



Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

State of the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator - October 2024

by James Gerraughty
SAP&DC APEX Accelerator Program
Manager



Happy Federal New Year!

Things are a little bit up in the air for the next 30-90 days, but the government marketplaces do not shut down. As always, our APEX Accelerator (as well all of them across the country) are ready to help our clients and stakeholders get through the situation and answer any questions. For upcoming outreach events, we have an ongoing DCAA monthly class, a cybersecurity monthly class (timely, considering the rule change!), and our annual Tri-State APEX Accelerator Matchmaking event in December.

There is also our National APEX Accelerator Day on 9 OCT 2024 (more info here: <https://www.aptac-us.org/apexday2024/>) All of these events are free to attend, but you need to register to get the login information. Please review our training opportunities that are coming up in October 2024 and beyond on our [eCenter page](#). Stop back often, as the training events do update regularly!

Finally, if you have ideas for topics, or would like to learn more about something, please drop us a line at (814) 949-6500 or by [email](#). We'd love to hear from you!

TSA proposes a softer rollout of Real ID enforcement

By Daniel C. Vock, Senior Reporter, Route Fifty

Federal agencies would have the option to gradually require the secure documents after May 7, in part to avoid chaos at state DMVs when the deadline approaches.

The federal government is set to roll back—yet again—the date by which people must have specially verified driver's licenses before boarding an airplane or conducting other business with the feds.

But in some ways, the Transportation Security Administration had little choice, faced with the fact that after two decades of prodding and tough talk, only 56% of driver's licenses in circulation adhere to Real ID standards.

The TSA unveiled a proposal Thursday that would allow federal agencies to use discretion for two years in how strictly they should enforce the May 7, 2025, deadline for compliance. The open-ended guidance would instruct federal agencies to consider security, operational risk and impact on the public for how they choose to enforce the

standards.

“The proposed rule does not extend the Real ID deadline,” the agency said in a press release. “Instead, it would allow TSA to consider a phased enforcement approach to Real ID implementation. Travelers without a Real ID compliant ID or another form of acceptable ID after the May 7, 2025, deadline could face delays at airport security checkpoints.”

[Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 10/03/2024)

What time is it on the moon? NIST proposes an answer
By John Breeden II, Nextgov

The establishment of universal moon time would support lunar GPS for future missions. On Earth, it's generally pretty easy to find the exact date and time regardless of where you happen to be located. Everything is neatly divided up by calendars and time zones and kept in careful precision so that it will always be sunny at noon and dark at midnight. Summers are warm while winters are cold, with corrections like leap years made over time to prevent any drift.

It's easy to know the exact time down to the second, because there are always watches, clocks and even smartphones within easy reach almost everywhere. Not knowing the time isn't even a good excuse for being late to a meeting anymore.

But on the moon, it's a much different story. Not only is there a serious lack of time pieces, but nobody has really established how moon times sync with Earth. If it's noon in New York, what time is it on the moon? And then there is the not so tiny problem of Einstein's theory of relativity, which states that gravity affects time. Because there is less gravity on the moon, time passes just a bit more quickly up there, with atomic clocks advancing about 56 microseconds per day faster than those on Earth.

The question of having a reliable moon time zone may seem almost trivial or academic at first glance. After all, it's not like there is a coffee shop up there taking pickup orders. But it becomes a much more serious problem as NASA ramps up exploratory programs to the moon, like the Artemis missions. That's because accurate positioning on the moon requires an Earth-like GPS system, which in turn requires accurate time measurements. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 10/03/2024)

SBA Proposed Rule: New Size and Status Recertification Standard
By Gregory Weber, Senior Associate Attorney, Koprince McCall Pottorff LLC

In a proposed rule in August of 2024, SBA has unveiled a brand new regulation related specifically to recertification of size and status. A frequent question of federal contractors is whether they can continue to be small, or maintain a specific socio-economic status (i.e., WOSB, SDVOSB etc.) after a change in ownership or business structure. The SBA's size and status recertification standards are currently found in multiple places: the size determination timing regulations, each socio-economic status regulation, and of course in case law. But this would presumably create a one stop shop for size recertification questions, while also changing some of the long relied-upon standards.

This SBA proposed rule has created quite a buzz among federal contracting. In fact, we alone have blogged about it multiple times in the past few weeks: Overview of HUBZone changes and SBA Changes (including the regulation discussed further here); Joint Venture Past Performance; 8(a) Program Changes; Mentor-Protégé Program Changes; and a two part examination of HUBZone Changes (Part 1 and Part 2). Now we will examine in more detail the new proposed size and status recertification regulation.

As explained in our first blog on this proposed rule, the SBA is proposing a new regulation that will contain both size recertification and small business program status recertification standards. Currently, contractors must look at each specific socioeconomic program's regulations to determine standards around status recertification. And, for size recertification, contractors would have to wade through the SBA regulation regarding when size of a business is determined, and its accompanying case law (such as this case we blogged on regarding size under a GSA schedule). SBA now wants to change this as well as some of the recertification standards themselves. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 10/01/2024)

About US

The Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator at SAP&DC is an economic development entity that bridges the gap between supplier and buyer in the government marketplace. The APEX Accelerator stands ready to support businesses in the central PA Alleghenies region in the pursuit to secure contracts with local, state and/or federal government agencies nationwide.



Due to the generous support of our Commonwealth and Federal funding partners, services provided by the APEX Accelerator are free of charge.

Whether you are an experienced contractor or new to the government marketplace, the APEX Accelerator will provide one-on-one counseling utilizing all of the program resources necessary to increase your share of contract awards. We will also coordinate assistance, if needed, with our PA PREP partners.

Contact us today at the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator at SAP&DC to get started!

Email: apex@sapdc.org

Phone: (814) 949-6500

Web: APEXAccelerator@SAP&DC

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SAP&DC | 814-949-6528 | jgerraughty@sapdc.org | <http://www.sapdc.org>
3 Sheraton Drive
Altoona, PA 16601



SAP&DC | 3 Sheraton Drive | Altoona, PA 16601 US

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