



Establishment of the Program:

1. Why is VA's CVE verification program moving to the SBA?

- a. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA 2021) which transfers the certification function from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to the SBA as of January 1, 2023.
- b. Transferring CVE to the SBA is a natural fit as the SBA already manages all other government-wide socioeconomic contracting programs for small businesses.
- c. The transfer will help eliminate confusion and redundancy, providing veterans with a central support point for their small business certification and contracting assistance needs.

2. What is the SBA doing to make the transition from the VA to the SBA as seamless as possible?

- a. Ensuring a smooth transition is a top priority for both the SBA and VA.
- b. Firms verified by the VA Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE) as of January 1, 2023, are automatically granted certification by the SBA for the remainder of the firm's eligibility period. SBA's [Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman](#), intends to grant a one-time, one-year extension of certification to current veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs) verified by the VA as of the transfer date on January 1, 2023. This additional year will be added to the existing eligibility period of a current participant.
- c. The SBA will send firms verified by VA as of January 1, 2023 an invitation to create a profile in the SBA's new platform that will allow them to manage their certification.
- d. The SBA will have a call center to support veterans through the application process, and will conduct regular outreach to ensure firms interested in getting certified have the information they need.

3. When will the SBA assume responsibility for the certification and recertification of veteran-owned businesses?

- a. The assumption of responsibility is effective January 1, 2023.
- b. The VA stopped accepting new applications for VOSB and SDVOSB certification or recertification on October 24, 2022.
- c. From October 25, 2022, to SBA's assumption of responsibility, the VA will not accept any further applications.



- d. The VA intends to process actions already in their certification pipeline so there is no backlog transferred over to the SBA.
- e. Until the SBA opens the program in January 2023, the recommended next step for uncertified veteran-owned small businesses is to self-certify in [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) so that you have federal contracting opportunities through all federal agencies, aside from the VA, until 2024. Additionally, ensure your company is properly registered in SAM.gov, as the SBA system will rely on data from SAM.gov to start a new application.

4. **What is the name of the SBA's verification program?**

- a. The SBA program name for verifying veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs) is the **Veteran Small Business Certification Program, or VetCert**, and will be the Agency's vehicle for handling certification of VOSBs and SDVOSBs.
- b. The new name emphasizes the SBA's commitment to the veteran community and to properly certifying VOSBs SDVOSBs to compete for federal contracts.
- c. The VetCert program will launch to the public and begin accepting new applications in January 2023.
- d. See the SBA's press release for more information:
<https://www.sba.gov/article/2022/nov/03/administrator-guzman-announces-path-forward-veteran-small-business-certification-program>

One Year Extension:

5. **What changes to the certification timeline will impact CVE verified VOSBs and SDVOSBs when SBA assumes responsibility for certification?**

- a. There is no immediate requirement for VA verified businesses to certify. Their VA verification is automatically transferred to the SBA through the end of their current certification period.
- b. SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman, intends to grant a one-time, one-year extension of certification to current VOSBs and SDVOSBs verified by the VA as of the transfer date on January 1, 2023. This additional year will be added to the existing eligibility period of a current participant. The extension will allow the SBA to process applications from new entrants into the program and grow the base of certified firms.



Eligibility:

6. Who is eligible to apply for SBA certification?

- a. To apply for certification as a VOSB or SDVOSB status, you must meet the following criteria:
 - 1) Be considered a small business as defined by the size standard corresponding to at least one NAICS code listed in the business's SAM.gov profile.
 - 2) No less than 51 percent of the business must be owned and controlled by one or more veterans.
 - 3) For certification as a SDVOSB, no less than 51 percent of the business must be owned and controlled by one or more veterans rated as service-disabled by VA.
 - 4) For those veterans who are permanently and totally disabled and unable to manage the daily business operations of their business, their business may still qualify for certification as an SDVOSB if their spouse or appointed permanent caregiver is assisting in that management.
 - 5) For a SDVOSB, their business may continue to be certified as an SDVOSB for a maximum of ten years should the service-disabled veteran-owner pass away and their surviving spouse assume ownership and control.

Business Scenarios:

7. My business is currently VA CVE verified and expires after January 1, 2023:

- a. There is no immediate requirement for the business to recertify. Your business certification automatically transfers to the SBA.
- b. The SBA has granted a one-time, one-year certification extension as of the transfer date for firms verified by the VA prior to January 1, 2023.
- c. The one-year extension will be reflected in the SBA Veteran Small Business search tool.
- d. If the business applies for and receives recertification during the extension period, their new three-year certification begins from the date of expiration.
- e. For all verified businesses, as your verification expiration date approaches, you can apply for re-certification through the SBA's new certification program.

8. My application for certification was submitted to the VA prior to October 24, 2022, but I have not received confirmation of verification yet. What should I do?

- a. The VA intends to resolve all active applications in their pipeline prior to the SBA's assumption of responsibility.
- b. Contact the VA to check the status of your application.



9. **My application for re-certification was submitted to the VA prior to October 24, 2022, but I have not received confirmation of verification yet. What should I do?**
 - a. The VA intends to resolve all active applications in their pipeline prior to the SBA's assumption of responsibility.
 - b. Contact the VA to check the status of your application.

10. **My business certification is currently expired, and I did not renew it. What are my options?**
 - a. The opportunity window to renew certification status with the VA closed on October 24, 2022.
 - b. Until the SBA opens the VetCert program in January 2023, the recommended next step for uncertified veteran-owned small businesses is to self-certify prior to Jan 1, 2023, so that you have federal contracting opportunities through all federal agencies, aside from the VA, until 2024.
 - c. Once the SBA begins accepting applications in January 2023, you will be able to submit a new application through the SBA's Veteran Small Business Certification Program.

11. **My business certification expires before Jan 1, 2023, and I did not submit to renew.**
 - a. The opportunity window to renew certification status with the VA closed on October 24, 2022.
 - b. Until the SBA opens the VetCert program in January 2023, the recommended next step for uncertified veteran-owned small businesses is to self-certify prior to Jan 1, 2023, so that you have federal contracting opportunities through all federal agencies, aside from the VA, until 2024.
 - c. Once the SBA begins accepting applications in January 2023, you will be able to submit a new application through the SBA's Veteran Small Business Certification Program.

12. **My business is currently a self-certified SDVOSB.**
 - a. NDAA 2021 grants a one-year grace period for self-certified SDVOSBs until January 1, 2024.
 - b. During the grace period, self-certified businesses have one year to file an application for SDVOSB certification and may continue to rely on their self-certification to compete for non-VA SDVOSB set asides.
 - c. Self-certified SDVOSBs that apply before the expiration of the one-year grace period will maintain eligibility until the SBA makes a final eligibility decision.
 - d. To use the grace period, SDVOSBs may self-certify and rely on such certification to pursue non-VA set aside contracts. These businesses have until December 31, 2023, to file a complete application for SDVOSB certification with the SBA.



- e. Self-certified SDVOSBs that apply before the expiration of the one-year grace period (December 31, 2023) will maintain eligibility until the SBA makes a final eligibility decision. These firms will need to submit proof of a submitted application to Contracting Officers for any offer after January 1, 2024, and until a final eligibility determination is made by the SBA.
- f. See the SBA's press release for more information:
<https://www.sba.gov/article/2022/nov/03/administrator-guzman-announces-path-forward-veteran-small-business-certification-program>

13. **I didn't self-certify prior to January 1, 2023 – what do I do?**

- a. You may self-certify your business in SAM.gov. To apply for SBA certification, you will need to submit an application to the SBA for certification after the January 1, 2023, transfer date.

14. **Will the SBA address the VA's Veterans First authority once responsibility transfers to the SBA?**

- a. There is no effect on VA's Veterans First contracting authority. VA will continue to implement this policy utilizing the SBA's certification program and database for verification purposes as of January 1, 2023.
- b. There is no government-wide VOSB program, but VA will retain its unique authority to award set asides and sole source contracts to VOSBs. VA's database of verified firms will also transfer to the SBA who will own and maintain the database. VA contracting officers will use SBA's database to confirm a firm's eligibility when awarding on SDVOSB or VOSB set aside and sole source contracts.
- c. For all other agencies, SDVOSBs will need to be certified by the SBA to be eligible for set aside and sole source awards.

Differences in the SBA Program:

15. **Is the SBA's certification process different from the VA's CVE process?**

- a. Along with the transfer of verification to the SBA, there are changes to both the process and system to receive verification.
- b. A rule that governs the transfer and SBA's Veteran Small Business Certification Program was published in the [Federal Register](#) on November 29, 2022.



c. Some key differences to the SBA's process are listed below:

- 1) Along with the transfer to the SBA, there are changes to both the process and system to receive certification and make it easier for owners to have someone assist them in preparing their application.
- 2) After the grace period expires for SDVOSBs, all VOSBs and SDVOSBs will be expected to be certified by the SBA to receive sole source or set aside awards from federal agencies.
- 3) Agencies will continue to receive SDVOSB goaling credit for awards made to self-certified SDVOSB on non-SDVOSB set aside or sole source contracts. The SBA intends to reevaluate self-certification for goaling purposes once this program is launched.
- 4) SBA's VetCert provides reciprocal certification for businesses with remaining eligibility in the WOSB and 8a programs.
- 5) Business-friendly approach to ownership requirements that aligns veteran certifications with the 8a and WOSB programs.
- 6) Joint ventures do not require certification although the managing partner must be SBA certified and the joint venture must request designation.

16. Is the SBA's certification system different from the VA's CVE process?

- a. The SBA elected not to transfer the VA's CVE system to the SBA. The SBA developed its own system that incorporates an easy-to-follow questionnaire to apply for certification.
- b. To prepare for certification through the SBA's new system, ensure your business is registered in SAM.gov. The Veteran Small Business Certification webpage contains more information on preparing for certification.

17. After the transfer, how will the SBA determine veteran status?

- a. VA will continue to determine veteran status for veterans and service-disabled veterans and maintain records. The SBA will rely on the VA to provide that information for the certification process.

Timeline of the Program Launch:

18. When will the SBA system be online and ready to accept new certification applications?

- a. The SBA will begin accepting applications for certification on January 9, 2023.



MySBA:

19. **I've heard that the SBA is working on integrating all verification and lending programs under one portal called MySBA. Will the Veteran Small Business Certification Program be part of that system?**
- The SBA is developing a platform that will bring all certification, lending, and available resources under one integrated portal. That platform is under early development. The Veteran Small Business Certification Program, VetCert, will be a part of that system.
20. **Who will be performing the review and adjudication of applications at the SBA?**
- Many of the VA's CVE staff will transfer to the SBA. They will form the core of the team reviewing applications. The final staffing solution is still under development.

More Information:

21. **Where can I go for more information about the CVE transfer?**
- The SBA created an email address for all CVE-related questions and is distributing monthly updates about the transfer. To receive updates and be added to the email distribution list, please email cvetransfer@sba.gov.
 - For the latest information, visit <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs/veteran-assistance-programs>.

Contracting:

22. **I am a contracting officer. What do I need to know about this change?**
- Until the transfer date, verification of SDVOSBs and VOSBs seeking VA contracts will remain with VA and contracting officers outside of VA should continue to award set-asides using self-certification for SDVOSBs.
 - After the transfer to the SBA on January 1, 2023, any small business wanting to compete in the federal market as a VOSB or SDVOSB will need to be certified by the SBA.
 - VA will retain its unique authority to make contract award set-asides to VOSBs and will rely on the SBA's certification beginning January 2023 to verify SDVOSB or VOSB eligibility.
 - Until the SBA opens the VetCert program in January 2023, the recommended next step for uncertified veteran-owned small businesses is to self-certify so businesses have federal contracting opportunities through all federal agencies, aside from the VA, until 2024.