

DBE Commitment Modification Policy (Formerly “DBE Replacement Policy”)

A. Issuing a Contract Change Order

Any changes or modifications to the contract once executed are considered contract modifications and as such require a change order. In addition, the DBE office must provide consent for reduction, termination, or replacement of subcontractors approved on the DT1506 *in advance* of the modification for the prime contractor to receive payment for work or supplies. Additions to the DBE commitment do not require advance notification of the DBE office. (see D below)

Contractor Considerations

1. A prime contractor cannot modify the DBE commitment through reduction in participation, termination, or replacement of a DBE subcontractor listed on the approved DT1506 without prior written consent from the DBE Office. This includes, but is not limited to, instances in which a prime contractor seeks to perform work originally designated for a DBE subcontractor with its own forces or those of an affiliate, a non-DBE firm, or with another DBE firm.
2. If a prime contractor reduces participation, replaces, or terminates a DBE subcontractor who has been approved for DBE credit toward its contract, the prime is required to provide documentation supporting its inability to fulfill the contractual commitment made to the Department regarding the DBE utilization.
3. The Prime Contractor is required to demonstrate efforts to find another DBE subcontractor to perform at least the same amount of work under the contract as the DBE subcontractor that was terminated, to the extent needed to meet the assigned DBE contract goal.
4. When additional opportunity is available by contract modifications, the Prime Contractor must utilize DBE subcontractors that were committed to equal work items, in the original contract.
5. In circumstances when a DBE subcontractor fails to complete its work on the contract for any reason, or is terminated from a contract, the Prime Contractor must undertake efforts to maintain its commitment to the assigned DBE goal.
6. The DBE subcontractor should communicate with the Prime Contractor regarding its schedule and capacity in the context of the contract. If the DBE firm anticipates that it cannot fulfill its subcontract, they will advise the Prime Contractor and suggest a DBE subcontractor that may replace their services and provide written consent to be released from its subcontract.
 - (a) Before the Prime Contractor can request modification to the approved DT1506, the Prime Contractor must:
 - i. Make every effort to fulfill the DBE commitment by working with the listed DBE subcontractor to ensure that the firm is fully knowledgeable of the Prime Contractor's expectations for successful performance on the contract. Document these efforts in writing.
 - ii. If those efforts fail, provide written notice to the DBE subcontractor of the Prime Contractor's intent to request to modify the commitment through reduction in participation, termination, and/or replacement of the subcontractor including the reason(s) for pursuing this action.
 - iii. Copy the DBE Office on all correspondence related to changing a DBE subcontractor who has been approved for DBE credit on a contract, including preparation and coordination efforts.

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- iv. Clearly state the amount of time the DBE firm has to remedy and/or respond to the notice of intent to replace/terminate. The DBE must be allowed five days from the date notice was received as indicated by email time stamp or signed certified mail, to respond, in writing. **EXCEPTION:** The Prime Contractor must provide a verifiable reason for a response period shorter than five days. For example, a WisDOT project engineer or project manager confirms that WisDOT has eliminated an item the DBE subcontractor was contracted for.
- v. The DBE subcontractor must acknowledge the contract modification with written response to the Prime Contractor and the DBE Office. If objecting to the subcontract modification, the DBE subcontractor must outline the basis for objection to the proposed modification, providing sound reasoning for WisDOT to reject the prime's request.

B. Request to Modify DBE Subcontracting Commitment

The written request referenced above may be delivered by email or fax. The request must contain the following:

1. Project ID number
2. WisDOT Contract Project Engineer's name and contact information
3. DBE subcontractor name and work type and/or NAICS code
4. Contract's progress schedule
5. Reason(s) for requesting that the DBE subcontractor be replaced or terminated
6. Attach/include all communication with the DBE subcontractor to deploy/address/resolve work completion

Naming conventions: When emailing files, please use the following language to identify your submission- "Project #, Proposal #, Let date, Business Name, MODIFICATION" Email: DBE.Alert@dot.wi.gov + Project Engineer

WisDOT will review the request and any supporting documentation submitted to evaluate if the circumstance and the reasons constitute good cause for replacing or terminating the approved DBE subcontractor.

Good Causes to Replace a DBE subcontractor according to the federal DBE program guidelines {49 CFR part 26.53}

- The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to execute a written contract
- The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to perform the work of its subcontract in a way consistent with normal industry standards. Provided, however, that good cause does not exist if the failure or refusal of the DBE subcontractor to perform its work on the subcontract results from the bad faith or discriminatory action of the prime contractor
- The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to meet the prime contractor's reasonable, nondiscriminatory bond requirements
- The listed DBE subcontractor becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or exhibits credit unworthiness
- The listed DBE subcontractor is ineligible to work on public works projects because of suspension and debarment proceedings pursuant 2 CFR Parts 180, 215, and 1,200 or applicable state law
- The prime has determined that the listed DBE subcontractor is not a responsible contractor
- The listed DBE subcontractor voluntarily withdraws from the project and provides written notice of its withdrawal
- The listed DBE subcontractor is ineligible to receive DBE credit for the type of work required

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- A DBE firm owner dies or becomes disabled with the result that the listed DBE subcontractor is unable to complete its work on the contract

C. Evaluation and Response to the Request

WisDOT's timely response to the Prime Contractor's request for modification of the approved DBE subcontracting commitment will be provided to the prime and the WisDOT project engineer via email.

If WisDOT determines that the Prime Contractor's basis for reduction in participation, replacement, or termination of the DBE subcontractor is not consistent with the good cause guidelines, the DBE office will provide a response via email within 48-hours of receipt of request from the Prime Contractor as indicated by email time stamp. The communication will include: the requirement to utilize the committed DBE, actions to support the completion of the contractual commitment, a list of available WisDOT support services, and administrative remedies, including withholding payment to the prime, that may be invoked for failure to comply with federal DBE guidelines for DBE replacement.

The WisDOT contact for all actions related to modification of the approved Form DT1506 is the DBE Program Engineer who can be reached at DBE_Alert@dot.wi.gov or (608) 264-9528.

D. DBE Utilization beyond the approved DBE Commitment (Form DT1506)

When the prime or a subcontractor increases the scope of work for an approved DBE subcontractor or adds a DBE subcontractor who was not on the approved form DT1506 at any time after contract execution, this is referred to as voluntary DBE contract goal achievement. The contractor must follow these steps to ensure that the participation is accurately credited toward the DBE goal:

- a. Forward a complete, signed Attachment A form to the DBE Office. A complete Attachment A includes DBE subcontractor contact information, signatures, subcontract value, and description of the work areas to be performed by the DBE. The DBE Office will verify the DBE participation and revise the DT1506 based on the email/discussion and the new Attachment A.
- b. When adding to an existing DBE commitment, submit a new Attachment A to the DBE Alert mailbox
- c. OR Submit a final Attachment A to DBE Alert during the Finals Process when Compliance receives notice of "Substantially Complete"

Naming conventions: When emailing files, please use the following language to identify your submission- "Project #, Proposal #, Let date, Business Name, New Attachment A" Email: DBE_Alert@dot.wi.gov

Special note on trucking

- DBE truckers added to the sublets in CRCS *will* be approved without DBE credit (You will see a "N" in CRCS instead of "Y")
- Prime Contractors may enter a "place holder" e.g. \$1000.00, for DBE Trucking in CRCS if the full amount of trucking is unknown for sublet purposes only
- The hiring contractor may obtain the Attachment A with DBE signature included but the **Prime Contractor** must sign the Attachment A before submitting