

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Diane Heal, Assistant Director, Office of Contract Assistance, Office of Government Contracting, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW., Washington, DC 20416. For information about the WOSB Program visit the Web site at <http://www.sba.gov/wosb>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

On October 7, 2010 (75 FR 62258), the Small Business Administration (SBA) issued a final rule amending 13 CFR part 127, entitled "The Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Assistance Procedures," and implementing procedures authorized by the Small Business Act (Pub. L. 85-536, as amended) to help ensure a level playing field on which Women-Owned Small Businesses (WOSBs) can compete for Federal contracting opportunities.

In particular, the final rule: Identifies 83 industries by four digit North American Industry Classification System codes in which WOSBs are underrepresented or substantially underrepresented; allows WOSBs and EDWOSBs to self-certify their status as long as adequate documents are provided to support the certification; allows WOSBs or EDWOSBs to be certified by approved third-party certifiers, including Federal agencies; sets forth the criteria to determine eligibility for the program; sets forth the contracting requirements for the program; and explains and expands the protest and eligibility examination process to ensure the eligibility of WOSBs or EDWOSBs for the program.

The SBA also stated in the rule that it is effective February 4, 2011 because the agency is in the process of working with the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council to implement this program in the Federal Acquisition Regulations. In addition, the SBA is working with the Integrated Acquisition Environment to make changes to the various Federal procurement data systems, which will be affected by this rule.

Further, in the final rule the SBA examined the economic implications of the rule as required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and determined that the rule would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. In compliance with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (Pub. L. 104-121), SBA is making available this Small Entity Compliance Guide, which explains in plain language the legal requirements of the WOSB Program, as set forth in the final rule.

II. Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This compliance guide refers to a new collection of information that is necessitated by the WOSB program regulations. This collection of information has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520). Approval is currently pending.

III. Electronic Access

Persons with access to the Internet may obtain the document at: <http://www.sba.gov/wosb>.

Dated: October 21, 2010.

Karen Hontz,

Director, Office of Government Contracting.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE**[Public Notice 7219]**

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: DS-156, Nonimmigrant Visa Application, OMB Control Number 1405-0018

ACTION: Notice of request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment in the **Federal Register** preceding submission to OMB. We are conducting this process in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

- *Title of Information Collection:* Nonimmigrant Visa Application.
- *OMB Control Number:* 1405-0018.
- *Type of Request:* Revision of a Currently Approved Collection.
- *Originating Office:* Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA/VO).
- *Form Number:* DS-156.
- *Respondents:* Nonimmigrant visa applicants.
- *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 800,000.
- *Estimated Number of Responses:* 800,000.
- *Average Hours per Response:* 1 hour.
- *Total Estimated Burden:* 800,000 hours per year.
- *Frequency:* Once per respondent.
- *Obligation to Respond:* Required to Obtain or Retain a Benefit.

DATES: The Department will accept comments from the public up to 60 days from December 27, 2010.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *E-mail:* VisaRegs@state.gov (Subject line must read DS-156 Reauthorization).

• *Mail (paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions):* Chief, Legislation and Regulation Division, Visa Services—DS-156 Reauthorization, 2401 E. Street, NW., Washington, DC 20520-30106.

You must include the DS form number (if applicable), information collection title, and OMB control number in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct requests for additional information regarding the collection listed in this notice, including requests for copies of the proposed information collection and supporting documents, to Stefanie Claus of the Office of Visa Services, U.S. Department of State, 2401 E. Street, NW., L-603, Washington, DC 20522, who may be reached at (202) 663-2910.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of our functions.
- Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

Abstract of Proposed Collection

Form DS-156 is required by regulation of all nonimmigrant visa applicants who do not use the Online Application for Nonimmigrant Visa (Form DS-160). Posts will use the DS-156 to elicit information necessary to determine an applicant's visa eligibility.

Methodology

The DS-156 is completed by applicants online or, in exceptional circumstances, applicants may submit a paper application to posts abroad. The applicant prints the application and a 2-D barcode. When the applicant appears at the interview the barcode is scanned and the information electronically received.

Dated: October 19, 2010.

Ellen M. Conway,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Acting, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State.

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