

## § 121.1205

(2) Requests should be addressed to the Associate Administrator for Government Contracting, Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416.

(3) SBA will examine the contracting officer's determination and any other information it deems necessary to make an informed decision on the individual waiver request. If SBA's research verifies that no small business manufacturers or processors exist for the item, the Associate Administrator for Government Contracting will grant an individual, one-time waiver. If a small business manufacturer or processor is found for the product in question, the Associate Administrator will deny the request. Either decision represents a final decision by SBA.

### § 121.1205 How is a list of previously granted class waivers obtained?

A list of classes of products for which waivers of the Nonmanufacturer Rule have been granted will be maintained in SBA's Procurement Automated Source System (PASS). A list of such waivers may also be obtained by contacting the Office of Government Contracting at the Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416, or at the nearest SBA Government Contracting Area Office.

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AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 634(b)(6), 636(b), 636(c) and 636(f); Pub. L. 102-395, 106 Stat. 1828, 1864; and Pub. L. 103-75, 107 Stat. 739.

SOURCE: 61 FR 3304, Jan. 31, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

### OVERVIEW

#### § 123.1 What do these rules cover?

This part covers the disaster loan programs authorized under the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 636(b), (c), and (f). Since SBA cannot predict the occurrence or magnitude of disasters, it reserves the right to change the rules in this part, without advance notice, by publishing interim emergency regulations in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

#### § 123.2 What are disaster loans and disaster declarations?

SBA offers low interest, fixed rate loans to disaster victims, enabling them to repair or replace property damaged or destroyed in declared disasters. It also offers such loans to affected small businesses to help them recover from economic injury caused by such disasters. Disaster declarations are official notices recognizing that specific geographic areas have been damaged by floods and other acts of nature, riots, civil disorders, or industrial accidents such as oil spills. These disasters are sudden events which cause severe physical damage, and do not include slower physical occurrences such as shoreline erosion or gradual land settling. Sudden physical events that cause substantial economic injury may be disasters even if they do not cause physical damage to a victim's property. Past examples include ocean conditions causing significant displace-

ment (major ocean currents) or closure (toxic algae blooms) of customary fishing waters, as well as contamination of food or other products for human consumption from unforeseeable and unintended events beyond the control of the victims.

#### § 123.3 How are disaster declarations made?

(a) There are four ways in which disaster declarations are issued which make SBA disaster loans possible:

(1) The President declares a Major Disaster and authorizes Federal assistance, including individual assistance (temporary housing and Individual and Family Grant Assistance).

(2) SBA makes a physical disaster declaration, based on the occurrence of at least a minimum amount of physical damage to buildings, machinery, equipment, inventory, homes and other property. Such damage usually must meet the following tests:

(i) In any county or other smaller political subdivision of a State or U.S. possession, at least 25 homes or 25 businesses, or a combination of at least 25 homes, businesses, or other eligible institutions, each sustain uninsured losses of 40 percent or more of the estimated fair replacement value or pre-disaster fair market value of the damaged property, whichever is lower; or

(ii) In any such political subdivision, at least three businesses each sustain uninsured losses of 40 percent or more of the estimated fair replacement value or pre-disaster fair market value of the damaged property, whichever is lower, and, as a direct result of such physical damage, 25 percent or more of the work force in their community would be unemployed for at least 90 days; and

(iii) The Governor of the State in which the disaster occurred submits a written request to SBA for a physical disaster declaration by SBA (OMB Approval No. 3245-0121). This request should be delivered to the SBA Disaster Area Office serving the region where the disaster occurred within 60 days of the date of the disaster.

(3) SBA makes an economic injury disaster declaration in response to a determination of a natural disaster by the Secretary of Agriculture.

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(4) SBA makes an economic injury declaration in reliance on a state certification that at least 5 small business concerns in a disaster area have suffered substantial economic injury as a result of the disaster and are in need of financial assistance not otherwise available on reasonable terms. The state certification must be signed by the Governor, must specify the county or counties or other political subdivisions in which the disaster occurred, and must be delivered (with supporting documentation) to the servicing SBA Disaster Area Office within 120 days of the disaster occurrence. The Administrator may, in a case of undue hardship, accept such request after 120 days have expired.

(b) SBA publishes notice of any disaster declaration in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The published notice will identify the kinds of assistance available, the date and nature of the disaster, and the deadline and location for filing loan applications. Additionally, SBA will use the local media to inform potential loan applicants where to obtain loan applications and otherwise to assist victims in applying for disaster loans. SBA will accept applications after the announced deadline only when SBA determines that the late filing resulted from substantial causes beyond the control of the applicant.

[61 FR 3304, Jan. 31, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 13667, Mar. 22, 1999]

#### **§ 123.4 What is a disaster area and why is it important?**

Each disaster declaration defines the geographical areas affected by the disaster. Only those victims located in the declared disaster area are eligible to apply for SBA disaster loans. When the President declares a major disaster, the Federal Emergency Management Agency defines the disaster area. In major disasters, economic injury disaster loans may be made for victims in contiguous counties or other political subdivisions. Disaster declarations issued by the Administrator of SBA include contiguous counties for both physical and economic injury assistance. Contiguous counties or other political subdivisions are those land areas which abut the land area of the declared disaster area without geographic

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separation other than by a minor body of water, not to exceed one mile between the land areas of such counties.

#### **§ 123.5 What kinds of loans are available?**

SBA offers three kinds of disaster loans: physical disaster home loans, physical disaster business loans, and economic injury business loans. SBA makes these loans directly or in participation with a financial institution. If a loan is made in participation with a financial institution, SBA's share in that loan may not exceed 90 percent.

#### **§ 123.6 What does SBA look for when considering a disaster loan applicant?**

There must be reasonable assurance that you can repay your loan out of your personal or business cash flow, and you must have satisfactory credit and character. SBA will not make a loan to you if repayment depends upon the sale of collateral through foreclosure or any other disposition of assets owned by you. SBA is prohibited by statute from making a loan to you if you are engaged in the production or distribution of any product or service that has been determined to be obscene by a court.

#### **§ 123.7 Are there restrictions on how disaster loans can be used?**

You must use disaster loans to restore or replace your primary home (including a mobile home used as a primary residence) and your personal or business property as nearly as possible to their condition before the disaster occurred, and within certain limits, to protect damaged or destroyed real property from possible future similar disasters.

#### **§ 123.8 Does SBA charge any fees for obtaining a disaster loan?**

SBA does not charge points, closing, or servicing fees on any disaster loan. You will be responsible for payment of any closing costs owed to third parties, such as recording fees and title insurance premiums. If your loan is made in participation with a financial institution, SBA will charge a guarantee fee to the financial institution, which then

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may recover the guarantee fee from you.

### **§ 123.9 What happens if I don't use loan proceeds for the intended purpose?**

(a) When SBA approves each loan application, it issues a loan authorization which specifies the amount of the loan, repayment terms, any collateral requirements, and the permitted use of loan proceeds. If you wrongfully misapply these proceeds, you will be liable to SBA for one and one-half times the proceeds disbursed to you as of the date SBA learns of your wrongful misapplication.

Wrongful misapplication means the willful use of any loan proceeds without SBA approval contrary to the loan authorization. If you fail to use loan proceeds for authorized purposes for 60 days or more after receiving a loan disbursement check, such non-use also is considered a wrongful misapplication of the proceeds.

(b) If SBA learns that you may have misapplied your loan proceeds, SBA will notify you at your last known address, by certified mail, return receipt requested. You will be given at least 30 days to submit to SBA evidence that you have not misapplied the loan proceeds or that you have corrected any such misapplication. Any failure to respond in time will be considered an admission that you misapplied the proceeds. If SBA finds a wrongful misapplication, it will cancel any undisbursed loan proceeds, call the loan, and begin collection measures to collect your outstanding loan balance and the civil penalty. You may also face criminal prosecution or civil or administrative action.

### **§ 123.10 What happens if I cannot use my insurance proceeds to make repairs?**

If you must pay insurance proceeds to the holder of a recorded lien or encumbrance against your damaged property instead of using them to make repairs, you may apply to SBA for the full amount needed to make such repairs. If you voluntarily pay insurance proceeds to a recorded lienholder, your loan eligibility is reduced by the amount of the voluntary payment.

### **§ 123.11 Does SBA require collateral for any of its disaster loans?**

Generally, SBA will not require that you pledge collateral to secure a disaster home loan or a physical disaster business loan of \$10,000 or less, or an economic injury disaster loan of \$5,000 or less. For loans larger than these amounts, you will be required to provide available collateral such as a lien on the damaged or replacement property, a security interest in personal property, or both.

(a) Sometimes a borrower, including affiliates as defined in part 121 of this title, will have more than one loan after a single disaster. In deciding whether collateral is required, SBA will add up all physical disaster loans to see if they exceed \$10,000 and all economic injury disaster loans to see if they exceed \$5,000.

(b) SBA will not decline a loan if you lack a particular amount of collateral as long as it is reasonably sure that you can repay your loan. If you refuse to pledge available collateral when requested by SBA, however, SBA may decline or cancel your loan.

### **§ 123.12 Are books and records required?**

You must retain complete records of all transactions financed with your SBA loan proceeds, including copies of all contracts and receipts, for a period of 3 years after you receive your final disbursement of loan proceeds. If you have a physical disaster business or economic injury loan, you must also maintain current and accurate books of account, including financial and operating statements, insurance policies, and tax returns. You must retain applicable books and records for 3 years after your loan matures including any extensions, or from the date when your loan is paid in full, whichever occurs first. You must make available to SBA or other authorized government personnel upon request all such books and records for inspection, audit, and reproduction during normal business hours and you must also permit SBA and any participating financial institution to inspect and appraise your assets. (OMB Approval No. 3245-0110.)

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### § 123.13 What happens if my loan application is denied?

(a) If SBA denies your loan application, SBA will notify you in writing and set forth the specific reasons for the denial. Any applicant whose request for a loan is declined for reasons other than size (not being a small business) has the right to present information to overcome the reason or reasons for the decline and to request reconsideration in writing. (OMB Approval No. 3245-0122.)

(b) Any decline due to size can only be appealed as set forth in part 121 of this chapter.

(c) Any request for reconsideration must be received by the SBA office that declined the original application within six months of the date of the declined notice. After six months, a new loan application is required.

(d) A request for reconsideration must contain all significant new information that you rely on to overcome SBA's denial of your original loan application. Your request for reconsideration of a business loan application must also be accompanied by current business financial statements.

(e) If SBA declines your application a second time, you have the right to appeal in writing to the Area Director's Office. All appeals must be received by the office that declined the prior reconsideration within 30 days of the decline action. Your request must state that you are appealing, and must give specific reasons why the decline action should be reversed.

(f) The decision of the Area Director is final unless:

(1) The Area Director does not have authority to approve the requested loan;

(2) The Area Director refers the matter to the Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance; or

(3) The Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance, upon a showing of special circumstances, requests the Area Director's office to forward the matter to him or her for final consideration. Special circumstances may include, but are not limited to, policy considerations, alleged improper acts by SBA personnel or others in processing the application, and conflicting

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policy interpretations between two Area Offices.

### § 123.14 How does the Federal Debt Collection Procedures Act of 1990 apply?

(a) Under the Federal Debt Collection Procedures Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. 3201(e)), a debtor who owns property which is subject to an outstanding judgment lien for a debt owed to the United States generally is not eligible to receive physical and economic injury disaster loans. The SBA Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance, or designee, may waive this restriction as to disaster loans upon a demonstration of good cause. Good cause means a written representation by you under oath which convinces SBA that:

(1) The declared disaster was a major contributing factor to the delinquency which led to the judgment lien, regardless of when the original debt was incurred; or

(2) The disaster directly prevented you from fulfilling the terms of an agreement with SBA or any other Federal Government entity to satisfy its pre-disaster judgment lien; in this situation, the judgment creditor must certify to SBA that you were complying with the agreement to satisfy the judgment lien when the disaster occurred; or

(3) Other circumstances exist which would justify a waiver.

(b) The waiver determination by the Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance, or designee, is a final, non-appealable decision. The granting of a waiver does not include loan approval; a waiver recipient must then follow normal loan application procedures.

### § 123.15 What if I change my mind?

If SBA required you to pledge collateral for your loan, you may change your mind and rescind your loan pursuant to the Consumer Credit Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. 1601, and Regulation Z of the Federal Reserve Board, 12 CFR part 226. Your note and any collateral documents signed by you will be canceled upon your return of all loan proceeds and your payment of any interest accrued.

**§ 123.16 How are loans administered and serviced?**

(a) If you obtained your disaster loan from a participating lender, that lender is responsible for closing and servicing your loan. If you obtained your loan directly from SBA, your loan will be closed and serviced by SBA. The SBA rules on servicing are found in part 120 of this chapter.

(b) If you are unable to pay your SBA loan installments in a timely manner for reasons substantially beyond your control, you may request that SBA suspend your loan payments, extend your maturity, or both.

**§ 123.17 Do other Federal requirements apply?**

As a condition of disbursement, you must be in compliance with certain requirements relating to flood insurance, lead-based paint, earthquake hazards, coastal barrier islands, and child support obligations, as set forth in §§ 120.170 through 120.175 of this chapter.

**§ 123.18 Can I request an increase in the amount of a physical disaster loan?**

SBA will consider your request for an increase in your loan if you can show that the eligible cost of repair or replacement of damages increased because of events occurring after the loan approval that were beyond your control. An eligible cost is one which is related to the disaster for which SBA issued the original loan. For example, if you discover hidden damage within a reasonable time after SBA approved your original disaster loan and before repair, renovation, or reconstruction is complete, you may request an increase. Or, if applicable building code requirements were changed since SBA approved your original loan, you may request an increase in your loan amount.

[63 FR 15072, Mar. 30, 1998]

**§ 123.19 May I request an increase in the amount of an economic injury loan?**

SBA will consider your request for an increase in the loan amount if you can show that the increase is essential for your business to continue and is based on events occurring after SBA ap-

proved your original loan which were beyond your control. For example, delays may have occurred beyond your control which prevent you from resuming your normal business activity in a reasonable time frame. Your request for an increase in the loan amount must be related to the disaster for which the SBA economic injury disaster loan was originally made.

[63 FR 15072, Mar. 30, 1998]

**§ 123.20 How long do I have to request an increase in the amount of a physical disaster loan or an economic injury loan?**

You should request a loan increase as soon as possible after you discover the need for the increase, but not later than two years after SBA approved your physical disaster or economic injury loan. After two years, the SBA Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance (AA/DA) may waive this limitation after finding extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances.

[63 FR 15073, Mar. 30, 1998]

## HOME DISASTER LOANS

**§ 123.100 Am I eligible to apply for a home disaster loan?**

(a) You are eligible to apply for a home disaster loan if you:

(1) Own and occupy your primary residence and have suffered a physical loss to your primary residence, personal property, or both; or

(2) Do not own your primary residence, but have suffered a physical loss to your personal property. Family members sharing a residence are eligible if they are not dependents of the owners of the residence.

(b) Losses may be claimed only by the owners of the property at the time of the disaster, and all such losses will be verified by SBA. SBA will consider beneficial ownership as well as legal title (for real or personal property) in determining who suffered the loss.

**§ 123.101 When am I not eligible for a home disaster loan?**

You are not eligible for a home disaster loan if:

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(a) You have been convicted, during the past year, of a felony during and in connection with a riot or civil disorder or other declared disaster;

(b) You acquired voluntarily more than a 50 percent ownership interest in the damaged property after the disaster, and no contract of sale existed at the time of the disaster;

(c) Your damaged property can be repaired or replaced with the proceeds of insurance, gifts or other compensation, including condemnation awards (with one exception, these amounts must either be deducted from the amount of the claimed losses or, if received after SBA has approved and disbursed a loan, must be paid to SBA as principal payments on your loan. You must notify SBA of any such recoveries collected after receiving an SBA disaster loan (OMB Approval No. 3245-0124)). The one exception applies to amounts received under the Individual and Family Grant Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency solely to meet an emergency need pending processing of an SBA loan. In such an event, you must repay the financial assistance with SBA loan proceeds if it was used for purposes also eligible for an SBA loan);

(d) SBA determines that you assumed the risk (for example, by not maintaining flood insurance as required by an earlier SBA disaster loan when the current loss is also due to flood);

(e) Your damaged property is a secondary home (although if you rented the property out before the disaster and the property would not constitute a "residence" under the provisions of Section 280A of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 280A), you may be eligible for a physical disaster business loan);

(f) Your damaged property is the type of vehicle normally used for recreational purposes, such as motorhomes, aircraft, and boats;

(g) Your damaged property consists of cash or securities;

(h) The replacement value of your damaged personal property is extraordinarily high and not easily verified, such as the value of antiques, artworks, or hobby collections;

(i) You or other principal owners of the damaged property are presently in-

carcerated, or on probation or parole following conviction for a serious criminal offense;

(j) Your only interest in the damaged property is in the form of a security interest, mortgage, or deed of trust;

(k) The damaged building, including contents, was newly constructed or substantially improved on or after February 9, 1989, and (without a significant business justification) is located seaward of mean high tide or entirely in or over water; or

(l) You voluntarily decide to relocate outside the business area in which the disaster has occurred, and there are no special or unusual circumstances leading to your decision (business area means the municipality which provides general governmental services to your damaged home or, if not located in a municipality, the county or equivalent political entity in which your damaged home is located).

**§ 123.102 What circumstances would justify my relocating?**

SBA may approve a loan if you intend to relocate outside the business area in which the disaster has occurred if your relocation is caused by such special or unusual circumstances as:

(a) Demonstrable risk that the business area will suffer future disasters;

(b) A change in employment status (such as loss of job, transfer, lack of adequate job opportunities within the business area or scheduled retirement within 18 months after the disaster occurs);

(c) Medical reasons; or

(d) Special family considerations which necessitate a move outside of the business area.

**§ 123.103 What happens if I am forced to move from my home?**

If you must relocate inside or outside the business area because local authorities will not allow you to repair your damaged property, SBA considers this to be a total loss and a mandatory relocation. In this case, your loan would be an amount that SBA considers sufficient to replace your residence at your new location, plus funds to cover losses of personal property and eligible refinancing.

**§ 123.104 What interest rate will I pay on my home disaster loan?**

If you can obtain credit elsewhere, your interest rate is set by a statutory formula, but will not exceed 8 percent per annum. If you cannot obtain credit elsewhere, your interest rate is one-half the statutory rate, but will not exceed 4 percent per annum. Credit elsewhere means that, with your cash flow and disposable assets, SBA believes you could obtain financing from non-federal sources on reasonable terms. If you cannot obtain credit elsewhere, you also may be able to borrow from SBA to refinance existing recorded liens against your damaged real property. Under prior legislation, some SBA disaster loans had split interest rates. On any such loan, repayments of principal are applied first to that portion of the loan with the lowest interest rate.

**§ 123.105 How much can I borrow with a home disaster loan and what limits apply on use of funds and repayment terms?**

(a) For all disasters occurring on or after October 26, 1993, there are limits on how much money you can borrow for particular purposes:

(1) \$40,000 for repair or replacement of household and personal effects;

(2) \$200,000 for repair or replacement of a primary residence (including upgrading in order to meet minimum standards of safety and decency or current building code requirements). Repair or replacement of landscaping and/or recreational facilities cannot exceed \$5,000;

(3) \$200,000 for eligible refinancing purposes; and

(4) 20 percent of the loan amount (not including refinancing) up to a maximum of \$48,000 for mitigation (see § 123.107).

(b) You may not use loan proceeds to repay any debts on personal property, secured or unsecured, unless you incurred those debts as a direct result of the disaster.

(c) SBA determines the loan maturity and repayment terms based on your needs and your ability to pay. Generally, you will pay equal monthly installments of principal and interest, beginning five months from the date of

the loan, as shown on the Note securing the loan. SBA will consider other payment terms if you have seasonal or fluctuating income, and SBA may allow installment payments of varying amounts over the first two years of the loan. The maximum maturity for a home disaster loan is 30 years. There is no penalty for prepayment of home disaster loans.

**§ 123.106 What is eligible refinancing?**

(a) If your home (primary residence) is totally destroyed or substantially damaged, and you do not have credit elsewhere, SBA may allow you to borrow money to refinance recorded liens or encumbrances on your home. Your home is totally destroyed or substantially damaged if it has suffered uninsured or otherwise uncompensated damage which, at the time of the disaster, is either:

(1) 40 percent or more of the home's market value or replacement cost at the time of the disaster, including land value, whichever is less; or

(2) 50 percent or more of its market value or replacement cost at the time of the disaster, not including land value, whichever is less.

(b) Your home disaster loan for refinancing existing liens or encumbrances cannot exceed an amount equal to the lesser of \$200,000, or the physical damage to your primary residence after reductions for any insurance or other recovery.

**§ 123.107 What is mitigation?**

Mitigation means specific measures taken by you to protect against recurring damage in similar future disasters. Examples include elevation of flood prone structures, retaining walls, sea walls, grading and contouring land, relocating utilities, and retrofitting and strengthening structures to protect against high winds, earthquake, flood, wildfire, or other natural hazards. The money that you can borrow for mitigation is limited to the lesser of the cost of mitigation, or 20 percent of your loan to repair or replace your damaged primary residence and personal property. SBA will not accept a request for a loan increase for mitigation filed after final disbursement of your original loan unless you can show

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that your request was late because of substantial reasons beyond your control. Sections 123.400 through 123.407 address pre-disaster mitigation.

[61 FR 3304, Jan. 31, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 48276, Sept. 3, 1999]

### PHYSICAL DISASTER BUSINESS LOANS

#### **§ 123.200 Am I eligible to apply for a physical disaster business loan?**

(a) Almost any business concern or charitable or other non-profit entity whose real or tangible personal property is damaged in a declared disaster area is eligible to apply for a physical disaster business loan. Your business may be a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other legal entity recognized under State law. Your business' size (average annual receipts or number of employees) is not taken into consideration in determining your eligibility for a physical disaster business loan. If your damaged business occupied rented space at the time of the disaster, and the terms of your business' lease require you to make repairs to your business' building, you may have suffered a physical loss and can apply for a physical business disaster loan to repair the property. In all other cases, the owner of the building is the eligible loan applicant.

(b) Damaged vehicles, of the type normally used for recreational purposes, such as motorhomes, aircraft, and boats, may be repaired or replaced with SBA loan proceeds if you can submit evidence that the damaged vehicles were used in your business at the time of the disaster.

#### **§ 123.201 When am I not eligible to apply for a physical disaster business loan?**

(a) You are not eligible for a physical disaster business loan if your business is an agricultural enterprise or if you (or any principal of the business) fit into any of the categories in § 123.101. Agricultural enterprise means a business primarily engaged in the production of food and fiber, ranching and raising of livestock, aquaculture and all other farming and agriculture-related industries.

(b) Sometimes a damaged business entity (whether in the form of a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or sole proprietorship) is engaged in both agricultural enterprise and a non-agricultural business venture. If the agricultural enterprise part of your business entity has suffered a physical disaster, that enterprise is not eligible for SBA physical disaster assistance. If the non-agricultural business venture of your entity has suffered physical disaster damage, that part of your business operation would be eligible for SBA physical disaster assistance. If both the agricultural enterprise part and the non-agricultural business venture have incurred physical disaster damage, only the non-agricultural business venture of your business entity would be eligible for SBA physical disaster assistance.

(c) If your business is going to relocate voluntarily outside the business area in which the disaster occurred, you are not eligible for a physical disaster business loan. If, however, the relocation is due to uncontrollable or compelling circumstances, SBA will consider the relocation to be involuntary and eligible for a loan. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

(1) The elimination or substantial decrease in the market for your products or services, as a consequence of the disaster;

(2) A change in the demographics of your business area within 18 months prior to the disaster, or as a result of the disaster, which makes it uneconomical to continue operations in your business area;

(3) A substantial change in your cost of doing business, as a result of the disaster, which makes the continuation of your business in the business area not economically viable;

(4) Location of your business in a hazardous area such as a special flood hazard area or an earthquake-prone area;

(5) A change in the public infrastructure in your business area which occurred within 18 months or as a result of the disaster that would result in substantially increased expenses for your business in the business area;

(6) Your implementation of decisions adopted and at least partially implemented within 18 months prior to the disaster to move your business out of the business area; and

(7) Other factors which undermine the economic viability of your business area.

(d) You are not eligible if your business is engaged in any illegal activity.

(e) You are not eligible if you are a government owned entity (except for a business owned or controlled by a Native American tribe).

(f) You are not eligible if your business presents live performances of a prurient sexual nature or derives directly or indirectly more than *de minimis* gross revenue through the sale of products or services, or the presentation of any depictions or displays, of a prurient sexual nature.

[61 FR 3304, Jan. 31, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 35337, July 1, 1997; 63 FR 46644, Sept. 2, 1998]

**§ 123.202 How much can my business borrow with a physical disaster business loan?**

(a) Disaster business loans, including both physical disaster and economic injury loans to the same borrower, together with its affiliates, cannot exceed the lesser of the uncompensated physical loss and economic injury or \$1.5 million. Physical disaster loans may include amounts to meet current building code requirements. If your business is a major source of employment, SBA may waive the \$1.5 million limitation. A major source of employment is a business concern which has one or more locations in the disaster area which:

(1) Employed 10 percent or more of the entire work force within the commuting area of a geographically identifiable community (no larger than a county), provided that the commuting area does not extend more than 50 miles from such community; or

(2) Employed 5 percent of the work force in an industry within the disaster area and, if the concern is a non-manufacturing concern, employed no less than 50 employees in the disaster area, or if the concern is a manufacturing concern, employed no less than 150 employees in the disaster area; or

(3) Employed no less than 250 employees within the disaster area.

(b) SBA will consider waiving the \$1.5 million loan limit only if:

(1) Your damaged location or locations are out of business or in imminent danger of going out of business as a result of the disaster, and a loan in excess of \$1.5 million is necessary to reopen or keep open the damaged locations in order to avoid substantial unemployment in the disaster area; and

(2) You have used all reasonably available funds from your business, its affiliates and its principal owners (20% or greater ownership interest) and all available credit elsewhere (as described in §123.104) to alleviate your physical damage and economic injury.

(c) Physical disaster business borrowers may request refinancing of liens on both damaged real property and machinery and equipment, but for an amount reduced by insurance or other compensation. To do so, your business property must be totally destroyed or substantially damaged, which means:

(1) 40 percent or more of the aggregate value (lesser of market value or replacement cost at the time of the disaster) of the damaged real property (including land) and damaged machinery and equipment; or

(2) 50 percent or more of the aggregate value (lesser of market value or replacement cost at the time of the disaster) of the damaged real property (excluding land) and damaged machinery and equipment.

(d) Loan funds allocated for repair or replacement of landscaping or recreational facilities may not exceed \$5,000 unless the landscaping or recreational facilities fulfilled a functional need or contributed to the generation of business.

[61 FR 3304, Jan. 31, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 46644, Sept. 2, 1998]

**§ 123.203 What interest rate will my business pay on a physical disaster business loan and what are the repayment terms?**

(a) SBA will announce interest rates with each disaster declaration. If your business, together with its affiliates and principal owners, have credit elsewhere, your interest rate is set by a statutory formula, but will not exceed

## § 123.300

8 percent per annum. If you do not have credit elsewhere, your interest rate will not exceed 4 percent per annum. The maturity of your loan depends upon your repayment ability, but cannot exceed 3 years if you have credit elsewhere. Otherwise, the maximum maturity is 30 years.

(b) Generally, you must pay equal monthly installments, of principal and interest, beginning five months from the date of the loan as shown on the Note. SBA will consider other payment terms if you have seasonal or fluctuating income, and SBA may allow installment payments of varying amounts over the first two years of the loan. There is no penalty for prepayment for disaster loans.

### ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS

#### **§ 123.300 Is my business eligible to apply for an economic injury disaster loan?**

(a) If your business is located in a declared disaster area, and suffered substantial economic injury as a direct result of a declared disaster, you are eligible to apply for an economic injury disaster loan.

(1) Substantial economic injury is such that a business concern is unable to meet its obligations as they mature or to pay its ordinary and necessary operating expenses.

(2) Loss of anticipated profits or a drop in sales is not considered substantial economic injury for this purpose.

(b) Economic injury disaster loans are available only if you were a small business (as defined in part 121 of this chapter) when the declared disaster commenced, you and your affiliates and principal owners (20% or more ownership interest) have used all reasonably available funds, and you are unable to obtain credit elsewhere (see § 123.104).

(c) Eligible businesses do not include agricultural enterprises, but do include—

(1) Small nurseries affected by a drought disaster designated by the Secretary of Agriculture (nurseries are commercial establishments deriving 50 percent or more of their annual receipts from the production and sale of

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ornamental plants and other nursery products, including, but not limited to, bulbs, florist greens, foliage, flowers, flower and vegetable seeds, shrubbery, and sod);

(2) Small agricultural cooperatives; and

(3) Producer cooperatives.

#### **§ 123.301 When would my business not be eligible to apply for an economic injury disaster loan?**

Your business is not eligible for an economic disaster loan if you (or any principal of the business) fit into any of the categories in §§ 123.101 and 123.201, or if your business is:

(a) Engaged in lending, multi-level sales distribution, speculation, or investment (except for real estate investment with property held for rental when the disaster occurred);

(b) A non-profit or charitable concern;

(c) A consumer or marketing cooperative;

(d) Not a small business concern; or

(e) Deriving more than one-third of gross annual revenue from legal gambling activities;

(f) A loan packager which earns more than one-third of its gross annual revenue from packaging SBA loans;

(g) Principally engaged in teaching, instructing, counseling, or indoctrinating religion or religious beliefs, whether in a religious or secular setting; or

(h) Primarily engaged in political or lobbying activities.

[61 FR 3304, Jan. 31, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 46644, Sept. 2, 1998]

#### **§ 123.302 What is the interest rate on an economic injury disaster loan?**

Your economic injury loan will have an interest rate of 4 percent per annum or less.

#### **§ 123.303 How can my business spend my economic injury disaster loan?**

(a) You can only use the loan proceeds for working capital necessary to carry your concern until resumption of normal operations and for expenditures necessary to alleviate the specific economic injury, but not to exceed that which the business could have provided had the injury not occurred.

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## § 123.403

(b) Loan proceeds may not be used to:

- (1) Refinance indebtedness which you incurred prior to the disaster event;

- (2) Make payments on loans owned by another federal agency (including SBA) or a Small Business Investment Company licensed under the Small Business Investment Act;

- (3) Pay, directly or indirectly, any obligations resulting from a federal, state or local tax penalty as a result of negligence or fraud, or any non-tax criminal fine, civil fine, or penalty for non-compliance with a law, regulation, or order of a federal, state, regional, or local agency or similar matter;

- (4) Repair physical damage; or

- (5) Pay dividends or other disbursements to owners, partners, officers or stockholders, except for reasonable remuneration directly related to their performance of services for the business.

### PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION LOANS

SOURCE: Sections 123.400 through 123.407 appear at 64 FR 48276, Sept. 3, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 123.400 What is a pre-disaster mitigation loan?

Congress has authorized a pilot program for 5 fiscal years from 2000 through 2004 for SBA to make low interest, fixed rate loans to small businesses to use mitigation measures in support of Project Impact, a formal mitigation program established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

#### § 123.401 What types of mitigating measures are eligible for a pre-disaster mitigation loan?

Mitigation means specific measures taken by you to protect your real property or leasehold improvements from future disasters in Project Impact communities. If you are a landlord, the measures must be for protection of property leased primarily for commercial rather than residential purposes, to be determined on a comparative square footage basis. Additionally, SBA will consider providing a pre-disaster mitigation loan for relocation if your commercial real property is lo-

cated in a SFHA (Special Flood Hazard Area) and you relocate outside the SFHA but remain in the same Project Impact community. If the mitigation measures protect against a flood hazard, the applicant small business must be located in an existing structure in a SFHA. The local Project Impact coordinator will confirm that your proposed project is in accordance with specific Project Impact priorities and goals of that community. SBA will verify that the cost estimate is reasonable to accomplish each project to determine if the project is likely to accomplish the stated desired mitigation results. SBA verification and subsequent loan approval are not a guarantee that the project will prevent damages in future disasters.

#### § 123.402 What businesses are eligible to apply for pre-disaster mitigation loans?

Each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands have at least one FEMA Project Impact community. Only those small businesses located in Project Impact communities are eligible to apply for a pre-disaster mitigation loan. Your small business may be a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other legal entity recognized under State law. Your small business must have been in existence for at least one year prior to submitting an application for this loan. Your business (together with its affiliates) must be small (as defined in part 121 of this chapter) as of the date SBA accepts the application for processing, and SBA must also determine that the business, its affiliates and its owners do not have the financial resources to fund the mitigation measures without undue hardship.

#### § 123.403 When would my business not be eligible to apply for a pre-disaster mitigation loan?

Your business is not eligible for a pre-disaster mitigation loan if it, together with its affiliates, fits into any of the categories in §§ 123.101, 123.201, and 123.301.

## § 123.404

### § 123.404 How much can my business borrow with a pre-disaster mitigation loan?

Each borrower, together with its affiliates, may borrow up to \$50,000 per year. SBA will fund approved loans in the order in which SBA accepted the application for processing. SBA will consider mitigation measures that cost more than \$50,000 per year if the business can identify sources that will fund the cost above \$50,000.

### § 123.405 What is the interest rate on a pre-disaster mitigation loan?

Your pre-disaster mitigation loan will have an interest rate of 4 percent per annum or less.

### § 123.406 How do I apply for a pre-disaster mitigation loan and which loans will be funded?

(a) At the beginning of each fiscal year commencing October 1st 1999, SBA will publish a declaration in the FEDERAL REGISTER announcing the availability of pre-disaster mitigation loans. The declaration will designate at least a 30 day application filing period in the first six months of the fiscal year, the application filing deadline, and the locations for obtaining and filing loan applications. Additional application periods may be announced each year depending on the availability of funds. In addition to the FEDERAL REGISTER, SBA will use FEMA and the local media to inform potential loan applicants where to obtain loan applications. SBA will not accept any applications after the announced deadline unless SBA reopens the application filing period.

(b) Complete an SBA pre-disaster mitigation loan application package which includes a written statement from the local Project Impact coordinator that the project is in accordance with the specific priorities and goals of the local community. The application must be filed during the announced filing period.

(c) An SBA Disaster Area Office will notify the Office of Disaster Assistance (ODA) when it has accepted a complete application for processing. The Area Office will approve, decline, or withdraw (stop processing) the application if the applicant does not give SBA re-

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quired information. The Area Office will notify ODA of its decision. ODA will then direct the Area Office to make the loan based on availability of loan funds and the date SBA accepted the complete application package.

### § 123.407 What happens if SBA denies or withdraws my pre-disaster mitigation loan application?

(a) If SBA denies your loan application, SBA will notify you in writing and give you the specific reasons for the denial. If you disagree with SBA's decision, you may respond under § 123.13. If SBA approves your application after reconsideration or appeal, SBA will use the date the Area Office received the request for reconsideration or appeal to determine the order of funding.

(b) If SBA withdraws your loan application and you later submit the missing information, and SBA approves the loan, SBA will use the date it reaccepts the application to determine the order of funding.

## PART 124—8(A) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT/SMALL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS STATUS DETERMINATIONS

### Subpart A—8(a) Business Development

#### PROVISIONS OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY

#### Sec.

- 124.1 What is the purpose of the 8(a) Business Development program?
- 124.2 What length of time may a business participate in the 8(a) BD program?
- 124.3 What definitions are important in the 8(a) BD program?

#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE 8(A) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- 124.101 What are the basic requirements a concern must meet for the 8(a) BD program?
- 124.102 What size business is eligible to participate in the 8(a) BD program?
- 124.103 Who is socially disadvantaged?
- 124.104 Who is economically disadvantaged?
- 124.105 What does it mean to be unconditionally owned by one or more disadvantaged individuals?
- 124.106 When do disadvantaged individuals control an applicant or Participant?
- 124.107 What is potential for success?
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