



# OFFICE OF ADVOCACY *FACTSHEET*

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## ***Advocacy Asks DHS to Review Impact of Department-Wide Acquisition Regulation on Small Business***

The Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration filed a comment letter with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) concerning an interim regulation to establish the Homeland Security Acquisition Regulation (HSAR). A complete copy of Advocacy's comment letter may be accessed at <http://www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments>.

- On December 4, 2003, DHS published an interim rule in the *Federal Register* titled "Department of Homeland Security Acquisition." The regulation seeks to establish a uniform agency-wide acquisition regulation. The regulation makes it clear that the HSAR is a supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation.
- The regulation creates a Mentor-Protégé program to assist small socially and economically disadvantaged businesses and gives the authority to implement and manage small business programs to the Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization at DHS.
- In its comment letter, Advocacy expressed concerns about the rule's impact on small businesses and encouraged DHS to clarify aspects of the rule that could have an impact on small business compliance.
- Advocacy urged DHS, as a matter of good policy, to re-examine the economic impact of the rule on small businesses and recommended that DHS determine whether further economic analysis supports its certification that the rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

For more information, visit Advocacy's web page at [www.sba.gov/advo](http://www.sba.gov/advo) or contact Major Clark at 202-205-6533.