



Ralph S. Northam
Governor

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

R. Brian Ball
Secretary of Commerce & Trade

Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity

Tracey G. Wiley
Director

Via Electronic Mail

January 27, 2020

Certification Number: 647354

Monika Rohila
V Group Inc.
379 Princeton Hightstown Road, Bldg. 3, Suite 2A
Cranbury, NJ 08512

Dear Ms. Rohila:

The Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (“DSBSD”) is in receipt of your request for certification as a small business in the Commonwealth’s Small, Women-owned, and Minority-owned (“SWaM”) Business Program. We are pleased to inform you that V Group Inc. has been **certified as a Women-owned, Minority-owned Business** in the SWaM program. However, after careful review, the DSBSD has determined V Group Inc. does not meet the requirements for certification as an out-of-state small business in the SWaM program.

7VAC13-20-80 of the Virginia Administrative Code states that the department may certify a non-Virginia based business if:

1. It meets the applicable eligibility standards for certification as a small, women-owned or minority-owned business; and
2. The state in which the business has its principal place of business does not deny a like certification to a Virginia-based small, women-owned or minority-owned business or provide a preference to small, women-owned or minority-owned firms that is not available to Virginia-based businesses.
3. Effective July 1, 2017, any out-of-state business applying for certification in Virginia as a small, women-owned, or minority-owned business must have the equivalent certification in the state in which the business has its principal place of business. An out-of-state business that has its principal place of business in a state that does not have a small, women-owned, or minority-owned business certification program shall be exempt from the requirements of this provision.

In addition, 7VAC13-20-10 of the Virginia Administrative Code defines principal place of business as “the physical business location where the business maintains its headquarters, where the business's books and records are kept, and where the natural persons who direct, control, and

manage the business's day-to-day operations are located. If the offices from which management is directed and where the business records are kept are in different locations, the department will determine the principal place of business.”

According to the documentation submitted by your firm, V Group Inc.’s principal place of business is New Jersey, which prohibits Virginia-based businesses from participating in its Small Business Set-Aside program. Because New Jersey does not allow Virginia businesses to participate in its small business program, businesses from New Jersey are prohibited from participating in the Commonwealth’s small business program. As such, DSBSD cannot certify V Group Inc. as a small business in the SWaM program.

You may reapply for the small business status six (6) months from the initial date of denial which state:

7VAC13-20-220. Reapplication.

- A. A business whose application for certification has been denied may reapply for the same category of certification six months after the date on which the business receives the notice of denial. An applicant denied certification may apply for certification in any other category without delay if otherwise eligible.
- B. The applicant may request a waiver of the six-month reapplication period from the department director by submitting a written request for reconsideration and providing a reasonable basis for the waiver. The director or his designee, in his discretion, shall render a final decision regarding the request for reconsideration and waiver within 30 days, which determination shall not constitute a case decision subject to appeal.

If you have any questions regarding your status, please contact us at (804) 786-6585

Sincerely,

Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity
Certification Team
101 N. 14th Street, 11th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: 804-786-6585
Fax: 804-786-9736