



June 16, 2017

Dear SWaM Vendor:

In preparation of the beginning of the new fiscal year, SBSBD would like to inform you of some upcoming changes that affect the SWaM certification program based on new legislation passed in the 2017 General Assembly Session.

- Effective July 1, 2017, the SWaM certification approval period will change from three years to five years. This means that any company that is approved for SWaM certification on or after July 1, 2017, will be approved for a five-year period from the date of approval. Any company that is approved prior to July 1, 2017 will keep its three-year certification period. This legislation can be found in the Appropriations Act Chapter 836.
- Effective July 1, 2017, any out-of-state business applying for certification in Virginia as a small, women-owned, or minority-owned business must possess the equivalent certification in its home state as a prerequisite for approval. For additional information SB1192 can be found on the legislative information system.
- Effective July 1, 2017, small businesses certified by SBSBD will have a price preference over noncertified businesses competing for the same contract award, provided that the certified small business does not exceed the low bid by more than five percent. For additional information SB1334 can be found on the legislative information system.
- Effective July 1, 2017, new legislation allows for the reciprocal certification of SWaM certification to companies that are certified in certain SBA certification programs without requiring the company to complete the normal SWaM application process. At this time, we are still finalizing which SBA certifications will be accepted. Once we have made a final determination, we will send out another communication containing that information. For additional information HB1858 can be found on the legislative information system.

Technology Updates:

Effective July 1, 2017, SBSBD will launch a new certification portal that will change the way a company applies for all certifications including, SWaM, DBE, and ESO. The application process will be an electronic process that will require all supporting documents to be uploaded into the system by the applicant. The new system will notify vendors 90 days prior to expiration that they need to seek recertification. Businesses that have difficulty with uploading documents can reach out to their assigned DSBSD outreach staff person for support.

If you have already submitted an application in the old system your application will be processed as it has in the past. The agency will reach out to you should additional documentation be required to complete the process. Do not submit additional documentation into the new system, if you have already applied in the old system, unless specifically requested to do so.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at (804) 786-6585 and/or sbsd@sbsd.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

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