

(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 DADA/GC&MED, 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 AA/SDBCE, or designee, without an appeal, or by the DADA/GC&MED, 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 DADA/GC&MED, or designee, pursuant to § 124.1024. A final Agency decision (whether by the AA/SDBCE, or designee, without an appeal, or by the DADA/GC&MED, 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.

§ 124.1024 Appeals of disadvantaged status determinations.

(a) *Who may appeal.* Appeals of protest determinations may be filed with the SBA's DADA/GC&MED 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 DADA/GC&MED 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 AA/SDBCE, or designee, failed to consider a significant material fact

contained within the information supplied by the protestor or the protested concern. SBA will not consider protest determination appeals based on additional information or changed circumstances which were not disclosed at the time of the decision of the AA/SDBCE or designee, or which are based on disagreement with the findings and conclusions contained in the determination.

(e) *Contents of appeal.* No specific format is required for the appeal. However, the appeal must identify the protest determination which is appealed, and set forth a full and specific statement as to why the determination is erroneous under paragraph (c) of this section.

(f) *Completion of appeal after award.* An appeal may proceed to completion even though an award of the SDB acquisition or other procurement requirement which prompted the protest has been made, if so desired by the protested concern, or where SBA determines that a decision on appeal would have a material impact on contracting decisions, such as where the contracting officer agrees:

(1) In the case where an award is made to a concern other than the protested concern, to terminate the contract and award to the protested concern if the appeal finds that the protested concern is disadvantaged; or

(2) In the case where an award is made to the protested concern, to terminate the contract if the appeal finds that the protested concern is not disadvantaged.

(g) The appeal will be decided by the DADA/GC&MED, within 5 working days of its receipt, if practicable.

(h) The appeal decision will be based only on the information and documentation in the protest record as supplemented by the appeal. SBA will provide a copy of the decision to the contracting officer, the protestor, and the protested concern, consistent with law.

(i) The decision of the DADA/GC&MED, is the final decision of the SBA, and cannot be further appealed to OHA.