

Important Update for Cooperative Agreement, Grants, Indemnity, Contracts, and Procurement Awards Recipients

APHIS would like to make all recipients of cooperative agreement, grant, indemnity, contract and procurement awards aware of an important change to streamline entity identification and validation processes. By April 4, 2022, the Federal Government will stop using the Dun & Bradstreet Numbering System (DUNS) that uniquely identifies entities in the System for Award Management (SAM). Moving forward, you will need to have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) created in SAM.gov. The General Services Administration is implementing this change to make it easier and less burdensome for entities to do business with the Federal Government.

What does this mean for entities that do business with APHIS?

- Entities that are recipients of cooperative agreements, grants, indemnities, contract and procurement awards with APHIS will no longer have to go to a third-party website to obtain their identifier. This transition allows the General Services Administration (GSA) to streamline the entity identification and validation process, making it easier and less burdensome for entities to do business with the Federal Government.

What actions do entities that already do business with APHIS have to take to create a UEI in SAM.gov?

- Entities already registered in SAM.gov will have their UEI automatically assigned and viewable within SAM.gov. There is no action required for these registered entities to take at this time.

What actions do entities who will begin doing business with APHIS have to take to create a UEI in SAM.gov?

- If you are registering before April 4, 2022 - All cooperative agreement and grants, contracts, indemnities, and procurement awards recipients must still have a DUNS and active SAM registration to receive federal financial assistance.
- If you are registering on or after April 4, 2022, you can just request a Unique Entity ID. For information on how to get registered in SAM, GSA has provided a Quick Start Guide to Getting a Unique Entity ID located here: [Quick Start Guide for Getting a Unique Entity ID.pdf](#).

Are there any exemptions?

There are no exemptions for recipients of cooperative agreements, grants, contracts, and procurement awards. However, there are limited exemptions to the DUNS/UEI and SAM requirements for indemnity recipients. Generally, these exceptions are requested at the time of the indemnification and can be requested and approved on a case-by-case basis.

Where can I find more information on the implementation of UEI?

- More information on the Federal Wide initiative can be found here: [Unique Entity Identifier Update | GSA](#).
- Please direct any questions related to indemnification and UEI exemptions to the attention of fost@usda.gov.