

**SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION****Small Business Size Standards: Notification of Two Virtual Public Forums on Size Standards****AGENCY:** Small Business Administration.**ACTION:** Notification of virtual public forums on size standards.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is holding a series of two virtual public forums on size standards to update the public on the status of the ongoing second 5-year review of size standards as mandated by the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 and to consider public testimony on proposed changes contained in the proposed rule titled *Small Business Size Standards: Manufacturing and Industries With Employee-Based Size Standards in Other Sectors Except Wholesale Trade and Retail Trade*. Testimony presented at these forums will become part of the administrative record for SBA's consideration when developing the final rule.

**DATES:** The virtual forum dates are as follows:

- Tuesday, June 14, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EDT
- Thursday, June 16, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EDT

**ADDRESSES:** The forums will be held via the Microsoft Teams platform. Registration is required to attend these virtual events. Visit SBA's size standards web page at <http://www.sba.gov/size> to register.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Samuel Castilla, Economist, Office of Size Standards, (202) 619-0389 or [sizestandards@sba.gov](mailto:sizestandards@sba.gov). The phone number above may also be reached by individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who have speech disabilities, through the Federal Communications Commission's TTY-Based Telecommunications Relay Service teletype service at 711.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Background**

SBA is seeking public comments on a proposed rule (*Small Business Size Standards: Manufacturing and Industries With Employee-Based Size Standards in Other Sectors Except Wholesale Trade and Retail Trade* (87 FR 24752, April 26, 2022)) that would revise the employee-based small business size standards for businesses in nine North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) sectors. The comment period ends on June 27, 2022.

The proposed changes in nine industrial sectors, including

manufacturing, mining and transportation, will enable some mid-sized businesses to regain small business status and allow some advanced small businesses to retain small business status for a longer period, thereby allowing them to benefit from SBA's procurement and loan programs. These proposed revisions come on the heels of an SBA announcement (<https://www.sba.gov/article/2022/apr/04/sba-revises-small-business-size-standards-16-industrial-sectors-increase-eligibility-its-federal>) on April 4, 2022 in which the Agency discussed the issuance of four final rules to modify revenue-based small business size standards in 16 NAICS sectors to help increase small business eligibility for SBA's Federal contracting and loan programs.

In the April 26, 2022, proposed rule, SBA proposes to increase 150 employee-based size standards in nine NAICS sectors. SBA also proposes to retain the current 500-employee size standard for Federal procurement of supplies set aside for small businesses under the nonmanufacturer rule, which requires that small businesses qualifying as nonmanufacturers must have an average of 500 or fewer employees over the past 12 months, be primarily engaged in the wholesale or retail trade activities, take ownership or possession of the item with its personnel, equipment or facilities, consistent with industry practice, and supply the product of a U.S. small manufacturer.

The changes contained in the proposed rule are part of SBA's second five-year review of size standards, as required under the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (Sec. 1344, Pub. L. 111-240, 124 Stat. 2545 (September 27, 2010)). The revised size standards reflect SBA's considerations of the relevant industry and programmatic data and impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses and the overall economy and Government response. In response to the pandemic, SBA is retaining current size standards where data otherwise suggests that size standards should be lowered.

As part of the review of size standards, SBA considers the structural characteristics of individual industries, including average firm size, the degree of competition, and Federal Government contracting trends. This ensures that small business size standards reflect current economic conditions in those industries. SBA's proposed size standards revisions rely on the "Size Standards Methodology" issued on April 11, 2019, and available at <http://www.sba.gov/size>.

**II. Virtual Public Forums on Size Standards**

Under this notice, SBA is advising the public that it is hosting a series of two virtual public forums on size standards to update the public on the status of the ongoing second five-year comprehensive review of size standards and consider public testimony on proposed changes contained in the April 2022 proposed rule. These forums also conform to the requirements of section 1344 of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 which requires SBA to hold not less than two public forums during its quinquennial review of size standards.

SBA considers public forums on size standards as a valuable component of its deliberations and believes that these forums will allow for constructive dialogue with small businesses and their representatives, industry trade associations, participants in SBA's contracting and financial assistance programs, and other stakeholders.

The format of these forums will consist of a panel of SBA representatives who will preside over the session. The oral and written testimony as well as any comments SBA receives will become part of the administrative record for SBA's consideration. Written testimony may be submitted in lieu of oral testimony on or before June 27, 2022, at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), using the following RIN number: RIN 3245-AH09; by email to [Sizestandards@sba.gov](mailto:Sizestandards@sba.gov) with subject line "Comments to RIN 3245-AH09"; or by mail to Khem R. Sharma, Chief, Office of Size Standards, 409 3rd Street SW, Mail Code 6530, Washington, DC, 20416. SBA will analyze the testimony, both oral and written, along with any written comments received and respond to all comments in the final rule. However, during the public forum, SBA officials will not provide comment on the testimony of speakers. SBA requests that commenters focus on SBA's April 26, 2022, proposed rulemaking and the impacted industries described therein. SBA requests that commenters do not raise issues pertaining to industries not covered under the proposed rule, or issues outside the scope of the rule. Presenters are encouraged to provide a written copy of their testimony. SBA will accept written material that the presenter wishes to provide that further supplements his or her testimony. Electronic or digitized copies are encouraged.

The two virtual public forums on size standards will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 and Thursday, June 16, 2022

beginning at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m. (EDT); SBA will adjourn early if all testimony has been delivered before the end time.

### III. Registration

Participants must pre-register to attend either of the two virtual public forums on size standards by visiting SBA's size standards web page at <http://www.sba.gov/size> and registering at the link provided. On the registration form, participants may indicate whether they would like to testify at the forum. After registering, participants will receive an email with an access to link and call-in information which can be used to access the forum on the scheduled date and time. Additional information about the forum is provided on SBA's announcements about updating size standards web page, available at <https://www.sba.gov/article?sortBy=Authored%20on%20Date&search=&articleCategory=All&program=Contracting&page=1>, and in the invitation that participants receive upon registration. SBA will attempt to accommodate all interested parties that wish to present testimony. Based on the number of registrants it may be necessary to impose time limits to ensure that everyone who wishes to testify can do so.

### IV. Information on Service for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance contact Samuel Castilla at the telephone number or email address indicated under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

**Sam Le,**

*Director, Office of Policy, Planning and Liaison.*

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**BILLING CODE 8026-09-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 11751]

### 60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Nonimmigrant Visa Application

**ACTION:** Notice of request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are

requesting comments on this collection from all interested individuals and organizations. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** The Department will accept comments from the public up to August 1, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Web:* Persons with access to the internet may comment on this notice by going to [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov). You can search for the document by entering "Docket Number: DOS-2022-0012" in the Search field. Then click the "Comment Now" button and complete the comment form.

- *Email:* You may comment on this notice by emailing

[PRA\\_BurdenComments@state.gov](mailto:PRA_BurdenComments@state.gov).

- *Phone:* You may leave a voicemail comment by calling (202) 485-7586. You must mention that your message is a *Comment on "Application for Nonimmigrant Visa"* in your voicemail.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Direct requests for additional information regarding the collection listed in this notice, including requests for copies of the proposed collection instrument, and supporting documents to Tonya Whigham, who may be reached at (202) 485-7586 or [PRA\\_BurdenComments@state.gov](mailto:PRA_BurdenComments@state.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

- *Title of Information Collection:* Nonimmigrant Visa Application; Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application.

- *OMB Control Number:* 1405-0182.

- *Type of Request:* Revision of a Currently Approved Collection.

- *Originating Office:* Bureau of Consular Affairs, Visa Services (CA/VO).

- *Form Number:* DS-156; DS-160.

- *Respondents:* Nonimmigrant Visa Applicants; Individuals Seeking Boarding Foils for Purposes of Parole.

- *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 5,190,967.

- *Estimated Number of Responses:* 5,190,967.

- *Average Time Per Response:* 90 minutes.

- *Total Estimated Burden Time:* 7,786,450 hours.

- *Frequency:* Once per respondent's application for a nonimmigrant visa; once per respondent's request for a boarding foil.

- *Obligation to respond:* Required to Obtain Benefit.

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department.

- Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that comments submitted in response to this Notice are public record. Before including any detailed personal information, you should be aware that your comments as submitted, including your personal information, will be available for public review.

### Abstract of Proposed Collection

The DS-160 and DS-156 collect biographical and other information from individuals seeking a nonimmigrant visa or individuals seeking a boarding foil for purposes of traveling to the United States to seek parole from the Department of Homeland Security. The consular officer uses the information collected to elicit information necessary to determine an applicant's eligibility for a nonimmigrant visa. The consular officer uses the information collected on the form to screen individuals seeking a boarding foil for purposes of obtaining parole pursuant to an agreement between the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security. Most respondents use the DS-160; however, posts may authorize an individual to use the paper-based DS-156 in limited circumstances as outlined below.

### Methodology

Respondents submit the DS-160 electronically over an encrypted connection to the Department via the internet. The respondent will be instructed to print the confirmation page containing bar code record locators, which the consular officer will use to locate the form during processing.

The DS-156 is the paper-based version of the DS-160. In order to obtain a copy of the DS-156, an individual must contact the Embassy or consulate at which they are applying and request a copy. A consular officer may allow an individual to submit the DS-156 in the following limited circumstances when the DS-160 cannot be accessed and the:

- Respondent has an urgent medical or humanitarian travel need, and the consular officer has received explicit permission from the Visa Office to accept form DS-156.