

**IMPORTANT UPDATE
FOR
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT, GRANTS, INDEMNITY, CONTRACT AND
PROCUREMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Overview:

The federal government will cease to use a DUNS number as a unique identifier for entities. A new identifier will be assigned in SAM.gov. This change goes into effect April 4, 2022. This transition allows the government to streamline the entity identification and validation process, making it easier and less burdensome for entities to do business with the federal government.

Background:

As of **April 4th, 2022**, the federal government will stop using the DUNS number to uniquely identify entities. At that point, entities doing business with the federal government will use a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) created in SAM.gov. They will no longer have to go to a third-party website (Dun and Bradstreet) to obtain their identifier.

Current SAM.gov registrants (active and inactive registrants) have already been assigned their UEI and can view it within SAM.gov. The UEI is currently located below the DUNS Number on the entity registration record. A user must be signed into their entity's SAM.gov account to view entity records. These current registrants will need to use the DUNS number through April 3, 2022. The DUNS number remains the official identifier for doing business with the U.S. Government until April 4, 2022.

New SAM.gov registrants will still need to get a DUNS number from Dun and Bradstreet until April 4, 2022. Only after your DUNS number is assigned can you go to SAM.gov and register to do business with the government. A UEI will be automatically assigned once an entity registers in SAM.gov, in addition to the DUNS that is needed.

If an entity only conducts certain types of transactions, such as reporting as a sub-awardee, the entity may not need to complete a entity registration in SAM.gov. An entity may only need to obtain a Unique Entity ID.

With the transition to the UEI, GSA is making it easier to get a UEI by streamlining the request and ongoing management process. An entity will go to a single place, SAM.gov, to:

- Request a UEI and register the entity to do business with the U.S. Government.
- Make any updates to the legal business name and physical address associated with the UEI.
- Find customer support at a single helpdesk for all UEI and entity registration issues.

There are no exemptions for recipients of cooperative agreements, grants, contracts, and procurement awards. However, there are limited exemptions to the DUNS and SAM requirement 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.

USDA, APHIS has redeveloped all integrated systems that use the DUNS and UEI such as ezFedGrants.

Important Transition Dates:

SAM.gov will be down for maintenance to complete the transition beginning on **April 1 at 8:00 PM (ET) until no later than 9:00 AM (ET) April 4.**

March 29 is the last day to obtain a new DUNS Number from Dun & Bradstreet for registering an entity or getting a Unique Entity ID (SAM).

After April 4, 2022, entities will go to SAM.gov, not Dun & Bradstreet, to obtain their Unique Entity ID (SAM).

April 1 is the last day you can use a DUNS Number to get a Unique Entity ID (SAM) or register an entity in SAM.gov. Save all work in progress in SAM.gov **before 8:00 PM (ET) on April 1, 2022**, to ensure it will be available on April 4.

No later than 9:00 AM on April 4, SAM.gov will be back online. DUNS Numbers will no longer be displayed in IAE systems or accepted for entity registration. The Unique Entity ID (SAM) will be the identifier of record.

Resources:

[SAM.gov](https://sam.gov)

[Quick Start Guide for Getting a UEI](#)

[How to view the UEI](#)

Please direct any questions related to indemnification and UEI exemptions to the attention of the USDA APHIS Program Manager.