

**REQUIRED CONTRACT PROVISION**  
**FEDERAL AID CONTRACTS**  
**UTILIZATION OF DISADVANTAGED BUSINESSES**

**I. INTRODUCTION.**

The specific requirements for the utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, hereinafter referred to as DBEs, are set forth in this Required Contract Provision and are imposed pursuant to 49 CFR Part 26, hereinafter referred to as the regulations. This provision meets or exceeds the regulatory requirements. The regulations always take precedence over normal industry practice.

**A. ASSURANCE.**

The Contractor, subrecipient, or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, income status, veteran status or gender in the performance of the 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 Kansas Department of Transportation deems appropriate.

**B. DEFINITIONS.**

For the purpose of this Required Contract Provision, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings as stated herein:

- (1) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) means a small business concern which is independently owned and controlled by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals and which KDOT has certified as a DBE.
- (2) Small business concern means a small business as defined by Section 3 of the Small Business Act and relevant regulations except that a small business concern shall not include any firms or affiliated firms owned and controlled by the same socially and economically disadvantaged individual or individuals whose value has average, annual gross receipts in excess of \$ 20,410,000 over the previous three fiscal years.
- (3) Owned and controlled means a business:
  - (a) Which is at least 51 percent unconditionally owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and
  - (b) Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more such individuals.
- (4) Socially disadvantaged individual means a person who is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States, has suffered social disadvantage in education, employment, or business, and who is a(an):
  - (a) Black American (a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa);
  - (b) Hispanic American (includes a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any Spanish or Portuguese culture or origin, regardless of race);
  - (c) Native American (includes a person who is American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut or Native Hawaiian);
  - (d) Asian-Pacific American (includes a person whose origin is from the original people of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent or the Pacific Islands);
  - (e) Subcontinent Asian American (includes a person whose origin is India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, or the Maldives Islands);
  - (f) Member of a group, or any other individual of any race or sex, found to be both economically and socially disadvantaged; or
  - (g) Women.

(5) Economically disadvantaged means an individual who has a personal net worth of less than \$750,000 excluding the value of their ownership share of the applicant firm and personal residence. The individual has had diminished access to capital and credit compared to non-disadvantaged persons.

(6) Commercially useful function means the qualifying DBE owner performs manages and supervises subcontract work.

(7) Race and gender neutral measure means one that is used to assist any small business.

## **II. DBE CONTRACT GOALS.**

**A.** KDOT strongly encourages all contractors to utilize DBE firms as subcontractors, suppliers, manufacturers, truckers, and brokers whenever possible and feasible. Greater voluntary participation will result in lower and fewer DBE contract goals. KDOT will set DBE contract goals only to meet the portion of its annual goal that is not met by race and gender neutral means and voluntary participation.

**B.** An eligible DBE is one who KDOT has certified and who is listed in the KDOT DBE directory located on the internet at: <http://www.ksdot.org/doingbusiness.asp>. KDOT also prints a paper directory quarterly, and Contractors may ask the KDOT Office of Civil Rights for a copy of the printed directory. However, as it is only published quarterly, Contractors should be aware that the printed directory may list DBE's who were decertified after the directory was printed, and these DBE's would not be considered eligible DBE's in a letting that followed decertification or when examining good faith efforts. Also, the printed directory will not list DBE's who have been certified after the directory was printed, but KDOT will consider these DBE's in a letting and when examining good faith efforts. Thus, the electronic directory controls as it is the most current information KDOT has available. Any bid proposal listing a firm that is not a KDOT certified DBE at the time of bidding will be considered non-responsive.

**C.** Contractors shall, as a minimum, seek DBE firms working in the same geographic area in which they seek subcontractors for a given solicitation.

**D.** Contractors are required to make good faith efforts to replace a DBE subcontractor that is unable to perform successfully with another DBE firm. In order to ensure compliance with this requirement, any substitution of DBE subcontractors after the Contractor has submitted a bid to KDOT, must be approved by KDOT Office of Civil Rights. Substitutions will only be allowed for good and sufficient reasons. KDOT must receive a letter from the original DBE stating the reason for the DBE's inability to perform.

**E.** Contractors are also encouraged to use the services of banks owned and controlled by disadvantaged individuals.

**F.** When projects are State or Contractor tied, KDOT will construe DBE participation as if the tied projects are one project. To check DBE participation on tied projects the following method will be used:

(1) Add the DBE goal dollar amount for the individual tied projects. This becomes the required minimum dollar amount to be subcontracted to DBEs.

(2) If the total dollar amount actually subcontracted to DBEs on the tied contracts is equal to or greater than the minimum dollar amounts as computed above, it will be determined that the DBE goals have been met.

(3) If a State of Kansas funded project is tied to a federal aid funded project, the DBE contract goals can only be met by DBE subcontractors on the Federal Aid Project.

### **III. MEETING DBE CONTRACT GOAL CRITERIA.**

The award of the Contract will be conditioned upon satisfaction of the requirements herein established. The apparent low bidder must either meet or exceed the DBE goals for the contract or satisfy KDOT that good faith efforts were made to meet the goals prior to the bid letting.

#### **A. REQUIRED DBE PARTICIPATION INFORMATION.**

All bidders are required to submit to KDOT with the bid proposal the DBE participation information described below on the form provided in the proposal.

(1) The names of KDOT certified DBE firms that will participate in the Contract (if none, so indicate);

(2) A description of the work each named DBE firm will perform (if none, so indicate);

(3) The actual dollar amount anticipated to be paid to each named DBE firm (if zero dollars, so indicate); except

(4) If the named DBE firm is a supplier, enter 60% of the actual dollar amount anticipated to be paid (if zero dollars, so indicate);

(5) The actual dollar amount (not to exceed 10 percent of DBE subcontract) to be paid ahead of work as DBE mobilization.

(6) For federal aid contracts with a zero DBE goal, list all subcontractors to be utilized, including DBE firms, if any.

#### **B. GOOD FAITH DETERMINATION.**

It is the bidder's responsibility to meet the DBE contract goals or to provide information to enable KDOT to determine that, prior to bidding, the bidder made good faith efforts to meet such goals.

(1) Good Faith Information Submittal. If the low bidder's required DBE information indicates that the DBE contract goals will be met, the contract will proceed toward award and the low bidder need not submit any further DBE information. Good faith documentation must be submitted within two working days of the bid opening. Example: if bids are opened on Wednesday at 2 p.m., the good faith documentation must be at KDOT Office of Civil Rights before 5 p.m. on Friday.

(2) KDOT Review. KDOT will review all information submitted to determine if the low bidder has met the DBE contract goals and, if not, whether the low bidder made sufficient good faith efforts to meet such goals. The determination of good faith efforts is made on a case-by-case basis and depends on the particular circumstances of the procurement. The issue KDOT will consider is whether the bidder took those steps, a reasonable bidder would have taken to actively and aggressively obtain DBE participation sufficient to meet the goal. A KDOT determination that the low bidder's information failed to show sufficient good faith shall be just cause for rejection of the bid. If the low bid is rejected, the above procedure will be applied to the next lowest bidder, and other bidders if necessary, until a bidder is found that meets the DBE contract goals or establishes that good faith efforts were made to meet the goal. KDOT reserves the right to reject all bids and re-advertise the Contract.

(3) Establishing Good Faith Efforts. To demonstrate good faith efforts to meet DBE contract goals, submit to KDOT documentation on the factors listed as (a) through (g). KDOT has assigned a percentage to each factor that shows the relative importance of each factor to KDOT and to the other factors. These percentages are a guide only; the circumstances of a particular procurement may justify different percentages or consideration of factors not mentioned. In evaluating the reasonableness of the low bidder's efforts, KDOT may consider whether other bidders met the goal or failed to meet the goal. In evaluating the reasonableness of the low bidder's efforts, KDOT will consider all documentation submitted; yet, documentation created during the bidding process is more credible than documentation created after the letting.

(a) The bidder negotiated in good faith with interested DBEs. It is the bidder's responsibility to consider the available pool of certified DBEs when determining subcontract or supply needs. It is

the bidder's responsibility to furnish DBEs with information about plans or specifications to facilitate the bid. Include names of DBEs considered, information given to the DBE, if any, and an explanation of why agreements could not be reached for DBEs to perform the work. (25%)

(b) The bidder selected portions of work for which KDOT has capable, certified DBE's to perform. This may include breaking out work items or subcontracting items the prime contractor normally performs. (20%)

(c) The bidder used good business judgment in rejecting a DBE quote, considering both price and capabilities. If a DBE quote represents a reasonable price for performing the work, the bidder should use that quote even though the DBE quote is higher than a non-DBE quote. However, bidders do not have to use excessive or unreasonable quotes. Before determining that a DBE quote is excessive, the bidder should inquire as to the reason for the disparity between the DBE and non-DBE quotes. The bidder should also evaluate what impact, if any, using a higher DBE price would have on the bidder's overall project bid. A higher DBE price may not be excessive or unreasonable if the price differential is a very small part of the project bid. (20%)

(d) The bidder solicited capable, certified DBEs through pre-bid meetings, advertising, telephone, mail, facsimile, e-mail, or a combination of the foregoing. The solicitation must have occurred within sufficient time to allow a DBE to respond. Follow up all initial contacts, whether the contact was solicited or unsolicited. If a DBE expresses an interest in the contract or a desire to quote and fails to submit a quote, follow up that contact, whether the contact was solicited or unsolicited. Receiving substantial unsolicited quotes may not be considered actively and aggressively pursuing DBE participation. (10%)

(e) The bidder assisted interested DBEs in obtaining equipment, supplies, or materials for the project being bid. (10%)

(f) The combinations of DBEs the bidder considered in trying to meet the goal. It is acceptable to use a portion of several DBE bids. (10%)

(g) The bidder assisted interested DBEs in obtaining bonding, credit, or insurance on the project being bid. (5%)

(4) Staff of KDOT's Office of Civil Rights and the Chief of Construction and Maintenance will review the documentation submitted and either accept or reject the good faith effort submittal.

(5) At the bidder's request, KDOT's Director of Operations will hold an informal hearing to discuss the bidder's good faith effort submittal. The bidder may have legal counsel present, at the bidder's expense. After the appeal hearing, the Director of Operations will issue the Agency's final administrative decision on whether the bidder made a good faith effort. The decision will be in writing and will explain the basis for the Agency's decision. This will be final agency action and a final order under the Kansas Act for Judicial Review and Civil Enforcement of Agency Actions, K.S.A. 77-601 *et. seq.* Any petition for judicial review shall be served on the Secretary of Transportation, Kansas Department of Transportation, 700 S.W. Harrison St., Topeka, KS 66603-3754.

### **C. COUNTING DBE PARTICIPATION TOWARD DBE CONTRACT GOALS.**

DBE participation shall be counted toward meeting the DBE contract goals pursuant to this contract as follows:

(1) A contractor may count toward its DBE contract goals the total dollar value of a contract paid to an eligible DBE, including an approved DBE protégé.

*NOTE: At the time the bid is submitted on the DBE goal sheet, list the actual amount intended to be paid to the DBE. On Form 259, submitted after award, list the same amount as in the contract line item. If this amount differs from the DBE subcontract amount, list the latter amount on the bottom of the form with an explanation.*

(2) A DBE, bidding as a prime contractor, may count toward its DBE contract goals the total dollar value of the work actually performed by the DBE prime contractor, including the cost of supplies and materials the DBE obtains. *Example: A DBE contractor bids as a prime contractor. The contract specifies a*

*\$10,000.00 DBE goal. The DBE prime contractor performs \$50,000 of the work with its own forces. The DBE prime contractor has met the \$10,000 goal.*

(3) A contractor may count toward its DBE goals a portion of the total dollar value of a subcontract with an eligible DBE joint venture equal in proportion to the percentage of ownership and control of the DBE partner in the joint venture.

*Example: A contract specifies a \$5,000.00 DBE contract goal. Prime contractor bids \$100,000.00 subcontracting with a joint venture DBE/non-DBE contractor for \$20,000.00 of the work. The percentage of ownership and control of the DBE/non-DBE joint venture is 25% DBE and 75% non-DBE. The prime contractor may count \$5,000.00 ( $\$20,000.00 \times .25$ ; i.e. total dollar value times the percentage of DBE ownership) toward the DBE contract goal, thus fulfilling the DBE requirements of the contract.*

(4) If a non-DBE contractor and DBE contractor form a joint venture and bid as a prime contractor, the joint venture contractor shall fully meet the DBE contract goals specified in the project special provision. The joint venture contractor may count toward its DBE contract goals the total dollar value of the work actually performed by the DBE participant in the joint venture.

*Example: A non-DBE contractor forms a joint venture with a DBE contractor and the joint venture bids the project as a prime contractor. The DBE contract goal is \$10,000.00. The DBE participant in the joint venture performs \$50,000 of the work with its own forces. The joint venture has met the \$10,000 goal.*

*Example: A non-DBE contractor forms a joint venture with a DBE contractor and the joint venture bids the project as a prime contractor. The DBE contract goal is \$100,000.00. The DBE participant in the joint venture performs \$80,000 of the work with its own forces. The joint venture must obtain the remaining \$20,000 in goal through use of another certified DBE firm, or show good faith efforts if the joint venture fails to meet the \$100,000 goal.*

(5) A contractor may count toward its DBE goals 60 percent of its expenditures for materials and supplies obtained from a DBE regular dealer, and 100 percent from a DBE manufacturer. A letter must be submitted to KDOT, detailing the amount, but the amount does not count as a subcontracted percentage.

(a) A manufacturer is a firm that operates a facility that produces goods from raw material on the premises.

(b) A regular dealer is a firm that owns, operates, or maintains a store, or warehouse where materials are stocked and regularly sold to the public. A regular dealer of bulk items (sand, gravel, etc.) need not stock the product if it owns or long-term leases distribution equipment. The supply of structural steel, steel assemblies and petroleum products do not count toward any KDOT DBE goal. A dealer must be responsible for material quality control and must deliver with its own or long term leased equipment to count toward the DBE goal.

(6) A contractor may count toward its DBE goals the following expenditures to DBE firms that are not manufacturers or regular dealers:

(a) The commission charged for providing a bona fide service in the procurement of essential personnel, facilities, equipment, materials or supplies required for the performance of the contract, provided the commission is reasonable and customary.

(b) The commissions charged for bonds or insurance provided by a DBE broker for the specific performance of the contract, provided the fee is reasonable and customary. A letter must be submitted detailing the amount, but does not count as a subcontracted percentage.

(7) A contractor may count toward its DBE goals the amount paid to a DBE trucker for transportation or delivery services.

(a) A DBE trucker who picks up a product at point A and delivers the product to the contractor at point B provides a delivery service. The full amount paid for this service counts toward the DBE goal.

(b) Some DBE truckers are also a regular dealer (supplier) of a bulk item. In this case, the amount paid for the material delivered will count as 60 percent toward the DBE goal. The DBE trucker is responsible for the quality of the material.

(c) For DBE truckers or suppliers to be credited toward DBE contract goals, the contractor must submit a letter to KDOT detailing all information formerly found on Form 259, prior to the start of the trucking or supply of material and requesting DBE subcontract credit.

#### **D. COMMERCIALLY USEFUL FUNCTION.**

The prime contractor is responsible for ensuring that DBE firms under subcontract to meet a DBE goal perform a commercially useful function (CUF). Failure to fulfill this obligation is a breach of contract and KDOT may invoke the sanctions listed in Section IV (Sanctions). The three criteria for a CUF are:

(1) The DBE firm shall manage the work through personal direct supervision by the DBE owner or a skilled, knowledgeable, full-time superintendent. Management includes scheduling work, ordering equipment and materials, hiring and firing employees, and submitting all required forms and reports. The DBE is not in compliance with this provision if the DBE subcontracts out part or all of the work to another entity.

(2) The DBE shall own all equipment, long term lease all equipment, or own some equipment and long term lease the remaining equipment except for specialized equipment as noted below.

(a) If the DBE leases equipment, the DBE shall have a written lease that gives the DBE full control of the equipment during the lease period. The DBE shall use its own workers to operate leased equipment.

(b) A DBE may enter into long term leases with companies operating as prime contractors. The DBE is not in compliance with this provision if the DBE leases equipment from the prime contractor on the project for that project only.

(c) Exception for specialized equipment: The DBE may lease short term specialized equipment such as a crane from another contractor or third party if this equipment is necessary for the DBE to perform its work and the equipment is of such a nature that it is not economically feasible or practical for the DBE to lease the equipment long term. The contractor shall bill the DBE for this equipment and the DBE shall pay the contractor for the equipment. The DBE is not in compliance with this provision if the contractor deducts from the DBE's pay estimate specialized equipment costs rather than submitting an invoice to and receiving payment from the DBE.

(3) The DBE shall negotiate the cost of, arrange delivery of, and pay for materials, supplies, labor, and equipment. Invoices shall be billed to the DBE and paid by the DBE.

(4) KDOT will not count towards goal or give DBE contract goal credit for the following:

(a) Monies the prime contractor pays directly for supplies, materials, labor or equipment on the DBE's behalf except for two-party checks approved under Section III.E below.

(b) Costs deducted from a DBE's pay estimate for supplies, materials, labor or equipment the prime contractor or its affiliate provided.

(c) Costs incurred for equipment the DBE leases from the contractor on the project if the DBE is using the equipment for that project only and the equipment is not part of a long term lease agreement.

(d) Costs associated with a portion of a bid item that the Agency is unable to measure clearly.

(e) Costs incurred for work subcontracted outside normal industry practices, just to meet a goal.

(5) KDOT's determination that a DBE is not performing or did not perform a CUF is not appealable to the US Department of Transportation. KDOT's determination will be final agency action and a final order under the Kansas Act for Judicial Review and Civil Enforcement of Agency Actions, K.S.A. 77-601 *et. seq.* Any petition for judicial review shall be served on the Secretary of Transportation, Kansas Department of Transportation, 700 S.W. Harrison St., Topeka, KS 66603-3754.

#### **E. BUSINESS INTEGRITY**

Any person or entity will be found to be out of compliance with this required contract provision if any investigation reveals a commission or omission of any act of such serious or compelling nature that the act indicates a serious lack of business integrity or honesty. Such commission or omissions include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Violating any applicable law, regulation, or obligation relating to the performance of obligations incurred pursuant to an agreement with a recipient under a KDOT financial assistance program or,
- (2) Making, or procuring to be made, any false statement or using deceit to influence in any way any action of KDOT.

**F. TWO PARTY CHECKS.**

To comply with the current regulation, KDOT is implementing the following two party check procedures. The prime contractor is responsible for following the procedure and for ensuring that DBE subcontractors follow the procedure.

- (1) The DBE owner shall make the request for a two party check to the Office of Civil Rights and shall explain the benefit to the DBE firm.
- (2) The prime contractor shall send the check to the DBE owner who will endorse and forward the check to the supplier. This should be done within the 10 day prompt pay timeframe.
- (3) The amount of the check should not exceed the amount of material paid by KDOT on the latest estimate. *For example if the estimate was taken on 7/23, pay the material bill through 7/23 not through 7/31.*
- (4) Two party checks shall be issued only long enough to establish credit for the DBE firm.
- (5) KDOT will not count towards goal or give DBE contract goal credit for two party checks that have not been pre-approved by KDOT.

**IV. SANCTIONS.**

If KDOT finds any contractor, sub-contractor, DBE, joint venture, or mentor/protégé to be out of compliance with this required contract provision, KDOT may impose one or more of the following sanctions:

- (1) Withhold payment of progress payments until the contractor or DBE contractor complies with the payment requirements of this Special Provision.
- (2) Remove the non-complying DBE from the DBE directory until the DBE shows the company is meeting the requirements necessary to perform a CUF, including payment of all bills.
- (3) Deny goal credit as previously stated for failure to replace a non-performing DBE with another DBE (unless good faith effort was made), failure to meet the requirements necessary to perform a CUF, or failure to follow two party check procedures.
- (4) Assess and deduct as liquidated damages the monetary difference between the DBE goal amount and the amount actually paid to the DBEs for which KDOT has allowed DBE goal credit.
- (5) Reject the bidder's bid if the bidder failed to meet the DBE goal and failed to show good faith effort to meet the goal.
- (6) Refer the matter to the Office of the Attorney General, the US Department of Justice, or both for follow-up action.
- (7) Enforce all other remedies KDOT has under other contract provisions such as contract termination, contractor suspension, contractor debarment, and sanctions for failing to pay promptly.