

raised in the protest or request for size determination. SBA may utilize other information in its files and may make inquiries including requests to the protestor, the protested concern and any alleged affiliates, or other persons for additional specific information.

(c) *Burden of persuasion.* The concern whose size is under consideration has the burden of establishing its small business size.

(d) *Weight of evidence.* SBA will give greater weight to specific, signed, factual evidence than to general, unsupported allegations or opinions. In the case of refusal or failure to furnish requested information within a required time period, SBA may assume that disclosure would be contrary to the interests of the party failing to make disclosure.

(e) *Formal size determination.* The SBA will base its formal size determination upon the record, including reasonable inferences from the record, and will state in writing the basis for its findings and conclusions.

(f) *Notification of determination.* SBA will promptly notify the contracting officer, the protestor, and the protested offeror, as well as each affiliate or alleged affiliate, of the size determination. The notification will be by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by any overnight delivery service that provides proof of receipt.

(g) *Results of an SBA size determination.* (1) A formal size determination becomes effective immediately and remains in full force and effect unless and until reversed by OHA.

(2) Once SBA has determined that a concern is other than small for purposes of a particular procurement, the concern cannot later become eligible for the procurement by reducing its size.

(3) A concern determined to be other than small for a particular size standard is ineligible for any procurement or assistance authorized by the Small Business Act or the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, requiring the same or a lower size standard, unless recertified as small pursuant to § 121.1010. Following an adverse size determination, a concern cannot again self-certify as small within the same or a lower size standard unless it is recer-

tified as small by SBA. If it does so, it may be in violation of criminal laws, including section 16(d) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 645(d). If the concern has already certified itself as small on a pending procurement or on another assistance application, the concern must immediately inform the officials responsible for the pending procurement or other requested assistance of the adverse size determination.

(h) *Limited reopening of size determinations.* In cases where the size determination contains clear administrative error or a clear mistake of fact, SBA may, in its sole discretion, reopen the size determination to correct the error or mistake, provided the case has not been accepted for review by OHA.

§ 121.1010 How does a concern become recertified as a small business?

(a) A concern may request SBA to recertify it as small at any time by filing an application for recertification with the Government Contracting Area Office responsible for the area in which the headquarters of the applicant is located, regardless of the location of parent companies or affiliates. No particular form is prescribed for the application; however, the request for recertification must be accompanied by a current completed SBA Form 355 and any other information sufficient to show a significant change in its ownership, management, or other factors bearing on its status as a small concern.

(b) Recertification will not be required nor will the prohibition against future self-certification apply if the adverse SBA size determination is based solely on a finding of affiliation due to a joint venture (e.g., ostensible subcontracting) limited to a particular Government procurement or property sale, or is based on an ineligible manufacturer where the eligible small business bidder or offeror is a nonmanufacturer on a particular Government procurement.

(c) A denial of an application for recertification is a formal size determination and may be reviewed by OHA at the discretion of that office.

(d) The granting of an application for recertification has future effect only. While it is a formal size determination,

notice of recertification is required to be given only to the applicant.

APPEALS OF SIZE DETERMINATIONS AND
SIC CODE DESIGNATIONS

§ 121.1101 Are formal size determinations subject to appeal?

There is no right of appeal of a size determination. OHA, however, may, in its sole discretion, review a formal size determination made by a SBA Government Contracting Area Office or by a Disaster Area Office. Unless OHA accepts a petition for review of a formal size determination, the size determination made by a SBA Government Contracting Area Office or by a Disaster Area Office is the final decision of SBA. The procedures for requesting discretionary reviews by OHA of formal size determinations are set forth in part 134 of this chapter.

§ 121.1102 Are SIC code designations subject to appeal?

Appeals may be made to OHA, which has exclusive jurisdiction to determine appeals of SIC code designations pursuant to part 134 of this chapter.

§ 121.1103 What are the procedures for appealing a SIC code designation?

(a) Generally, any interested party who has been adversely affected by a SIC code designation may appeal the designation to OHA. However, with respect to a particular sole source 8(a) contract, only the Associate Administrator for 8(a)BD may appeal.

(b) Procedures for perfecting SIC code appeals with OHA are contained in § 19.303 of the Federal Acquisition Regulations, 48 CFR 19.303.

[61 FR 3286, Jan. 31, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 35739, June 30, 1998]

Subpart B—Other Applicable Provisions

WAIVERS OF THE NONMANUFACTURER
RULE FOR CLASSES OF PRODUCTS AND
INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS

§ 121.1201 What is the Nonmanufacturer Rule?

The Nonmanufacturer Rule is set forth in § 121.406(b).

§ 121.1202 When will a waiver of the Nonmanufacturer Rule be granted for a class of products?

(a) A waiver for a class of products (class waiver) will be granted when there are no small business manufacturers or processors available to participate in the Federal market for that class of products.

(b) *Federal market* means acquisitions by the Federal Government from offerors located in the United States, or such smaller area as SBA designates if it concludes that the class of products is not supplied on a national basis.

(1) When considering the appropriate market area for a product, SBA presumes that the entire United States is the relevant Federal market, unless it is clearly demonstrated that a class of products cannot be procured on a national basis. This presumption may be particularly difficult to overcome in the case of manufactured products, since such items typically have a market area encompassing the entire United States.

(2) When considering geographic segmentation of a Federal market, SBA will not necessarily use market definitions dependent on airline radius, political, or SBA regional boundaries. Market areas typically follow established transportation routes rather than jurisdictional borders. SBA examines the following factors, among others, in cases where geographic segmentation for a class of products is urged:

(i) Whether perishability affects the area in which the product can practically be sold;

(ii) Whether transportation costs are high as a proportion of the total value of the product so as to limit the economic distribution of the product;

(iii) Whether there are legal barriers to transportation of the item;

(iv) Whether a fixed, well-delineated boundary exists for the purported market area and whether this boundary has been stable over time; and

(v) Whether a small business, not currently selling in the defined market area, could potentially enter the market from another area and supply the market at a reasonable price.

(c) *Available to participate* in the context of the Federal market means that