

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS
LPA DBE PROGRAM COMPLIANCE ASSURANCES SUBCONTRACT
(08/11/2026)

LPA/SUBRECIPIENT FEDERAL AID CONTRACT WITH OR WITHOUT DBE GOAL

1. Assurances of Non-Discrimination: (LPA EPRISE 2.0)

The contractor, subrecipient, or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the award and administration of USDOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the LPA/Subrecipient, with the Department's concurrence, deems appropriate, which may include, but not limited to:

- (1) Withholding monthly progress payments;
- (2) Assessing sanctions and/or
- (4) Disqualifying the contractor from future bidding as non-responsible.

The contractor, subrecipient, or subcontractor shall ensure that all subcontract agreements contain this non-discrimination assurance.

2. Time is of the Essence: (LPA EPRISE 8.0)

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE IN RESPECT TO THE DBE PROVISIONS.

3. Computation of Time: (LPA EPRISE 9.0)

In computing any period of time described in this DBE special provision, such as calendar days, the day from which the period begins to run is not counted, and when the last day of the period is a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal or State holiday, the period extends to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal or State holiday. In circumstances where the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office is closed for all or part of the last day, the period extends to the next day on which the LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office is open.

4. Crediting DBE Participation Toward Meeting Goals: (LPA EPRISE 18.0)

General Requirements:

To count toward meeting a goal, the DBE firm must be certified as of the deadline for submission of bids in each NAICS code applicable to the kind of work the firm will perform on the contract. NAICS for each DBE can be found on the AZ UTRACS under the Firm Directory. General descriptions of all NAICS codes can be found at www.naics.com.

Credit towards the contractor's DBE goal is given only after the DBE has been paid for the work performed.

The entire amount of a contract that is performed by the DBE's own forces, including the cost of supplies and materials purchased by the DBE for the work on the contract and equipment leased by the DBE will be credited toward DBE participation. Supplies and equipment the DBE subcontractor purchases or leases from the prime contractor or its affiliate will not be credited toward DBE participation. Work included in a force account item cannot be listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit.

The contractor bears the responsibility to determine whether the DBE possesses the proper contractor's license(s) to perform the work and, if DBE credit is requested, that the DBE subcontractor is certified for the requested type of work.

If a DBE cannot complete its work due to failure to obtain or maintain its licensing, the contractor bears the responsibility to notify the LPA/Subrecipient immediately after the contractor becomes aware of the situation, and request approval to replace the DBE with another DBE. The contractor shall follow the DBE termination/substitution requirements described in Subsection 24.0 of these DBE provisions.

The Department's certification is not a representation of a DBE's qualifications and/or abilities. The contractor bears all risks that the DBE may not be able to perform its work for any reason.

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A DBE may participate as a prime contractor, subcontractor, joint venture partner with either a prime contractor or a subcontractor, or as a vendor of materials or supplies. A DBE joint venture partner shall be responsible for a clearly defined portion of the work to be performed, in addition to meeting the requirements for ownership and control.

The dollar amount of work to be accomplished by DBEs, including partial amount of a lump sum or other similar item, shall be on the basis of subcontract, purchase order, hourly rate, rate per ton, etc., as agreed to between parties.

With the exception of bond premiums, all work must be attributed to specific bid items. Where work applies to several items, the DBE contracting arrangement must specify unit price and amount attributable to each bid item. DBE credit for any individual item of work performed by the DBE shall be the lesser of the amount to be paid to the DBE or the prime contractor's bid price. If the amount bid by the DBE on any item exceeds the prime contractor's bid amount, the prime contractor may not obtain credit by attributing the excess to other items.

Where more than one DBE is engaged to perform parts of an item (for example, supply and installation), the total amount payable to the DBEs will not be considered in excess of the prime contractor's bid amount for that item.

Bond premiums may be stated separately, so long as the arrangement between the prime contractor and the DBE provides for separate payment not to exceed the price charged by the bonding company.

DBE credit may be obtained only for specific work done for the project, supply of equipment specifically for physical work on the project, or supply of materials to be incorporated in the work. DBE credit will not be allowed for costs such as overhead items, capital expenditures (for example, purchase of equipment), and office items.

If a DBE performs part of an item (for example, installation of materials purchased by a Non-DBE), the DBE credit shall not exceed the lesser of (1) the DBE's contract or (2) the prime contractor's bid for the item, less a reasonable deduction for the portion performed by the Non-DBE.

When a DBE performs as a partner in a joint venture, only that portion of the total dollar value of the contract which is clearly and distinctly performed by the DBE's own forces can be credited toward the DBE goal.

The contractor may credit second-tier subcontracts issued to DBEs by non-DBE subcontractors. Any second-tier subcontract to a DBE used to meet the goal must meet the requirements of a first-tier DBE subcontract.

A prime contractor may credit the entire amount of that portion of a construction contract that is performed by the DBE's own forces. The cost of supplies and materials obtained by the DBE for the work of the contract can be included so long as that cost is reasonable. Leased equipment may also be included. No credit is permitted for supplies purchased or equipment leased from the prime contractor or its affiliate(s).

When a DBE subcontracts a part of the work of its contract to another firm, the value of the subcontract may be credited towards the DBE goal only if the DBE's subcontractor is itself a DBE and performs the work with its own forces. Work that a DBE subcontracts to a non-DBE firm does not count toward a DBE goal.

A prime contractor may credit the entire amount of fees or commissions charged by a DBE firm for providing a bona fide service, such as professional, technical, consultant, or managerial services, or for providing bonds or insurance specifically required for the performance of a USDOT-assisted contract, provided the fees are reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services.

DBE Prime Contractor:

When a certified DBE firm bids on a contract that contains a DBE goal, the DBE firm is responsible for meeting the DBE goal on the contract or making good faith efforts to meet the goal, just like any other bidder. In most cases, a DBE bidder on a contract will meet the DBE goal by virtue of the work it performs on the contract with its own forces. However, all the work that is performed by the DBE bidder or any other DBE subcontractors and DBE suppliers will count toward the DBE goal. The DBE bidder shall list itself along with any DBE subcontractors and suppliers, on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit and Summary in order to receive credit toward the DBE goal.

Effect of Loss of DBE Eligibility:

If a DBE or a DBE prime contractor is deemed ineligible, decertified, or suspended by the Department in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26.87 and 49 CFR Part 26.88, the following provisions shall apply:

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1. If a DBE firm loses its DBE eligibility because the DBE firm was acquired by a non-DBE firm, no work performed by the DBE firm after the Decision Date will be counted toward DBE participation.
2. If a subcontract, contract, or supplier arrangement has been executed before the Decision Date, work performed by the DBE firm will be counted toward DBE participation.
3. If neither paragraph (A) nor paragraph (B) above applies, the work performed by the DBE firm after the Decision Date will be counted toward DBE participation.
4. If the contractor extends or adds work to the DBE firm's subcontract, that work will not be counted towards DBE participation unless the contractor has obtained prior approval from the Department for DBE credit. Any requests to extend or add work to the DBE firm's subcontract to count towards DBE participation shall be submitted using the request form, made available on SBWD's website at azdot.gov/business/business-engagement-and-compliance/lpasubrecipient/contract-forms-specs to extend Decertified DBE contract for DBE credit.
5. The Department will consent to such DBE credit only if the added work is within the foreseeable range of added work, given the circumstances of the original DBE contract.
6. For the purposes of this subsection, "Decision Date" means the date the Department notifies the DBE that it has become ineligible, decertified, or suspended under 49 CFR Part 26.87(c)(4), (g).

Notifying the Contractor of DBE Certification Status:

Each DBE contract of any tier shall require any DBE subcontractor or supplier that is either decertified or certified during the term of the contract to immediately notify the contractor and all parties to the DBE contract in writing, with the date of decertification or certification. The contractor shall require that this provision be incorporated in any contract of any tier in which a DBE is a participant.

Police Officers:

DBE credit will not be permitted for procuring DPS officers. For projects on which officers from other agencies are supplied, DBE credit will be given only for the broker fees charged, and will not include amounts paid to the officers. The broker fees must be reasonable.

Commercially Useful Function:

A prime contractor can credit expenditures to a DBE subcontractor toward DBE goals only if the DBE performs a Commercially Useful Function (CUF).

In conformity with 49 CFR Part 26.55(c), a DBE performs a CUF when it is responsible for execution of the work of a contract and carries out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved. To perform a commercially useful function, the DBE must also be responsible, with respect to materials and supplies on the contract, for negotiating price, determining quality and quantity, ordering the material, and installing (where applicable) and paying for the material itself that it uses on the project. To determine whether a DBE is performing a commercially useful function, the LPA/Subrecipient will evaluate the amount of work subcontracted, industry practices, whether the amount the firm is to be paid under the contract is commensurate with the work it is actually performing and the DBE credit claimed for its performance of the work, and other relevant factors.

A DBE will not be considered to perform a commercially useful function if its role is limited to that of an extra participant in a transaction, contract, or project through which funds are passed in order to obtain the appearance of DBE participation. In determining whether a DBE is such an extra participant, the LPA/Subrecipient will examine similar transactions, particularly those in which DBEs do not participate.

If a DBE does not perform or exercise responsibility for at least 30 percent of the total cost of its contract with its own workforce, or if the DBE subcontracts a greater portion of the work of a contract than would be expected within normal industry practice for the type of work involved, the LPA/Subrecipient will presume that the DBE is not performing a commercially useful function.

When a DBE is presumed not to be performing a commercially useful function as provided above, the DBE may present evidence to rebut this presumption. The LPA/Subrecipient will determine if the firm is performing a CUF given the type of work involved and normal industry practices.

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The LPA/Subrecipient will notify the contractor, in writing, if it determines that the contractor's DBE subcontractor is not performing a CUF. The contractor will be notified within seven calendar days of the LPA/Subrecipient's decision.

Decisions on CUF may be appealed to the ADOT SBWD. The appeal must be in writing and personally delivered or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the ADOT SBWD. The appeal must be received by the ADOT SBWD no later than seven calendar days after the decision of LPA/Subrecipient. LPA/Subrecipient decision remains in effect unless and until ADOT SBWD reverses or modifies LPA/Subrecipient decision. ADOT SBWD will promptly consider any appeals under this subsection and notify the contractor of the ADOT SBWD findings and decisions. Decisions on CUF matters are not administratively appealable to USDOT.

The LPA/Subrecipient will conduct project site visits on the contract to confirm that DBEs are performing a CUF. The contractor shall cooperate during the site visits and the LPA/Subrecipient staff will make every effort not to disrupt work on the project.

Trucking:

In conformity with 49 CFR Part 26.55(d), LPA/Subrecipient will use the following factors in determining whether a DBE trucking company is performing a commercially useful function. The DBE must be responsible for the management and supervision of the entire trucking operation for which it is responsible on a particular contract, and there cannot be a contrived arrangement for the purpose of meeting DBE goals.

The DBE must itself own and operate at least one fully licensed, insured, and operational truck used on the contract on every day that credit is to be given for trucking.

The contractor will receive credit for the total value of transportation services provided by the DBE using trucks it owns, insures and operates, and using drivers it employs.

The DBE may lease trucks from another DBE firm, including an owner-operator who is certified as a DBE. The DBE who leases trucks from another DBE receives credit for the total value of the transportation services.

The DBE may also lease trucks from a non-DBE firm, including an owner-operator. The DBE who leases trucks with drivers from a non-DBE is entitled to credit for the total value of the transportation services provided by non-DBE leased trucks with drivers not to exceed the value of transportation services on the contract provided by DBE-owned trucks or leased trucks with DBE employee drivers. Additional participation by non-DBE owned trucks with drivers receives credit only for the fee or commission paid to the DBE as a result of the lease agreement.

Example: DBE Firm X uses two of its own trucks on a contract. It leases two trucks from DBE Firm Y and six trucks from non-DBE firm Z. DBE credit would be awarded for the total value of transportation services provided by Firm X and Firm Y, and may also be awarded for the total value of transportation services provided by four of the six trucks provided by Firm Z. In all, full credit would be allowed for the participation of eight trucks. DBE credit could be awarded only for the fees or commissions pertaining to the remaining trucks Firm X receives as a result of the lease with Firm Z.

The DBE may lease trucks without drivers from a non-DBE truck leasing company. If the DBE leases trucks from a non-DBE leasing company and uses its own employees as drivers, it is entitled to credit for the total value of these hauling services.

Example: DBE Firm X uses two of its own trucks on a contract. It leases three additional trucks from non-DBE Firm Z. Firm X uses its own employees to drive the trucks leased from Firm Z. DBE credit would be awarded for the total value of the transportation services provided by all five trucks.

For purposes of this section, a lease must indicate that the DBE has exclusive use of and control over the truck. This does not preclude the leased truck from working for others during the term of the lease with the consent of the DBE, so long as the lease gives the DBE absolute priority for use of the leased truck. Leased trucks must display the name and identification number of the DBE. Credit will be allowed only for those lease costs related to the time each truck is devoted to the project.

DBE credit for supplying paving grade asphalt and other asphalt products will only be permitted for standard industry hauling costs, and only if the DBE is owner or lessee of the equipment and trucks. Leases for trucks must be long term (extending for a fixed time period and not related to time for contract performance) and must include all attendant responsibilities such as insurance, titling, hazardous waste requirements, and payment of drivers.

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Materials and Supplies:

In conformity with 49 CFR Part 26.55(e), the LPA/Subrecipient will credit expenditures with DBEs for material and supplies towards the DBE goal as follows:

1. If the materials or supplies are obtained from a DBE manufacturer, 100 percent of the cost of the materials or supplies is credited.
 - a. A DBE manufacturer is defined as: a firm that owns, or leases, and operates a factory or establishment that produces, on the premises, the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment required under the contract, and of the general character described by the specifications.
 - b. Manufacturing includes blending or modifying raw materials or assembling components to create the product to meet contract specifications. When a DBE makes minor modifications to the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment, the DBE is not a manufacturer. Minor modifications are additional changes to a manufactured product that are small in scope and add minimal value to the final product.
2. If the materials or supplies are purchased from a DBE regular dealer, 60 percent of the cost of the materials or supplies, (including transportation costs), is credited.
 - a. A DBE regular dealer is defined as: a firm that owns, or leases, and operates, or maintains a store or warehouse or other establishment in which the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment of the general character described by the specifications and required under the contract are bought, kept in sufficient quantities, and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business.
 - i. To be a regular dealer, the firm must be an established, regular business that engages, as its principal business and under its own name, in the purchase and sale or lease of the products in question.
 - ii. Items kept and regularly sold by the DBE are of the "general character" when they share the same material characteristics and application as the items specified by the contract.
 - b. A firm may be a DBE regular dealer in such bulk items as petroleum products, steel, concrete or concrete products, stone or asphalt without owning and operating a place of business, as provided above, if the person both owns and operates distribution equipment used to deliver the products. Any supplementing of regular dealers' own distribution equipment must be by a long-term operating lease, and not on an ad-hoc or contract-by-contract basis.
 - c. A DBE supplier performs a CUF as a regular dealer and receives credit for 60 percent of the cost of materials or supplies, including transportation cost, when all, or at least 51 percent of, the items under a purchase order or subcontract are provided from the DBE's inventory, and when necessary, any minor quantities delivered from and by other sources are of the general character as those provided from the DBE's inventory.
 - d. A DBE supplier of items that are not typically stocked due to their unique characteristics (e.g., limited shelf life or items ordered to specification) should be considered in the same manner as a regular dealer of bulk items as described above. If the DBE supplier of these items does not own or lease distribution equipment, as described above, it is not a regular dealer.
 - e. Packagers, brokers, manufacturers' representatives, or other persons who arrange, facilitate or expedite transactions are not regular dealers within the meaning of this paragraph and the paragraph above.
3. If the materials or supplies are purchased from a DBE distributor that neither maintains sufficient inventory nor uses its own distribution equipment for the products in question, 40 percent of the cost of materials or supplies (including transportation costs) count for credit.
 - a. A DBE distributor is defined as: an established business that engages in the regular sale or lease of the items specified by the contract. A DBE distributor assumes responsibility for the items it purchases once they leave the point of origin (e.g., a manufacturer's facility), making it liable for any loss or damage not covered by the carrier's insurance.
 - b. A DBE distributor performs a CUF when it demonstrates ownership of the items in question and assumes all risk for loss or damage during transportation, evidenced by the terms of the purchase order or a bill of lading (BOL) from a third party, indicating Free on Board (FOB) at the point of origin or similar terms that transfer responsibility of the items in question to the DBE distributor.

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- c. If paragraph (1) and paragraph (2), above, are met, DBE distributors may receive 40 percent for drop-shipped items.
- d. Terms that transfer liability to the distributor at the delivery destination (e.g., FOB destination), or deliveries made or arranged by the manufacturer or another seller do not satisfy this requirement.
- 4. With respect to materials or supplies purchased from a DBE which is neither a manufacturer, a regular dealer, nor a distributor, the following standards shall apply:
 - a. The LPA/Subrecipient will credit the entire amount of the fees or commissions charged by the DBE for: (1) assistance in the procurement of the materials and supplies, or (2) fees or transportation charges for the delivery of materials or supplies required on a job site, toward DBE goals.
 - b. The LPA/Subrecipient will only credit the fees or commissions charged by the DBE if the Department determines the fees to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services.
 - c. The cost of the materials and supplies themselves may not be counted toward the DBE goal.
- 5. The LPA/Subrecipient will credit expenditures with DBEs for material and supplies (e.g. whether a firm is acting as a regular dealer, distributor or a transaction facilitator) towards the DBE goal on a contract-by-contract basis.
- 6. The fact that a DBE firm qualifies under a classification (manufacturer, regular dealer, distributor or supplier) for one contract does not mean it will qualify for the same classification on another contract.
- 7. The bidder shall be responsible for verifying whether a DBE qualifies as a DBE manufacturer, regular dealer, distributor or supplier.
 - a. For each DBE firm listed as a regular dealer or distributor, the bidder must assess a DBE firm's eligibility for 60 or 40 percent credit, respectively, of the cost of materials and supplies based on its demonstrated capacity and intent to perform as a regular dealer or distributor.
 - b. To receive credit toward the DBE goal, the bidder shall use and submit the form made available on SBWD's website at <https://azdot.gov/business/small-business-and-workforce-development/lpasubrecipient/contract-forms-specs> to affirm the DBE firm's capacity and intent to perform as a regular dealer or distributor.

5. Effect of Contract Changes: (LPA EPRISE 19.0)

If for any reason it becomes apparent that the DBE goal will not be met then the contractor shall: (1) immediately notify the LPA/Subrecipient of the potential or actual decrease in DBE compensation, and (2) make good faith efforts to obtain DBE participation to meet or exceed the DBE contract goal. Good faith efforts required under the provisions of this section may vary, depending on the time available, the nature of the change, who initiated the change, and other factors as determined by LPA/Subrecipient.

LPA/Subrecipient will approve or deny the contractor's good faith efforts with SBWD concurrence.

The contractor is not required to take work committed to another subcontractor and assign it to a DBE subcontractor in order to meet the committed DBE percentage.

If the resulting change increases the scope or quantity of work being done by a DBE subcontractor, the DBE shall be given the opportunity to complete the additional work and receive additional compensation beyond their original subcontract amount.

6. DBE Participation Above the Goal (DBE Neutral Participation): (LPA EPRISE 20.0)

Additional DBE participation above the DBE participation required to meet the contract DBE goal is an important aspect of the Department's DBE program. The contractor is strongly encouraged to use additional DBEs above the DBE goal requirement in the contract to assist the Department in meeting its overall DBE goal and help the Department to meet the maximum feasible portion of its DBE goals through DBE neutral participation as outlined in 49 CFR Part 26.

There are fewer administrative requirements on the part of the contractor when using DBE neutral DBEs (DBEs not listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary). For example, if a DBE is not listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary, the DBE does not have to submit an Affidavit, and the subcontract approval process follows the same

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process of any other subcontract. The contractor does not have to replace the DBE neutral DBE with another DBE subcontractor if the DBE neutral DBE fails to perform. Therefore these DBEs are treated as any other subcontractor on the project.

7. Required Provisions for DBE Subcontracts: (LPA EPRISE 21.0)

All subcontracts of any tier, all supply contracts, and any other contracts in which a DBE is a party shall include, as a physical attachment, LPA DBE Program Compliance Assurances for Subcontracts available from the LPA/Subrecipient.

Contractors executing agreements with subcontractors, DBE or non-DBE, that materially modify federal regulation and state statutes such as, prompt payment and retention requirements, through subcontract terms and conditions will be found in breach of contract which may result in termination of the contract, or any other such remedy as the LPA/Subrecipient and ADOT deem appropriate as outlined in DBE Subsection 2.0.

LPA/Subrecipient reserves the right to conduct random reviews of DBE and non-DBE subcontract documentation to ensure compliance with federal requirements.

The contractor shall ensure that all subcontracts or agreements with DBEs to supply labor or materials require that the subcontract and all lower tier subcontracts be performed in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26.

The Contractor shall provide electronic copies of signed subcontract agreements for all DBE Subcontracts listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary by uploading them within 15 calendar days of an approved contract to the LPA DBE System.

8. Contract Performance: (LPA EPRISE 22.0)

Contract items of work designated by the contractor to be awarded to DBEs shall be performed by the designated DBE or a LPA/Subrecipient, with SBWD concurrence, approved DBE substitute. DBE contract work items shall not be performed by the contractor, or a non-DBE subcontractor without prior approval by the LPA/Subrecipient, with SBWD concurrence. The DBE must perform a commercially useful function; that is, the DBE must manage, perform, and supervise a distinct element of work.

The contractor is required to use DBEs identified to meet the contract goal, so the prime contractor is responsible for ensuring that the DBEs are available to meet scheduling, work and other requirements on the contract.

LPA/Subrecipient will conduct reviews to ensure compliance with DBE requirements. The reviews may include, among other activities, interview of DBEs and their employees and the contractor and its employees. The contractor shall cooperate in the review and make its employees available. The contractor shall inform the LPA/Subrecipient in advance when each DBE will be working on the project to help facilitate reviews.

LPA/Subrecipient reserves the right to inspect all records of the contractor and all records of the DBEs and non-DBE subcontractors concerning this contract. The contractor must make all documents related to all contracts available to the LPA/Subrecipient upon request.

The contractor shall provide to the LPA/Subrecipient, at the pre-construction conference, copies of all completed, approved, and signed subcontracts, purchase orders, invoices, etc., with all committed DBEs. These documents shall include the AZ UTRACS Registration number for the subcontractor or materials supplier.

Use of every DBE listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary is a condition of this contract. The contractor shall utilize the specific DBEs listed to perform the work and supply the materials for which each is listed on the Intended Participation Affidavit Summary unless the contractor obtains written consent from the LPA/Subrecipient with SBWD concurrence. The contractor shall not be entitled to any payment for work or material that is not performed or supplied by the listed DBE, unless the contractor obtains written consent from the LPA/Subrecipient with SBWD concurrence.

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9. Joint Checks: (LPA EPRISE 23.0)

Requirements:

A DBE subcontractor and a material supplier (or equipment supplier) may request permission for the use of joint checks for payments from the prime contractor to the DBE subcontractor and the supplier. Joint checks may be issued only if all the conditions in this subsection are met.

1. The DBE subcontractor must be independent from the prime contractor and the supplier, and must perform a commercially useful function. The DBE subcontractor must be responsible for negotiating the price of the material, determining quality and quantity, ordering the materials, installing (where applicable), and paying for the material. The DBE subcontractor may not be utilized as an extra participant in a transaction, contract, or project in order to obtain the appearance of DBE participation.
2. The use of joint checks will be allowed only if the prime contractor, DBE subcontractor, and material supplier establish that the use of joint checks in similar transactions is a commonly recognized business practice in the industry, particularly with respect to similar transactions in which DBE's do not participate.
3. A material or supply contract may not bear an excessive ratio relative to the DBE subcontractor's normal capacity.
4. There may not be any exclusive arrangement between one prime and one DBE in the use of joint checks that may bring into question whether the DBE is independent of the prime contractor.
5. Any arrangement for joint checks must be in writing, and for a specific term (for example, one year, or a specified number of months) that does not exceed a reasonable time to establish a suitable credit line with the supplier.
6. The prime contractor may act solely as the payer of the joint check, and may not have responsibility for establishing the terms of the agreement between the DBE subcontractor and the supplier.
7. The DBE must be responsible for receiving the check from the prime contractor and delivering the check to the supplier.
8. The prime contractor cannot require the DBE subcontractor to use a specific supplier, and the prime contractor may not participate in the negotiation of unit prices between the DBE subcontractor and the supplier.

Procedure and Compliance:

1. SBWD must approve the agreement for the use of joint checks in writing before any joint checks are issued. The prime contractor shall submit a DBE joint check request form, available from the SBWD website, along with the joint check agreement, to LPA/Subrecipient and SBWD through email within seven calendar days from the time the subcontract is executed.
2. After obtaining authorization from SBWD for the use of joint checks, the prime contractor, the DBE, and the supplier must retain documentation to allow for efficient monitoring of the agreement by the LPA/Subrecipient.
3. Copies of canceled checks must be submitted, with the payment information for the period in which the joint check was issued, electronically through email to LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office and made available for review at the time of the onsite CUF review. The prime contractor, DBE, and supplier each have an independent duty to report to the LPA/Subrecipient in the case of any change from the approved joint check arrangement.
4. Any failure to comply will be considered by the LPA/Subrecipient, with ADOT concurrence to be a material breach of this contract and will subject the prime contractor, DBE, and supplier to contract remedies and, in the case of serious violations, a potential for termination of the contract, or other remedies which may prevent future participation by the offending party.

10. DBE Termination/Substitution: (LPA EPRISE 24.0)

General Requirements:

The contractor shall make all reasonable efforts to avoid terminating or substituting a DBE listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary. At a minimum, the contractor shall negotiate in good faith, give timely notices and/or extend deadlines to the extent that it will not jeopardize the contract with the LPA/Subrecipient. Reasonable methods to resolve performance disputes must be applied and documentation provided to LPA/Subrecipient before attempting to substitute or terminate a DBE.

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Contractor Notice of Termination/Substitution:

All terminations, substitutions, and reductions in scope of work to be performed by DBEs listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary must be approved in writing by the LPA/Subrecipient, with SBWD concurrence. The contractor shall contact the LPA/Subrecipient within 24 hours from the first sign of any reason for potential DBE termination/substitution.

The contractor shall not terminate a DBE subcontractor listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit or complete the work contracted to the DBE with its own forces or with a non-DBE firm without the LPA/Subrecipient written consent and SBWD concurrence. Before submitting a formal request to the LPA/Subrecipient for DBE termination/substitution, the contractor shall give written notice to the DBE subcontractor with a copy sent concurrently to the LPA/Subrecipient of its intent to terminate or substitute the DBE identifying the reason for the action. The notice shall include the deadline for the DBE to submit a written response advising the contractor, LPA/Subrecipient of its position which shall be a minimum of five calendar days after the notice is given. Before making a determination for approval regarding the contractor's termination and substitution request, the LPA/Subrecipient, with SBWD concurrence, will consider both the contractor's request and the DBE firm's response.

Contractor Request for Termination/Substitution:

The contractor shall formally request the termination or substitution of a DBE listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary by submitting the DBE Termination/Substitution Request form with supporting documentation to the LPA/Subrecipient; form is available from the LPA/Subrecipient. The submission shall include the following information:

1. The date the contractor determined the DBE to be unwilling, unable, or ineligible to perform.
2. A brief statement of facts describing the situation and citing specific actions or inaction by the DBE firm giving rise to contractor's assertion that the DBE firm is unwilling, unable, or ineligible to perform.
3. A brief statement of the good faith efforts undertaken by the contractor to enable the DBE firm to perform.
4. The total dollar amount currently paid for work performed by the DBE firm.
5. The total dollar amount remaining to be paid to the DBE firm for work completed, but for which the DBE firm has not received payment, and over which the contractor and the DBE firm have no dispute.
6. The projected date that the contractor requires a substitution or replacement DBE to commence work, if consent is granted to the request.
7. The DBE's response to the notice of intent to terminate. If there is no response from the DBE within the time allowed in the notice of intent to terminate, the contractor shall state that no response was received.

Written consent for terminating any DBE listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary will be granted only where the contractor can demonstrate good cause showing that the DBE is unable, unwilling, or ineligible to perform. Such written consent to terminate any DBE shall concurrently constitute written consent to substitute or replace the terminated DBE. Termination or substitution of a DBE listed on the DBE Intended Participation Affidavit Summary will not be allowed based solely on a contractor's ability to negotiate a more advantageous contract with another subcontractor. Prior to making a determination for approval regarding the contractor's termination and substitution request, the LPA/Subrecipient, with SBWD concurrence, will consider both the contractor's request and the DBE firm's response.

Good Cause:

The LPA/Subrecipient, with SBWD concurrence, will make the determination of good cause by providing written consent to the contractor after evaluating the contractor's good cause to terminate or substitute a DBE firm. Good cause for this purpose includes the following in relation to the listed DBE subcontractor:

1. Fails or refuses to execute a written contract.
2. Fails or refuses to perform the work of its subcontract in a way consistent with normal industry practice standards. However, good cause does not exist if the failure or refusal of the DBE subcontractor to perform its work on the subcontract results from the bad faith or discriminatory action of the prime contractor.
3. Fails or refuses to meet the prime contractor's reasonable, nondiscriminatory bond/insurance requirements.
4. Becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or exhibits credit unworthiness.
5. Is ineligible to work on public works projects because of suspension and debarment proceedings pursuant to federal or state law.

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6. Is not a responsible contractor.
7. Voluntarily withdraws from the project and provides written notice of its withdrawal to the Department.
8. Is ineligible to receive DBE credit for the type of work required.
9. A DBE owner dies or becomes disabled with the result that the firm is unable to complete its work on the contract.
10. Other documented good cause that the SBWD determines compels the termination or substitution of the DBE subcontractor.

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DBE Termination/Substitution Good Faith Effort:

If the LPA/Subrecipient approves the termination of a DBE, the contractor shall make good faith efforts to find another DBE subcontractor to substitute for the original DBE. The good faith efforts as identified in DBE Subsection 15.0 shall be directed at finding another DBE to perform at least the same amount of work under the contract as the DBE that was terminated, to the extent needed to meet the contract goal. If a replacement DBE is not identified for the original DBE's work, the good faith efforts shall be documented and provided, upon request, to the LPA/Subrecipient within seven calendar days from the date of the request.

A prime contractor's inability to find a replacement DBE at the original price is not alone sufficient to support a finding that good faith efforts have been made to replace the original DBE. The fact that the contractor has the ability and/or desire to perform the contract work with its own forces does not relieve the contractor of the obligation to make good faith efforts to find the replacement DBE, and it is not a sound basis for rejecting a prospective replacement DBE's reasonable quote.

The termination of a DBE firm shall not relieve the contractor of its obligations under this Special Provision, and the unpaid portion of the terminated DBE firm's subcontract will not be counted toward the DBE goal.

If the LPA/Subrecipient has eliminated items of work subcontracted to a committed DBE, the prime contractor shall still make good faith efforts to replace the DBE with another DBE to the extent necessary to meet the goal. The LPA/Subrecipient will review the quality, thoroughness, and intensity of those efforts and give consideration to when the change was made, the nature of the change, and other factors as determined by the LPA/Subrecipient.

When a DBE substitution has been approved by the LPA/Subrecipient and concurred by SBWD, the contractor shall submit an amended DBE Intended Participation Affidavit and Intended Participation Affidavit Summary to LPA/Subrecipient Procurement Office for approval with the substitute DBE's name, description of work, NAICS code, AZ UTRACS registration number, and dollar value of work. Approval from LPA/Subrecipient with SBWD concurrence must be obtained prior to the substituted DBE beginning work.

Sanctions:

Failure by the contractor to carry out the requirements of these DBE Termination/Substitution specifications is a material breach of contract and will result in such remedies as the LPA/Subrecipient deems appropriate, with ADOT concurrence, which will include, but are not limited to the assessment of sanction. The LPA/Subrecipient will deduct from monies due or becoming due to the contractor, the dollar amount of the wrongfully substituted/replaced DBE subcontract plus 25 percent of the amount remaining to be paid to the DBE as sanctions. These sanctions shall be in addition to all other retention or liquidated damages provided for elsewhere in the contract.

11. Certification of Final DBE Payments: (LPA EPRISE 25.0)

The contractor's achievement of the goal is measured by actual payments made to the DBE. The contractor shall submit the "Certification of Final DBE Payments" form for each DBE firm working on the contract. This form shall be signed by the contractor and the relevant DBE, and submitted to the LPA/Subrecipient no later than 30 days after the DBE completes its work.

The LPA/Subrecipient and ADOT will use this certification and other information available to determine applicable DBE credit allowed to date by the contractor and the extent to which the DBE firms were fully paid for that work. By the act of filing the forms, the contractor acknowledges that the information is supplied in order to justify the payment of state and federal funds to the contractor.

The contractor will not be released from the obligations of the contract until the "Certification of Final DBE Payments" forms are received and deemed acceptable by the LPA/Subrecipient.

12. Sanctions for Not Meeting Contract DBE Goal: (LPA EPRISE 26.0)

If the LPA/Subrecipient determines, with SBWD concurrence, that the contractor has, without justification, not met the established DBE goal the LPA/Subrecipient will, at its discretion, deduct up to two times the amount of the unattained portion of established DBE goal from monies due or becoming due the contractor as sanctions, based on the circumstances of the noncompliance.

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The LPA/Subrecipient, with SBWD concurrence, will determine whether sanctions will be assessed and the amount of the sanctions. The LPA/Subrecipient will consider whether there have been other violations on this or other contracts, whether the failure was due to circumstances beyond the control of the contractor, whether the contractor has made good faith efforts to meet the goal, and other appropriate circumstances.

The contractor may, within 15 calendar days of receipt of the decision of the LPA/Subrecipient escalate the decision to the State Engineer. If the contractor does not escalate the decision of the LPA/Subrecipient, in writing, within 15 calendar days of receipt of the decision, the contractor will be deemed to have accepted the decision and there will be no further remedy for the contractor.

In addition to any other sanctions, willful failure of the contractor, DBE or other subcontractor to comply with this contract or with the Federal DBE regulations may result in disqualification from further contracting, subcontracting, or other participation in the Department's and LPA/Subrecipient's projects.

27.0 False, Fraudulent, or Dishonest Conduct: (LPA EPRISE 27.0)

In addition to any other remedies or actions, the Department will bring to the attention of the US Department of Transportation any appearance of false, fraudulent, or dishonest conduct in connection with the DBE program, so that USDOT can take steps such as referral to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution, referral to the USDOT Inspector General for possible initiation of suspension and debarment proceedings against the offending parties or application of "Program Fraud and Civil Penalties" rules provided in 49 CFR Part 31.