



COMMERCIALLY USEFUL FUNCTION MADE SIMPLE

If you've ever worked on a contract with Diverse Businesses (DB) goals, you're familiar with commercially useful function (CUF) requirements. Contractors are responsible for ensuring that their DBE and M/WBE trade partners are performing a CUF. A firm is performing a CUF when it executes a distinct element of work on a contract with its own employees, managers, supervisors, equipment, and materials.



A CUF review must be conducted for each distinct element of work that the firm performs on the contract.

Evaluating CUF is a combination of:

- directly observing the firm at the project site
- examining the supporting documentation
- interviewing the firm's employees, other employees on the contract, and agency field staff

These are labor-intensive activities that require time and diligence. Insufficient and/or inexperienced staff, aggressive project schedules, and other factors can inadvertently cause shortcuts or oversights in this process. This results in not discovering fraud indicators that otherwise would have been identified.

*DB is an acronym representing all manner of certified firms, including but not limited to, Disadvantaged/ Minority/ Women/ Veteran/ Small/ Local/ LGBTQ+ businesses and other entities.



FRAUD

Why is fraud a concern?

Investigations can look as far back as 10 years and will include all contracts on which the firm in question performed. Not knowing that fraud occurred is not an acceptable defense.

Contractors will face fines as well as possible debarment and suspension, resulting in significant financial losses.



ASSISTANCE

For a low monthly fee, or on a project-by-project basis, TSIB can assist your team with CUF evaluations.

Our staff has over 50 years of experience in developing, implementing, and administering Federal, State and Local compliance programs on behalf of General Contractors and State agencies.

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EXPERIENCE

Turner Surety and Insurance Brokerage, Inc. (TSIB) has extensive expertise in risk management, and we have worked with law enforcement agencies in the successful investigation and prosecution of DB fraud.

Our team provides support as needed at the company or contract level and at any phase of the project. Prior to award, we can conduct a preliminary assessment of proposed firms to determine if they have the employees, management, supervision, equipment, and materials to independently perform the assigned work.

After award, we can conduct CUF reviews to ensure compliance. We can assist with addressing any identified “red flags” and resolving them before they become non-compliance problems.

To further support corporate and/or project staff, TSIB offers in-person, webinar, or online training in a range of topics, customized for the needs of the organization.



Business Enterprise Questionnaire