

From: DBE/ACDBE Certification Program Alert <info@writemynarrative.com>
Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 2:14 AM
To: awe1971@comcast.net
Subject: U.S. DOT Interim Final Rule - Immediate Changes to DBE/ACDBE Certification

U.S. DOT Interim Final Rule - Immediate Changes to DBE/ACDBE Certification

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has issued an **interim final rule** that immediately changes how all Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Airport Concessions DBE (ACDBE) certifications are evaluated. The rule is effective October 3, 2025.

What's changing?

- **As of October 3, all DBE and ACDBE firms are effectively decertified.**
- The prior **race- and gender-based presumptions of disadvantage are no longer in place**. In other words, race and/or gender no longer automatically count as proof of disadvantage.
- To remain in the program, **every certified owner must submit a Personal Narrative** and current Personal Net Worth statement.
- The Personal Narrative should describe real barriers you've faced (e.g., lack of access to financing, business opportunities, or systemic hurdles) and how they caused financial harm.

What it means for you?

- All currently certified DBE/ACDBE firms that submit the additional, required documentation will be reevaluated again under this new rule.
- Until reevaluations are complete, **goal setting and several other program elements are suspended**.
- Your certifying agency will contact you with instructions for securely submitting the required documentation.

🔗 Read the official DOT notice here: [U.S. DOT Interim Final Rule on DBE/ACDBE Certification](#)

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The above information is based on what is known as of October 2 regarding the new rule and what has been communicated by DOT. Further clarifications and guidance updates are expected.

What do I do?

Get ready!

We recognize this change may feel overwhelming. To get things started and to assist the community, a group of industry experts has created a free online tool as an optional community resource that to help business owners draft their Personal Narrative.

- The tool guides you step-by-step through required information and produces a draft narrative you can edit.
- This resource is not affiliated with or endorsed by DOT or any certifying agency.
- It is provided at no cost and intended as a convenience only.
- If you've never written a Personal Narrative before, now is the time to do so!

Access the tool here: www.writemynarrative.com

DO NOT CLICK ON THIS LINK!

⚠ *Reminder: Never send documents or personal information by email. Only submit materials through the secure process your certifying agency provides. If you use third-party tools, do not upload sensitive financial statements or confidential data beyond what you are comfortable providing.*

The WriteMyNarrative Team

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