

**§ 1580.101 General statement.**

This part provides regulations for the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers program. Under these provisions, producers of agricultural commodities may petition the Department of Agriculture for eligibility to apply for trade adjustment assistance based on criteria set forth in the Trade Act of 1974, as amended by the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 2251, *et seq.*). If the Administrator determines that the national average price for a commodity is less than 80 percent of the preceding 5-year average and that an increase in imports has contributed importantly to the decline in commodity prices, the producers may apply for technical assistance and cash benefits under the program.

**§ 1580.102 Definitions.**

As used in the part, the following terms mean:

*Adjusted gross income* means income as defined in 7 CFR 1400.601.

*Administrator* means the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

*Agricultural commodity* means any commodity in its raw or natural state found in chapters 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 23, 24, 41, 51, and 52 of the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* (HTS), and articles that are either aquaculture products or directly competitive with aquaculture products found in chapter 3 of the HTS.

*Aquaculture* means the propagation and rearing of aquatic organisms in a controlled aquatic environment for the purpose of human consumption.

*Articles like or directly competitive* generally means products falling under the same HTS number used to identify the agricultural commodity in the petition. A “like” product means substantially identical in inherent or intrinsic characteristics, and the term “directly competitive” means those articles which are substantially equivalent for commercial purposes, that is, are adapted to the same uses and are essentially interchangeable therefore.

*Authorized representative* means an association of agricultural commodity producers.

*Certification date* means the effective date on which the Administrator an-

nounces in the FEDERAL REGISTER or by Department news release a certification of eligibility to apply for adjustment assistance.

*Contributed importantly* means a cause which is important, but not necessarily more important than any other cause.

*Department* means the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*Extension Service* means the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*Family member* means an individual to whom a person is related as spouse, lineal ancestor, lineal descendent, or sibling, including:

(1) Great grandparent;

(2) Grandparent;

(3) Parent;

(4) Children, including legally adopted children;

(5) Grandchildren;

(6) Great grandchildren;

(7) Sibling of the family member in the farming operation; and

(8) Spouse of a person listed in paragraphs (1) through (7) of this definition.

*Farm Service Agency (FSA)* means the Farm Service Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*Filing date* means the date that a notice of petition is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

*Group* means three or more producers who are not members of the same family.

*Impacted area* means one or more States of the United States.

*Marketing year* means the marketing season or year as defined by National Agriculture Statistic Service (NASS), or a specific period as proposed by the petitioners and certified by the Administrator.

*National average price* means the average price paid to producers for an agricultural commodity in a marketing year as determined by the Administrator.

*Net farm income* means net farm profit or loss, excluding payments under this part, reported to the Internal Revenue Service for the tax year that most closely corresponds with the marketing year under consideration.

*Net fishing income* means net profit or loss, excluding payments under this part, reported to the Internal Revenue

Service for the tax year that most closely corresponds with the marketing year under consideration.

*Person* means an individual, partnership, joint stock owner, corporation, association, trust, estate, or any other legal entity as defined in 7 CFR 1400.3.

*Pre-adjustment year* means the tax year previous to that associated with the most recent marketing year in the initial producer petition.

*Producer* means a person who is either an owner, operator, landlord, tenant, or sharecropper, who shares in the risk of producing a crop and who is entitled to share in the crop available for marketing from the farm, or a qualified fisherman.

*Qualified fisherman* means a person whose catch competes in the marketplace with like or directly competitive aquaculture products and report net fishing income to the Internal Revenue Service.

*Raw or natural state* means unaltered by any process other than cleaning, grading, coating, sorting, trimming, mixing, conditioning, drying, dehulling, shelling, chilling, cooling, blanching, irradiating, or fumigating.

*United States* means the 50 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

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**§ 1580.201 Petitions for trade adjustment assistance.**

(a) A group of agricultural commodity producers or qualified fishermen in the United States or their authorized representative may file a petition for trade adjustment assistance.

(b) Filings may be written or electronic, as provided for by the Administrator, and submitted to FAS from August 15 through January 31. Petitions received after January 31 will be returned to the sender. If January 31 falls on a weekend, the petition will be accepted the next business day.

(c) Petitions shall include the following information.

(1) Name, business address, phone number, and email address (if available) of each producer in the group, or their authorized representative. A petition filed by a group shall identify a contact person for the group.

(2) The agricultural commodity and its Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) number.

(3) The production area represented by the group or its authorized representative. The petitioners shall indicate if they are filing on behalf of all producers in the United States, or if they are filing solely on behalf of all producers in a specifically identified impacted area. In the latter case, at least one member of the group must reside in each State within the impacted area, or the authorized representative must have members residing in each State within the impacted area.

(4) The beginning and ending dates for the marketing year during which domestic prices were affected by imports. A petition may be filed for only the most recent marketing year for which national average prices are available.

(5) A justification statement explaining why the petitioners should be considered eligible for adjustment assistance.

(6) Price data supporting the petition.

(i) If the petition is filed on behalf of all producers of the agricultural commodity in the United States, the Administrator shall use national average prices compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), whenever possible. If NASS has not compiled price data for the commodity, the petitioners shall provide national average prices for the marketing year under review and for the previous five marketing years, and identify the source of the price series.

(ii) If the petition is filed on behalf of producers in a specifically identified impacted area, the petitioners shall provide national average prices for the impacted area for the marketing year under review and for the previous five marketing years, and identify the source of the price series.

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

(d) Once the petition is received, 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 filed and that an investigation has