

Small Business Administration

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review is filed pursuant to § 134.228(a), an initial decision shall become the final decision of SBA 30 days after its issuance.

§ 134.228 Review of initial decisions.

(a) *Request for review.* Within 30 days after the service of an initial decision, any party, or SBA's Office of General Counsel, may serve and file with OHA a request for review. A request for review must set forth the filing party's specific objections to the initial decision, and any alleged support for those objections in the record, or in case law, statute, regulation, or SBA policy. A party must serve its request for review upon all other parties and upon SBA's Office of General Counsel.

(b) *Response.* Within 20 days after the service of a request for review, any party, or SBA's Office of General Counsel, may serve and file with OHA a response. A party must serve its response upon all other parties and upon SBA's Office of General Counsel.

(c) *Transfer of the record.* Upon receipt of all responses, or 30 days after the filing of a request for review, whichever is earlier, OHA will transfer the record of the case to the Administrator. The Administrator, or his or her designee, will then review the record.

(d) *Standard of review.* Upon review, the Administrator, or his or her designee, will sustain the initial decision unless it is based on an erroneous finding of fact or an erroneous interpretation or application of case law, statute, regulation, or SBA policy.

(e) *Order.* The Administrator, or his or her designee, will:

(1) Affirm, reverse, or modify the initial decision, which determination will become the final decision of the SBA upon issuance; or

(2) Remand the initial decision to the Judge for appropriate further proceedings.

§ 134.229 Termination of jurisdiction.

The jurisdiction of OHA will terminate upon the issuance of a decision by a Judge resolving all material issues of fact and law unless the case is subsequently remanded for appropriate further proceedings, pursuant to § 134.228(e)(2).

Subpart C—Rules of Practice for Appeals From Size Determinations and SIC Code Designations

§ 134.301 Scope of the rules in this subpart C.

The rules of practice in this subpart C apply to all appeals to OHA from:

(a) Formal size determinations made by an SBA Government Contracting Area Office, under part 121 of this chapter, or by a Disaster Area Office, in connection with applications for disaster loans; and

(b) SIC code designations, pursuant to part 121 of this chapter.

§ 134.302 Who may appeal.

Appeals from size determinations and SIC code designations may be filed with OHA by the following, as applicable:

(a) Any person adversely affected by a size determination;

(b) Any person adversely affected by a SIC code designation. However, with respect to an 8(a) contract, only the Associate Administrator for Minority Enterprise Development may appeal a SIC code designation;

(c) The Associate or Assistant Administrator for the SBA program involved, through SBA's Office of General Counsel; or

(d) The procuring agency contracting officer responsible for the procurement affected by a size determination.

§ 134.303 No absolute right to an appeal from a size determination.

It is within the discretion of the Judge whether to accept an appeal from a size determination. If the Judge decides not to consider such an appeal, he or she will issue an order denying review, and specifying the reasons for the decision.

§ 134.304 Commencement of appeals from size determinations and SIC code designations.

(a) Appeals from size determinations and SIC code designations must be commenced by serving and filing an appeal petition as follows:

(1) If appeal is from a size determination in a pending procurement or pending Government property sale, then the

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appeal petition must be served and filed within 15 days after service of the size determination;

(2) If appeal is from a size determination other than one in a pending procurement or pending Government property sale, then the appeal petition must be served and filed within 30 days after service of the size determination;

(3) If appeal is from a SIC code designation, then the appeal petition must be served and filed within 10 days after the issuance of the initial invitation for bids or initial request for proposals or quotations.

(b) An untimely appeal will be dismissed. However, an appeal which is untimely under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, with respect to a pending procurement or sale, may, if timely under paragraph (a)(2) of this section, proceed with respect to future procurements or sales.

§ 134.305 The appeal petition.

(a) *Form.* There is no required format for an appeal petition. However, it must include the following information:

(1) The Area Office which issued the size determination, or the contracting office which designated the SIC code;

(2) The solicitation or contract number, and the name, address, and telephone number of the contracting officer;

(3) A full and specific statement as to why the size determination or SIC code designation is alleged to be in error, together with argument supporting such allegations; and

(4) The name, address, telephone number, and signature of the appellant or its attorney.

(b) *Service of size determination appeals.* The appellant must serve the appeal petition upon each of the following:

(1) The SBA official who issued the size determination;

(2) The contracting officer responsible for the procurement affected by a size determination;

(3) The business concern whose size status is at issue;

(4) All persons who filed protests; and

(5) SBA's Office of General Counsel.

(c) *Service of SIC appeals.* The appellant must serve the contracting officer who made the SIC code designation.

(d) *Certificate of service.* The appellant must attach to the appeal petition a signed certificate identifying each person or governmental agency which was served with the notice of appeal, and how and when each of those persons or governmental agencies was served.

(e) *Dismissal.* An appeal petition which does not contain all of the information required in paragraph (a) of this section may be dismissed, with or without prejudice, by the Judge at his or her own initiative, or upon motion of a respondent.

§ 134.306 Transmission of the case file.

Upon receipt of an appeal petition pertaining to a size determination, the Area Office which issued the size determination must immediately send to OHA the entire case file relating to that determination. Upon receipt of an appeal petition pertaining to a SIC code designation, the contracting officer who designated the SIC code must immediately send to OHA the solicitation relating to that designation.

§ 134.307 Service and filing requirements.

The provisions of §134.204 apply to the service and filing of all pleadings and other submissions permitted under this subpart.

§ 134.308 Limitation on new evidence and adverse inference from non-submission in appeals from size determinations.

(a) Evidence not previously presented to the Area Office which issued the size determination being appealed will not be considered by a Judge unless:

(1) The Judge, on his or her own initiative, orders the submission of such evidence; or

(2) A motion is served and filed establishing good cause for the submission of such evidence.

(b) If the submission of evidence is ordered by a Judge, and the party in possession of that evidence does not submit it, the Judge may draw adverse inferences against that party.