



Professional Standards Committee Highlights

UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIERS FOR SAM.GOV



By December 2020, every organization doing business with federal agencies will have a new, 12-character identifier. This is called a **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)**.

DUNS, created by Dun & Bradstreet, has been the official entity verification number since it was codified in the Federal Acquisition Regulation in 1998. The General Services Administration (GSA), which administers the program, opened the contract to new vendors and awarded the new contract in March 2019 to Ernst & Young, who will administer the new UEI, including managing the transition from DUNS.

The UEI will be three characters longer than the current DUNS numbers and structured to avoid confusion with the old numbers or with tax ID and Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) codes. Any systems that currently use the DUNS' nine-digit format may need to be updated to use the UEI.

The new UEI also comes with a new process. Rather than going through the vendor to obtain the unique ID, organizations will be able to request a UEI when they register with [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) (System for Award Management), which is also where they will be able to make changes to their profile and request assistance. For existing registered entities, a new UEI will automatically be assigned on [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

The GSA has created a web page to assist with the transition: <https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/federal-acquisition-service/office-of-systems-management/integrated-award-environment-iae/iae-information-kit/unique-entity-identifier-update>

If you have questions regarding this topic, contact Jason Al-Imam, Chair of the Professional Standards Committee at standards.chair@csmfo.org.

The Professional Standards Committee operates as a technical resource to CSMFO members. The Committee is comprised of municipal and commercial members whose mission is to keep members informed of emerging issues and best practices.
