



# THE LINK

Connecting Suppliers with DLA



Issue 28  
April 2023

**2023 TKO**  
**Mark Your Calendars!**

**TKO**  
**Seminars are**  
**FREE!**



**Learn how to do business with  
the Government!**

**May 9-10, 2023**

**June 13-14, 2023 (APEX Only)**

**July 11-12, 2023**

**September 5-6, 2023**

**November 7-8, 2023**

**HELD VIRTUALLY**

**9:00 AM - 2:30 PM (EST)**

**Register at: <https://tko.dla.mil/>**

[www.dla.mil](http://www.dla.mil)

[www.facebook.com/dla.mil](https://www.facebook.com/dla.mil)

[www.twitter.com/dlamil](https://www.twitter.com/dlamil)

[www.youtube.com/user/  
dodlogisticsagency](https://www.youtube.com/user/dodlogisticsagency)

## PTAP IS NOW APEX ACCELERATORS

The APEX Accelerators, formally known as the Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP), was authorized by Congress in 1985 to expand the number of businesses capable of participating in government contracts.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2020 ordered the PTAP to move to Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD (A&S)); and the DoD Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) began to manage and operate PTAP with a new name, APEX Accelerators, effective FY 2023.

The APEX Accelerators program focuses on building strong, sustainable, and resilient U.S. supply chains by assisting a wide range of businesses that pursue and perform under contracts with the DoD, other federal agencies, state and local governments and with government prime contractors.

APEX Accelerators provide critical assistance to new and existing businesses interested in government contracting to enhance the defense industrial base.



# PTAP IS NOW APEX ACCELERATORS (cont.)

APEX Accelerators help businesses

- complete registration with a wide range of databases necessary for them to participate in the government marketplace (e.g., SAM).
- identify which agencies and offices may need their products or services and how to connect with buying agencies and offices.
- determine whether they are ready for government opportunities and how to position themselves to succeed.
- navigate solicitations and potential funding opportunities.
- receive notifications of government contract opportunities on a regular basis.
- network with buying offices, prime contractors, and other businesses.
- resolve performance issues and prepare for audit, only if the service is needed, after receiving an award.

APEX Accelerators are placing an emphasis on helping underserved businesses that are eligible for certain government solicitations designed for the promotion of diversity, inclusion, and equity, and guiding them throughout the entire process. APEX Accelerators will continue increasing the number of Defense Industrial Base (DIB)-ready and Government Industrial Base (GIB, including local and state governments)-ready businesses including:

- Disadvantaged Businesses (SDBs)
- Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones)
- Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (SDVOSBs)
- Women-Owned Small Businesses (WOSBs), and
- Other underserved small businesses

Visit [Apex Accelerators](#) for more information.



# COMING SOON: SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE SERVICE- DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED (SDVOSB) SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

## What is an SDVOSB?

An SDVOSB is a small business, as defined by the [size standard](#) corresponding to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code assigned to the solicitation or contract in question. An SDVOSB must be no less than 51% owned and controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans. Refer to the [Small Business Administration](#) (SBA) for full eligibility requirements.

## What is the [SDVOSB Program](#)?

The SDVOSB Program is one of the small business socioeconomic programs in [Part 19](#) of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). Federal agencies reserve certain contracts exclusively for SDVOSBs. These are called SDVOSB set-asides and DLA makes hundreds of SDVOSB set-asides annually, including in DIBBS.

## What are the certification requirements to participate in SDVOSB set-asides?

**OLD:** You may self-certify your SDVOSB status through 2023 to compete for set-aside contracts at most federal agencies, including at DLA. Self-certify in the socioeconomic status section of your business profile at [SAM.gov](#).

**NEW:** SDVOSBs must apply for certification by the SBA on or before December 31, 2023. If not, you become ineligible for SDVOSB set-asides on January 1, 2024, until your application to SBA is submitted and approved. If you apply to SBA for SDVOSB certification by December 31, 2023, you remain eligible for SDVOSB set-asides until SBA makes a decision on your application.

## Why did the rules change?

Section 862 of the [National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021](#) (Public Law 116-283) established the new certification requirement. The SBA published a final rule in the [Federal Register](#) on November 29, 2022 to implement the change.

## What can I do now?

To establish an SBA account and apply for certification, visit the [Veteran Small Business Certification](#) portal. You will be able to access checklists and pre-application guides through the application portal. Also refer to SBA's Veteran Small Business Certification [Fact Sheet](#) that will help you prepare your application and gather the correct documents.

## Where can I find help?

For assistance understanding the rules or help applying to SBA for certification, contact the [APEX Accelerators](#) (formerly known as the Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs)). Funded by the US Department of Defense, the APEX Accelerators provide no-cost assistance related to the small business programs and other aspects of selling to the federal government.

You may also contact the [DLA Small Business Office](#), which has personnel stationed at each of DLA's buying commands.

# TERMS FOR COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT ENTITY CODE (CAGE) ASSIGNMENT REMINDER

Suppliers are reminded that violation of the terms for the Commercial and Government Entity Code (CAGE) assignment can result in their DIBBS account registration being delayed or their DIBBS account(s) being locked. Suppliers are urged to review the Procedures, Guidance, and Information (PGI) link and information below.

[SUBPART 204.18 — COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT ENTITY CODE \(osd.mil\)](#).

## **PGI 204.1870-2 Maintenance of the CAGE file.**

(a). Assignment of CAGE codes for entities located in the United States or its outlying areas.

1. CAGE codes are assigned per legal entity at individual physical addresses (i.e., the same entity at the same physical address will not be assigned two or more CAGE codes). The only exception to this rule is when an entity has a registration in the SAM with multiple EFT addresses identified by multiple DUNS+4 numbers. In this case, each DUNS+4 number record is assigned a separate CAGE code to assist in correct processing of payments.
2. CAGE codes are not assigned to mailing addresses; a physical address shall be provided. Neither U.S. Post Office boxes nor addresses that can be identified as belonging to commercial mail and/or shipping provider locations will be accepted as physical addresses.
3. CAGE codes are not assigned to entities where the provided physical address is identified as a short-term virtual location, such as mobile offices, commercial packaging/ mailing facilities (e.g., UPS stores, FedEx stores), mailbox rentals and certain business incubator locations if the majority of the operations are not performed from that incubator location. A sole proprietor, partnership, corporate entity, or other business organization shall have a principal place of business, even if it is a home office, from where the business operates and record books are maintained. In that case, a home address of an officer of the company or board member would be required.
4. Individuals who register in SAM as sole proprietors are assigned CAGE codes. However, there may not be multiple CAGE codes assigned to the same location even if the entity names are differentiated by establishing a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) (e.g., "John Smith" and "John Smith, LLC"). Additionally, the standard for the legal business name for sole proprietors, driven by Internal Revenue Service (IRS) standards, is the use of the individual's personal name. Any additional name used for the sole proprietorship should be identified as a doing business as (DBA) name (e.g., "John Smith" is the legal business name, "Smith Construction" is the DBA).
5. Authorized agents or brokers may be assigned CAGE codes for identification and processing purposes. A single CAGE code will be assigned to the agent or broker entity in addition to any codes assigned to the entities represented by the agent or broker (i.e., only one code will be assigned to a specific agent or broker entity regardless of the number of firms represented by that agent or broker ). Codes will not be assigned to an agent or broker in care of the entity being represented or in any way infer that the agent or broker is a separate establishment bearing the name of the entity represented by the agent or broker.

# TERMS FOR COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT ENTITY CODE (CAGE) ASSIGNMENT REMINDER (CONT.)

6. There are some cases where both the owner of real property and a separate legal entity located at the same address as the real property each are required to have CAGE codes assigned. Examples are an office building owner and a tenant in the office building, or a land owner and a company using all or a portion of the land to farm. Additional cases exist where two separate entities may lease office space in the same building and both require CAGE codes. In both of these situations, the most specific physical address will be requested (i.e., specific additions of suites, floors, or room numbers) to distinguish between the two entities. If no more specific physical address is able to be identified, then documentation such as that listed in PGI 204.1870-2(c)(3)(i)(A) will be requested to ensure that the entities are separate legal entities.

## LAND SUPPLY CHAIN - "HOT" ITEMS LIST

Do you have parts on hand? Government surplus?  
Manufacturers' overruns?

DLA Land Supply Chain has posted a list of items that are urgently needed at: [Selling to DLA Land and Maritime](#)

We are looking for readily available and usable material. We are asking our industry partners to review this list and let us know if you have surplus, manufacturers' overruns, or residual inventory. The intent is to update this list monthly so please check back regularly.

Please submit inquiries to [FL.AvailMat@dla.mil](mailto:FL.AvailMat@dla.mil) .



## SAVE THE DATE: DLA SUPPLY CHAIN ALLIANCE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Save the Date! The 2023 DLA Supply Chain Alliance Conference & Exhibition will be **May 3-4, 2023** at the Greater Richmond Convention Center in Richmond, VA.

Please visit [DLA Supply Chain Alliance Conference & Exhibition \(ndia.org\)](https://ndia.org) for registration information and additional details coming soon.

# PHISHING ATTACKS SPOOFING DLA SUPPLIERS

DLA has observed an increase in targeted phishing attacks against contracting officers. The phishing emails are designed to spoof legitimate DLA vendors asking questions about contracts or solicitations. In many cases, these hackers are sending multiple emails with the same or similar requests to create a sense of urgency that pressures the contracting officer into clicking on the malicious links within the emails. Contracting officers have been reminded to remain vigilant. If in doubt, they have been advised to call the company or the POC for the contract/solicitation using DLA records, not the suspicious email. DLA vendors are reminded to exercise good cyber hygiene. Protect your information and your network credentials to avoid facilitating cyber attacks.



## DIBBS TEXT SEARCH FULL FUNCTIONALITY IS RESTORED

■ **RFQ Solicitation Text Search**  
Search **open** RFQ solicitation documents for words or phrases.

**RFQ SOLICITATION TEXT SEARCH**

Query String:

Modified: Any time

Sort: Best Match

**Filter:**

Automated Indefinite Delivery Contract **AIDC**

Items with Technical Documents

Fast Award Candidates **F**

Small Business Set-Asides **SB**

HUBZone Set-Asides **HUBZone**

Combined Set-Asides **COMBINED**

Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Set-Asides **SDVOSB**

Woman Owned Small Business Set-Asides **WOSB**

Economically Disadvantaged Women Owned Small Business Set-Asides **EDWOSB**

Unrestricted/Not Set-Asides **U**

The text search capability on DIBBS had been in a degraded state for several months. That has been corrected and full text search capabilities are now available.

Please see our text search guide for additional text search help. <https://www.dibbs.bsm.dla.mil/refs/help/Solicitations/DIBBS-Text-Search-User-Guide.pdf>

Additional questions should be directed to the DIBBS helpdesk at [dibbsbsm@dla.mil](mailto:dibbsbsm@dla.mil).