

**Office of Chief Financial Officer, USDA**

**§ 3017.410**

(5) Other reasons the debarring official deems appropriate.

[54 FR 4731, Jan. 30, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 4952, Jan. 31, 1989]

**§ 3017.325 Scope of debarment.**

(a) *Scope in general.* (1) Debarment of a person under these regulations constitutes debarment of all its divisions and other organizational elements from all covered transactions, unless the debarment decision is limited by its terms to one or more specifically identified individuals, divisions or other organizational elements or to specific types of transactions.

(2) The debarment action may include any affiliate of the participant that is specifically named and given notice of the proposed debarment and an opportunity to respond (see §§ 3017.311 through 3017.314).

(b) *Imputing conduct.* For purposes of determining the scope of debarment, conduct may be imputed as follows:

(1) *Conduct imputed to participant.* The fraudulent, criminal or other seriously improper conduct of any officer, director, shareholder, partner, employee, or other individual associated with a participant may be imputed to the participant when the conduct occurred in connection with the individual's performance of duties for or on behalf of the participant, or with the participant's knowledge, approval, or acquiescence. The participant's acceptance of the benefits derived from the conduct shall be evidence of such knowledge, approval, or acquiescence.

(2) *Conduct imputed to individuals associated with participant.* The fraudulent, criminal, or other seriously improper conduct of a participant may be imputed to any officer, director, shareholder, partner, employee, or other individual associated with the participant who participated in, knew of, or had reason to know of the participant's conduct.

(3) *Conduct of one participant imputed to other participants in a joint venture.* The fraudulent, criminal, or other seriously improper conduct of one participant in a joint venture, grant pursuant to a joint application, or similar arrangement or with the knowledge, approval, or acquiescence of these participants. Acceptance of the benefits

derived from the conduct shall be evidence of such knowledge, approval, or acquiescence.

**Subpart D—Suspension**

**§ 3017.400 General.**

(a) The suspending official may suspend a person from any of the causes in § 3017.405 using procedures established in §§ 3017.410 through 3017.413.

(b) Suspension is a serious action to be imposed only when:

(1) There exists adequate evidence of one or more of the causes set out in § 3017.405, and

(2) Immediate action is necessary to protect the public interest.

(c) In assessing the adequacy of the evidence, the agency should consider how much information is available, how credible it is given the circumstances, whether or not important allegations are corroborated, and what inferences can reasonably be drawn as a result. This assessment should include an examination of basic documents such as grants, cooperative agreements, loan authorizations, and contracts.

**§ 3017.405 Causes for suspension.**

(a) Suspension may be imposed in accordance with the provisions of §§ 3017.400 through 3017.413 upon adequate evidence:

(1) To suspect the commission of an offense listed in § 3017.305(a); or

(2) That a cause for debarment under § 3017.305 may exist.

(b) Indictment shall constitute adequate evidence for purposes of suspension actions.

**§ 3017.410 Procedures.**

(a) *Investigation and referral.* Information concerning the existence of a cause for suspension from any source shall be promptly reported, investigated, and referred, when appropriate, to the suspending official for consideration. After consideration, the suspending official may issue a notice of suspension.

(1) The decision to utilize agency personnel, OIG or other appropriate resources to conduct the investigation