

§§ 4279.85–4279.99

be replaced before the Agency will replace any instruments.

§§ 4279.85–4279.99 [Reserved]

§ 4279.100 OMB control number.

The information collection requirements contained in this regulation have been approved by OMB and have been assigned OMB control number 0575–0171. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to vary from 1 hour to 8 hours per response, with an average of 4 hours per response, including time for reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Department of Agriculture, Clearance Officer, OIRM, Stop 7630, Washington, D.C. 20250. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Subpart B—Business and Industry Loans

§ 4279.101 Introduction.

(a) *Content.* This subpart contains loan processing regulations for the Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program. It is supplemented by subpart A of this part, which contains general guaranteed loan regulations, and subpart B of part 4287 of this chapter, which contains loan servicing regulations.

(b) *Purpose.* The purpose of the B&I Guaranteed Loan Program is to improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. This purpose is achieved by bolstering the existing private credit structure through the guarantee of quality loans which will provide lasting community benefits. It is not intended that the guarantee authority will be used for marginal or substandard loans or for relief of lenders having such loans.

(c) *Documents.* Copies of all forms, regulations, and Instructions referenced in this subpart are available in any Agency office.

7 CFR Ch. XLII (1–1–01 Edition)

§ 4279.102 Definitions.

The definitions and abbreviations in § 4279.2 of subpart A of this part are applicable to this subpart.

§§ 4279.103 Exception authority.

Section 4279.15 of subpart A of this part applies to this subpart.

§ 4279.104 Appeals.

Section 4279.16 of subpart A of this part applies to this subpart.

§ 4279.105–4279.106 [Reserved]

§ 4279.107 Guarantee fee.

The guarantee fee will be paid to the Agency by the lender and is nonrefundable. The fee may be passed on to the borrower. Except as provided in this section, the guarantee fee will be 2 percent multiplied by the principal loan amount multiplied by the percent of guarantee and will be paid one time only at the time the Loan Note Guarantee is issued.

(a) The guarantee fee may be reduced to 1 percent if the Agency determines that the business meets the following criteria:

(1) High impact business development investment (It is the goal of this program to encourage high impact business investment in rural areas. The weight given to business investments will be in accordance with § 4279.155(b)(5) of this subpart); and

(2) The business is located in a community that is experiencing long term population decline and job deterioration; or

(3) The business is located in a rural community that has remained persistently poor over the last 60 years; or

(4) The business is located in a rural community that is experiencing trauma as a result of natural disaster or that is experiencing fundamental structural changes in its economic base.

(b) Each fiscal year, the Agency shall establish a limit on the maximum portion of guarantee authority available for that fiscal year that may be used to guarantee loans with a guarantee fee of 1 percent. The limit will be announced by publishing a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Once the limit has been