

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 97.036, Disaster Grants—Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters).

W. Craig Fugate,
Administrator, Federal Emergency
Management Agency.

[FR Doc. 2012-24672 Filed 10-4-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA-4082-
DR; Docket ID FEMA-2012-0002]

Alabama; Major Disaster and Related Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency
Management Agency, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of Alabama (FEMA-4082-DR), dated September 21, 2012, and related determinations.

DATES: *Effective Date:* September 21, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peggy Miller, Office of Response and Recovery, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW., Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3886.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that, in a letter dated September 21, 2012, the President issued a major disaster declaration under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.* (the "Stafford Act"), as follows:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of Alabama resulting from Hurricane Isaac during the period of August 26 to September 5, 2012, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.* (the "Stafford Act"). Therefore, I declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of Alabama.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate from funds available for these purposes such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Public Assistance in the designated areas and Hazard Mitigation throughout the State. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance is supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs.

Further, you are authorized to make changes to this declaration for the approved assistance to the extent allowable under the Stafford Act.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice that pursuant to the authority vested in the Administrator, under Executive Order 12148, as amended, Joe M. Girot, of FEMA is appointed to act as the Federal Coordinating Officer for this major disaster.

The following areas of the State of Alabama have been designated as adversely affected by this major disaster:

Baldwin, Mobile, and Pickens Counties for Public Assistance.

All counties within the State of Alabama are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance Grant; 97.048, Disaster Housing Assistance to Individuals and Households In Presidentially Declared Disaster Areas; 97.049, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance—Disaster Housing Operations for Individuals and Households; 97.050, Presidentially Declared Disaster Assistance to Individuals and Households—Other Needs; 97.036, Disaster Grants—Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters); 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant.

W. Craig Fugate,
Administrator, Federal Emergency
Management Agency.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Expansion of Importer Self- Assessment Program To Include Qualified Importers of Focused Assessment Audits

AGENCY: U.S. Customs and Border
Protection, Department of Homeland
Security.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: This document announces changes to the Importer Self-Assessment (ISA) program and describes the requirements for participation in, and benefits under, the program. The ISA program allows participants an opportunity to assess their own compliance with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) laws and regulations rather than undergoing

comprehensive CBP audits. This document announces that a company that has successfully undergone a CBP Focused Assessment (FA) audit may be eligible to transition into the ISA program without further CBP review within twelve (12) months from the date of the FA Report wherein Regulatory Audit, Office of International Trade, has determined that the company represents an acceptable risk to CBP, if the company also: Is a U.S. or Canadian resident importer; obtains Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) program membership; develops a risk-based self-testing plan; and agrees to meet all of the ISA program requirements. An Application Review Meeting, which is normally required for ISA applicants, will not be required for participants under this new policy.

DATES: The program modifications set forth in this document are effective October 5, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Leonard, Acting Executive Director, Trade Policy and Programs, Office of International Trade, at tppb-isa@dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Importer Self-Assessment Program and the Focused Assessment

The Importer Self-Assessment (ISA) program is a joint government-business initiative designed to build cooperative relationships that strengthen trade compliance. It is based on the premise that companies with strong internal controls achieve the highest level of compliance with customs laws and regulations. On June 7, 2002, the former U.S. Customs Service (now U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)) published a **Federal Register** (67 FR 41298) notice announcing the ISA program and describing the requirements for participation in, and benefits under, the program. For the most part, the requirements for participation in the ISA program remain as described in the 2002 Notice, except that the program has been expanded to accept Canadian as well as U.S. importers and participants must retain self-testing results for three (3) years.

Upon acceptance into the ISA program, the company will immediately begin to receive the following benefits:

- Entitled to receive entry summary trade data, including analysis support, from CBP.
- Consultation, guidance, and training by CBP if requested and as resources permit (for compliance, risk

assessments, internal controls, CBP audit trails, etc.).

- Opportunity to apply for coverage of multiple business units.
- Removal from Regulatory Audit's audit pool established for Focused Assessment (FA). However, companies may be subject to a single issue audit to address a specific concern.
- Receipt of a written notice from CBP if CBP becomes aware of an error in which there is an indication of a violation of 19 U.S.C. 1592 or 1593(a). CBP will allow thirty (30) days from the date of the notification for the company to assess and, if determined necessary, to file a prior disclosure pursuant to 19 CFR 162.74. This benefit does not apply if the matter is already the subject of an ongoing investigation or if fraud is involved.
- Consideration of the company's participation in the ISA program in the disposition of a case involving civil penalties or liquidated damages assessed against the company, although such participation does not preclude the issuance of a penalty or liquidated damages claim, or other enforcement action, if warranted.
- Assignment of a National Account Manager (NAM), who will ensure that issues, questions, and concerns are addressed in a timely fashion and are directed to the appropriate area. The NAM also helps coordinate the participant's activities, and provides oversight of the ISA account.
- Expedited cargo release.
- Expedited internal advice/consultation from Regulations & Rulings, Office of International Trade.
- Priority consideration for applications to participate in the Centers of Excellence and Expertise tests.
- Additional benefits may be tailored to industry needs.

Please note that this list reflects the changes that have been made to the benefits under the ISA program since the June 2002 **Federal Register** (67 FR 41298) notice publication.

The FA is a rigorous audit process conducted by Regulatory Audit, Office of International Trade, to determine whether a company's import activities represent an acceptable risk to CBP through an assessment of the company's organizational structure and its internal controls over compliance with applicable customs laws and regulations.

Successful Focused Assessment to Importer Self-Assessment Program Transition

The FA is a more rigorous and thorough method of examining a

company's internal systems for compliance with customs laws and regulations than the ISA review process. Therefore, CBP has decided to provide companies that have successfully completed the FA an opportunity to transition directly into the ISA program within twelve (12) months of their FA audit report date, which indicates that the company successfully passed the audit. The FA audit report is provided to the company by mail from Regulatory Audit, Office of International Trade. This new policy creates efficiencies relative to the time, money, and resources involved with the normal ISA application and evaluation process.

CBP opens this opportunity to companies that have successfully undergone a FA audit only if the company also: Is a U.S. or Canadian resident importer; obtains Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) program membership (those companies that are not C-TPAT certified will need to request certification by applying on the C-TPAT Portal, <https://ctpat.cbp.dhs.gov>, and their C-TPAT applications will be reviewed in an expedited fashion, within 30–45 days of receipt, rather than the typical 90-day schedule); develops a written risk-based self-testing plan; completes the ISA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as noted in the ISA Handbook, posted on the Web at http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/trade/trade_programs/importer_self_assessment/isa_hb.cdf/isa_hb.pdf; and agrees to meet all of the ISA program requirements identified in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 41298) notice dated June 7, 2002 and updated by this document.

Qualified companies will not need to undergo the Application Review Meeting (ARM) that is routinely scheduled for ISA applicants that undergo the normal ISA application evaluation process. CBP normally conducts an ARM to review an ISA applicant's corporate structure as it relates to customs-related work, its internal control processes, its entry processes from purchase order to payment for certain entries selected by the ISA team, and to discuss the scope and methodology of the self-testing plan developed by the company. Companies that would like to participate in the ISA program under this new policy will have already undergone a more rigorous review process under the FA audit and, therefore, will not need to participate in an ARM.

Application Process

Any interested company that has successfully completed a FA in the

twelve (12) months prior to the publication of this document may apply to transition into the ISA program. After publication of this document, companies that successfully complete a FA have twelve (12) months from the date of the FA Report to apply to transition into the ISA program. Requests to participate must be submitted to the Chief, Partnership Programs Branch, Office of International Trade, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 1400 L Street NW., Washington, DC 20229–1143. Applications must include:

1. An ISA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) listing the importer of record number(s) included in the FA and the MOU must be signed by an officer of the company; and
2. A written, risk-based, self-testing plan that should include: The risk assessment methodology used by the company; the testing methodology; the frequency of self-testing activities (i.e., monthly, quarterly, etc.); the number of sample items to be tested; and the name and contact information for the person who will review the self-testing results. The self-testing process should be conducted at least annually. (www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/trade_programs/importer_self_assessment/).

Once the company is accepted as a member of the ISA program, CBP will send the company an ISA certificate signed by the Assistant Commissioner, Office of International Trade, which indicates the date of acceptance into the program, an executed MOU, and a letter notifying it of its acceptance into the program.

Post-ISA Acceptance Requirements

ISA participants are required to comply with the requirements noted in the ISA Handbook.

Companies that are transitioned into the ISA program will be required to submit an annual notification letter to CBP within thirty (30) days of their two year anniversary date of acceptance into the ISA program, which is the date that the Assistant Commissioner, Office of International Trade signs the ISA MOU. The annual notification letter is due every twelve (12) months thereafter. The annual notification letter is meant to ensure that the program participant continues to meet the requirements of the ISA program and to inform CBP of any business modifications that may have a potential impact on the company's customs operations. The annual notification letter must be in writing and addressed to the Chief, Partnership Programs Branch, Office of International Trade, U.S. Customs and

Border Protection, 1400 L Street NW., Washington, DC 20229–1143. More information about the annual reporting requirements can be found in Appendix H of the ISA Handbook.

ISA participants will not be subject to any routine or periodic on-site reviews or audits, other than consultations with NAMs for support and compliance improvement purposes. However, a participant may be subject to an on-site audit to address a specific issue related to an identified trade compliance risk.

Procedures for Discontinuance

An ISA program participant may be subject to discontinuance from participation in the program for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to follow the terms of the MOU;
- Failure to exercise reasonable care in the execution of participant obligations under the program.; or
- Failure to abide by applicable laws and regulations.

If the Executive Director, Trade Policy and Programs (TPP), Office of International Trade believes that there is a basis for discontinuance of ISA program privileges, the ISA program participant will be provided a written notice proposing the discontinuance with a description of the facts or conduct warranting the action. The participant will be offered the opportunity to appeal the Executive Director's decision in writing within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the written notice. The appeal must be submitted to the Assistant Commissioner, Office of International Trade, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 1400 L Street NW., Washington, DC 20229. The Assistant Commissioner, Office of International Trade, will issue a decision in writing on the proposed action within thirty (30) working days after receiving a timely filed appeal from the participant. If no timely appeal is received, the proposed notice becomes the final decision of the Agency as of the date that the appeal period expires. A proposed discontinuance of a participant's participation privileges will not take effect unless the appeal process under this paragraph has been concluded with a written decision adverse to the participant.

Procedures for Immediate Discontinuance

In the case of willfulness or those in which public health, interest, or safety so requires, the Executive Director, Trade Policy and Programs, Office of International Trade may immediately discontinue the participant's

participation privileges upon written notice to the participant. The notice will contain a description of the facts or conduct warranting the immediate action. The participant will be offered the opportunity to appeal the Executive Director's decision within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the written notice providing for immediate discontinuance. The appeal must be submitted to the Assistant Commissioner, Office of International Trade, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 1400 L Street NW., Washington, DC 20229. The immediate discontinuance will remain in effect during the appeal period. The Assistant Commissioner, Office of International Trade, will issue a decision in writing on the discontinuance within fifteen (15) working days after receiving a timely filed appeal from the participant. If no timely appeal is received, the notice becomes the final decision of the Agency as of the date that the appeal period expires.

Dated: September 26, 2012.

Allen Gina,

Assistant Commissioner, Office of International Trade.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–5601–N–39]

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities to Assist the Homeless

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice identifies unutilized, underutilized, excess, and surplus Federal property reviewed by HUD for suitability for use to assist the homeless.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Juanita Perry, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW., Room 7266, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 402–3970; TTY number for the hearing- and speech-impaired (202) 708–2565 (these telephone numbers are not toll-free), or call the toll-free Title V information line at 800–927–7588.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 24 CFR part 581 and section 501 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11411), as amended, HUD is publishing this Notice to identify Federal buildings and other real property that HUD has

reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. The properties were reviewed using information provided to HUD by Federal landholding agencies regarding unutilized and underutilized buildings and real property controlled by such agencies or by GSA regarding its inventory of excess or surplus Federal property. This Notice is also published in order to comply with the December 12, 1988 Court Order in *National Coalition for the Homeless v. Veterans Administration*, No. 88–2503–OG (D.D.C.).

Properties reviewed are listed in this Notice according to the following categories: Suitable/available, suitable/unavailable, suitable/to be excess, and unsuitable. The properties listed in the three suitable categories have been reviewed by the landholding agencies, and each agency has transmitted to HUD: (1) Its intention to make the property available for use to assist the homeless, (2) its intention to declare the property excess to the agency's needs, or (3) a statement of the reasons that the property cannot be declared excess or made available for use as facilities to assist the homeless.

Properties listed as suitable/available will be available exclusively for homeless use for a period of 60 days from the date of this Notice. Where property is described as for “off-site use only” recipients of the property will be required to relocate the building to their own site at their own expense. Homeless assistance providers interested in any such property should send a written expression of interest to HHS, addressed to Theresa Ritta, Division of Property Management, Program Support Center, HHS, room 5B–17, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857; (301) 443–2265. (This is not a toll-free number.) HHS will mail to the interested provider an application packet, which will include instructions for completing the application. In order to maximize the opportunity to utilize a suitable property, providers should submit their written expressions of interest as soon as possible. For complete details concerning the processing of applications, the reader is encouraged to refer to the interim rule governing this program, 24 CFR part 581.

For properties listed as suitable/to be excess, that property may, if subsequently accepted as excess by GSA, be made available for use by the homeless in accordance with applicable law, subject to screening for other Federal use. At the appropriate time, HUD will publish the property in a Notice showing it as either suitable/available or suitable/unavailable.