

**April 4, 2016**  
**MAP 16-002**



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

Farm and Foreign  
Agricultural  
Services

Foreign  
Agricultural  
Service

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Washington, DC  
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**SUBJECT: Submission of Fraud Prevention Programs**

**TO: All Market Access Program (MAP) Participants**

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### **Background**

The current MAP regulations were published in the Federal Register on May 17, 2012, and were effective beginning with program year 2013. Regulations regarding fraud prevention programs are found at 7 CFR 1485.31.

Section 1485.31 requires all Participants to submit a detailed fraud prevention program annually to FAS for review and approval. Until written approval is received from FAS, Participants cannot conduct any MAP activities or allow any MAP activities to occur.

During their reviews, FAS' Compliance Review Staff will confirm if the fraud prevention program procedures are being implemented as approved.

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### **Fraud Prevention Program Procedures – All Participants (1485.31(a))**

- 1) At a minimum, the fraud prevention program submission must include:
  - a) An annual review of internal controls and weaknesses;
  - b) A standard process for investigating and remediation of suspected fraud cases; and
  - c) Training in risk management and fraud detection for all current and future employees.
- 2) All fraud prevention programs must be received by FAS no later than 30 days after the Unified Export Strategy (UES) submission deadline.
- 3) Participants should submit electronic versions of their fraud prevention programs to FAS via email to [uesadmin@fas.usda.gov](mailto:uesadmin@fas.usda.gov) by the submission deadline.
- 4) FAS has developed an optional fraud prevention program template that Participants can use to develop and submit their plans. This optional template is available to Participants on the homepage of the online UES system.

- 5) FAS will endeavor to evaluate the fraud prevention programs and notify Participants of approval or disapproval within 30 days of the submission deadline.

**Additional Fraud Prevention Program Procedures for Participants that Administer Brand Programs (1485.31(b))**

- 6) Participants may charge a fee to brand participants to cover the cost of the fraud prevention program.
- 7) A Participant that is not strictly adhering to its approved fraud prevention program may be held liable for fraudulent claims submitted by brand participants. Thus, it is critically important that the details of the approved fraud prevention program be understood by **all** staff and contractors of any Participant with a brand program.

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