



USDA Registry for Cotton Merchants

Overview

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) maintains an internal-use-only national registry to help cotton merchants efficiently redeem cotton held as collateral by USDA.

Background

Cotton producers may pledge as collateral baled cotton for Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) marketing assistance loans. These producers often authorize merchants to repay their loan obligations and redeem the cotton using form CCC-605, "Designation of Agent – Cotton." Cotton merchants mail or fax the form to one of 300 FSA county offices that process cotton loans.

Registry Content and Use

The purpose of the registry is to inform FSA county staff if an individual has authorization to request redemption of a cotton loan by a cotton merchandising company.

Viewable only by FSA employees, the registry contains:

- The name and address of the cotton merchant;
- The name of each individual authorized by the merchant to sign form CCC-605;
- A notation as to whether the authorized individual's signature, whether original or

faxed, may be embossed or stamped, in addition to being written; and

- The effective date of authorization and, if applicable, the termination date.

Once a name is included on the registry, it is available nationwide to all FSA county offices. Merchants can then submit requests to redeem cotton to an FSA county office without having to identify its approved representative to each office.

FSA's staff can access the registry to determine whether the individual signing the CCC-605 has authorization to sign on behalf of the merchant. FSA updates the registry daily.

Registry Participation

Only merchants that redeem cotton loan collateral using form CCC-605 may submit names for listing on this registry.

The registry is not for use by individual producers.

Registry Benefits

The registry:

- Eliminates the need for merchants to notify multiple county offices when approved merchant representatives are either added or deleted; and

- Reduces paperwork for both cotton merchants and the federal government.

How to Sign Up

To have an individual listed on the registry, a merchant must submit to the FSA Price Support Division (PSD) a letter identifying the individual(s) authorized to sign the CCC-605. The letter must indicate whether the individual may use a stamped, embossed, or other mechanically reproduced signature.

Merchants must send the authorizing letter to:

By express mail only:*

USDA/FSA/PSD
Attention: Signature Registry
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Stop 0512 – Room 4095
Washington, D.C. 20250-0512

By commercial or Postal Service parcel delivery:

USDA/FSA/PSD
Attention: Signature Registry
Room 4095, South Building
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

*PSD recommends using express mail or commercial parcel delivery as first-class mail is subject to delay.

Registry is Voluntary

Use of this registry is voluntary. Neither CCC nor county staff uses the registry for redemption requests under the automated centralized cotton redemption process.

For More Information

For more information on the cotton registry service, please contact PSD at (202) 720-2879, or by e-mail at:
Sylvia.Redd@wdc.usda.gov

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