

§ 1951.669

7 CFR Ch. XVIII (1-1-01 Edition)

(c) *Collection of unauthorized assistance.* Collection of unauthorized assistance will be made in accordance with the appropriate sections of subpart K of part 1951 of this chapter. If full prepayment of an MFH loan is required, the prepayment will be accepted in accordance with the requirements of subpart E of part 1965 of this chapter, and appropriate restrictive-use provisions, if applicable, will remain in the deeds of release.

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

§ 1951.669 Exception authority.

The Administrator may in individual cases make an exception to any requirement or provision of this subpart which is not inconsistent with any applicable law or opinion of the Comptroller General, provided the Administrator determines that application of the requirement or provision would adversely affect the Government's interest. Requests for exceptions must be made in writing by the State Director and submitted through the Assistant Administrator, Housing. Requests will be supported with documentation to explain the adverse effect on the Government's interest, proposed alternative courses of action, and show how the adverse effect will be eliminated or minimized if the exception is granted.

§§ 1951.670-1951.699 [Reserved]

§ 1951.700 OMB control number.

The collection of information requirements in this regulation have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and assigned OMB control number 0575-0104.

Subpart O—Servicing Cases Where Unauthorized Loan(s) or Other Financial Assistance Was Received—Community and Insured Business Programs

SOURCE: 50 FR 13000, Apr. 2, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1951.701 Purpose.

This subpart prescribes the policies and procedures for servicing Commu-

nity and Business Program loans and/or grants made by Farmers Home Administration or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 (FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354) when it is determined that the borrower or grantee was not eligible for all or part of the financial assistance received in the form of a loan, grant, or subsidy granted, or any other direct financial assistance. It does not apply to guaranteed loans. Loans sold without insurance by the FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 to the private sector will be serviced in the private sector and will not be serviced under this subpart. The provisions of this subpart are not applicable to such loans. Future changes to this subpart will not be made applicable to such loans.

[52 FR 38908, Oct. 20, 1987]

§ 1951.702 Definitions.

As used in this subpart, the following definitions apply:

(a) *Active borrower.* A borrower who has an outstanding account in the records of the Finance Office, including collection-only or an unsatisfied account balance where a voluntary conveyance was accepted without release from liability of foreclosure did not satisfy the indebtedness.

(b) *Assistance.* Finance assistance in the form of a loan, grant, or subsidy received.

(c) *Debt instrument.* Used as a collective term to include promissory note, assumption agreement, grant agreement agreement/resolution, or bond.

(d) *False information.* Information, known to be incorrect, provided with the intent to obtain benefits which would not have been obtainable based on correct information.

(e) *Inaccurate information.* Incorrect information provided inadvertently without intent to obtain benefits fraudulently.

(f) *Inactive borrower.* A former borrower whose loan(s) has (have) been paid in full or assumed by another party(ies) and who does not have an outstanding account in the records of the Finance Office.

(g) *Recipient.* "Recipient" refers to an individual or entity that received a loan, or portion of a loan, an interest

RHS, RBS, RUS, FSA, USDA

§ 1951.707

subsidy, a grant, or a portion of a grant which was unauthorized.

(h) *Servicing official.* For Community Programs, the servicing official is the District Director, an Assistant District Director, or a District Loan Specialist so designated. For Business Programs, the servicing official is the State Director or Designee.

(i) *Unauthorized assistance.* Any loan, interest subsidy, grant, or portion thereof received by a recipient for which there was no regulatory authorization for which the recipient was not eligible. Interest subsidy includes subsidy benefits received because a loan was closed 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.

§ 1951.703 Policy.

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

§§ 1951.704–1951.705 [Reserved]

§ 1951.706 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 the servicing official has reason to believe unauthorized assistance was received, but is unable to determine whether or not the assistance was in fact unauthorized, the case file including the advice of the Regional Office of the General Counsel (OGC) will be referred to the National Office for review and comment. In every case where it is known or believed by FmHA or its successor agen-

cy under Public Law 103–354 that the assistance was based on false information, investigation by the 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 §1951.707 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 authorized party acting on the recipient’s behalf including professional consultant such as engineers, architects, and attorneys, when the recipient did not know the other part had submitted inaccurate or false information;
- (d) Error by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103–354 personnel, either in making computations or failure to follow published regulations or other agency issuances; or
- (e) Error in preparation of a debt instrument which caused a loan to be closed at an interest rate lower than the correct rate in effect when the loan was approved.

§ 1951.707 Notification to recipient.

(a) Collection efforts will be initiated by the servicing official by a letter substantially similar to exhibit A of this subpart (available in any FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103–354 office), and mailed to the recipient by “Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested,” with a copy to the State Director and, for a case identified in an OIG audit report, a copy to the OIG office which conducted the audit and the Planning and Analysis Staff of the National Office. This letter will be sent to all recipients who received unauthorized assistance, regardless of amount. The letter will: