

## Frequently Asked Questions SAMs & DUNS Numbers

### Is obtaining a CAGE Code Mandatory?

Yes, obtaining a CAGE Code is mandatory in order to do business with the federal government or receive federal grant funding.

### What is a CAGE Code? (also known as SAMs)

The CAGE Code is a five-character ID number used by the Federal Government to identify vendors. CAGE stands for “Commercial And Government Entity.”

### How are CAGE Codes are used?

The CAGE Code is used to support a variety of automated systems throughout the government and provides a standardized method of identifying a given facility at a specific location. The code may be used for

- faster payment of invoices
- a facility clearance,
- a pre-award survey,
- automated bidders list,
- identification of debarred bidders, etc.

### How do I register for a Cage Code?

All applicants must be registered in the **System for Award Management (SAM) system** (formally Central Contractor Region/CCR) database. This is the repository for standard information about federal financial assistance applicants, recipients, and sub recipients. If you had an active CCR, you have an active record in SAM. Applicants must update or renew their SAM registration on an annual basis. Information to update your entity records can be accessed at <https://sam.gov/SAM/>. **DOJ cannot award funds until an agency has an active registration in SAM and is eligible to receive federal funds**

### Where is the SAMs website so I can register for a CAGE Code?

<https://sam.gov/SAM/>

### What Information will I need?

At a minimum, you will need the following information:

- Your DUNS Number, Legal Business Name, and Physical Address from your Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) record.
- If you don't already have one, you can [request a DUNS Number for FREE](#) from D&B.
- Your Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and Taxpayer Name associated with your TIN. Review your tax documents from the IRS (such as a 1099 or W-2 form) to find your Taxpayer Name.

- Your bank's routing number, your bank account number, and your bank account type, i.e. checking or savings, to set up Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

### What is a DUNS Number?

The [Data Universal Numbering System \(DUNS\)](#) number is a unique nine-character identification number provided by the commercial company D&B. Call D&B at 1-866-705-5711 if you do not have a DUNS Number.

The process to request a DUNS Number via phone takes about 10 minutes and is free of charge. Internet requests are fulfilled within 24 hours. Once a DUNS Number has been issued, it will be available for use in CCR within 48 hours. For further information on D&B and DUNS, please see the DUNS Number Guidance.

You must have a different nine-digit DUNS Number for each physical location or different address in your business or organization as well as each legal division that may be co-located. When entering your DUNS Number, enter only the numbers; do not include dashes.