

DBE/ACDBE Reevaluation Process FAQs

Revised March 16, 2026

What has changed with the DBE/ACDBE Programs?

The US Department of Transportation issued an Interim Final Rule (IFR) published Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, that mandates states remove race and gender presumptions that help businesses qualify as DBE/ACDBEs and requires all currently certified DBE/ACDBE firms to individually demonstrate social and economic disadvantage, without regard to race or sex, if they want to re-qualify as a DBE/ACDBE.

When is the change effective?

The IFR was posted for public inspection on October 2, 2025, and was published in the Federal Register on October 3, 2025. Per the IFR, the rule becomes effective immediately after publication.

How does this impact my DBE/ACDBE certification?

DBE/ACDBE firms certified on or before October 3, 2025, must be reevaluated under the new rules. Firms participating in the reevaluation are either recertified or decertified based on the new standards. Contract goals will not be set on projects advertised or solicited on or after October 3, 2025, and DBE/ACDBE participation will not be counted until the reevaluation process is complete.

Who must complete the DBE/ACDBE reevaluation form?

All owners that were presumed disadvantaged making up at least 51% of the ownership at the time of the initial application must complete the reevaluation process to be evaluated for continued eligibility in the DBE/ACDBE program.

Example: Owners A, B, and C each own 33%. Owners A and B were presumed disadvantaged, provided a PNW and participated in the site visit for the firm's initial certification. Owners A and B must complete the reevaluation.

What happens if I do not complete the reevaluation by the priority submission date?

Firms that do not complete the reevaluation form by the priority submission date will remain ineligible for the DBE/ACDBE Program. The reevaluation must be completed as quickly as practicable in order for states to administer the DBE/ACDBE program. Firms can opt out of the reevaluation process if they decide not to participate in the DBE/ACDBE program moving forward. Your firm may reapply at any point after the MnUCP has completed the reevaluation process.

How long will the DBE/ACDBE reevaluation process take to complete?

The timeline will vary based on the number of firms completing the reevaluation process and the completeness of the information submitted.

How do I calculate my Personal Net Worth?

The instructions and caps for calculating your personal Net Worth can be found in the regulations [49 CFR 26.68](#).

What is a “personal narrative” and why does it matter?

The personal narrative is a required written statement in which you, as the business owner, explain the barriers you have faced in education, employment or business and how those barriers have caused economic harm. It must be detailed and compelling in order to demonstrate that the owner is both socially and economically disadvantaged compared to other similarly situated non-disadvantaged persons.

Is there assistance available for drafting my personal narrative? (added 3/16/26)

Yes. Support is available for Minnesota-based small businesses through [workshops](#) and [one-on-one assistance](#).

Should I submit my DOE during the reevaluation process?

No. Certifying agencies will follow up individually once the DBE/ACDBE reevaluation process is complete.

Will my JOC date change after the DBE/ACDBE reevaluation process?

No. If your firm is recertified, your JOC date will remain as your original certification date.