

DUNS / SAM.gov

Who is required to have a DUNS number? –

Vendors doing direct business with the Federal Government or grantees and subgrantees of federal awards. A vendor is not required to have a DUNS Number or required to be registered in the SAM site in order to do business with subgrantees. For Example - If Will's Radio Shop wanted to sell radios to FEMA directly, then they would need to be registered in SAM and have a DUNS number. If the City of Willtown receives a Homeland Security grant from the State of Texas then the City of Willtown will need to have a DUNS and be registered in SAM. If Wills Radio Shop just wanted to do business with the City of Willtown, then they would not be required to be listed in SAM or have a DUNS number in order do business with the subgrantee.

If you have a DUNS number should it automatically be able to be located in the SAM.gov website or is there something else that must be done? – *Not necessarily. The Vendor may have received a DUNS number for purposes other than doing business with the Federal Government. DUNS and SAM are two different things. SAM uses DUNS as an identifier, but the two systems are not automatically linked. That's why vendors must register in order to do business with the Federal Government after they get a DUNS Number.*

What needs to be done if the vendor has provided a DUNS number but can't be located at all in the SAM.gov website and it shows no record found?– *As stated in in the SAM Public USER FAQs "If no exclusion record is found for the entity, the entity does not have an active exclusion submitted in SAM by a federal agency." (<https://www.sam.gov/sam/transcript/Public - Identifying Excluded Entities.pdf>). Please remember that If you want to do business directly with the Federal Government you must register in SAM. If the entity doing business with the Federal government is put on the excluded parties list for some reason, that entity will be submitted for exclusion by a Federal Agency. If the vendor has a DUNS number but has never wanted to do business with the Federal government, so in turn has never felt the need to register in SAM, then they could have a DUNS number but not show up or ever registered in SAM.*

Are jurisdictions allowed to do business with a vendor that does not have a DUNS number? – *Yes, subgrantees must only verify and document that SAM has been checked in case the vendor is listed as debarred. They are not required to check SAM to ensure the vendor has registered in SAM. Please remember that the quality of your search will be based on the information you enter into the search options. You may need to try and search multiple name combinations to ensure that the vendor is not listed.*