



(SBA). The SBA, if the circumstances warrant, is authorized to certify to Government procurement officers with respect to all elements of responsibility of any small business concern. Any such certification - called a Certificate of Competency - is binding on the contracting officer.

Directorate of Competition Advocacy

In addition to contracting officers, the Directorate of Competition Advocacy (DCA) is authorised to insure compliance with the competition in Contracting Act (CICA) and all regulatory requirements. A DCA is responsible for the overall Competition Advocacy programme for each military activity in the following capacity:

- Ensure that competition considerations are included in the process of acquiring and managing systems, items, services, data, and software.
- Develop a Competition Plan, including guidance for establishing realistic competition goals.
- Develop and implement programmes to increase competition and remove any impediments to competition.
- Review, approve, and provide coordination of Justification and Approval (J&A) documents for acquiring supplies, services, repairs, and data by other than full and open competition procedures.
- Promote new sources of supply and assist in resolving difficulties encountered by suppliers in obtaining approval as a manufacturing/repair source.
- Function as the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) for the Air Force Zero Overcapacity Programme (ZOP) and Price Verifications.
- Participate with system programme manager and item manager organizations in acquisition procedures in order to ensure full competition.
- Maintain a liaison relationship with industry, Air Force Logistics Command Headquarters and other DoD purchasing activities regarding the competition programme.