



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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SIZE STANDARD CHANGE PROPOSED FOR TESTING LABORATORIES

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Small Business Administration is proposing an increase to the revenue-based size standard for the testing laboratories industry from \$6 million to \$10 million in average annual receipts.

The increase in the size limit to \$10 million will allow larger firms to qualify for SBA assistance under the agency's size standards, which limit the size of businesses that qualify as small under SBA program eligibility rules.

The revision was prompted by requests from the industry to revise the size standards in light of government requirements on laboratories that specialize in environmental and radio-chemical testing. Meeting those requirements has raised the cost of doing business to the point where it is squeezing some smaller companies out of the process.

The new size standard was published in the *Federal Register* on April 9, 2002 as a proposed rule with a 60-day comment period expiring on June 10. Comments can be submitted to Gary Jackson, assistant administrator for the office of Size Standards, 409 3rd St. SW, Mail Code 6530, Washington, D.C. 20416; or via e-mail to sizestandards@sba.gov. The SBA will make all public comments available upon request. For additional information on the new size standard, call Robert N. Ray, Office of Size Standards, (202) 205-6618, or visit the SBA's Office of Size Standards Web page at www.sba.gov/size, and click on "What's New?"

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For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640. Also, visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.

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