicate:

(i) The amounts of any sale proceeds, CCC-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 FFPr 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, 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 CCC 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.

§ 1499.5 Agreements.

(a) After CCC approves an application by an applicant, CCC will negotiate an agreement with the applicant. The agreement will set forth the obligations of CCC 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-CCC 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 nongovernmental 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 CCC during the negotiation of the agreement;

(3) A budget, which will set forth the maximum amounts of sale proceeds, CCC-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 CCC to support this assertion;

(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 CCC 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 CCC 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 CCC to support this assertion.

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

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

§ 1499.6 Payments.

(a) If a recipient arranges for transportation in accordance with § 1499.7(b)(2), CCC 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 CCC, arrange to be submitted to CCC, or maintain on file and make available to CCC, 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 CCC 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 CCC.

(b) If the agreement specifies that some or all of the documents listed in paragraph (a) of this section will be submitted to CCC, then CCC 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 § 1499.7(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 CCC provide payment to a recipient for demurrage costs or pay demurrage to any other entity.

(e) If CCC 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, CCC 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 CCC-provided funds, CCC 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 CCC-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 CCC 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 CCC 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) CCC 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. CCC 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) CCC 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 CCC or FAS, is more than three months in arrears.

(6)(i) A recipient must return to CCC any funds advanced by CCC 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 CCC

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 CCC 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 CCC, 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 CCC does not approve the rollover of some or all of the funds, such funds must be returned to CCC.

(iv) If a recipient must return funds to CCC 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 CCC that it has denied the recipient's request to roll over the funds; provided, however, that CCC 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 CCC. The account must be interest-bearing, unless one of the exceptions in 2 CFR 200.305(b)(8) applies or CCC 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 CCC-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).

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

§ 1499.7 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 CCC under the FFPr Program will be arranged for under a specific agreement in the manner determined by CCC. Such transportation will be arranged for by:

(1) CCC 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 CCC, 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 forwarder 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 CCC in determining whether there is a potential conflict of interest, the recipient must submit to CCC 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 FFPr 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.

§ 1499.8 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:

(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) CCC 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 CCC that the requirement presents a safety and 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 CCC 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 CCC. A recipient may submit a written request for a waiver at any time after the agreement has been signed.

(h) In exceptional circumstances, CCC 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.

§ 1499.9 Damage to or loss of donated commodities.

(a) CCC 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 CCC, 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 CCC 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 CCC 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 CCC upon request, or in the manner specified in the agreement. CCC will reimburse the recipient for the reasonable costs of these services, as determined by CCC, 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 CCC;

(2) The recipient must provide to CCC 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 CCC and provide to CCC 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 CCC with respect to such commodities, as well as such costs incurred by the recipient and paid by CCC. The recipient must inform CCC 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 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 CCC, 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 CCC 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.

§ 1499.10 Claims for damage to or loss of donated commodities.

(a) CCC 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 CCC 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 CCC 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 CCC in accordance with the agreement and provide detailed information about the damage or loss in the next report required to be filed under § 1499.13(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 CCC with respect to such commodities, as well as such costs incurred by the recipient and paid by CCC.

(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 CCC with respect to such commodities, as well as such costs incurred by the recipient and paid by CCC, less any funds generated if such commodities are sold in accordance with § 1499.9(f)(1).

(e) If CCC determines that a recipient has not initiated a claim or is not exercising due diligence in the pursuit of a claim, CCC may require the recipient to assign its rights to initiate or pursue the claim to CCC. Failure by the recipient to initiate a claim or exercise due diligence in the pursuit of a claim will be considered by CCC 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 CCC.

(2) CCC 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, CCC will use a portion of such funds to reimburse the recipient for such expense on a prorated basis.

§ 1499.11 Use of donated commodities, sale proceeds, CCC-provided funds, and program income.

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

(b) A recipient must not use donated commodities, sale proceeds, CCC-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 CCC.

(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 CCC.

(e) A recipient must not use sale proceeds, CCC-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 § 1499.9(f). The recipient must sell donated commodities at a reasonable market price. The recipient must obtain approval of its proposed sale price from CCC 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, CCC-provided funds, and program income in a bank account until they are used for a purpose authorized under the agreement or the CCC-provided funds are returned to CCC in accordance with § 1499.6(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 CCC determines that this requirement would constitute an undue burden. The recipient must comply with the requirements in § 1499.6(f)(7) with regard to the deposit of advance payments by CCC.

(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 CCC.

(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 CCC.

(i) A recipient may use sale proceeds, CCC-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 proceeds, CCC-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, CCC-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, CCC-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, CCC-provided funds, or program income for this purpose until it receives written approval from CCC.

(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 CCC in the agreement. The recipient must submit a copy of the signed contracts to CCC upon request.

§ 1499.12 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 CCC 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 CCC, 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 CCC 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 CCC 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 CCC as part of its application, pursuant to § 1499.4(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 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 CCC 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 CCC 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) CCC 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) CCC 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 CCC. Such evaluations may be conducted by CCC internally or by a CCC-hired external evaluation contractor.

§ 1499.13 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 CCC, by the dates and for the reporting periods specified in the agreement. Such reports must provide an accurate accounting of sale proceeds, CCC-provided funds, interest, program income, and voluntary committed cost sharing or matching contributions.

(c)(1) A recipient must submit performance reports to CCC, 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 CCC in performance reports. At any time during the period of performance of the agreement, CCC may review the recipient's performance data to determine whether it is accurate and reliable. The recipient must comply with all requests made by CCC or an entity designated by CCC 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 CCC-approved evaluation plan. Evaluation reports submitted to CCC 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 CCC, in the manner set forth in the agreement. The evidence may be submitted through an electronic media approved by CCC 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) The recipient must submit reports to CCC, using a form prescribed by CCC, covering the receipt, handling, and disposition of the donated commodities. Such reports must be submitted to CCC, 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 CCC.

(2) If the agreement authorizes the sale or barter of donated commodities, the recipient must submit to CCC, using a form prescribed by CCC, 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 CCC, 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 CCC. 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 CCC, a recipient must provide to CCC additional information or reports relating to the agreement.

(h) If a recipient requires an extension of a reporting deadline, it must ensure that CCC receives an extension request at least five business days prior to the reporting deadline. CCC may decline to consider a request for an extension that it receives after this time period. CCC will consider requests for reporting deadline extensions on a case by case basis and make a decision based on the merits of each request. CCC will consider factors such as unforeseen or extenuating circumstances and past performance history when evaluating requests for extensions.

(i) The 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 CCC. The recipient must retain copies of and make available to CCC 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.

§ 1499.14 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, CCC-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 CCC, in the manner set forth in the agreement, prior to the transfer of any donated commodities, sale proceeds, CCC-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, CCC will make the determination.

(2) The subrecipient is prohibited from using sale proceeds, CCC-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, CCC-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 § 1499.18 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, 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 subagreement and that performance indicator targets are achieved for both activities and results under the agreement.

§ 1499.15 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 CCC determines that the noncompliance cannot be remedied by imposing additional conditions, CCC may take one or more of the actions set forth in 2 CFR 200.338, including initiating a claim as a remedy. CCC may also initiate a claim against a recipient if the donated commodities are damaged or lost, or the sale proceeds, goods received through barter, CCC-provided funds, interest, or program income are misused or lost, due to an action or omission of the recipient.

§ 1499.16 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. CCC 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 CCC 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 CCC;

(2) Is responsible for any sale proceeds, CCC-provided funds, interest, or program income that have not been disbursed and must use or return them only as agreed to by CCC; and

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

§ 1499.17 Opportunities to object and appeals.

(a) CCC will provide an opportunity to a recipient to object to, and provide information and documentation challenging, any action taken by CCC pursuant to § 1499.15. CCC 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 CCC pursuant to § 1499.15 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 CCC official specified in the agreement within 30 days after the date of CCC's written notification to the recipient of the CCC action being challenged. This official will endeavor to notify the recipient of his or her determination within 60 days after the date that CCC received the recipient's written objection.

(c) The recipient may appeal the determination of the official to the Administrator, FAS, who is also a Vice President of CCC. 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 CCC 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 CCC received the appeal. The determination of the Administrator will be the final determination of CCC. The recipient must exhaust all administrative remedies contained in this section before pursuing judicial review of a determination by the Administrator.

§ 1499.18 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 CCC program during such fiscal year; or

(ii) A financial audit of all Federal awards from CCC, in accordance with GAO's Government Auditing Standards, if the recipient or subrecipient expends

Federal awards under multiple CCC 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) 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.

Dated: July 29, 2016.

Suzanne Palmieri,

Acting Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

7 CFR Part 1599

RIN 0551-AA88

McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program

AGENCY: Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA.

ACTION: Final rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) revises the regulations governing the award of agricultural commodities and financial and technical assistance to recipients under the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition (McGovern-Dole) Program. This revision is necessary to clarify requirements for applicants for, and recipients of, awards under the McGovern-Dole Program and to inform interested parties that the OMB guidance on Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, as supplemented by USDA regulations, applies to awards under the McGovern-Dole Program other than awards to foreign public entities. The revised regulations will enable applicants and recipients to better understand program requirements and FAS to more effectively implement the McGovern-Dole Program.

DATES: This rule is effective September 12, 2016. Written comments must be received by FAS or carry a postmark or equivalent no later than October 12, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to Director, Food Assistance Division, Office of Capacity Building and Development, Foreign Agricultural Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 1034, Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Benjamin Muskovitz, Director, Food Assistance Division, Office of Capacity Building and Development, Foreign Agricultural Service, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., STOP 1034, Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 720-4221; Fax: (202) 690-0251; Email: FAD_Contact@fas.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program helps support food security, child development, and education in low-income, food-deficit countries around the world. The program