



38 CFR Part 74 Non-Compliance Process for Ineligible Firms Reporting Firms Believed to Be Ineligible for Vets First Verification

Summary:

The Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE) has established a process to report firms alleged to be non-compliant with one or more of the regulatory requirements for the Vets First Verification Program.

Additionally, alleged fraud must be reported to the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of the Inspector General (VA OIG).

Discussion:

The Vets First Verification Program is regulated by **38 CFR Part 74: Veterans Small Business Regulations**. To apply for Veteran set-asides and sole source procurements available through the VA Veterans First Contracting Program, firms must demonstrate eligibility, ownership, and unconditional control to obtain verification by CVE.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is determined by the firm's ability to **meet the small business requirements** set by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the firm's owner's designation as a Veteran. A Veteran is a person who served on active duty with the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard for any length of time discharged or released under conditions other than Dishonorable. Reservists or members of the National Guard who are called to federal active duty or disabled from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or while in training status also qualifies as a Veteran.

OWNERSHIP

One or more Veterans or Service-disabled

Veterans **must have** direct and unconditional ownership of at least **51 percent of the company**.

UNCONDITIONAL CONTROL

The Veteran owner(s) **must have** all the requirements for unconditional control with **possession of:**

- Full decision-making authority
- Managerial experience to the extent and complexity needed to manage the company
- Strategic policy and day-to-day decision-making authority
- Highest compensation within the company (unless there is a reasonable explanation why the owner is compensated less)
- Highest officer position within the company

REPORTING ALLEGED NON-COMPLIANT FIRMS

If it is believed that a firm is non-compliant with 38 CFR Part 74 regulation requirements should submit a **Non-Compliance Referral Form** that details and provides evidence of the alleged violation(s). Complete the form in its entirety and email it to vacocvereferrals@va.gov.

CVE will conduct a sufficiency review on all submissions and provide one of the following responses to the sender based on the relative topics.

- **Fraud:** CVE will inform the sender to report the allegation(s) to VA OIG.
- **Violation for limitations on subcontracting (pass-through) or**



contract administration: CVE will inform the sender to report the allegation(s) to the contracting officer for the contract or solicitation in question.

- **Non-compliance with 38 CFR Part 74 but does not provide sufficient evidence:** CVE will ask the sender to complete a Non-Compliance Referral Form and provide sufficient evidence to support the referral.
- **Non-compliance with 38 CFR Part 74 and provides sufficient evidence to investigate:** CVE will acknowledge receipt of the referral and review the allegation for compliance. If there is suspicion of fraud or an acquisition violation, CVE will refer the matter to VA OIG or the appropriate acquisition office for review.

When the review is complete, CVE will determine if the firm is found to be compliant or non-compliant with 38 CFR Part 74. If the participant is found to be non-compliant, a Notice of Proposed Cancellation (NOPC) is sent to the concern with specific facts and reasons for CVE's findings.

If CVE determines that the firm is non-compliant after receiving a response to the NOPC or no response is received, CVE will issue a Notice of Verified Status Cancellation/NVSC and remove the concern from the VetBiz Vendor Information Pages (VIP) database.

Note: The **non-compliance referral form** and **mentioned email address** are for **non-compliance referrals only**.

If you desire to allege a firm is fraudulent, please report the matter directly to [VA OIG](#).

CVE has no authority to determine a firm's size. If a firm claims to be a small business—but is not, it should be reported directly to [SBA](#).

Quickly access VA verification application resources via [Verification Assistance](#). For more information about VA Small and Veteran Business Program, visit <https://www.va.gov/osdbu>.

**Center for Verification and Evaluation
Office of Small and Disadvantaged
Business Utilization**

1-866-584-2344
Monday–Friday
8 a.m.–6 p.m. (Eastern)

Status Update:
verificationfollowup@va.gov
Profile Questions:
vip@va.gov