

sending them to the AA/8(a)BD for further processing. The appropriate field office will advise each program applicant within 15 days after the receipt of an application whether the application is complete and suitable for evaluation and, if not, what additional information or clarification is required to complete the application. SBA will process an application for 8(a) BD program participation within 90 days of receipt of a complete application package by the DPCE field office. Incomplete application packages will not be processed.

(b) SBA, in its sole discretion, may request clarification of information contained in the application at any time in the application process. SBA will take into account any clarifications made by an applicant in response to a request for such by SBA.

(c) An applicant concern's eligibility will be based on circumstances existing on the date of application, except where clarification is made pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section or as provided in paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) Changed circumstances for an applicant concern occurring subsequent to its application and which adversely affect eligibility will be considered and may constitute grounds for decline. The applicant must inform SBA of any changed circumstances that could adversely affect its eligibility for the program (particularly economic disadvantage and ownership and control) during its application review. Failure to inform SBA of any such changed circumstances constitutes good cause for which SBA may terminate the Participant if non-compliance is discovered after admittance.

(e) The decision of the AA/8(a)BD to approve or deny an application will be in writing. A decision to deny admission will state the specific reasons for denial, and will inform the applicant of any appeal rights.

(f) If the AA/8(a)BD approves the application, the date of the approval letter is the date of program certification for purposes of determining the concern's program term.

§ 124.205 Can an applicant ask SBA to reconsider SBA's initial decision to decline its application?

(a) An applicant may request the AA/8(a)BD to reconsider his or her initial decline decision by filing a request for reconsideration with the SBA field office that originally processed its application. Filing means submission by personal delivery, first-class mail, express mail, facsimile transmission followed by first-class mail, or commercial delivery service. The applicant must submit its request for reconsideration within 45 days of receiving notice that its application was declined. The applicant must provide any additional information and documentation pertinent to overcoming the reason(s) for the initial decline.

(b) The AA/8(a)BD will issue a written decision within 45 days of the regional DPCE's receipt of the applicant's request. The AA/8(a)BD may either approve the application, deny it on the same grounds as the original decision, or deny it on other grounds. If denied, the AA/8(a)BD will explain why the applicant is not eligible for admission to the 8(a) BD program and give specific reasons for the decline.

(c) If the AA/8(a)BD declines the application solely on issues not raised in the initial decline, the applicant can ask for reconsideration as if it were an initial decline.

§ 124.206 What appeal rights are available to an applicant that has been denied admission?

(a) An applicant may appeal a denial of program admission to SBA's Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA), if it is based solely on a negative finding of social disadvantage, economic disadvantage, ownership, control, or any combination of these four criteria. A denial decision that is based at least in part on the failure to meet any other eligibility criterion is not appealable and is the final decision of SBA.

(b) The applicant may appeal an initial decision of the AA/8(a)BD without requesting reconsideration, or may appeal the decision of the AA/8(a)BD on reconsideration.

(c) The applicant may initiate an appeal by filing a petition in accordance with part 134 of this chapter with OHA