

entry into the program; business tax returns for the last two completed fiscal years prior to the date of self-representation; personal tax returns for the last two years prior to the date of self-representation for all individuals claiming disadvantaged status, all officers, all directors and for any individual owning at least 10% of the business entity; annual business financial statements for the last two completed fiscal years prior to the date of self-representation; a current monthly or quarterly business financial statement no older than 90 days; articles of incorporation; corporate by-laws; partnership agreements; limited liability company articles of organization; and any other relevant information as to whether the protested concern is disadvantaged.

(2) SBA's disadvantaged status determination need not be limited to consideration only of the issues raised in the protest. SBA may consider other applicable criteria.

(3) Unless the protest presents specific credible information which calls into question the veracity of application or other documents previously submitted to SBA by a current Participant in SBA's 8(a) BD program, SBA will allow the Participant to submit, in lieu of the information specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, a sworn affidavit or declaration that circumstances concerning the ownership and control of the business and the disadvantaged status of its principals have not changed since its application or entry into the program or its most recent annual review, and a copy of its most recently completed annual review.

(i) If the ownership or control of the business or the disadvantaged status of any principals have changed, the protested concern must comply with paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(ii) An affidavit or declaration may be allowed only if SBA admitted the protested concern to the 8(a) BD program, or conducted an annual review of the protested concern, during the 12-month period preceding the date on which SBA receives the protest, and if proceedings to suspend, terminate or early graduate the concern from the 8(a) BD program are not pending.

(c) Within 10 working days of the date that notification of the protest was received from the DC/SDBCE or designee, the protested concern must submit to the DC/SDBCE or designee, by personal delivery, FAX, or mail, the information and documentation requested pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section or the affidavit permitted by paragraph (b)(2) of this section. Materials submitted must be received by the close of business on the 10th working day.

(1) SBA will consider only materials submitted timely, and the late or non-submission of materials needed to make a disadvantaged status determination may result in sustaining the protest.

(2) The burden is on the protested concern to demonstrate its disadvantaged status, whether or not it is currently shown on the list of qualified SDBs.

(3) The protested concern must timely submit to SBA any information it deems relevant to a determination of its disadvantaged status.

[63 FR 35772, June 30, 1998. Redesignated at 73 FR 57495, Oct. 3, 2008]

§ 124.1013 How does SBA make disadvantaged status determinations in considering an SDB protest?

(a) *General.* The DC/SDBCE, or designee, will determine a protested concern's disadvantaged status within 15 working days after receipt of a protest. If the procuring activity contracting officer does not receive an SBA determination within 15 working days after the SBA's receipt of the protest, the contracting officer may presume that the challenged offeror is disadvantaged, unless the SBA requests and the contracting officer grants an extension to the 15-day response period.

(b) *Award after protest.* (1) After receiving a protest involving an offeror being considered for award, the contracting officer shall not award the contract until:

(i) The SBA has made an SDB determination, or

(ii) 15 working days have expired since SBA's receipt of a protest and the contracting officer has not agreed to an extension of the 15-day response period.

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(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the contracting officer may award a contract after the receipt of an SDB protest where he or she determines in writing that an award must be made to protect the public interest.

(c) *Withdrawal of protest.* If a protest is withdrawn, SBA will not complete a new disadvantaged status determination, and a previous SDB certification will stand.

(d) *Basis for determination.* (1) Except with respect to a concern which is a current Participant in SBA's 8(a) BD program and is authorized under § 124.1022(b)(3) to submit an affidavit concerning its disadvantaged status, the disadvantaged status determination will be based on the protest record, including reasonable inferences therefrom, as supplied by the protestor, protested concern, SBA or others.

(2) SBA may in its discretion make a part of the protest record information already in its files, and information submitted by the protestor, the protested concern, the contracting officer, or other persons contacted for additional specific information.

(e) *Disadvantaged status.* In evaluating the social and economic disadvantage of individuals claiming disadvantaged status, SBA will consider the same information and factors set forth in §§ 124.103 and 124.104. As provided in § 124.1002(c), individuals claiming disadvantaged status must have a net worth that is less than \$750,000, after taking into account the exclusions set forth in § 124.104(c)(2).

(f) *Disadvantaged status determination.* SBA will render a written determination including the basis for its findings and conclusions.

(g) *Notification of determination.* After making its disadvantaged status determination, the SBA will immediately notify the contracting officer, the protestor, and the protested concern of its determination. SBA will promptly provide by certified mail, return receipt requested, a copy of its written determination to the same entities, consistent with law.

(h) *Results of an SBA disadvantaged status determination.* A disadvantaged

status determination becomes effective immediately.

(1) If the concern is found not to be disadvantaged, the determination remains in full force and effect unless reversed upon appeal by SBA's DAA/GC&BD, or designee, pursuant to § 124.1024, or the concern is certified to be an SDB under § 124.1008. The concern is precluded from applying for SDB certification for 12 months from the date of the final agency decision (whether by the DC/SDBCE, or designee, without an appeal, or by the DAA/GC&BD, or designee, on appeal).

(2) If the concern is found to be disadvantaged, the determination remains in full force and effect unless and until reversed upon appeal by SBA's DAA/GC&BD, or designee, pursuant to § 124.1024. A final Agency decision (whether by the DC/SDBCE, or designee, without an appeal, or by the DAA/GC&BD, or designee, on appeal) finding the protested concern to be an SDB remains in effect for three years from the date of the decision under the same conditions as if the concern had been granted SDB certification under § 124.1008.

[63 FR 35772, June 30, 1998. Redesignated at 73 FR 57495, Oct. 3, 2008, as amended at 74 FR 45754, Sept. 4, 2009]

§ 124.1014 Appeals of disadvantaged status determinations.

(a) *Who may appeal.* Appeals of protest determinations may be filed with the SBA's AA/GC&BD by the protested concern, the protestor, or the contracting officer.

(b) *Timeliness of appeal.* An appeal must be in writing and must be received by the AA/GC&BD no later than 5 working days after the date of receipt of the protest determination. SBA will dismiss any appeal received after the five-day time period.

(c) *Notice of appeal.* Notice of the appeal must be provided by the party bringing an appeal to the procuring activity contracting officer and either the protested concern or original protestor, as appropriate.

(d) *Grounds for appeal.* SBA will reexamine a protest determination only if there was a clear and significant error in the processing of the protest, or if the DC/SDBCE, or designee, failed to