



## Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Fact Sheet

### Summary:

Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and the requirements for a DUNS number with respect to the Vets First Verification Program are defined.

### Discussion:

A DUNS number is a nine-digit number issued by Dun & Bradstreet to a single business entity. A DUNS number is also the unique identifier used by the Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE) to identify firms applying for and participating in the Veterans First Contracting Program. The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act is the source guidance which necessitates firms desiring to participate in VA's Veterans First Contracting Program having to obtain a DUNS number from Dun & Bradstreet.

Failure to obtain and maintain a DUNS number identified with the specific firm listed in your firm's VetBiz Vendor Information Pages (VIP) profile may result in a withdrawal of a firm's application for verification or verification status cancellation of a firm already verified and listed in the VetBiz VIP database.

For business purposes, a firm may have several DUNS numbers (e.g., DUNS for multiple states or different DUNS numbers for each sub company within a firm), which is an ordinary and customary practice.

However, for purposes of the CVE verification process, a firm may only rely on one such DUNS number as an identifier for the VetBiz VIP database.

CVE is not in the business of advising firms on how to organize or do business. However, although CVE does not have a particular policy on the number of applications a firm may submit under its own name or under a 'doing business as' or 'fictitious name filing,' CVE uses DUNS numbers as an identifier for verification purposes (i.e., one DUNS number per legal entity). As a 'doing business as'/DBA or 'fictitious name' would not create a separate legal entity, a concern with multiple DBAs would still only have one DUNS number and therefore be processed as a single application.

In order to fully evaluate the concern for compliance with 38 CFR Part 74, a firm would need to submit all relevant information, including all DBAs, to CVE.

Quickly access VA verification application resources via [Verification Assistance](#).

For more information about VA Small and Veteran Business Programs, visit <https://www.va.gov/osdbu>.

### Center for Verification and Evaluation Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

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Monday-Friday

8 a.m.-6 p.m. (Eastern)

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