

FAQs (cont'd)

What is the cost of certification?

There is no charge for any certification offered by the SCTRCA.

How long is the certification process?

The process can take from 30 to 90 days from the date the application is complete with all required documentation.

Why does the certification process take so long?

The certification process requires that certain regulations are met before a firm can be certified. This process also includes the review of an application, additional documentation and if required an on site review by Agency staff. The SCTRCA is here to ensure that the integrity of the program is upheld and in order to present an even playing field for all applicants strict compliance to the required regulations must be met.

Where can I get assistance to complete the certification application?

The SCTRCA staff can help you answer questions and organize the information needed to complete the certification application. Various area chambers of commerce, as well as member entities can also offer assistance.

WHO WE ARE



The South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency (SCTRCA) is a non-profit corporation that represents several public entities in the South Texas area. These entities are committed to enhancing participation for Disadvantaged, Minority, Woman, African-American, Disabled Individuals, and Veteran owned businesses in public and government contracting and purchasing activities

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



COMMITMENT

To serve our communities

DIVERSITY

For vendors and buyers

OPPORTUNITY

For every business

*Your Unified
Certification Source*

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there any certification that the SCTRCA will accept?

The SCTRCA will accept certification from the Small Business Administration under their 8(a) program and other Department of Transportation (DOT) certification agencies for the DBE program. If the firm is an 8(a) or other DOT certified firm, it may be eligible for a streamlined process. Prior certification does not ensure approval by SCTRCA.

How long will my firm be certified?

A firm is certified for a period of one (1) year under the DBE certification program. Each year the DBE firm must submit an annual update form with supplemental documents as needed. A firm is certified for a period of three (3) years under the (S/M/W/AA/DI/VBE) program. During the 3 year period the firm must submit a No-Change Affidavit annually indicating any or no changes to the firm.

What are the advantages of Certification?

Certification serves as an instrument for you to market your business. It enables you to seek procurement and contracting opportunities with both the public and private sector. Remember certification is not guarantee that you will receive a contract but, it does give your firm an edge on seeking out contracting opportunities.

Get Certified Today!
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The SCTRCA is committed to ensuring that only firms meeting the eligibility criteria of 49 CFR Part 26 participate in contracting and procurement as Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE). Small, Minority, Women, African-American, Disabled Individuals, and Veteran Business Enterprises (S/M/W/AA/DI/VBE) are certified in accordance to SCTRCA Standards.

Will the certification process affect me when bidding on any public agency projects?

No. Certification status will not affect a company doing business with any public agency. If the company is considered for a contract with a member entity, that member entity can request priority status for your application so that the SCTRCA can expedite it. However, prioritization does not ensure certification.

Does certification ensure that my firm will be automatically placed on the member entities bidder's list?

No. Certification does not guarantee being placed on a member entity bidder's list. You must contact each member entity and request for your firm to be added to their vendor lists.

Does certification imply a qualification?

No. Certification merely states that a firm meets the established criteria to be certified as a DBE, SBE, MBE, WBE, AABE, DIBE, or VBE. The SCTRCA does not recommend or imply that a particular firm is qualified or not qualified to perform the services stated in the application.

Why are so many supporting documents required for certification?

The SCTRCA only requests the minimum documentation that will support the ownership, management, and control role of the Disadvantaged, Minority, Women, African American, Disabled Individuals, Veteran owners and key personnel.

Why do I have to submit personal net worth information to get certified as a DBE or FAA DBE?

In the new DBE rules, issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT) individuals applying for DBE certification must provide documents supporting their claim of economic disadvantaged. To accomplish this, DOT established a Personal Net Worth (PNW) requirement. Applicants must complete and submit as part of the certification application on a PNW form.

Will my financial information be subject to the Open Records Act?

No. Both the federal government and the State of Texas exempt all certification records from the open records act.