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size or status must be referred to the SBA for resolution. When making its determinations of veteran, service-disabled veteran, or service-disabled veteran with a permanent and severe disability status, the SBA will rely upon determinations made by the Department of Veteran's Affairs, Department of Defense determinations, or such determinations identified by documents provided by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration. SBA will determine the service-disabled veteran-owned small business status of the protested concern within 15 business days after receipt of a protest. If SBA does not contact the contracting officer within 15 business days, the contracting officer may award the contract to the apparently successful offeror, unless the contracting officer has granted SBA an extension. The contracting officer may award the contract after receipt of a protest if the contracting officer determines in writing that an award must be made to protect the public interest.

(i) SBA will notify the contracting officer, the protester, and the protested concern of its determination. The determination is effective immediately and is final unless overturned on appeal by SBA's Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) pursuant to 13 CFR part 134.

[69 FR 25277, May 5, 2004, as amended at 70 FR 14954, Mar. 23, 2005]

**19.308 Protesting a firm's status as an economically disadvantaged women-owned small business (EDWOSB) concern or women-owned small business (WOSB) concern eligible under the WOSB Program.**

(a) An offeror, the contracting officer, or the SBA may protest the apparent successful offeror's status as an EDWOSB concern or WOSB concern eligible under the WOSB Program.

(b) Protests relating to small business size status are subject to the procedures of subpart 19.3. An interested party (see 19.308(a)) seeking to protest both the size and status of an apparent successful offeror shall file two separate protests.

(c) All protests shall be in writing and must state all specific grounds for the protest.

(1) SBA will consider protests challenging the status of a concern if—

(i) The protest presents evidence that the concern is not at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more women who are United States citizens; or

(ii) The protest presents evidence that the concern is not at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more economically disadvantaged women, when it is in connection with an EDWOSB contract.

(2) SBA shall consider protests by a contracting officer when the apparent successful offeror has failed to provide all of the required documents, as set forth in FAR 19.1503(c).

(d) Protest by an offeror.

(1) An offeror shall submit its protest to the contracting officer—

(i) To be received by the close of business by the fifth business day after bid opening (in sealed bid acquisitions); or

(ii) To be received by the close of business by the fifth business day after notification by the contracting officer of the apparent successful offeror (in negotiated acquisitions).

(2) Any protest received after the designated time limit is untimely, unless it is from the contracting officer or SBA.

(e)(1) The contracting officer shall forward all protests to SBA. The protests are to be submitted to SBA's Director for Government Contracting, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416 or by fax to (202) 205-6390, Attn: Women-owned Small Business Status Protest. SBA's protest regulations are found in subpart F "Protests" at 13 CFR 127.600 through 127.605.

(2) The protest shall include a referral letter written by the contracting officer with information pertaining to the solicitation. The referral letter must include the following information to allow SBA to determine timeliness and standing of the protest:

(i) The solicitation number; the name, address, telephone number and

facsimile number of the contracting officer, the successful offeror and the protester.

(ii) Whether the protestor submitted an offer.

(iii) Whether the protested concern was the apparent successful offeror.

(iv) When the protested concern submitted its offer.

(v) Whether the acquisition was conducted using sealed bid or negotiated procedures.

(vi) The bid opening date, if applicable.

(vii) The date the contracting officer received the protest.

(viii) The date the protestor received notification about the apparent successful offeror, if applicable; and

(ix) Whether a contract has been awarded.

(f) SBA will notify the protestor and the contracting officer of the date the protest was received.

(g) *Before SBA decision.* The contracting officer may award the contract after receipt of the protest but before SBA issues its decision if the contracting officer determines in writing that an award must be made to prevent significant harm to the public interest.

(1) SBA will determine the merits of the status protest within 15 business days after receipt of a protest, or within any extension of that time that the contracting officer may grant SBA.

(2) If SBA does not issue its determination within 15 business days, the contracting officer shall contact SBA to obtain the status of its decision.

(3) After contacting SBA, if the contracting officer determines in writing that there is an immediate need and it is in the public's interest to proceed with award, the contracting officer may award the contract. This determination shall be provided to the SBA Director for Government Contracting and a copy shall be included in the contract file.

(h) *After SBA decision.* SBA will notify the contracting officer, the protestor, and the protested concern of its determination. The determination is effective immediately and is final unless overturned on appeal by SBA's Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) pursuant to 13 CFR part 134.

(1) If SBA has denied or dismissed the protest, the contracting officer may award the contract to the protested concern. If OHA subsequently overturns the SBA Director for Government Contracting's determination or dismissal, the contracting officer may apply the OHA decision to the procurement in question.

(2) If SBA has sustained the protest and determined that the concern is not eligible under the WOSB Program, and no OHA appeal has been filed, then—

(i) The concern must remove its designation in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) and Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA) as an EDWOSB or WOSB concern eligible under the WOSB Program, and shall not submit an offer as an EDWOSB concern or WOSB concern eligible under the WOSB Program, until SBA issues a decision that the ineligibility is resolved.

(ii) The contracting officer shall not award the contract to the protested concern.

(iii) The contracting officer shall terminate the award, shall not exercise any options or award further task or delivery orders, if the contracting officer receives the determination after contract award.

(iv) The contracting officer may allow contract performance to continue when a written determination is made in accordance with 19.308(g) and (h), but shall not exercise any options or award further task or delivery orders.

(v) The contracting officer shall update the FPDS to reflect the final SBA decision.

(3) If SBA has sustained the protest and determined that the concern is not eligible under the WOSB Program, and a timely OHA appeal has been filed, then—

(i) The contracting officer must consider whether performance can be suspended until an OHA decision is rendered.

(ii) The contracting officer shall either terminate the contract, not exercise the next option, or not award further task or delivery orders, if OHA affirms the SBA Director for Government Contracting's determination

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finding the protested concern is ineligible. The contracting officer may allow contract performance to continue when a written determination is made in accordance with 19.308(g) and (h), but shall not exercise any options or award further task or delivery orders; and

(iii) The contracting officer shall update the FPDS to reflect OHA's decision.

(iv) The concern must remove its designation in CCR and ORCA as an EDWOSB or WOSB concern eligible under the WOSB Program, and shall not submit an offer as an EDWOSB concern or WOSB concern eligible under the WOSB Program, until SBA issues a decision that the ineligibility is resolved or OHA finds the concern is eligible on appeal.

[76 FR 18309, Apr. 1, 2011, as amended at 77 FR 12916, Mar. 2, 2012]

**19.309 Solicitation provisions and contract clauses.**

(a)(1) Insert the provision at 52.219-1, Small Business Program Representations, in solicitations exceeding the micro-purchase threshold when the contract will be performed in the United States or its outlying areas.

(2) Use the provision with its Alternate I in solicitations issued by DoD, NASA, or the Coast Guard.

(b) Insert the provision at 52.219-22, Small Disadvantaged Business Status, in solicitations that include the clause at 52.219-23, Notice of Price Evaluation Adjustment for Small Disadvantaged Business Concerns, or 52.219-25, Small Disadvantaged Business Participation Program—Disadvantaged Status and Reporting. Use the provision with its *Alternate I* in solicitations for acquisitions for which a price evaluation adjustment for small disadvantaged business concerns is authorized on a regional basis.

(c) When contracting by sealed bidding, insert the provision at 52.219-2, Equal Low Bids, in solicitations when the contract will be performed in the United States or its outlying areas.

(d) Insert the clause at 52.219-28, Post-Award Small Business Program Rerepresentation, in solicitations and contracts exceeding the micro-purchase threshold when the contract will

be performed in the United States or its outlying areas.

[64 FR 51832, Sept. 24, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 13066, Mar. 20, 2002; 68 FR 28081, May 22, 2003. Redesignated at 69 FR 25277, May 5, 2004, as amended at 72 FR 36855, July 5, 2007. Redesignated at 76 FR 18309, Apr. 1, 2011]

**Subpart 19.4—Cooperation With the Small Business Administration****19.401 General.**

(a) The Small Business Act is the authority under which the Small Business Administration (SBA) and agencies consult and cooperate with each other in formulating policies to ensure that small business interests will be recognized and protected.

(b) The Director of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization serves as the agency focal point for interfacing with SBA.

[48 FR 42240, Sept. 19, 1983, as amended at 60 FR 48261, Sept. 18, 1995]

**19.402 Small Business Administration procurement center representatives.**

(a)(1) The SBA may assign one or more procurement center representatives to any contracting activity or contract administration office to carry out SBA policies and programs. Assigned SBA procurement center representatives are required to comply with the contracting agency's directives governing the conduct of contracting personnel and the release of contract information. The SBA must obtain for its procurement center representatives security clearances required by the contracting agency.

(2) If a SBA procurement center representative is not assigned to the procuring activity or contract administration office, contact the SBA Office of Government Contracting Area Office serving the area in which the procuring activity is located for assistance in carrying out SBA policies and programs. See <http://www.sba.gov/content/procurement-center-representatives> for the location of the SBA office servicing the activity.

(b) Upon their request and subject to applicable acquisition and security regulations, contracting officers shall give