

March 18, 2013

**Attention all Federal Government Contractors registered in the System for Award Management (SAM).**

The General Services Administration (GSA) recently has identified a security vulnerability in the SAM. SAM is part of the cross-government Integrated Award Environment (IAE) managed by GSA. This vulnerability allowed some existing users in the system the ability to view other entity's registration information, including both public and non-public data at all sensitivity levels.

Please read below to understand what GSA is doing and suggestions for actions that Government contractors should take to minimize the impact of this security vulnerability.

GSA sent a letter to all SAM users, notifying them of the security vulnerability in SAM and a second letter to the most vulnerable SAM users. The most vulnerable users are those that use a Social Security number as a Taxpayer Identification Number and during SAM registration selected the option to allow public searches. GSA stated in their letter to the most vulnerable SAM users that additional information would be forthcoming offering access to credit monitoring services to the most vulnerable SAM users.

GSA wants you to be aware of certain steps that all SAM users may want to take to protect against identity theft and financial loss. Specific information is available at [www.gsa.gov/samsecurity](http://www.gsa.gov/samsecurity). If you would like additional background or have questions, **you may call 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636)**, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (ET), Monday-Friday starting Monday, March 18.

GSA recommends that that if you are a registered SAM entity, you monitor your bank accounts and notify your financial institution immediately if you find any discrepancies.

GSA apologizes for concern this situation may cause.

The Social Security Administration will post any additional information from GSA if, and when, it becomes available.

Seth Binstock

Associate Commissioner

Office of Acquisition and Grants