

Replace section 5-1.13B with:

5-1.13B Disadvantaged Business Enterprises

5-1.13B(1) General

Section 5-1.13B applies to a federal-aid contract.

Use each DBE as listed on the DBE Commitment form unless you receive Department prior authorization for termination under section 5-1.13B(2)(c). Ensure that all subcontracts and agreements with DBEs to supply labor or materials are performed under 49 CFR 26.

Maintain records of subcontracts made with DBE subcontractors and records of materials purchased from DBE suppliers. Include in the records:

1. Name and business address of each DBE subcontractor, DBE vendor, and DBE trucking company, regardless of tier
2. Date of payment and total amount paid to each DBE business

If you are a DBE contractor, include the date of work performed by your own forces and the corresponding value of the work.

Before the 15th day of each month for the previous month's work, submit:

1. Monthly DBE Trucking Verification form
2. Monthly DBE Payment form

If a DBE is decertified before completing its work, the business must notify you in writing of the decertification date within 15 days of decertification. Notify the Engineer and submit the DBE's decertification notice within 2 business days of your receipt. Upon work completion, complete a Disadvantage Business Enterprises (DBE) Certification Status Change form and submit within 10 days of Contract acceptance.

Upon work completion, complete a Final Report – Utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), First-Tier Subcontractors form and submit within 10 days of Contract acceptance. The Department withholds the greater of 10 percent of the DBE commitment or \$10,000 until the form is submitted. The Department releases the withhold upon submission of the completed form. If additional payments are made to a DBE after submittal of the completed form, submit an updated form to reflect such payments.

Failure to carry out requirements of 49 CFR 26 is a material breach of the Contract, which may result in the termination of the Contract or other remedy as the Department deems appropriate, such as:

1. Withholding monthly progress payments
2. Assessing sanctions
3. Applying liquidated damages
4. Disqualification from future bidding as nonresponsive

5-1.13B(2) Disadvantaged Business Enterprises

5-1.13B(2)(a) General

Section 5-1.13(B)(2) applies if a DBE goal is shown on the *Notice to Bidders*.

Certification as a DBE identifies if the business has the means to perform its work under assigned North American Industry Classification System codes and work codes applicable to the type of work the DBE will perform on the Contract. Certification does not ensure the DBE will perform a commercially useful function on the Contract.

You are responsible for ensuring each DBE listed on the DBE Commitment form performs:

1. The description and value of the subcontracted work or material supplied as committed
2. A commercially useful function under 49 CFR 26.55 for committed work or materials

For DBE committed work, the Department only pays for work performed or supplied by the listed DBE and if a commercially useful function was performed by the listed DBE.

You are responsible to remediate noncompliant DBE work to meet your DBE commitment. Submit a DBE commitment remediation plan within 5 business days of the Engineer's request.

Pay your DBEs in conformance with section 5-1.13E.

Failure to promptly pay DBEs may result in a withholds corresponding to the value of the DBE's committed work from future progress payments. In addition, unpaid DBE amounts will not count towards your DBE commitment, which may result in equivalent withholds or deductions and a 2 percent penalty on the unpaid amount for every month payment is not made.

5-1.13B(2)(b) Commercially Useful Function

DBEs must perform a commercially useful function under 49 CFR 26.55 when performing work or supplying materials listed on the DBE Commitment form. The DBEs value of work will only count toward the DBE commitment if the DBE performs a commercially useful function under 49 CFR 26.55.

Provide written notification to the Engineer at least 15 days in advance of each DBE's initial performance of work or supplying materials for the Contract. Include the DBE's name, contract work to be performed, and the location, date, and time of where their work will take place.

Within 10 days of a DBE initially performing work or supplying materials on the Contract, submit your initial evaluation and validation of their performance of a commercially useful function using DBE Commercially Useful Function Evaluation form. Include the following supporting information with your submittal:

1. Subcontract agreement with the DBE
2. Purchase orders
3. Bills of lading
4. Invoices
5. Proof of payment

Monitor your DBEs' performance of commercially useful function with quarterly evaluations and validations throughout their duration of work on the Contract using DBE Commercially Useful Function Evaluation form. Submit your quarterly evaluation and validation DBE Commercially Useful Function Evaluation forms by the 5th of the month for the previous three month's work. Include any additional supplemental supporting information with your submittal. If your DBE's work-start and -end dates for the Contract exceed a three-month period, regardless of time not on the Contract, quarterly evaluations and validations are required.

Notify the Engineer immediately if you believe the DBE may not be performing a commercially useful function.

The Department will verify your DBEs performance of commercially useful functions by reviewing your initial and quarterly DBE Commercially Useful Function Evaluation forms, your submitted supporting information, field observations, and through select Department evaluations. The Department may evaluate DBEs and their commercially useful function performance at any time during the Contract. In such instances, the Department will provide written notice to you and your DBE at least 2 business days prior to the evaluation. You and your DBE must participate in the evaluation. Upon completing the evaluation, the Department will share the evaluation results with you and your DBE. The evaluation results may include items that must be remedied upon your receipt. If the Department determines the DBE is not performing a commercially function you must suspend performance of the noncompliant work.

You and your DBEs must submit any additional commercially useful function related records and documents within 5 business days of Department request such as:

1. Proof of ownership or lease and rental agreements for equipment
2. Tax records
3. Employee rosters
4. Certified payroll records
5. Inventory rosters

Failure to submit required DBE Commercially Useful Function Evaluation forms or requested records and documents will result in withhold of payment for the value of work completed by the DBE.

If you and or the Department determine a listed DBE is not performing a commercially useful function in performance of their DBE committed work, suspend performance of the noncompliant portion of the work. Submit a corrective action plan within 5 days of the noncompliant commercially useful function determination. The plan must identify how you will remediate when feasible or demonstrate commercially useful function compliance for the remaining portion of the DBE's work. Allow 5 days for plan review. The corrective actions must be implemented within 5 days of Engineer's authorization of your plan and prior to resumption of the noncompliant portion of the DBE's committed work.

If corrective actions cannot be accomplished to assure the DBE will perform a commercially useful function on the Contract, you may have good cause to request termination of the DBE under section 5-1.13B(2)(c).

5-1.13B(2)(c) Termination

Termination of a DBE may be allowable for good cause reasons under 49 CFR 26.53(f)(3) with prior written authorization from the Department. You must provide documentation supporting good cause reasoning with your termination request. If the termination request is authorized by the Department, you must then either replace the DBE with another DBE or demonstrate good faith efforts to do so under 5-1.13B(2)(d).

Use the following procedure to request the termination of a DBE or portion of their work:

1. Provide written notice to the DBE of your intent to use other forces or material sources and include one or more of the good cause reasons under 49 CFR 26.53(f)(3). Simultaneously send a copy of this written notice to the Engineer. Your written notice to the DBE must request they provide any response to both you and the Engineer.
2. Provide the DBE with 5 business days to respond to your written notice by either acknowledging their agreement or documenting their reasoning as to why the use of other forces or sources of materials should not occur. If the DBE does not respond within 5 business days, you may move forward with the request process as if the DBE had agreed to your written notice.
3. Submit your DBE termination request by written letter to the Engineer and include:
 - 3.1. One or more good cause reasons identified under 49 CFR 26.53(f)(3) along with supporting documentation.
 - 3.2. Your written notice to the DBE regarding the request, including proof of transmission and tracking documentation of your written notice.
 - 3.3. The DBE's response to your written notice, if received. If a written response was not provided, provide a statement to that effect.

The Department will respond to your complete DBE termination request as follows:

1. Where the DBE has agreed in writing or fails to timely respond to your written notice, the Department will respond within 2 business days from receipt of your request.
2. Where the DBE has disagreed in writing with your written notice, the Department will meet with you and the DBE within 5 business days from receipt of your request. The Department will respond to your request within 5 business days from this meeting.
3. If you fail to provide a complete request for DBE termination the Department will identify deficiencies within 5 business days from receipt of your request.

If the Department authorizes your DBE termination request it will do so in writing.

Work performed by a firm other than the committed DBE or authorized replacement DBE without first obtaining Department authorization for termination will be a violation of these specifications and DBE federal regulations. Such violations will result in payment deductions for the value of the work associated with the noncompliant DBE commitment. In addition, if the committed DBE is also a listed subcontractor, the Department applies an additional penalty up to 10 percent of the value of the subject work as a permanent deduction.

5-1.13B(2)(d) Replacement

After receiving Department written authorization of your DBE termination request, you must obtain separate Department authorization of your replacement plan.

Your replacement plan must identify DBE replacement firms to perform the work or demonstrate that you have made a good faith effort to use DBE replacement firms. DBE replacement firms must:

1. Perform at least the same dollar amount of work as the terminated DBE to the extent needed to meet the DBE commitment
2. Possess certifications for the most specific available North American Industry Classification System codes and work codes applicable to the work the firm will perform on the Contract
3. Perform a commercially useful function under 49 CFR 26.55

Use the following procedure to request authorization of your replacement plan:

1. Submit a request to replace a DBE with other forces or material sources by written letter to the Department which must include:
 - 1.1. Description of remaining uncommitted item work made available for replacement DBE solicitation and participation.
 - 1.2. The proposed DBE replacement firm's business information, the work they have agreed to perform, and the following:
 - 1.2.1. Quote for bid item work and description of work to be performed
 - 1.2.2. Proposed subcontract agreement and written confirmation of agreement to perform on the Contract
 - 1.2.3. Revised Subcontracting Request form
2. If you have not identified a DBE replacement firm, submit documentation of your good faith efforts to use DBE replacement firms within 7 days of Department's authorization to terminate the DBE. You may request the Department's approval to extend this submittal period to a total of 14 days. The Department considers your documented actions taken to identify a DBE replacement firm in determining whether a good faith effort was made under 49 CFR 26 app A. Submit documentation of actions taken to find a DBE replacement firm, such as:
 - 2.1. Search results of certified DBEs available to perform the original DBE work identified and or other work you had intended to self-perform, to the extent needed to meet your DBE commitment
 - 2.2. Solicitations of DBEs for performance of work identified in 2.1
 - 2.3. Correspondence with interested DBEs that may have included contract details and requirements
 - 2.4. Negotiation efforts with DBEs that reflect why an agreement was not reached
 - 2.5. If a DBE's quote was rejected, provide your reasoning for the rejection, such as why the DBE was unqualified for the work, or why the price quote was unreasonable or excessive
 - 2.6. Copies of each DBE's and non-DBE's price quotes for work identified in 2.1, as the Department may contact the firms to verify solicitation efforts and determine if the DBE quotes are substantially higher
 - 2.7. Additional documentation that you believe supports your good faith effort

The Department will respond to your complete replacement plan as follows:

1. If a DBE replacement firm has been identified and required documentation has been provided, the Department will respond within 2 business days from receipt of your plan
2. If a DBE replacement firm has not been identified, but good faith effort documents have been provided, the Department will respond within 5 business days from receipt of your plan
3. If you fail to provide a complete replacement plan, the Department will return your request and identify deficiencies within 5 business days from receipt of your plan

If the Department authorizes your replacement plan it will do so in writing.

Submit a revised Subcontracting Request form if your replacement plan is authorized.

DBE committed work performed by a nonauthorized firm, will be a violation of these specifications and DBE federal regulations. Such violations will result in payment deductions for the value of the work associated with the DBE commitment. The Department will take a permanent deduction for the value of

the DBE work that was not performed by the authorized DBE. In addition, if the associated work was also to be performed by a listed subcontractor, the Department applies an additional penalty up to 10 percent of the value of the subject work as a permanent deduction.

5-1.13B(3) Use of Joint Checks

You may use a joint check between the Contractor or lower-tier subcontractor and a DBE subcontractor purchasing materials from a material supplier if you obtain prior approval from the Department for your proposed use of joint checks upon submittal of a DBE Joint Check Agreement Request form.

To use a joint check, the following conditions must be met:

1. All parties, including the Contractor, must agree in writing to the use of a joint check
2. Entity issuing the joint check acts solely to guarantee payment
3. DBE must release the check to the material supplier
4. Department must authorize the request before implementation
5. Any party to the agreement must provide requested documentation within 10 days of the Department's request for the documentation
6. Agreement to use a joint check must be short-term, not to exceed 1 year, allowing sufficient time needed to establish or increase a credit line with the material supplier

A request for a joint check agreement may be initiated by any party.

If a joint check is used, the DBE remains responsible for all elements of 49 CFR 26.55(c)(1).

Failure to comply with section 5-1.13B(3) disqualifies DBE participation and results in no credit and no payment to the Contractor for DBE participation.

A joint check may not be used between the Contractor or subcontractor and a DBE regular dealer, bulk material supplier, manufacturer, wholesaler, broker, trucker, packager, manufacturer's representative, or other persons who arrange or expedite transactions.