

§ 652.22

(f) An individual, private-sector entity, or public agency is conditionally certified provided they had entered into a contract, cooperative agreement, or contribution agreement with the Department prior to November 21, 2002 to provide technical services and they submit an Application for Certification by March 1, 2003. An individual, private-sector entity, or public agency with conditional certification status under this paragraph may continue to provide technical services in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above-described contract, cooperative agreement, or contribution agreement. Conditional certification shall expire either by the date NRCS and the individual, private-sector entity, or public agency enter into a Certification Agreement, as described in § 652.22(c)(1) or September 30, 2003, whichever is earlier.

(g) An individual is conditionally certified if the individual was certified under NRCS policy in effect prior to November 21, 2002 and submits an Application for Certification by March 1, 2003. An individual with conditional certification status under this paragraph may continue to provide technical services to the Department and to program participants in accordance with the above-described prior certification. Conditional certification shall expire either by the date NRCS and the individual enter into a Certification Agreement, as described in § 652.22(c)(1) or September 30, 2003, whichever is earlier.

§ 652.22 Certification process for individuals.

(a) In order to be considered for certification as a technical service provider, an individual must:

(1) Submit an Application for Certification to NRCS in accordance with this section;

(2) Request certification through a recommending organization pursuant to § 652.25; or

(3) Request certification through an application submitted by a private-sector entity or public agency pursuant to § 652.23 or § 652.24 as appropriate.

(b) The application must contain the documentation demonstrating that the

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individual meets all requirements of paragraph (a) of § 652.21.

(c) NRCS will review within 60 days the application submitted by an individual under paragraph (a)(1) of this section and determine whether the applicant meets the requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of § 652.21. If all requirements are met, NRCS will:

(1) Enter into a Certification Agreement and certify the applicant as qualified to provide technical services for a specific category or categories of technical service;

(2) Place the applicant on the list of approved technical service providers when certified; and

(3) Make available to the public the list of approved technical service providers by category of technical services.

(d) NRCS may decertify an individual in accordance with the decertification process set forth in subpart C of this part.

§ 652.23 Certification process for private-sector entities.

(a) A private sector entity that applies for certification must identify, and provide supporting documentation, that an individual, or individuals, authorized to act on its behalf:

(1) Has been certified as an individual in accordance with § 652.22; or

(2) Seeks certification as an individual as part of the private-sector entity's certification and ensures that the requirements set forth in § 652.21(a) are contained within the private-sector entity's application to support such certification.

(b) NRCS will determine whether the individual(s) identified in the private-sector entity's application meets the certification standards set forth in § 652.22 for the specific services the entity wishes to provide.

(c) NRCS will review within 60 days the application submitted by an entity. If NRCS determines that all requirements for the private-sector entity and the identified individual(s) are met, NRCS will complete the actions described in paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(3) of § 652.22. The Certification Agreement entered into with the private-sector entity shall: