

# 5333.103 Protests to the Agency

(d)(4) When an agency protest is denied, an offeror may request an independent review by the SCO. See [Agency Level Protest Summary Dismissal](#) template.

(h) The contracting officer must prepare the protest file following an agency protest (including a protest of a non-appropriated funds procurement) regardless of the level at which the protest is filed. The contracting officer must request guidance from the [cognizant HCA](#) for any protest likely to generate significant Congressional interest. The decision to deny a protest must be made at a level no lower than that at which the protest was filed. Protests may be sustained at any level in the review process, with the concurrence of the cognizant legal office.

**Parent topic:** [Subpart 5333.1 - PROTESTS](#)