

(iii) The Administrator may request petitioners to provide records to support their national average price data.

(d) Once the petition is filed, the Administrator shall determine if it meets the requirements of § 1580.201(c), and if so, publish notice in the **Federal Register** that a petition has been received and that an investigation has begun. The notice shall identify the agricultural commodity, including any like or directly competitive commodities, the marketing year being investigated, the price series being used, and the production area covered by the petition. If the petition does not meet the requirements of § 1580.201(c), the Administrator shall notify as soon as possible the contact person for the group or the authorized representative of the deficiencies.

**§ 1580.202 Hearings, petition reviews, and amendments.**

(a) If the petitioner, or any other person(s) found by the Administrator to have a substantial interest in the proceedings, submits not later than 10 days after the filing date a request for a hearing, the Administrator shall provide for a public hearing and afford such interested person an opportunity to be present, to produce evidence, and to be heard.

(b) If the petitioner, or any other person(s) having an interest in the proceedings takes issue with any of the information published in the **Federal Register** concerning the petition, they may submit to the Administrator their comments in writing or electronically for consideration by the Administrator not later than 10 days after the filing date.

(c) A producer residing outside the impacted area identified in a petition may file to become a party to the petition by fulfilling the requirements of § 1580.201(c) within 10 days of the filing date. The Administrator may amend the original petition to expand the impacted area and include the additional filer, or consider it a separate filing.

(d) The Administrator shall publish in the **Federal Register** as soon as possible any changes to the original notice resulting from any actions taken under this section.

**§ 1580.203 Determination of eligibility and certification by the Administrator.**

(a) As soon as practicable after the filing date, but in any event not later than 40 days after that date, the Administrator shall determine whether the petitioners satisfy the following conditions for adjustment assistance.

(1) The national average price for the agricultural commodity for the marketing year under review is equal to or less than 80 percent of the average of the national average prices for the 5 marketing years preceding the most recent marketing year, and

(2) Increases in imports of articles like or directly competitive with the agricultural commodity contributed importantly to the decline in price described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(b) If the Administrator determines that the above conditions have been satisfied, the producers covered by the petition shall be certified as eligible for adjustment assistance.

(c) Upon making a determination, whether affirmative or negative, the Administrator shall promptly publish in the **Federal Register** a summary of the determination, together with the reasons for making the determination.

(d) In addition, the Administrator shall notify producers covered by a certification how to apply for adjustment assistance. Notification methods may include direct mailings to known producers, messages to directly affected producer groups and organizations, electronic communications, internet web site notices, and use of broadcast and print media.

(e) Whenever a group of agricultural producers is certified as eligible for assistance, the Administrator shall use the occasion to notify and inform other producers about the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program and how they may petition for adjustment assistance.

**§ 1580.301 Application for trade adjustment assistance.**

(a) Only producers covered by a certification of eligibility may apply for adjustment assistance. Producers may request advice from FSA regarding the preparation and submission of their applications.

(b) An eligible producer may submit an application for adjustment assistance at any time after the certification date but not later than 90 days after the certification date. If the 90-day application period ends on a weekend or legal holiday, the producer may apply the following business day.

(c) Applications shall include:

(1) The name and legal address of applicant.

(2) Contact information, *i.e.*, mailing address, phone and email address.

(3) The producer's identification number or Federal Income Tax number.

(4) The amount of the agricultural commodity produced in the most recent marketing year supported by documentation acceptable to FSA.

(d) Upon submitting their application, producers shall be immediately eligible to request trade adjustment technical assistance from the Extension Service at no cost.

(e) Producers able to furnish their applications with all the following certifications shall be eligible for adjustment assistance payments:

(1) Certification that technical assistance from the Extension Service under § 1580.302 has been received.

(2) Certification that cash benefits have not been received under any of the provisions of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, other than those permitted under this part.

(3) Certification that adjustment assistance payments have not exceeded the \$10,000 limitation for the Federal fiscal year.

(4) Certification that net farm income is less than that for the latest year in which no adjustment assistance payment was received.

(5) Certification that their average adjusted gross income, as determined in accordance with 7 CFR 1400.601, for the 3 preceding taxable years does not exceed \$2,500,000.

(6) To comply with certifications in paragraphs (e)(4) and (5) of this section, an applicant shall provide either—

(i) Supporting documentation from a certified public accountant or attorney, or

(ii) Relevant documentation and other supporting financial data, such as financial statements, balance sheets, and reports prepared for or provided to the Internal Revenue Service or another U.S. Government agency.

(f) Persons legally authorized to execute program documents for estates or trusts will be accepted only if such person furnishes evidence of the authority to execute such documents.

**§ 1580.302 Technical assistance and services.**

(a) Any producer of an agricultural commodity covered by a certification of eligibility may apply for and receive information and technical assistance from the Extension Service that will assist in adjusting to import competition and be at no cost to the producer.

(b) To qualify for technical assistance, producers shall apply under § 1580.301.

(c) Producers shall have an opportunity to meet at least once with an Extension Service employee within 180 days of petition certification to receive information regarding the feasibility and desirability of substituting one or more alternative commodities for the adversely affected agricultural commodity and to receive technical assistance to lower costs