



Agricultural Commodity Eligibility and Requirements Relating to Quality and Safety

A Mandatory Reference for ADS Chapter 312

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Agricultural Commodity Eligibility and Requirements Relating to Quality and Safety

This document supplements the policies and procedures in ADS 312 pertaining to agricultural commodities financing. This document designates the eligibility of agricultural commodities for USAID financing and provides policies and procedures specific to financing Seed and Germplasm; Livestock Breeding Stock; and Food Purchases.

Current Eligibility for USAID Financing

Currently, USAID is not designating any agricultural commodities as ineligible that would otherwise qualify for financing under law and USAID policy.

Required Practices for Seed and Germplasm

When USAID is considering financing seed or germplasm, the AOR/COR must ensure that the awardee's request includes documentation affirming that the seed or germplasm is, if applicable, officially released or otherwise approved by the government of the country in which they are procured and in which they are intended for use to the extent that such release or approval procedures are required by such country.

The AOR/COR must also ensure that the awardee's request includes an affirmation that it will obtain either a Seed Certification Label officially recognized by the country where the seed was grown or a Seed Grower's Declaration of Quality. The Declaration of Quality must, where possible, be based on sampling and testing by a recognized seed laboratory, and must state as much of the following information as applicable and possible:

- (1) Crop and variety;
- (2) Where the seed was grown (country);
- (3) Seed lot number;
- (4) Incidence of weed seeds;
- (5) Percentage of inert matter;
- (6) Germination and hard seed;
- (7) Names and rates of noxious weed-seed occurrence (which must conform to laws of the country where the seeds are to be used).
- (8) Month/year in which purity and germination tests were completed;

(9) If seed was treated, chemicals with which treated and cautionary statement if advisable.

(10) Where, and by whom the seed was tested, i.e., laboratory, etc.

The Seed Grower's Declaration of Quality must identify the Supplier's transaction by date and quantity, and identify the lot involved. The Declaration must be dated and signed by an individual authorized to bind the grower and shall be issued to the Supplier.

Required Practices for Purchases of Livestock Breeding Stock

When USAID is considering financing livestock breeding stock, the COR/AOR must ensure that the awardee's request includes documentation affirming that:

- 1) The suppliers or agents providing the breeding animals have provided at least one verifiable reference of supplying healthy and productive livestock.
- 2) The supplying farms or their agents have provided, or will provide prior to purchase, documentation that verifies parentage, health status and compliance with required vaccination standards.
- 3) Livestock will not be purchased from areas identified as having current outbreaks of OIE List A diseases (consult www.OIE.org). For livestock purchased from another country, the livestock will be imported in accordance with procedures and regulations defined by the competent national animal health authority, usually the director of the Central Veterinary Office in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (or an equivalent office).
- 4) Imported animals will have permanent identification that cannot be altered between inspection at purchase and arrival in importing country. If practicable, cattle should have freeze brands on the lower leg or hot brands where necessary supplemented with ear tags; sheep and goats should have ear tattoos and/or tail web tattoos. The animals identification numbers should correspond to birth and vaccination records provided at the time of purchase.

When discussing planned livestock procurements with awardees, AORs/CORs should convey the following recommended best practices, for consideration in light of the relevant country and program context, to help ensure that the animals proposed for purchase will be healthy and productive.

If possible, and especially for purchases of large numbers of animals, purchasers should verify, at the supplier farms, that the physical conditions of animals in the herd or flock are adequate, that there are records being kept and that the facilities are sanitary. Purchased breeding animals should be transported in a safe, humane manner in a properly ventilated vehicle to assure that they arrive at distribution points in good physical condition without bodily injury. If traveling over long distances there should be

rest stops spaced every 8 to 12 hours to allow animals to disembark, rest and be fed and watered. Imported livestock should arrive at border crossings or airports accompanied by required documents verifying compliance with regulations. Receiving farms and organizations should have sufficient training from activity technical staff and have infrastructure in place to assure that the animals can be productive and generate the activity outcomes expected.

Required Practices for Food Purchases

When USAID is considering financing the agricultural commodities detailed below for food purposes, the AOR/COR must ensure that the awardee's request includes documentation affirming that the commodities will meet the basic safety and quality requirements elaborated below as applicable.

For all bulk grains, legumes, and pulses, recipient country food safety guidance must be followed. If the recipient country does not have food safety guidelines for grains, legumes, and pulses, purchasers must adhere to the Codex Alimentarius Recommended International Code of Practice: [General Principles of Food Hygiene CAC/RCP 1-1969 Rev 4 – 2003](#) including Annex "Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System and Guidelines for its Application."

All processed foods, fortified blended foods, and enriched foods must comply, in terms of raw materials, composition, and/or manufacture, with the Codex Alimentarius code cited above.

All cereals and cereal product commodities must be tested for aflatoxin and have moisture content certified. The maximum acceptable total aflatoxin level is 20 parts per billion (the U.S. Food and Drug Administration action level for aflatoxin in human foods).

All Breast Milk Substitutes (BMS) must also follow Agency policy in [ADS 212.3.2](#), and be approved in accordance with [ADS 212maa](#).

In addition to the recipient country requirements or Codex Alimentarius standards, as applicable, commodities must meet the specifications, nutritional, quality, and labeling standards of the recipient country.