



888 17TH STREET, NW, 11TH FLOOR
WASHINGTON D.C. 20006
PHONE 202 857-1000
FAX 202 857-0200
WWW.PILIEROMAZZA.COM

Pilieromazza Client Alert

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VA Seeks Comments on How to Improve its SDVOSB Regulations

On May 13, 2013, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (“VA”), Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, seeking comments on how to improve the regulations governing the VA’s Verification Program for SDVOSBs and VOSBs. See 78 Fed. Reg. 27882 (May 13, 2013). The VA is planning to amend its regulations to provide greater clarity, to streamline the verification program, and to encourage more veteran-owned firms to participate in the program. As an initial step in this process, the VA is seeking comments by July 12, 2013, on how to best change its rules.

The VA’s verification regulations have been criticized as confusing and overly burdensome on veterans. Earlier this year, the House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce and the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing during which suggestions were made about how the VA should improve its verification program and the governing regulations. The VA is not requesting public input on how to improve the program.

If you are a verified SDVOSB or VOSB, are interested in becoming verified in the future, or if you do business with SDVOSBs or VOSBs, we strongly encourage you to submit comments to the VA by July 12, 2013. The VA needs to hear from as many interested parties as possible about how to improve the program, remove the barriers to entry, and increase participation by veterans. We are strong proponents of the VA’s program and intend to submit our own comments. If you would like our assistance in preparing your comments, or if you have any questions, please contact Jon Williams or Peter Ford at (202) 857-1000 or via email at jwilliams@pilieromazza.com or pford@pilieromazza.com.