

**DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM.
(REV 6-6-02) (FA 7-17-02) (1-03)**

SECTION 7 (Pages 55-71) is expanded by the following:

7-24 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program.

7-24.1 General: Prior to award of the Contract, have an approved DBE Affirmative Action Program Plan filed with the Equal Opportunity Office. Update and resubmit the plan every three years. No Contract will be awarded until the Department approves the Plan. The DBE Affirmative Action Program Plan and commitment to carry out the Plan must be incorporated into and become a part of the awarded Contract. Failure to keep these commitments will be deemed noncompliance with these Specifications and a breach of the Contract. Take all necessary and reasonable steps to ensure that FDOT Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, as defined in 49 CFR Part 26 and DOT Rule Chapter 14-78, have the opportunity to participate in, compete for and perform subcontracts. Do not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, national origin, sex or disability in the award and performance of DOT assisted Contracts.

7-24.2 Plan Requirements: Include the following in the DBE Affirmative Action Program Plan:

(a) A policy statement, expressing a commitment to use DBEs in all aspects of contracting to the maximum extent feasible. The policy making body must issue a policy statement signed by the chairperson, which expresses its commitment to utilize DBEs, outlines the various levels of responsibility, and states the objectives of the program. Circulate the policy statement throughout the Contractor's organization.

(b) The designation of a Liaison Officer within the Contractor's organization, as well as support staff, necessary and proper to administer the program, and a description of the authority, responsibility, and duties of the Liaison Officer and support staff. The Liaison Officer and staff are responsible for developing, managing, and implementing the program on a day-to-day basis for carrying out technical assistance activities for DBEs and for disseminating information on available business opportunities so that DBEs are provided an equitable opportunity to participate in Contracts let by the Department.

Use techniques to facilitate DBE participation in contracting activities which include, but are not limited to:

1. Soliciting price quotations and arranging a time for the review of plans, quantities, specifications, and delivery schedules, and for the preparation and presentation of quotations.

2. Providing assistance to DBEs in overcoming barriers such as the inability to obtain bonding, financing, or technical assistance.

3. Carrying out information and communication programs or workshops on contracting procedures and specific contracting opportunities in a timely manner, with such programs being bilingual where appropriate.

4. Encouraging eligible DBEs to apply for certification with the Department.

5. Contacting Minority Contractor Associations and city and county agencies with programs for disadvantaged individuals for assistance in recruiting and encouraging eligible DBE contractors to apply for certification with the Department.

7-24.3 DBE Records and Reports: Submit the Anticipated DBE Participation Statement at or before the Pre-Construction Conference. Report monthly, through the Equal Opportunity Reporting System on the Department's Website, actual payments, retainage, minority status, and work type of all subcontractors and major suppliers. The Equal Opportunity Office will provide instructions on accessing this system. Develop a record keeping system to monitor DBE affirmative action efforts which include the following:

- (a) the procedures adopted to comply with these Specifications;
- (b) the number of subordinated Contracts on Department projects awarded to

DBEs;

- (c) the dollar value of the Contracts awarded to DBEs;
- (d) the percentage of the dollar value of all subordinated Contracts awarded to DBEs as a percentage of the total Contract amount;
- (e) a description of the general categories of Contracts awarded to DBEs; and
- (f) the specific efforts employed to identify and award Contracts to DBEs.

Upon request, provide the records to the Department for review.

All such records are required to be maintained for a period of five years following acceptance of final payment and have them available for inspection by the Department and the Federal Highway Administration.