

## 19.602-4 Awarding the contract.

(a) If new information causes the *contracting officer* to determine that the *concern* referred to the SBA is actually responsible to perform the contract, and award has not already been made under paragraph (c) of this subsection, the *contracting officer shall* reverse the determination of nonresponsibility, notify the SBA of this action, withdraw the referral, and proceed to award the contract.

(b) The *contracting officer shall* award the contract to the *concern* in question if the SBA issues a COC after receiving the referral. An SBA-certified *concern shall* not be required to meet any other requirements of responsibility. SBA COC's are conclusive with respect to all elements of responsibility of prospective small business contractors. Where SBA issues a COC, the *contracting officer may* decide not to award to that *offeror* for reasons unrelated to responsibility.

(c) The *contracting officer shall* proceed with the *acquisition* and award the contract to another appropriately selected and responsible *offeror* if the SBA has not issued a COC within 15 business days (or a longer period of time agreed to with the SBA) after receiving the referral.

**Parent topic:** [19.602 Procedures.](#)