

performing research or completing the development and production of electric or hybrid vehicles or any components thereof in an acceptable manner.

(g) (1) With respect to any loan guaranteed pursuant to this section, the Administrator is authorized to enter into a contract to pay, and to pay, the lender for and on behalf of the borrower the interest charges which become due and payable on the unpaid balance of any such loan if the Administrator finds—

(A) that the borrower is unable to meet interest charges, that it is in the public interest to permit the borrower to continue to pursue the purposes of his project, and that the probable net cost to the Federal Government in paying such interest will be less than that which would result in the event of a default; and

(B) that the amount of such interest charges which the Administrator is authorized to pay shall be no greater than the amount of interest which the borrower is obligated to pay under the loan agreement.

Defaults.

(2) In the event of any default by a qualified borrower on a guaranteed loan, the Administrator is authorized to make payment in accordance with the guarantee, and the Attorney General shall take such action as may be appropriate to recover the amounts of such payments (including any payment of interest under paragraph (1)) from such assets of the defaulting borrowers as are associated with the activity with respect to which the loan was made or from any other surety included in the terms of the guarantee.

(h) No loan guarantee shall be made, or interest assistance contracts entered into, pursuant to this section, after the expiration of the 5-year period following the date of enactment of this Act.

Applicant, citizenship requirement.

(i) An applicant seeking a guarantee under this section must be a citizen or national of the United States. A corporation, partnership, firm, or association shall not be deemed to be a citizen or national of the United States unless the Administrator determines that it satisfactorily meets all the requirements of section 2 of the Shipping Act of 1916 (46 U.S.C. 802), for determining such citizenship, except that the provisions in subsection (a) of such section 2 concerning (1) the citizenship of officers or directors of a corporation, and (2) the interest required to be owned in the case of a corporation, association, or partnership operating a vessel in the coastwise trade, shall not be applicable. The Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may waive such requirements in the case of a corporation, partnership, firm, or association, controlling interest in which is owned by citizens of countries which are participants in the International Energy Agreement.

Waiver.

SEC. 11. USE OF ELECTRIC AND HYBRID VEHICLES BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.

Study. 15 USC 2510.

The Postmaster General of the United States Postal Service, the Administrator of the General Services Administration, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other Federal agencies shall—

(1) carry out a study of the practicability of using electric and hybrid vehicles in the performance of some or all of the functions of their agencies; and

(2) arrange for the introduction of electric and hybrid vehicles into their fleets as soon as possible.

For competitive procurement purposes in purchasing such vehicles, life-cycle costing and any beneficial air pollution control characteristics of electric and hybrid vehicles shall be fully taken into account.