

**§ 124.1013 Is there a list of certified SDBs?**

(a) If SBA certifies a firm to be an SDB, SBA will enter the name of the firm into an SBA-maintained central on-line register, such as PRO-Net.

(b) The register of SDBs will contain the names of all firms that are currently certified to be SDBs, including the names of all firms currently participating in SBA's 8(a) BD program.

(c) On a continuing basis, SBA will delete from the on-line register those firms that have:

(1) Graduated or been terminated from SBA's 8(a) BD program for any reason and have not otherwise received SDB certification (see, §§ 124.1008(h) and 124.1014(b) for treatment of 8(a) graduates);

(2) Been determined not to be an SDB in response to an SDB protest brought under § 124.1017; or

(3) Other than current 8(a) Participants, not received a renewed SDB certification after being on the register for three years (see § 124.1014(c)).

**§ 124.1014 How long does an SDB certification last?**

(a) Once SBA certifies a firm to be an SDB by placing it on the list of qualified SDBs, the firm will generally remain on the SBA-maintained list of certified SDBs for a period of three years from the date of its certification.

(1) A firm's SDB certification will extend beyond three years where SBA finds the firm to be an SDB:

(i) On the merits in connection with a particular protest (see § 124.1023(h)(2));

(ii) In connection with an SBA-initiated SDB determination (see § 124.1016(a)(2)); or

(iii) As part of an 8(a) BD annual review.

(2) Where SBA finds a firm not to be an SDB in connection with an SDB protest, an SBA-initiated SDB determination, or an 8(a) BD annual review, SBA will immediately decertify the firm as an SDB and remove it from the qualified list of SDBs.

(b) A firm that graduates from the 8(a) BD program will remain on the list of certified SDBs for a period of three years from the date of its last annual review.

(c) To remain on the SDB register after three years, a firm whose status as an SDB has not been upheld in connection with a protest or an SBA-initiated SDB determination, or has not been certified as an eligible 8(a) Participant as part of an annual review, must submit a new application and receive a new certification.

**§ 124.1015 What is the effect of receiving an SDB certification?**

(a) A firm that is certified to be an SDB may represent itself as an SDB for such purposes as Federal price evaluation adjustments, evaluation factors or subfactors, monetary subcontracting incentive programs, section 8(d) subcontracts, SDB set-asides, or any other programs which accept an SBA certification. A contracting officer may award a contract based on a firm's representation that it is a certified SDB absent a protest that the protested concern's circumstances have materially changed since SBA certified it as an SDB, or that the protested concern's SDB application contained false or misleading information (see § 124.1018(d)).

(b) For purposes of a particular Federal procurement, the firm must represent that it is both disadvantaged and small at the time it submits its initial offer including price (see part 121 of this title). At the same time, the firm must also represent that no material change has occurred in its SDB status since its SDB certification, or from the date of its application for SDB certification if its application has not yet been processed, and must specifically represent that the net worth of the disadvantaged individuals (not including concerns owned by tribes, ANCs, CDCs, or NHOs) upon whom the SDB certification was based still does not exceed \$750,000.

(c) A firm's status as "disadvantaged" or "small" may be protested pursuant to §§ 124.1017 through 124.1021 and §§ 121.1001 through 121.1005, respectively, despite the presence of the firm on the SDB register, provided the protest contains specific allegations that the firm's circumstances have materially changed since SBA certified it as

an SDB, or that the firm's SDB application contained false or misleading information.

**§ 124.1016 Can SBA re-evaluate the SDB status of a firm after SBA certifies it to be SDB?**

(a) SBA may initiate an SDB determination whenever it receives credible information calling into the question a firm's eligibility as an SDB, including an adverse determination from a DOT recipient of the firm's status as a DBE. Upon its completion of an SDB determination, SBA will issue a written decision regarding the SDB status of the questioned firm.

(1) If SBA finds that the firm does not qualify as an SDB, SBA will decertify the firm as an SDB, and immediately remove the firm from the list of qualified SDBs. The firm may appeal SBA's decision to OHA consistent with the provisions of § 124.1008(f) and part 134 of this chapter.

(2) If SBA finds that the firm continues to qualify as an SDB, the determination 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.

(b) An SDB firm must report within 10 days to the AA/SDBCE any changes in ownership and control or any other circumstances which could adversely affect its eligibility as an SDB.

**§ 124.1017 Who may protest the disadvantaged status of a concern?**

(a) In connection with a requirement for which the apparent successful offeror has invoked an SDB evaluation adjustment or an SDB set-aside, the following entities may protest the disadvantaged status of the apparent successful offeror:

(1) Any other concern which submitted an offer for that requirement, unless the contracting officer has found the concern to be non-responsive or outside the competitive range, or SBA has previously found the protesting concern to be ineligible for the requirement at issue;

(2) The procuring activity contracting officer; or

(3) SBA.

(b) In connection with an 8(d) sub-contract, or a requirement for which the apparent successful offeror received an evaluation adjustment for proposing one or more SDB subcontractors, the procuring activity contracting officer or SBA may protest the disadvantaged status of a proposed subcontractor. Other interested parties may submit information to the contracting officer or SBA in an effort to persuade the contracting officer or SBA to initiate a protest.

(c) An interested party seeking to protest both the disadvantaged status and size of an apparent successful SDB offeror must submit two separate protests, one as to disadvantaged status pursuant to this subpart, and one as to size pursuant to part 121 of this title. An interested party seeking to protest only size of an apparent successful SDB offeror must submit a size protest to the contracting officer pursuant to part 121.

**§ 124.1018 When will SBA not decide an SDB protest?**

(a) SBA will not decide a protest as to disadvantaged status of any concern other than the apparent successful offeror.

(b) SBA will not normally consider a post award protest. SBA may consider a post award protest in its discretion where it determines that a protest decision after award would have a practical effect (e.g., where the contracting officer agrees to terminate the contract if the protest is sustained).

(c) SBA will not decide an untimely protest (see § 124.1020(c)).

(d) SBA will not decide a non-specific protest or one that does not present credible evidence that the protested concern's circumstances have materially changed since SBA certified it as an SDB, or that the protested concern's SDB application contained false or misleading information (see § 124.1021).

(e) An interested party may appeal SBA's dismissal of a protest for lack of specificity, timeliness, or a basis upon which SBA will consider a protest to SBA's Deputy Associate Deputy Administrator for Government Contracting and Minority Enterprise Development (DADA/GC&MED) pursuant to § 124.1024.