# Fast Track Other MBE/WBE Certification Application For Businesses with Valid External Federal or Statewide Certification (Port Authority, Out of State, etc)

Dear Business Owner:

The Division of Minority and Women Business Development has agreed to consider fast tracking certification applications from New Jersey-based businesses that are certified with the other national or statewide agencies or programs.

To apply for a New Jersey certification, please submit the following:

- 1. A copy of your letter of certification from the other agency, and/or
- 2. A copy of your completed certification application as submitted with the other agency/program, *excluding* the supporting documents
- 3. A completed State of New Jersey Other MBE/ WBE Fast Track Certification Application (attached)
- 4. A completed Authority for Release of Information form (attached)
- 5. Non- refundable check or money order in the amount of \$100.00

Please send these documents to the following address:

NJ Division of Revenue Business Support Services Bureau P.O. Box 455 Trenton, NJ 08646

The State of New Jersey reserves the right to request additional documentation from your business and to contact you to schedule a site visit. In addition, any changes to your certification status with the outside agency/program prior to receiving certification approval from the Division must be reported within 10 business days.

Your M/WBE certification with the State of NJ is valid for 3 years. Annually, the business must submit, not more than 20 days prior the anniversary of the certification, an annual verification statement, in which it shall attest to the current status of ownership, control or any other factor of the business affecting eligibility for the certification as a minority or womenowned business.

If the business fails to submit the annual verification statement by the anniversary date, the certification will lapse and the business will be removed from the SAVI<sup>1</sup> that lists certified minority and women-owned businesses. If the business seeks to be certified, it will have to reapply.

If the business submits the annual verification statement by the anniversary date, but either the verification statement or the information received by the Division indicates that the business is no longer eligible for certification as a minority or women-owned business, the Division shall revoke the certification pursuant to this chapter and following revocation, the business shall be removed from the SAVI. The business may appeal this revocation pursuant to the procedures set forth at N.J.A.C. 17:46-1.8.

If you require further information, please call the Division at (609) 292-2146.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> NJSAVI (New Jersey Selective Assistance Vendor Information) is a database that identifies businesses that are registered as a SBE and/or certified as a M/WBE with the State of New Jersey, through the Division of Minority and Women Business Development. The NJSAVI marketplace identifies businesses eligible for mandated state programs such as the NJ Small Business Set Aside program, and aids in matching buyers and vendors for private contracting opportunities.



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01 – African American	03 – Asian American	05 – Non-Mi	inority Fema	le
02 – Hispanic American	04 – Native American	06 – Other		
	ovide total gross sales for the last 3 years.			
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An Applicant who fails to comply with specifically requested additional information or documentation shall be considered in non-compliance and shall be subject to rejection



# **VERIFICATION** MUST BE SIGNED, DATED AND NOTARIZED

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	being duly sworn, state t	hat I am the
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Notary Seal	Sworn to before me this	the day of20
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Person assisting in completing the application:		
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NOTE: Appl	icant must also sign Fraud	Statement
ud Statement: I attest that the information ormation is accurate to the best of my knowledge and/or criminal penalties.	ge. I understand that any inform	nation willfully falsified or omitted may re
we read and acknowledge the foregoing:		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Only the signature of the owner or president of a corporation is acceptable. For a partnership, only a General Partner may sign; the signature of a Limited Partner is not acceptable. For an LLC, the Managing Member must sign.

# AUTHORITY FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION MUST BE SIGNED, DATED AND NOTARIZED

I hereby authorize the ("Name of Certifying Agency")	to release to the
New Jersey Department of the Treasury, Division of Minority and Women	
any and all information that was submitted by ("Name of Applicant")	
minority and/or women business enterprise ("MBE/WBE") certification, release is solely for the limited purpose of applying for the expedited review	which they have in their files. Such
I hereby release ("Name of Certifying Agency")liability or damage which may result from furnishing such information reque	and the DMWBD from any
liability or damage which may result from furnishing such information reque	ested above.
First Name Last Name	
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State of New Jersey: ( As Applicable )	
Before me personally appeared the said who says that he/she executed the above instrument of his/her own free will knowledge of the purpose thereof.	and accord, with full
Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this day of, 20	



# State of New Jersey

**CHRIS CHRISTIE** 

Governor

KIM GUADAGNO

Lt Governor

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
DIVISION OF MINORITY AND WOMAN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
33 WEST STATE STREET, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR
P.O. BOX 026

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0026 Phone: 609-292-2146 Fax: 609-292-8764 ANDREW P. SIDAMON-ERISTOFF

State Treasurer

# Frequently Asked Questions on the Minority Certification Programs for Businesses with Other Federal or State Certification

### 1. What is a Minority and/or Women Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) certification?

a. MWBE's are encouraged to become certified with the State so that we can accurately and timely assess the share of procurement activity recorded by this group compared to the share of business registered by non MWBE vendors. In addition, private firms and municipal (not State) governments may require proof of an MWBE certificate.

## 2. Where can I send minority certification application?

a. Send it to the NJ Division of Revenue, Business Support Services Bureau, P.O. Box 455 Trenton, NJ 08646

#### 3. How long does it take before I get a decision on my application?

a. You will receive a response generally within 4 weeks after your application is received.

#### 4. What happens when my application is approved?

a. You will receive a letter and a certificate in the mail.

#### 5. What happens if my application is incomplete?

a. We will send you a request for additional information. You will be asked to respond within 30 days to prevent an automatic denial of your application.

#### 6. What happens if my application is denied?

a. You will receive a letter explaining why your application was denied. The letter will also explain that we need to receive a letter from you on your company letterhead within 10 days if you wish to appeal the denial.

#### 7. Where can I get help in filling out my application?

a. For one-on-one assistance, visit your local Small Business Development Center. For a complete listing, go to <a href="http://www.njsbdc.com/contact/">http://www.njsbdc.com/contact/</a>

#### 8. How long will my MBE certification last?

a. Your certificate is valid for three years. Please note that you will have to send in annual verification forms at the end of years one and two or your certification will be revoked.

#### 9. My current NJ State MWBE certification is going to expire. Do I have to recertify my business?

a. You no longer recertify your business under the new rules and regulations. You must submit a new application with the required information. As noted above, under the new certification, you will need to send in annual verification forms at the end of years one and two or your certification will be revoked.

## 10. What happens if I lose my registration/certificate?

a. You may ask for a replacement by sending your request to us on your company letterhead. You may mail your request to us or fax (609-292-8764) it to us.

### 11. Can I use my MWBE to compete for bids under the Small Business Set Aside law?

**a.** The New Jersey contracting process is race and gender free so you don't need a MWBE designation. You need a SBE designation to compete under the Set Aside Act (Refer to response to Ouestion #17).

#### 12. What if I have a bid due before the 4 week response time?

a. You must submit via fax (609-292-8764) a request for expedite of your application and accompany this request with a copy of the bid page that contains the bid due date. Please note that the application must be properly completed and all required support documentation must be received by our office before we are able to begin processing your request.

In cases where a prime is requiring a sub-contractor to obtain a registration or certification, you must submit a notarized letter from the prime, on their letterhead, stating that there is a commitment to award the sub-contract if in fact registration/certification is provided. A copy of the bid page that contains the bid due date must be attached to the letter from the prime.

Where/When feasible we will issue an expedite certificate five days before the bid due date.

NOTE: Submitting an application does not mean that you will automatically receive an approval. You need to submit your application and the front page of the bid for review to the Division at least 48 hours before the bid opening date. If you submit your application with less than 48 hours before the bid opening, there may not be enough time to process your application or answer any questions.

#### 13. Where do I get information on new bids from State agencies, universities and authorities?

a. The Division offers a centralized database that posts all statewide bids which you can access anytime by keyword, agency or commodity code. Go to <a href="http://www.nj.gov/njbusiness/contracting">http://www.nj.gov/njbusiness/contracting</a>. Refer to the right hand side banner Online Services, click on Statewide Bid Opportunities.

For guidance on how to navigate and maximize the potential of the State's procurement process, small businesses are encouraged to contact the New Jersey Office of Supplier Diversity at 609-984-1036 or njosd@treas.state.nj.us.

#### 14. Can I get automatic notification of new bid opportunities?

a. You can sign up to get customized email notifications for opportunities within the goods, service, or construction field you identify as being of interest. The identification of goods, services or construction field will be based on the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Inc, NIGP code, which you must provide. Go to

http://www.nj.gov/njbusiness/contracting/bid/learn about.shtml

For those of you that are familiar with the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and need to find an equivalent NIGP code you can do so by searching for similar wording or description. The State Department of the Treasury has an NIGP lookup tool that be can be accessed by going to:

http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/commcode.htm

#### 15. Where can I find the commodity and construction codes?

a. Commodity and construction codes consist of expense account codes that provide information and/or descriptions of the nature of the purchases (goods, services, construction field) made by state agencies. Constitutes a system of identifying a commodity by an assigned number. Go to: http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/commcode.htm

## 16. What is a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) registration?

a. The SBE registration is **required** to compete for contracts under the Small Business Set Aside Act. The small business set-aside program was established with the goal of awarding 25 percent of state and purchase order dollars to small businesses. Go to <a href="http://www.nj.gov/njbusiness/contracting/">http://www.nj.gov/njbusiness/contracting/</a> for a listing of the standards for eligibility and to obtain an application form.

# 17. Is a business registration with the State of New Jersey, Division of Revenue the same as a small business registration with your Division?

a. No, these are two different types of registrations. A business registration with the Division of Revenue will ensure that the business is registered for applicable taxes and related liabilities. Businesses must submit to the Division of Revenue the Business Registration Form (NJ-REG) and if applicable, the Public Records Filing for New Business Entity form. After registering, businesses will receive the forms, returns, instructions and other information required for ongoing compliance with New Jersey State taxes.

For more information on the Business Registration Form, please see <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/revenue/busregcert.htm">http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/revenue/busregcert.htm</a>

#### 18. Do you give out grants?

a. While the Division does not give grants, you may explore other funding sources by calling the Economic Development Authority Customer Care line at 609-777-4898 or your local Small Business Development Center <a href="http://www.njsbdc.com/contact/">http://www.njsbdc.com/contact/</a>.