

§ 126.301

13 CFR Ch. I (1-1-03 Edition)

discretion, may rely solely upon the information submitted to establish eligibility, or may request additional information, or may verify the information before making a determination. If SBA determines that the concern is a qualified HUBZone SBC, it will issue a certification to that effect and add the concern to the List.

§ 126.301 Is there any other way for a concern to obtain certification?

No. SBA certification is the only way to qualify for HUBZone program status.

§ 126.302 When may a concern apply for certification?

A concern may apply to SBA and submit the required information whenever it can represent that it meets the eligibility requirements, subject to § 126.309. All representations and supporting information contained in the application must be complete and accurate as of the date of submission. The application must be signed by an officer of the concern who is authorized to represent the concern.

§ 126.303 Where must a concern file its certification?

The concern must file its certification with the AA/HUB, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.

§ 126.304 What must a concern submit to SBA?

(a) To be certified by SBA as a qualified HUBZone SBC, a concern must represent to SBA that under the definitions set forth in § 126.103:

(1) It is a small business concern that is both owned only by United States citizens and controlled only by United States citizens;

(2) Its principal office is located in a HUBZone;

(3) Not less than 35 percent of its employees reside in a HUBZone;

(4) It will use good faith efforts to ensure that a minimum percentage of 35 percent of its employees continue to reside in a HUBZone so long as SBA certifies it as qualified and during the performance of any contract awarded to it on the basis of its status as a qualified HUBZone SBC; and

(5) It will ensure that, where it enters into subcontracts to aid in performance of any prime contracts awarded to it because of its status as a qualified HUBZone SBC, it will incur not less than a certain minimum percentage of certain contract costs as set forth in § 126.700.

(b) If the concern is applying for HUBZone status based on a location within the external boundaries of an Indian reservation, the concern must submit with its application for certification official documentation from the appropriate Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Land Titles and Records Office with jurisdiction over the concern's area, confirming that it is located within the external boundaries of an Indian reservation. BIA lists the Land Titles and Records Offices and their jurisdiction in 25 CFR 150.4 and 150.5. In cases where BIA is unable to verify whether the business is located within the external boundaries of an Indian reservation, applicants should contact the AA/HUB and SBA will assist them.

(c) In addition to these representations, the concern must submit the forms, attachments, and any additional information required by SBA.

§ 126.305 What format must the certification to SBA take?

A concern must submit the required information in either a written or electronic application form provided by SBA. An electronic application must be sufficiently authenticated for enforcement purposes.

§ 126.306 How will SBA process the certification?

(a) The AA/HUB is authorized to approve or decline certifications. SBA will receive and review all certifications, but SBA will not process incomplete packages. SBA will make its determination within 30 calendar days after receipt of a complete package whenever practicable. The decision of the AA/HUB is the final agency decision.

(b) SBA will base its certification on facts existing on the date of submission. SBA, in its sole discretion, may request additional information or clarification of information contained in the submission at any time.

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(c) If SBA approves the application, SBA will send a written notice to the concern and automatically enter it on the List described in § 126.307.

(d) A decision to deny eligibility must be in writing and state the specific reasons for denial.

§ 126.307 Where will SBA maintain the List of qualified HUBZone SBCs?

SBA maintains the List at its Internet website at <http://www.sba.gov/HUB>. Requesters also may obtain a copy of the List by writing to the AA/HUB at U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416 or via e-mail at aahub@sba.gov.

§ 126.308 What happens if SBA inadvertently omits a qualified HUBZone SBC from the List?

A HUBZone SBC that has received SBA's notice of certification, but is not on the List within 10 business days thereafter should immediately notify the AA/HUB in writing at U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416 or via e-mail at aahub@sba.gov. The concern must appear on the List to be eligible for HUBZone contracts.

§ 126.309 How may a declined or de-certified concern seek certification at a later date?

A concern that SBA has declined or de-certified may seek certification no sooner than one year from the date of decline or de-certification if it believes that it has overcome all reasons for decline through changed circumstances, and is currently eligible.

Subpart D—Program Examinations

§ 126.400 Who will conduct program examinations?

SBA field staff or others designated by the AA/HUB will conduct program examinations.

§ 126.401 What will SBA examine?

(a) *Eligibility.* Examiners will verify that the qualified HUBZone SBC met the requirements set forth in § 126.200 at the time of its application for certification and at the time of examination.

(b) *Scope of review.* Examiners may review any information related to the HUBZone SBC qualifying requirements, including documentation related to the location and ownership of the concern, the employee percentage requirements, and the concern's attempt to maintain this percentage. The qualified HUBZone SBC must document each employee's residence address through employment records. The examiner also may review property tax, public utility or postal records, and other relevant documents. The concern must retain documentation demonstrating satisfaction of the employee residence and other qualifying requirements for 6 years from date of submission to SBA.

§ 126.402 When may SBA conduct program examinations?

SBA may conduct a program examination at the time the concern certifies to SBA that it meets the requirements of the program or at any other time while the concern is on the List or subsequent to receipt of HUBZone contract benefits. For example, SBA may conduct a program examination to verify eligibility upon notification of a material change under § 126.501. Additionally, SBA, in its sole discretion, may perform random program examinations to determine continuing compliance with program requirements, or it may conduct a program examination in response to credible information calling into question the HUBZone status of a small business concern. For protests to the HUBZone status of a small business concern in regard to a particular procurement, see § 126.800.

§ 126.403 May SBA require additional information from a HUBZone SBC?

Yes. At the discretion of the AA/HUB, SBA has the right to require that a HUBZone SBC submit additional information as part of the certification process, or at any time thereafter. If SBA finds a HUBZone SBC is not qualified, SBA will de-certify the concern and delete its name from the List. SBA may choose to pursue penalties against any concern that has made material misrepresentations in its submissions to SBA in accordance with § 126.900.