

Information for Farm Bill Program Applicants & Contractors Using an Employer Identification Number

Introduction

If your business or organization plans to apply for conservation program or grant funding through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and you use an Employer Identification Number (EIN), you will need a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and must be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM). The DUNS number is required for any federal contract application and applicants must maintain current registration with SAM to receive payments.

Information in the DUNS/SAM system needs to match what is used for NRCS purposes, including business name, EIN and address. **When entering your legal business name in DUNS/SAM, refer to the form provided by the IRS when your EIN was issued (CP-575) or request a "Request confirmation of Employer Identification Number (EIN), IRS Letter 147C, EIN Previously Assigned" form by calling the IRS Business & Specialty Tax Line.**

If you apply as an individual and/or use your social security number as your Tax Identification Number, you do NOT need to obtain a DUNS number or SAM.

About the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)

A DUNS number is a unique nine-character identification number provided by the commercial company Dun & Bradstreet (D&B), a provider of business information reports. The federal government uses the DUNS number to maintain consistent name and address data about organizations or businesses. This helps maintain and organize applications and contracts across federal agencies.

Who needs a DUNS Number & SAM?

All entities using an EIN and doing business with NRCS must have a DUNS number and active registration in the SAM database. This requirement pertains to ALL financial assistance, stewardship, easement and watershed programs, as well as grants, cooperative agreements and contribution agreements. NRCS requires applicants to obtain the required registrations before applying for programs. Applications cannot be processed without this information. There is NO cost for registration.

Participants must maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times when applying for or participating in NRCS programs. If a participant has not complied with these requirements, NRCS may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a conservation program agreement.

If you already have a DUNS number, you do not need a new one for NRCS. The following table can be used to help determine if applicants need to complete the DUNS/SAM process based on their business and Tax ID type.

Business Type Code	Business Type	Tax ID Type	DUNS/SAM Required
0	Individual	SSN	No
2	General Partnership	EIN	Yes
3	Joint Venture	EIN	Yes
3	Joint Venture	SSN	No
4	Corporation or Limited Liability Company	EIN	Yes
4	Limited Liability Company	SSN	No
5	Limited Partnership	EIN	Yes
6	Estate	EIN	Yes
7	Trust-Revocable	SSN	No
7	Trust-Revocable	EIN	Yes
10	Churches, Charities & Non-Profits	EIN	Yes
17	Trust-Irrevocable	EIN	Yes
18	Individual Operating as a Small Business	EIN	Yes

References for EIN, DUNS and SAM

EIN Contact Information: Call the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) assistance for businesses at (800) 829-4933.

D&B Contact Information: The D&B toll-free request line is (866) 705-5711 and their website is, www.dnb.com

SAM Contact Information: The Customer Service line is (866) 606 - 8220 and their website is www.sam.gov

Registering with DUNS and SAM.gov is free. Hiring a private service provider is not a requirement to register.

Obtaining a DUNS Number

Obtaining a DUNS number is free for all entities doing business with the federal government. The following information is needed to request a DUNS number:

- » Legal name of the organization, headquarters name and address.
- » Telephone number, name of the CEO or owner.
- » Number of employees at the physical location.
- » Legal structure and primary line of business.
- » Year the organization was established.
- » SIC Code: A US Department of Labor business classification system; you may look up your SIC code online at www.osha.gov/pls/imis/sic_manual.html

How to obtain a DUNS Number

You may request a DUNS number online at: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. You can no longer complete the process over the phone, however, you may contact D&B through their toll-free number for federal award applicants at (866) 705-5711 and request a three-page application to fax back. When you request a DUNS number, identify yourself as a federal grant applicant or prospective applicant. After you provide the information listed above via fax or the on-line application, you should receive an e-mail confirmation. D&B can assign a DUNS number within one business day.

Managing your DUNS Number

There is no need to establish a new DUNS numbers in the future for specific programs or agencies, just be sure to update or validate the information on your current listing. D&B periodically contacts organizations with DUNS numbers to verify the information is still current. D&B is only checking the information you have provided (listed above). Please remain vigilant in protecting your personal information and do not provide social security, bank information, etc. to “cold calls” or questionable mail requests.

Obtaining a DUNS number may place you on D&B’s marketing list, which is sold to other companies. If you DO NOT want your name or organization to be included on this list, simply request to be omitted during the application process.

Registering with SAM

Once you have a DUNS number, you must also register with SAM. SAM is a government-wide registry for vendors doing business with the federal government which replaced Centralized Contractor Registration (CCR). If you had an active record in CCR, you have an active record in SAM.

SAM centralizes information about federal financial assistance recipients and also provides a central location for you to change your organizational information. Upon receipt of the DUNS number, it is the participant’s responsibility to maintain current information with SAM.

- » SAM registration must be renewed annually.
- » Information for registering with SAM can be found at: www.sam.gov.
- » The SAM Learning Center at https://www.fsd.gov/fsd-gov/learning-center-system.do?sysparm_system=SAM contains links to a Quick Start Guide and User Manual
- » For additional privacy, consider opting out when completing this process in order to prevent your company information from being displayed in the public search.

What you will need to register with SAM

Begin the SAM registration process at www.sam.gov. After entering your DUNS number, SAM will retrieve the name and address information from D&B. You will then be prompted for the following information:

EIN number: If you already have an EIN number, it will take 3 to 5 business days to clear the EIN/SAM match process. (If you have a newly assigned EIN you must wait until you receive the CP-575 notice from the IRS confirming that the EIN is active and valid for use before registering with SAM.) Once a match is confirmed, you can enter the remaining required information to complete your registration.

Statistical information about your business: This may include information regarding receipts and number of employees.

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT): Information for payments and invoices, including the following;

- » ABA Routing number for your bank
- » Account Number and Type, or Lockbox number
- » Automated Clearing House (ACH) point of contact
- » Remittance point of contact

Important

When registering for DUNS and SAM the following information needs to match exactly what is in the NRCS system:

- Entity Name
- Employer Identification Number
- Address

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