

§ 212.33 Procedure for making requests.

(a) Requests for records, other than records available at the Public Reading Room identified in § 212.24(a), may be made by a member of the public in writing only to the Chief, Customer Outreach and Oversight Staff, Room 1113, SA-16, Agency for International Development, Department of State, 320 21st Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20523-1608. The request and the envelope must be plainly marked "FOIA Request." Requests may be made orally, that is, in person, only for records and materials available at the Public Reading Room.

(b) Requests for records may be made directly to a USAID mission or office abroad only by a citizen of the United States who is present in that country and must be by written application to the USAID Director (or other principal USAID officer), care of the American Embassy in that country. Any such written request and its envelope must be plainly marked "FOIA Request."

(c) Only signed original (as opposed to electronically transmitted) requests are acceptable for procedures pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section. Telephoned requests, or in-person requests other than to the Public Reading Room, cannot be accepted. If a written request not properly marked "FOIA Request" on both the letter and envelope is thereby delayed in reaching the Chief, Office of Customer Outreach and Oversight Staff, such request will not be deemed received by USAID until actually received by that official. In the event of such a delay, the person making the request will be furnished a notice of the effective date of receipt.

§ 212.34 Procedures for responding to requests for records.

(a) Upon receipt by the Chief, Office of Customer Outreach and Oversight Staff, of a reasonably specific request made pursuant to § 212.33 of this part, a maximum of ten working days will normally be taken to determine to what extent the Agency can provide the information requested. Upon the making of that determination, the person making the request will be promptly so informed. Copies of the releasable documents will be made available promptly

thereafter upon receipt of applicable fees and charges as set forth in § 212.35.

(b)(1) In unusual circumstances, USAID may not be able to determine the availability of the requested documents within ten working days, in which event the person making the request will be informed by written notice of the delay, the reasons for the delay and the date on which a determination may be expected. In this context, the term "unusual circumstances" refers to the following situations:

(i) When there is a need to search for and collect the requested records from field facilities or other establishments that are separate from the office processing the request;

(ii) When there is a need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records which are sought in a single request; or

(iii) When there is a need for consultation (which will be conducted with all practicable speed) with another agency having a substantial interest in the determination of the request or among two or more components of the Agency, each having substantial subject-matter interest therein.

(2) The maximum time in making a determination of availability, in the event of such unusual circumstances, will be twenty working days from receipt of the request. In the event that only part of the permissible ten working days extension is used, then USAID reserves the right, if necessary, to use any remainder of such time for the determination of an appeal, if one is made.

(c) If a request is made to USAID for material that is controlled or held by another agency, the person making the request will be immediately notified that USAID does not have or control the requested material and he/she will be advised of the name of the controlling agency and of the address from which the material may be requested, unless the other agency has, by public regulation, delegated the release authority to USAID. If release authority has been delegated, USAID will follow the procedures authorized by the delegation in determining whether to release the information. If a request for