



**U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20416**

**‘ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN’**

Section 503 of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 defines the term ‘eligible small business concern,’ as a business concern that:

1. Is organized or incorporated in the United States;
2. Is operating in the United States;
3. Meets
  - a. The applicable industry-based small business size standard established under section 3 of the Small Business Act; or
  - b. The alternate size standard applicable to the program under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act and the loan programs under title V of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695 et seq.);

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) size standards are found at 13 C.F.R. Part 121. Use the following [sba.gov link](https://www.sba.gov/category/navigation-structure/contracting/contracting-officials//small-business-size-standards) for information on size standards for your business (<https://www.sba.gov/category/navigation-structure/contracting/contracting-officials//small-business-size-standards>);

4. Has been in business for not less than 1 year, as of the date on which assistance using a grant under this subsection commences; and
5. Has access to sufficient resources to bear the costs associated with trade, including the costs of packing, shipping, freight forwarding, and customs brokers.

Submitting false information in order to obtain services from a STEP grant recipient is a violation of Federal law. If you submit false information the Government may seek criminal, civil, and/or administrative remedies against you, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 1001, 1040; and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729–3733. The Government may elect to exclude you from further participation in certain Federal programs and contracts if you submit false information in connection with receiving services from a STEP grant recipient.