



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. Self-certified firms with no active contracts need to get certified under the updated process to compete for WOSB set-aside contracts.

WOSBs/EDWOSBs Aspiring to Become Certified

- 1. Does my status in another certification program make me certified for WOSB procurements?**
 - a. Evidence of certification through 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. Going forward, SBA will evaluate the suitability of other potential certifiers, including new third-party certifiers and other government entity certifiers. 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.