

Office of Chief Financial Officer, USDA

§ 3017.100

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SOURCE: 68 FR 66544, 66563, Nov. 26, 2003, unless otherwise noted.

§ 3017.25 How is this part organized?

(a) This part is subdivided into ten subparts. Each subpart contains information related to a broad topic or specific audience with special responsibilities, as shown in the following table:

In subpart . . .	You will find provisions related to . . .
A	general information about this rule.
B	the types of Department of Agriculture transactions that are covered by the Governmentwide nonprocurement suspension and debarment system.
C	the responsibilities of persons who participate in covered transactions.
D	the responsibilities of Department of Agriculture officials who are authorized to enter into covered transactions.
E	the responsibilities of Federal agencies for the <i>Excluded Parties List System</i> (Disseminated by the General Services Administration).
F	the general principles governing suspension, debarment, voluntary exclusion and settlement.
G	suspension actions.
H	debarment actions.
I	definitions of terms used in this part.
J	[Reserved]

(b) The following table shows which subparts may be of special interest to you, depending on who you are:

If you are . . .	See subpart(s) . . .
(1) a participant or principal in a nonprocurement transaction.	A, B, C, and I.
(2) a respondent in a suspension action.	A, B, F, G and I.
(3) a respondent in a debarment action.	A, B, F, H and I.
(4) a suspending official	A, B, D, E, F, G and I.
(5) a debarring official	A, B, D, E, F, H and I.
(6) a (n) Department of Agriculture official authorized to enter into a covered transaction.	A, B, D, E and I.
(7) Reserved	J.

§ 3017.50 How is this part written?

(a) This part uses a “plain language” format to make it easier for the general public and business community to use. The section headings and text, often in the form of questions and answers, must be read together.

(b) Pronouns used within this part, such as “I” and “you,” change from

subpart to subpart depending on the audience being addressed. The pronoun “we” always is the Department of Agriculture.

(c) The “Covered Transactions” diagram in the appendix to this part shows the levels or “tiers” at which the Department of Agriculture enforces an exclusion under this part. However, this diagram shows only the general model for the levels or “tiers” at which the Department of Agriculture enforces an exclusion under this part, and the model will vary for certain categories of transactions in accordance with the exclusions from covered transactions in § 3017.215 and § 3017.220.

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§ 3017.75 Do terms in this part have special meanings?

This part uses terms throughout the text that have special meaning. Those terms are defined in Subpart I of this part. For example, three important terms are—

(a) *Exclusion or excluded*, which refers only to discretionary actions taken by a suspending or debarring official under this part or the Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4);

(b) *Disqualification or disqualified*, which refers to prohibitions under specific statutes, executive orders (other than Executive Order 12549 and Executive Order 12689), or other authorities. Disqualifications frequently are not subject to the discretion of an agency official, may have a different scope than exclusions, or have special conditions that apply to the disqualification; and

(c) *Ineligibility or ineligible*, which generally refers to a person who is either excluded or disqualified.

Subpart A—General

§ 3017.100 What does this part do?

This part adopts a governmentwide system of debarment and suspension for Department of Agriculture nonprocurement activities. It also provides for reciprocal exclusion of persons who have been excluded under the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and provides

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for the consolidated listing of all persons who are excluded, or disqualified by statute, executive order, or other legal authority. This part satisfies the requirements in section 3 of Executive Order 12549, "Debarment and Suspension" (3 CFR 1986 Comp., p. 189), Executive Order 12689, "Debarment and Suspension" (3 CFR 1989 Comp., p. 235) and 31 U.S.C. 6101 note (Section 2455, Public Law 103-355, 108 Stat. 3327).

§ 3017.105 Does this part apply to me?

Portions of this part (see table at § 3017.25(b)) apply to you if you are a(n)—

(a) Person who has been, is, or may reasonably be expected to be, a participant or principal in a covered transaction;

(b) Respondent (a person against whom the Department of Agriculture has initiated a debarment or suspension action);

(c) Department of Agriculture debarring or suspending official; or

(d) Department of Agriculture official who is authorized to enter into covered transactions with non-Federal parties.

§ 3017.110 What is the purpose of the nonprocurement debarment and suspension system?

(a) To protect the public interest, the Federal Government ensures the integrity of Federal programs by conducting business only with responsible persons.

(b) A Federal agency uses the nonprocurement debarment and suspension system to exclude from Federal programs persons who are not presently responsible.

(c) An exclusion is a serious action that a Federal agency may take only to protect the public interest. A Federal agency may not exclude a person or commodity for the purposes of punishment.

§ 3017.115 How does an exclusion restrict a person's involvement in covered transactions?

With the exceptions stated in §§ 3017.120, 3017.315, and 3017.420, a person who is excluded by the Department of Agriculture or any other Federal agency may not:

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(a) Be a participant in a(n) Department of Agriculture transaction that is a covered transaction under subpart B of this part;

(b) Be a participant in a transaction of any other Federal agency that is a covered transaction under that agency's regulation for debarment and suspension; or

(c) Act as a principal of a person participating in one of those covered transactions.

§ 3017.120 May we grant an exception to let an excluded person participate in a covered transaction?

(a) The Secretary of Agriculture or designee may grant an exception permitting an excluded person to participate in a particular covered transaction. If the Secretary of Agriculture or designee grants an exception, the exception must be in writing and state the reason(s) for deviating from the governmentwide policy in Executive Order 12549.

(b) An exception granted by one agency for an excluded person does not extend to the covered transactions of another agency.

§ 3017.125 Does an exclusion under the nonprocurement system affect a person's eligibility for Federal procurement contracts?

If any Federal agency excludes a person under its nonprocurement common rule on or after August 25, 1995, the excluded person is also ineligible to participate in Federal procurement transactions under the FAR. Therefore, an exclusion under this part has reciprocal effect in Federal procurement transactions.

§ 3017.130 Does exclusion under the Federal procurement system affect a person's eligibility to participate in nonprocurement transactions?

If any Federal agency excludes a person under the FAR on or after August 25, 1995, the excluded person is also ineligible to participate in nonprocurement covered transactions under this part. Therefore, an exclusion under the FAR has reciprocal effect in Federal nonprocurement transactions.