

Indiana's Interstate Application & Process

The DBE program doesn't quite have an automatic reciprocity component. DBEs seeking certification in other states are required to do so by means of Interstate Certification. The procedures for Interstate DBE Certification are defined in 49 CFR 26.85 and are handled differently from state to state.

The regulations outline two options for processing interstate applications. One option allows you to accept the home state's decision and the other option allows you to secure a complete application packet for a comprehensive review. Over the years, the latter option has drawn great criticism from the DBE community because of the cumbersome request.

Back in April 2019, USDOT better explained the intent of interstate certification and clarified the process for UCPs. The UCP reviewing the interstate application, should not question the judgement of the home state UCP. Instead, UCPs should evaluate applications based on the level of risk. For example, a DBE certified in professional services is less of a risk than a DBE supplier. Additional information should be sought only as needed, not for every application.

As a result of this guidance, EOD in collaboration with INDOT's IT team, developed a one page application to capture relevant information about the DBE. Now, the DBE is only required to upload proof of their current certification status with their home state. It's literally a two minute process!

Indiana DBEs seeking certification in Kentucky and vice versa, are encouraged to take advantage of the DBE EXCHANGE. For additional information about the DBE EXCHANGE, you may reference <https://www.in.gov/indot/2674.htm> or contact our Certification area.