



U.S. Small Business
Administration

FAQs for WOSBs/EDWOSBs

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

General Questions

- 1. Why is the certification process for Women-Owned Small Businesses (WOSBs) and Economically Disadvantaged WOSBs (EDWOSBs) changing?**
 - a. The change to the certification process will implement Congress's changes to the WOSB and EDWOSB programs as put forth in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
- 2. When do the changes to the certification process go into effect?**
 - a. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) expects that the regulations enacting the statutory requirement will be published on June 30, 2020, and will be effective 30 days later.
- 3. Will currently certified WOSBs need to re-certify?**
 - a. Please see the "Currently Certified WOSBs/EDWOSBs" section below or the certification table at sba.gov/wosbready to see if you will need to re-certify.
- 4. Is SBA going to offer a free certification?**
 - a. Yes. Once the statutory requirement is enacted, you will be able to begin the process for certifying through SBA at certify.sba.gov.
- 5. Will third-party certification still be an option?**
 - a. Yes, third-party certification will still be an option.
- 6. Will self-certification still be an option?**
 - a. Firms must be certified in order to compete for WOSB/EDWOSB set-aside and sole-source contracts. Once the new rule goes into effect, you will have to either certify through an approved third-party entity or go through SBA certification at certify.sba.gov.
- 7. When and how will SBA provide us with more information about the changes to the certification process?**
 - a. We will provide regular updates on sba.gov/wosbready and through email and e-newsletter updates.
- 8. Who should I contact with questions about the new certification process?**
 - a. You can find resources at sba.gov/wosbready. You also can contact your local SBA regional and district office or Women's Business Center by visiting sba.gov/local-assistance.

WOSB READY



Currently Certified WOSBs/EDWOSBs

- 1. I am a third-party certified WOSB or EDWOSB. Do I need to re-certify?**
 - a. Third-party certified firms must re-certify three years after the date of their most recent re-certification as a third-party certified firm.
- 2. I am a self-certified WOSB or EDWOSB with active WOSB or EDWOSB set-aside contracts. Do I need to re-certify?**
 - a. A firm that was eligible as a WOSB or EDWOSB at the time of offer for the contract is considered a WOSB or EDWOSB throughout the life of the contract. For the purposes of contracts (including multiple award contracts) with durations of more than five years (including options), a firm must get certified by SBA or an approved third-party certifier prior to the end of the fifth year of the contract.
- 3. I am a self-certified WOSB or EDWOSB with no active contracts. Do I need to re-certify?**
 - a. Firms on a three-year re-certification cycle that received a positive final decision in a status protest or program examination in the two years prior to the date the rule is effective must re-certify within 30 days of their certification anniversary if there have been no material changes since their last certification. At the end of Year 3, they will undergo a full document review and re-certification.

WOSBs/EDWOSBs Aspiring to Become Certified

- 1. Does my status in another certification program (DBE, CVE, and 8(a)) make me certified for WOSB procurements?**
 - a. Evidence of certification through Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program (DBE), the Department of Veteran Affairs' Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE), or 8(a), in conjunction with evidence that the applicant meets the additional eligibility requirements of a WOSB or EDWOSB, will be accepted by SBA for WOSB/EDWOSB certification. Please see the certification table at sba.gov/wosbready for necessary documentation for each program.
- 2. Where can I find resources to help me prepare to do business with the federal government?**
 - a. Visit sba.gov/local-assistance to connect with entities such as your local SBA office or Women's Business Center that can help you prepare for doing business with the federal government.