

# Frequently Asked Questions about the System for Award Management (SAM)

*Note: SAM replaced the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) in June 2012*

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## **What are Exclusions?**

Exclusion records identify those parties excluded from receiving federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and from certain types of federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits.

## **What is the purpose of the Exclusions portion of Performance Information in SAM?**

The purpose is to provide a single comprehensive list of individuals and firms excluded by federal government agencies from receiving federal contracts or federally-approved subcontracts and from certain types of federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits. The system is used to keep agencies abreast of administrative, as well as, statutory exclusions taken throughout the Federal Government. Actions may be taken under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) or supplements thereto, under specific agency regulations or under the Government-wide Nonprocurement Suspension and Debarment Common Rule [68 FR 66533] or other specific statutory authority.

## **How often is Exclusions data within the Performance Information area in SAM updated?**

SAM processes updates to Exclusions as they are received from agencies.

## **How do I obtain information on an exclusion that has been removed from the list of current exclusions?**

Past exclusions can be obtained by performing an *Inactive Search* in SAM. From the *Search* page, open the "Record Type" filter on the left hand navigation bar and check "Inactive Registrations" then enter your search criteria into the search bar and submit.

## **What is an Exclusion Type?**

An exclusion type specifies why an entity is on the excluded parties list and communicates the associated ramifications. The **Exclusion Types** are as follows: Ineligible (Proceedings Pending), Ineligible (Proceedings Complete), Prohibition/Restriction, Voluntary Exclusion. Upon selection of an **Exclusion Type**, the standardized cause-and-effect language pre-populates in the record, and if further explanation about the exclusion is needed, it is noted in the *Additional Comments* field.

## **What happened to Cause and Treatment (CT) Codes?**

The **Cause and Treatment Codes** were replaced with the **Exclusion Types** noted above. Existing records containing **CT codes** still display that **CT code** for historical reference.

## **Where can I find a complete list of all Cause and Treatment (CT) Codes and how they relate to the four Exclusion Types in SAM?**

You can view all CT Codes and how they map to one of the four Exclusion types by following the steps below:

1. Go to the **SAM Homepage** ([www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov) (<http://www.sam.gov>))
2. Select **SAM Help** from the top navigation bar
3. Select "Exclusion Types" found under "Agency Information" in the left navigation panel