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## Small Business Reclassification Have you reclassified your business?

In 2012, the Georgia Legislature passed OCGA 50-5-121, redefining Small Business in the state of Georgia. Small business is now defined as a “Georgia resident business that is independently owned and operated. In addition, such a business must either have fewer than 300 employees or less than \$30 million in gross receipts per year.” A Georgia resident business is a “business that regularly maintains a place from which business is physically conducted in Georgia for at least one year prior to any bid or proposal to the state or a new business that is domiciled in Georgia and which regularly maintains a place from which business is physically conducted in Georgia; provided, however, that a place from which business is conducted shall not include a post office box, a leased private mailbox, site trailer, or temporary structure.”

The legislative intent as noted in the OCGA is as follows:

*“The most important element of the American economic system of private enterprise is free and vigorous competition. Only through the existence of free and vigorous competition can free entry into business and opportunities for personal initiative and individual achievement be assured. The preservation and expansion of such competition is essential for our economic well-being. In order to encourage such competition it is the declared policy of the state to ensure that a fair proportion of the total purchases and contracts or subcontracts for property, commodities, and services for the state be placed with small businesses so long as the commodities and services of small businesses are competitive as to price and quality.”*

If this new provision, which stays in place until 2015, now applies to your company’s structure, please go into your Team Georgia Marketplace™ profile and update the company information. The steps to do so are as follows: After you enter your User ID and Password, click on “**Manage Events and Place Bids,**” “**My Bidder Profile**” and look under the “**Additional Information**” section. You can then select the applicable options for your business.

Here is the link for you to log into Team Georgia Marketplace™:

<https://saofn.state.ga.us/psp/sao/SUPPLIER/ERP/h?tab=DEFAULT>

You can also register at this site if you have not yet done so. There are two (2) ways to register, so please be sure to read the information on the screens carefully.

And, as always, please remember my favorite 4-letter word...READ!!!