



# **Small Business Sector Topics**

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# Bailment Agreements (BA)

**Issue-** Cost to Re-certify After Inspection Is Still *Too Expensive* for Small Businesses (SB)

**Background-** Chemical Defense Surety Laboratory operates under Bailment Agreements with the U.S. Army, which requires that SBs implement and maintain Health and Safety Programs, Environmental Compliance Programs and Quality Assurance/Quality Control Programs in accordance with the Guidebook of Performance Standards for Operation of an RDTE Chemical Agent Laboratory. These programs are routinely inspected and audited by Government representatives, third party registrars, and internal auditors to ensure compliance with applicable requirements.

**Discussion-** ECBC cannot perform all the testing and analysis that is now required. Several SBs were inspected and found with a few (non failing) deficiencies. The deficiencies were formerly corrected but the decisions were made not to re-new the BA since the companies had not requested CWM for a few months. The SBs use a considerable amount valuable resources to regain their BAs (And they lost businesses.

**Conclusion –** *There is a need to revisit re-certification criteria for SBs* after deficiencies are corrected. The current criteria is, but it also appears that they would like not to have BAs with any contractors and especially SB.



## TS Security Clearances

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- ◆ Issue-DSS ran out of funding and suspended processing of TS clearances.
- ◆ Background – The Pentagon stopped processing security clearances for government contractors, potentially exacerbating a shortage of employees authorized to work on the government's classified programs.
- ◆ Discussion – The Defense Security Service announces that the Defense Industrial Security Clearance Office, (DISCO) is now accepting applications from industry for all types of personnel security investigations. This includes all Initial investigations (Top Secret, Secret and Confidential), and Periodic Reinvestigations (Top Secret, Secret and Confidential).
- ◆ Conclusion– *TS Clearances are now processed in 90-110 days!!*



## **Contracting-Status**

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**Issue-** What is the status reference CBDAIF Committee actions to look at contracting and procurement initiatives that could improve the contracting and procurement processes for all businesses

**Background** –Committee look at processes and procedures that that could improve the processes. *What are the status?*

**Recommendations** –Recommend an after action report is submitted to the representatives for possible further dissemination.



## **Good Two Years**

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- ◆ **I want to thank everyone and especially MG Reeves for allowing me to represent and work for my small business counterparts.**
- ◆ **In fact it wasn't work; it has been a lot of fun!**
  - ◆ **Thanks again!**