



NAICS Codes

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is a six-digit code used by business and government to classify and measure economic activity in Canada, Mexico and the United States. Maryland's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) programs use NAICS Codes to distinguish the areas of work in which an applicant firm is to be certified.

Firms applying for MBE and/or DBE certification consult with MDOT's Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) during the application process to identify the types of goods supplied and/or services performed. The matching NAICS Codes are identified and the definition of those goods and services is refined. Applicant firms may apply for certification under as many NAICS Codes for which they meet the eligibility requirements. When a firm is certified, the notification letter details the NAICS Codes in which the firm is granted certification.

NAICS Codes are well defined in the project specifications. Prime contractors seeking to fulfill minority participation goals with MBEs/DBEs must use firms certified in a particular area of work as defined by the NAICS Code.

- For example, an Information Technology procurement for computer and network cable installation (NAICS Code 238210) requires an MBE/DBE certified in NAICS Code 238210 in order for that work to count towards the minority participation goal.

NAICS Codes also determine the size standard applied to the firm. Firms that exceed the U.S. Small Business Administration Size Standards for the NAICS Codes in which they are certified will graduate *from that specific NAICS Code*.

- For example, an MBE/DBE certified in highway, street and bridge construction (NAICS Code 237310) and Poured Concrete Foundation (NAICS Code 238110) grows to the point where it exceeds the size standards governing NAICS Code 238110, the firm can no longer participate as an MBE/DBE in poured concrete foundation work, but could continue to participate as an MBE/DBE in highway, street and bridge construction.

For a complete listing of NAICS codes and size standards, visit www.sba.gov.

Expansion of Services

Recognizing the changing nature of business, certified firms are encouraged to apply for an Expansion of Services as the company grows. An Expansion of Services is the process by which certified firms may request an addition, deletion or change to the NAICS Codes in which they are currently certified. Certified firms may request an Expansion of Services at any time by submitting written request directly to MDOT's Office of Minority Business Enterprise by fax (410-865-1309), email (mbe@mdot.state.md.us) or US mail at 7201 Corporate Center Dr., Hanover, MD 21076.