

§ 121.802

Trademark Office of the Department of Commerce, 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28.

**§ 121.802 What size standards are applicable to reduced patent fees programs?**

A concern eligible for reduced patent fees is one:

(a) Whose number of employees, including affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons; and

(b) Which has not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed (and is under no obligation to do so) any rights in the invention to any person who made it and could not be classified as an independent inventor, or to any concern which would not qualify as a non-profit organization or a small business concern under this section.

**§ 121.803 Are formal size determinations binding on parties?**

Size determinations by authorized SBA officials are formal actions, based upon a specific patent application pursuant to the rules of the Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, and are binding upon the parties. Other SBA opinions provided to patent applicants or others are only advisory, and are not binding or appealable.

**§ 121.804 When does SBA determine the size status of a business concern?**

Size status is determined as of the date of the patent applicant's written verification of size.

**§ 121.805 May a business concern self-certify its size status?**

(a) A concern verifies its size status with its submission of its patent application.

(b) Any attempt to establish small size status improperly (fraudulently, through gross negligence, or otherwise) may result in remedial action by the Patent and Trademark Office.

(c) In the absence of credible information indicating otherwise, the Patent and Trademark Office may accept the verification by the concern as a small business as true.

(d) Questions concerning the size verification are resolved initially by the Patent and Trademark Office. If not

13 CFR Ch. I (1-1-99 Edition)

verified as small, the applicant may request a formal SBA size determination.

SIZE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH PROGRAMS OF OTHER AGENCIES

**§ 121.901 Can other Government agencies obtain SBA size determinations?**

Upon request by another Government agency, SBA will provide a size determination, under SBA rules, standards and procedures, for its use in determining compliance with small business requirements of its statutes, regulations or programs.

**§ 121.902 What size standards are applicable to programs of other agencies?**

(a) *SBA size standards.* The size standards for compliance with programs of other agencies are those for SBA programs which are most comparable to the programs of such other agencies, unless otherwise agreed by the agency and SBA.

(b) *Special size standards.* (1) Federal agencies or departments promulgating regulations relating to small businesses usually use SBA size criteria. In limited circumstances, if they decide the SBA size standard is not appropriate, then agency heads may establish a small business definition for the exclusive use of such program which is more appropriate, but only when:

(i) The size standard is first proposed for public comment pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, 4 U.S.C. 553;

(ii) The proposed size standard provides for determining size measured by average number of employees over 12 months for manufacturing concerns, average annual revenues over three years for concerns providing services, and data over a period of not less than three years for all other concerns (unless approved by SBA, "annual receipts" and "number of employees" must be determined in accordance with §§ 121.104 and 121.106, respectively); and

(iii) The proposed size standard is approved by SBA's Administrator.

(2) In order to receive the approval of SBA's Administrator, the agency head must:

(i) Request approval prior to publishing the proposed rule containing the size standard. The request must include: an explanation of the contemplated industry size standard, the reasons the SBA size standard is not appropriate, and the reasons the proposed size standard would be appropriate; and a certification that there will be compliance with the criteria set forth in paragraphs (b)(1)(i) and (b)(1)(ii) of this section; and

(ii) Agree to provide written notice to SBA's Administrator prior to publishing the contemplated size standard as a final rule. The notice must include: a copy of the intended final rule, including the preamble, or a separate written justification for the intended size standard followed by a copy of the intended final rule and preamble prior to its publication; copies of all public comments relating to the size standard received in response to the proposed rule; and any other supporting documentation relevant to the size standard and requested by SBA's Administrator.

(3) When approving any size standard established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, SBA's Administrator will ensure that the size standard varies from industry to industry to the extent necessary to reflect the differing characteristics of the various industries, and consider other relevant factors.

(4) Where the agency head is developing a size standard for the sole purpose of performing a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis pursuant to the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the department or agency may, after consultation with the SBA Office of Advocacy, establish a size standard different from SBA's which is more appropriate for such analysis.

**§ 121.903 When does SBA determine the size status of a business concern?**

For the purpose of compliance with programs of other agencies, SBA will base its size determination on the size of the concern as of the date set forth in the request of the other agency.

PROCEDURES FOR SIZE PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR FORMAL SIZE DETERMINATIONS

**§ 121.1001 Who may initiate a size protest or request a formal size determination?**

(a) *Size Status Protests.* (1) For SBA's Small Business Set-Aside Program, including the Property Sales Program, the following entities may file a size protest in connection with a particular procurement or sale:

- (i) Any offeror;
- (ii) The contracting officer;
- (iii) The SBA Government Contracting Area Director having responsibility for the area in which the headquarters of the protested offeror is located, regardless of the location of a parent company or affiliates, or the Associate Administrator for Government Contracting; and

(iv) Other interested parties. Other interested parties include large businesses where only one concern submitted an offer for the specific procurement in question. A concern found to be other than small in connection with the procurement is not an interested party unless there is only one remaining offeror after the concern is found to be other than small.

(2) For competitive 8(a) contracts, the following entities may protest:

- (i) Any offeror;
- (ii) The contracting officer; or
- (iii) The SBA District Director, or designee, in either the district office serving the geographical area in which the procuring activity is located or the district office that services the apparent successful offeror, or the Associate Administrator for 8(a) Business Development.

(3) For SBA's Subcontracting Program, the following entities may protest:

- (i) The prime contractor;
- (ii) The contracting officer;
- (iii) Other potential subcontractors;
- (iv) The responsible SBA Government Contracting Area Director or the Associate Administrator for Government Contracting; and
- (v) Other interested parties.

(4) For SBA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program, the following entities may protest: