

THE LINK

Connecting Suppliers with DLA



Issue 33
July 2024

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THE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

The Small Business Programs Introduction

The small business program is a significant priority for the Defense Logistics Agency. In an October 2023 [memorandum](#), the Executive Office of The President, Office of Management and Budget, wrote that, "Use of the Federal Government's purchasing power to build wealth in underserved communities, consistent with applicable law, has been a centerpiece of the President's equity agenda and ties into the Administration's broader economic strategy to support small businesses and increase the resilience of the Nation's supply chains."

This article describes small business set-asides and set asides for the small business socioeconomic programs, which DLA and other agencies use to reserve certain contracts for small businesses. The difference between **1) small business set-asides**, and **2) set asides for the small business socioeconomic programs** is important to understand because the rules are different. Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), [Part 19](#), "Small Business Programs," is the authoritative source for the information summarized in this article.

Small Business Set-Asides

For the purpose of Federal contracts, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) defines what it means to be a [small business](#), and it depends on the contract. To be eligible for a **small business set-aside**, you must represent in good faith that you are a small business and meet the size standard corresponding to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code identified in the solicitation. SBA's [table of small business size standards](#) delineates each NAICS-specific size standard, which is usually stated in number of employees or average annual receipts.

THE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS (CONT.)

Small Business Set-Asides Continued

Small business set-asides are different than set asides for the small business socioeconomic programs because only a self-certification is required for a small business set-aside. No application to SBA or SBA-certification is required for your participation in small business set-asides. You should read and understand the rules, however, because your self-certification may be challenged via a [protest](#) by another offeror or interested party, in which case SBA will evaluate your status and determine whether you are a small business. [Penalties](#) for misrepresentation may apply.

Unlike small business set-asides, SBA must certify your status before you participate in (e.g., bid on, compete for, or win) set asides for the small business socioeconomic programs, which we will describe in the next section.

An Important Distinction: The Small Business Socioeconomic Programs

In addition to being a small business, as described above, set asides for the four small business socioeconomic programs require that you take certain steps to pre-qualify and obtain certification by SBA. SBA certifies small businesses separately for each of the socioeconomic programs described in this article. An SBA-certification is required for all of the socioeconomic programs, except for a narrow exception for certain Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses, which we will describe below.

8(a) Business Development Program for Small Disadvantaged Business – [FAR Subpart 19.8](#)

A small disadvantaged business (SDB) is a small business that is owned and controlled by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. Socially disadvantaged means that you have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias. Economically disadvantaged means that your ability to compete in the market has been impaired due to diminished capital and credit opportunities stemming from your status as a socially disadvantaged individual. The SBA has defined the terms socially and economically disadvantaged with more specificity in [13 CFR §124.103 and 124.104](#). Generally, small businesses owned by Indian tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations are also SDBs.

If you are a small disadvantaged business, you should consider applying to SBA for participation in the [8\(a\) Business Development Program](#). SBA-certified 8(a) Program participants are eligible to compete for 8(a) Program set-asides and sole source awards. If you qualify, you should also complete the SDB self-certification, which is part of your [SAM.gov](#) profile. This self-certification does not qualify you to participate in 8(a) Program set-asides, but it may be useful in marketing your business to government buyers or as a subcontractor.

HUBZone Program – [FAR Subpart 19.13](#)

The HUBZone program is for businesses in disadvantaged or underutilized communities, which are designated by SBA and determined by things such as local income levels and unemployment rates. You may be eligible to participate in the HUBZone program if your principal office is located in a HUBZone and at least 35% of your employees live in a HUBZone. Check SBA's [HUBZone map](#) to find out if you qualify. You must be SBA-certified to participate in HUBZone set-asides.

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(CONT.)

Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Program – [FAR Subpart 19.14](#)

Your small business may qualify for the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) Program if it is at least 51% owned and controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans. The rules for the SDVOSB Program recently [changed](#) and your participation in SDVOSB set-asides requires SBA-certification. There is an exception for SDVOSBs that applied to SBA for certification on or before December 31, 2023 -- read more [here](#) about the grace period for certain self-certified SDVOSBs. All other SDVOSBs must be SBA-certified to participate in SDVOSB set-asides.

Women-Owned Small Business Program – [FAR Subpart 19.15](#)

Your small business may qualify for the Women-Owned Small Businesses (WOSB) Program if it is at least 51% owned and controlled by women who are U.S. citizens. In this context, “controlled,” means women manage day-to-day operations and make long-term decisions for the company. [Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business](#) (EDWOSB) is a subset of WOSBs, and contracts under the WOSB program will be designated as either a WOSB or EDWOSB set-aside -- WOSBs and EDWOSBs must be certified by SBA or an SBA-approved third-party certifier to participate.

Your profile at [SAM.gov](#) also allows you to self-certify as a WOSB. If you qualify, you should complete this self-certification by checking the appropriate block within your SAM profile, but this self-certification does not qualify you to participate in WOSB or EDWOSB set-asides. The self-certification may be useful in marketing your business to government buyers or as a subcontractor.

Other Small Business Office Information

For more information about the programs above or about how to apply, visit - www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-guide/types-contracts .

For SBA certifications, checking your status in the [Dynamic Small Business Search](#) is usually the best way to know if you are certified and you can do this by searching for your Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) or CAGE Code.

For assistance understanding the rules or help applying to SBA for certification, contact the [APEX Accelerators](#). Funded by the US Department of Defense, the APEX provides 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.



CHANGES TO DIBBS QUOTING AND AUTO SOLICITATION/EVALUATION

DLA recently implemented changes to the DIBBS quote form appearance.

The DIBBS quote form no longer asks the questions of woman owned, veteran owned or HUBZone owned. Businesses will still indicate size status as Large, Small, or Small Disadvantaged.

The automated process now utilizes SBA socioeconomic status certifications in accordance with FAR Part 19 when determining whether to set solicitations aside for the small business socioeconomic programs. Requirements set aside for the small business socioeconomic programs require concerns to be small for the NAICS assigned and their socioeconomic status to be SBA-certified to be eligible for award. This means SBA-certified status as a HUBZone concern, SDVOSB, WOSB, or EDWOSB when the solicitation is set aside for the socioeconomic category.

DLA receives SBA data daily that includes certification status of concerns in the socioeconomic programs. This data is the same as found in the SBA Dynamic Small Business Search at https://dsbs.sba.gov/search/dsp_dsbs.cfm . Any issues with small business program certification should be directed to SBA. A grace period applies for certain SDVOSB firms to obtain SBA-certification and more information about the SDVOSB Program is available here - <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs/veteran-contracting-assistance-programs> .

For unrestricted solicitations in which a business indicates its status as Small or Small Disadvantaged, the following question associated with the HUBZone Evaluation Preference will appear: Does offeror elect to waive the evaluation preference in FAR 52.219-4, Notice of Price Evaluation Preference for HUBZone Small Business Concerns? A new response choice of "Not Applicable" will appear. The instructions on how to answer are as follows:

This question only applies to SBA-certified HUBZone concerns. If certified by the SBA as HUBZone, then select "Yes, request waiver" or "No waiver requested." This is an important consideration for HUBZone concerns because 52.219-14, "Limitations on Subcontracting," and 52.219-33, "Nonmanufacturer Rule," apply unless the HUBZone concern waives the evaluation preference. If the offeror is **not** certified by the SBA as HUBZone, then select "Not Applicable."

Questions can be directed to the DIBBS Helpdesk at dibbsbsm@dlamail.mil .



VENDOR REQUEST (VR) POST AWARD REQUEST (PAR) REASON CODES

DLA has updated the VR PAR reason code population to closely align with common vendor inquiries. DLA is asking suppliers to select the appropriate PAR reason code based on the specific action needed to ensure the PAR is correctly assigned to the appropriate contract administrator.

An updated PAR definitions document that provides suppliers with an explanation of each VR PAR reason code can be viewed at: <https://www.dla.mil/Portals/104/Documents/InformationOperations/EBS%20Supplier%20Information/VR%20Reason%20Code.docx?ver=yMvALDmbyStPRGuKhJS5A%3d%3d>.

The "Post Award Requests (PARs) in DIBBS" Job Aid has been updated to incorporate the updated VR PAR reason codes and is located within the Enterprise Business Systems Supplier Information Resource Center (SIRC).

QUOTING PRICE BREAKS IN DIBBS

DLA is asking our suppliers to quote **price breaks** and **minimum order quantity** fields in all cases when a quantity price break and/or minimum order quantity exists. This will allow DLA to enhance evaluation of the best value for both the supplier and DLAs customer based on the current projected forecast.

Below are examples of the questions as they appear on the web quote form on DIBBS. For questions on how to quote price breaks and/or minimum order quantity on DIBBS, please email the DIBBS helpdesk @ DIBBSBSM@DLA.MIL.

Price Breaks: FAR 52.207-4

Offerors are encouraged to submit price break information with their quotes. Solicitations which are manually evaluated and awarded at increased quantities may be awarded based on the price break information submitted with the offeror's original quotation without further solicitation or discussion.

NSN/Part#: **8405015289072**

Enter only numeric values. DO NOT enter + or -

Range	QTY Range		Unit Price
1	<input type="text"/>	to <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>	to <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>	to <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>	to <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>	to <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6	<input type="text"/>	to <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

CLEAR

Minimum Order Quantity:

Is a larger quantity obtainable at no additional total price due To a minimum order quantity?

NSN/Part#: **8405015289072**

☒ No

☐ Yes

QTY:

DIBBS / CFOLDERS BYPASS INFORMATION

The use of VPNs and other proxies violates the DIBBS and cFolders terms of use because they interfere with DLA's ability to identify and authenticate users in these systems. DLA recognizes that VPNs, firewalls, and other proxies are perfectly legitimate cybersecurity practices for companies. Unfortunately, at this time, and as described above, they present vulnerabilities for DLA. To regain access to DIBBS and cFolders your company needs to find a way for its users to bypass the firewall and directly connect to DIBBS and cFolders. The DIBBS and cFolders IP address information is below.

*****Important Note: *****

DLA can't help with specific IT issues, so if you run into trouble, please contact your company's IT department or ISP Provider. They can provide the best guidance for your specific setup.

Here's how to access DIBBS and cFolders while keeping your company's security measures in place, explained in simple steps:

Adding DIBBS and cFolders as Trusted Sites

1. Open your internet browser (like Chrome, Firefox, or Edge).
2. Go to the browser's settings where you can manage security or privacy settings.
3. Look for an option to add trusted sites or exceptions.
4. Add the following sites to your list of trusted sites:
5. For DIBBS: ``www.dibbs.bsm.dla.mil`` and ``dibbs2.bsm.dla.mil``
6. For cFolders: ``pcf1-aws.bsm.dla.mil`` and ``pcf1x-aws.bsm.dla.mil``
7. You might need to enter the IP addresses provided as well.

Adjusting VPN Settings

1. If your VPN allows, add the same sites and IP addresses to a list of exceptions within the VPN settings.
2. This step might be a bit technical, so if you're not sure how to do it, ask your IT department for help.

Accessing DIBBS and cFolders

1. With the sites added as trusted, try accessing them while your VPN is on.
2. Simply type the website address into your browser and press Enter.

Turn Off VPN as Last Resort

1. If you're still having trouble accessing the sites with the VPN on, you might need to temporarily turn off the VPN.
2. To do this, open your VPN application and look for a button or option to disconnect or turn off the VPN.
3. Once the VPN is off, try accessing the sites again.

DIBBS / CFOLDERS BYPASS INFORMATION (CONT.)

Need More Help?

1. If you're stuck or something isn't working right, your IT department is the best place to get help. They can provide guidance specific to your company's setup.
2. ****Important Note: **** DLA can't help with specific IT issues, so if you run into trouble, please contact your company's IT department or ISP Provider. They can provide the best guidance for your specific setup.

IP address information

DIBBS:

www.dibbs.bsm.dla.mil (primary)

IP: 138.141.13.12

Backup IP: 138.140.60.12

Dibbs2.bsm.dla.mil (backup)

IP: 138.141.13.11

Backup IP: 138.140.60.11

cFOLDERS:

PCF1-AWS.BSM.DLA.MIL	138.141.11.12	138.140.51.12
PCF1X-AWS.BSM.DLA.MIL	138.141.13.8	138.140.60.8

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 .

