



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

OPEN LETTER FROM THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

April 14, 2014

To all Telecommunications Borrowers:

The Office of the United States Trade Representative has revised the list of countries designated as "eligible countries" for the Telecommunications Program of the Rural Utilities Service. The revision adds countries to the prior list that included Canada, Israel, and Mexico, as shown in the table below. The new list reflects the March 17, 2014 Federal Register Notice, *Agreement on Government Procurement: Effective Date of Amendments*, published by the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

Eligible Countries for the Telecommunications Program			
Canada	Chinese Tapei	European Union	Hong Kong
Iceland	Israel	Lichtenstein	Mexico
Norway	Singapore		

For purposes of meeting the *Buy American Requirement* (RUS Bulletin 344-3 found at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RDU_Bulletins_Telecommunications.html), eligible countries have their products receive the same treatment as manufactured and unmanufactured products produced in the United States.

The list of eligible countries is available for download at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/SupportDocuments/UTP_InfrastructureEligibleCountries.pdf.

Sincerely,

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