

§ 1951.653

(h) *Unauthorized assistance.* Any loan, interest subsidy, or grant, or any portion thereof, received by a borrower or grantee for which there was no regulatory authorization, or for which the recipient was not eligible.

Interest subsidy includes interest credits, rental assistance, and subsidy benefits received because a loan was made at a lower interest rate than that to which the recipient was entitled, whether the incorrect interest rate was selected erroneously by the approval official, or the documents were prepared in error.

[50 FR 12996, Apr. 2, 1985, as amended at 58 FR 38926, July 21, 1993]

§ 1951.653 Policy.

When unauthorized assistance has been received, an effort must be made to collect the sum which is determined to be unauthorized from the recipient, regardless of amount, unless any applicable statute of limitations has expired.

[58 FR 38926, July 21, 1993]

§ 1951.654 Categories of unauthorized assistance.

Unauthorized assistance includes, but is not limited to, these categories:

(a) The recipient was not eligible for the assistance.

(b) The property, as approved, does not qualify for the program. For example: An RRH or LH project which clearly is above modest in size, design and/or cost or was not located in an area designated as rural when the initial loan was made.

(c) The loan or grant was made for unauthorized purposes. For example: Purchase of an excessive amount of land.

(d) The recipient was granted unauthorized subsidy in the form of:

(1) Interest credits (IC) on an RRH loan;

(2) Rental Assistance (RA) in connection with an RRH or LH loan; or

(3) A subsidy benefit received through use of an incorrect interest rate.

(e) The recipient was not subjected to obligations required by the assistance,

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such as restrictive-use provisions, at the time the assistance was provided.

[50 FR 12996, Apr. 2, 1985, as amended at 58 FR 38926, July 21, 1993]

§ 1951.655 [Reserved]

§ 1951.656 Initial determination that unauthorized assistance was received.

Unauthorized assistance may be identified through audits conducted by the Office of the Inspector General, USDA, (OIG); through reviews made by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 personnel; or through other means such as information provided by a private citizen which documents that unauthorized assistance has been received by a recipient of FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 assistance. If FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 has reason to believe unauthorized assistance was received, but is unable to determine whether or not the assistance was in fact unauthorized, the case will be referred to the Regional Office of the General Counsel (OGC) or the National Office, as appropriate, for review and advice. In every case where it is known or believed by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 that the assistance was based on false information, investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) will be requested as provided for in FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 Instruction 2012-B (available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 office). If OIG conducts an investigation, the actions outlined in §1951.657 of this subpart will be deferred until the OIG investigation is completed and the report is received. The reason(s) for the unauthorized assistance being received by the recipient will be well documented in the case file, and will specifically state whether it was due to:

(a) Submission of inaccurate information by the recipient;

(b) Submission of false information by the recipient;

(c) Submission of inaccurate or false information by another party on the recipient's behalf such as a loan packager, developer, real estate broker, or