Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Update Tenant Rental Assistance Certification System (TRACS)



Description

The U. S. Federal government has used services from Dun and Bradstreet to both identify (using the DUNS® number) and validate/verify federal contractors since 1978. In 1998, entities were required to get a DUNS number by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). In 2008, this requirement expanded to federal financial assistance, affecting over 630,000 public and private entities seeking federal contracts and/or grants.

A Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is replacing the DUNS unique number assigned to all entities (public and private companies, individuals, institutions, or organizations) who register to do business with the federal government. New UEIs will be automatically assigned to entities registered in SAM at a future date. UEI should be used in place of DUNS numbers after April 1, 2022.

The New UEI Standard

The standard for the new unique Entity ID has been published in the Federal Register. The new UEI is stored as a 12-character, alpha-numeric value within databases and passed as such within interfaces and extracts. This 12-character value will adhere to the following rules:

- The letters "O" and "I" will not be used to avoid confusion with zero and one
- The first character will not be zero to avoid cutting off digits that can occur during data imports, for example, when importing data into spreadsheet programs.
- Nine-digit sequences will not be used in the identifier to avoid collision with the nine-digit DUNS number or Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN).
- The first five characters will be structured to avoid collision with the Commercial and Government Entity code formatting or CAGE code.
- The UEI will not be case sensitive.
- The final character will be a checksum of the first 11 characters. Checksums are used to detect errors within data.
- The UEI will not contain the entity's Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Indicator. The EFT Indicator will remain a separate field in SAM.gov.

Information for TRACS Users

Per the MAT User Guide, under 6.1 VCHHR Voucher Header Record, item 33 requests the Owner submit DUNS Number and item 34 requests the Owner to submit Parent Company DUNS Number to the Tenant Rental Assistance Certification System (TRACS). If you do not have a DUNS Number, leave the field blank. A TRACS error message for missing DUNS number is for informational purposes and does not suspend or stop electronic request for subsidy payment.

Future TRACS Updates

In our best efforts to provide an excellent service to all of our users, TRACS Release 203A will include an upgrade to collect four UEI data entities to the end of the Voucher and Tenant MAT header records: [i] Awardee UEI; [ii] Immediate Parent UEI; [iii] Domestic Parent UEI; and [iv] Global Parent UEI.

Additional design details to follow in the final TRACS Specification Documents.