

Advocacy Urges SBA to Streamline Duplicative Analysis Requirements and Further Analyze Impact on Affected Businesses

On January 13, 2005, the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration (Advocacy) wrote the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) regarding an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) for the federal size standard program. Advocacy commended the SBA for seeking advance comments from the public on a proposed rule to change the size standards and urged the agency to streamline duplicative regulatory impact analysis requirements. See Advocacy's complete comments at www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments.

- On March 19, 2004, the SBA published a proposed regulation to amend the Size Standards Program, 13 Part 121 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*.
- The Office of Advocacy wrote the SBA on June 29, 2004, regarding the proposed regulations and recommended postponing the rulemaking to conduct a formal stakeholder outreach process throughout the country.
- SBA withdrew its proposed rulemaking on July 7.
- On December 2, the SBA published in the *Federal Register* the ANPRM regarding selected size standard issues with a comment deadline of February 1, 2005.
- The ANPRM seeks comments on, among other issues, the impact of SBA size standards on the regulations of other federal agencies. In an attempt to comply with the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, agencies will consider alternatives that provide small businesses with flexibility or exemptions. However, SBA current size regulations potentially discourage agencies from adopting small business alternatives.

For more information, visit Advocacy's webpage at: www.sba.gov/advo or contact Major Clark at 202-401-6880 or major.clark@sba.gov.