Unique Entity ID (SAM)
Frequently Asked Questions

Subawardees and the Unique Entity ID

Question	Answer
Will grant sub-recipients be required to update their DUNS number if they are in the middle of a grant cycle, or can these in-process awards be closed out with the DUNS number?	The requirement to have a unique identifier is not changing. Subrecipients who currently require a DUNS Number will need a Unique Entity ID (SAM) no later than April 4, 2022. To prepare for the transition on April 4, 2021, sub-recipients may only obtain a Unique Entity ID (SAM) by going to SAM.gov. This functionality will be available in Q1FY22 at SAM.gov.
Will pass-through entities be required to get the UEI from their sub-recipients for FFATA reporting after April 4, 2022, or will the DUNS still work for a short period of time?	If reporting to FSRS after April 4, 2022, a Unique Entity ID (SAM) will be required. The DUNS will no longer be accepted after April 4, 2022.
What information is required to be	Only basic information about the entity is required to obtain a

entered by the sub-recipient that only wants a UEI?	Unique Entity ID (SAM).
Is there a monetary threshold for needing the new UEI? For example, is a sub-recipient in any amount – like $300 -- required to have a UEI or is the requirement for sub-recipients above a certain amount, like $20,000?	The requirement for reporting is established by federal policy.
When can subawardees apply for UEI on SAM.gov?	The exact date will be announced at a later time. If you need a Unique Entity ID (SAM), you'll be able to request a Unique Entity ID (SAM) in SAM.gov, starting in Q1 FY 2022, without needing to register.
Will FFATA reporting require the new UEI? And when will that switch start for FFATA reporting?	The DUNS Number is the authoritative identifier and will be used until 4/3/2022.

The Unique Entity ID (SAM) is the authoritative identifier on and after 4/4/2022 and will be used at that time. |
| As of Q1 FY22, if a subrecipient wants only to get a UEI, will they need a DUNS or not? | Subawardees should continue to use the DUNS Number until April 4, 2022. Starting in Q1 FY 2022, you will be able to obtain a Unique Entity ID (SAM), but the Unique Entity ID (SAM) will not be the authoritative identifier until April 4, 2022. |
| How does this apply to subrecipients? | Starting in Q1 FY 2022, you'll be able to request a Unique Entity ID (SAM) in SAM.gov. No registration will be required. If your prime is required to report on subcontracting dollars, you will need a Unique Entity ID starting in April 2022. Work closely with your primes to determine contract requirements.

Continue to use your DUNS Number for reporting. Starting on April 4, 2022, you will only use the Unique Entity ID (SAM) for reporting. |
| Will you be able to get a Unique Entity ID (SAM) without actually registering on | Yes. In Q1 FY 2022, a process to request only a Unique Entity ID (SAM) will become available on SAM.gov. It will not require a |

SAM?	full entity registration.
What will the process be like for a subrecipient to get assigned a SAM UEI?	If you are only getting a Unique Entity ID, the process only requires basic information about your organization. An entity registration requires information about your organization, assertions, representations and certifications, and other information.
Is the SAM registration process simplified as well?	The process to register your entity to do business with the federal government is not changing. If you only get a Unique Entity ID (SAM), that process will be shorter and only require basic information about your organization.

How the Federal Government Will Use the Unique Entity ID?

When will a given federal agency start using the Unique Entity ID (SAM)?	Federal agencies are responsible for implementing the Unique Entity ID (SAM) by April 4, 2022.
What do I do if an agency requires the DUNS Number?	The DUNS Number is the authoritative entity identifier until April 3, 2022. On and after April 4, 2022, federal agencies will be required to use the Unique Entity ID (SAM) as the authoritative identifier.
Will eSRS and FSRS be updated to use only the UEI by April 4, 2022? Currently, reports are submitted using DUNS information.	GSA is preparing all IAE systems (SAM.gov, eSRS, FSRS, FPDS, FAPIIS, etc.) to display, accept, and/or assign the new Unique Entity ID.
Currently, we have not required sub-recipients to have a DUNS number at the time of a grant application. Are all federal grant award recipients required to have a UEI?	We cannot comment on policy related to agency use of the UEI.
What do I do if an agency requires the Unique Entity ID (SAM) and I don't have one?	All registrants in SAM.gov have been assigned their Unique Entity ID (SAM). Go here to learn how to locate your Unique Entity ID (SAM) in SAM.gov. If you register in SAM.gov in the future, a Unique Entity ID (SAM) will be assigned to you.
My agency uses a system to connect to	Please refer to agency guidance on the use of the Unique

other federal systems. What changes or updates are happening to the system or validation procedures around the new UEI?	Entity ID (SAM) in their systems.
Can agencies use UEI(SAM) before April 4, 2022, and not use UEI(DUNS) before April 4, 2022?	Federal agencies have been instructed to use the Unique Entity ID (SAM) as the entity identifier no later than April 4, 2022. Federal agencies have been instructed not to use DUNS as the entity identifier after April 4, 2022.
What happens to current contracts that use the DUNS Number at the transition?	Please refer to agency guidance on the use of the Unique Entity ID (SAM) in contract documents.
I know many agencies have systems that are designed to integrate with FPDS and IPP. Are the representatives for FPDS and IPP planning to publicly share details regarding specific upcoming changes related to UEI so that agencies can make changes to integration solutions on time? (For example, our agency sends contract data to FPDS, and I believe FPDS uses DUNS Number as an element in their file validation program. Are they planning to change the validation rules? If so, we need details a few months in advance so we can update our file-generating programs to meet the new specifications.)	We strongly recommend that your system managers who oversee systems interfacing with FPDS join the Technical Interface Community (TIC) for detailed information on upcoming changes related to implementing the Unique Entity ID (SAM). Your system managers can join the Technical Interface Community by emailing newSAMtesting@gsa.gov.
Effective 4/4/22, will it be necessary to list our UEI on our subaward agreements?	Please refer to agency guidance on the use of the Unique Entity ID (SAM) for grant awards.
If I currently use the DUNS to search at SAM.gov, will I still be able to use the DUNS to search after April 4, 2022?	No, all DUNS Numbers will be removed from SAM.gov on April 4, 2022. You will need to use the Unique Entity ID (SAM) to search entity registrations, exclusions, and contract opportunity awards by entity identifier. You may always search using other unique fields such as entity name or CAGE instead of the Unique Entity ID (SAM).

As a government contractor, what actions should I take before April 4, 2022, to prepare for the change?	Follow IAE updates at Interact. Find your Unique Entity ID (SAM) in your entity record in SAM.gov. Pay close attention to instructions and forms when applying for awards as federal agencies migrate to the new Unique Entity ID (SAM).

Unique Entity ID Information Management and Security

Are there controls to make sure no entity is able to get more than one SAM UEI?	A single Unique Entity ID (SAM) will be assigned to each entity record in SAM.gov.
Should the UEI be treated as Personally Identifiable Information (PII)?	The Unique Entity ID (SAM) is not in itself considered PII.
How is the validation done? Who does it?	The definition of what makes an entity unique is not changing. Integrated Award Environment (IAE) acquires commercial entity validation services (EVS) to validate entity uniqueness and entity core data. Uniqueness is based on an entity being a separate legal entity and/or associated with a separate physical address. Based on the uniqueness determination, a UEI is assigned to that entity. Today, entity validation services are provided by D&B. The new entity validation services provider is Ernst & Young (EY). The service providers must validate that entities are unique. The definition of unique is not changing.
What is the SAM system "matching" to when entities are trying to obtain a UEI?	The data fields required are not changing. The data fields required are legal business name and address. Entities may be asked to provide additional business documents to establish their identity.
A number of the inactive DUNS have old information, like banking, etc. We DO NOT want these transferred. How can we stop this automatic process?	The assignment of a Unique Entity ID (SAM) does not change the status of an inactive SAM.gov entity registration. Entity administrators can delete a registration under their control.
Our organization is already registered with SAM. During the matching/validation process for a new UEI, could someone add	SAM.gov verifies that there is no existing registration for the legal business name and address as part of the validation process.

a duplicate entity registration?	
Will GSA's UEI provide the same level of historical corporate information as D&B provides?	SAM.gov will have access to entity hierarchies.

What Happens to the DUNS Number?

Do you no longer need a DUNS number at all after April 4, 2022	The federal government will have no requirement for the DUNS Number as of April 4, 2022. You will not need the DUNS number to register on SAM.gov on and after April 4, 2022. Until then, the DUNS Number is still required.
Although no longer the authoritative number, after Apr 2022 will you be required to have a DUNS when applying for a new registration?	No, the DUNS Number will not be required starting on April 4, 2022. You will be assigned a Unique Entity ID (SAM) within SAM.gov during registration.
After April, will the DUNS number still be included in the data extracts of entity registration and exclusions?	No, after April 4, 2022, the DUNS Number field will be blank (null) in all data extracts and APIs.
Will the DUNS number be removed from SAM?	Yes. This field will be removed in April of 2022.
After 4/4/22 will we still be able to locate vendors by DUNS if we do not know their UEI?	No. However there are other ways to search for vendors. Please see the videos or user guides on advanced searches.

Entity Registration and the Unique Entity ID

Is my entity's renewal date impacted by this transition?	The transition to using the Unique Entity ID (SAM) does not impact your entity's registration expiration date or when you need to renew. Please renew your registration prior to its expiration date. The expiration date is listed in the entity record on SAM.gov.
Do entities still need a DUNS Number to register in SAM.gov?	From today until April 3, 2022, entities wishing to do business with the federal government need to obtain a DUNS Number to register their entity on SAM.gov. On and after April 4, entities can register in SAM.gov and be assigned their Unique Entity ID (SAM) within SAM.gov. At that time (April 4, 2022), they will no longer need to obtain a DUNS Number for entity registration. If you have an active entity registration in SAM.gov, you've already been assigned a Unique Entity ID (SAM). It's viewable on your entity registration record in SAM.gov. If you do not have a registration, but need a Unique Entity ID (SAM), starting in Q1 FY 2022, you'll be able to request a Unique Entity ID (SAM) in SAM.gov without needing to register.
Do organizations need to re-register to receive Unique Entity ID even if they have a DUNS?	You do not need to update your existing registration to be assigned the Unique Entity ID (SAM). If you are registered in SAM.gov now, you've already been assigned a Unique Entity ID (SAM). It's viewable on your entity registration record in SAM.gov. If you register on SAM.gov in the future, you'll be assigned a Unique Entity ID (SAM) as a part of the registration process.
Will non-US-based organizations also used the Unique Entity ID (SAM) or do they still need the DUNS?	All entities, no matter their location, will use the Unique Entity ID (SAM) as their identifier.

The CAGE/NCAGE Code and the Unique Entity ID

Will the CAGE Code still be available in SAM.gov?	The CAGE code will still be used and available on SAM.gov registration records. The change to the Unique Entity ID (SAM) does not impact the CAGE/NCAGE code.
What is the connection between the new unique ID and the CAGE code, if any?	The Unique Entity ID (SAM) and the CAGE code are separate identifiers.
Is SAM UEI becoming the sole SAM number? Will organizations have SAM UEIs and CAGE codes?	The federal government will begin to use the Unique Entity ID (SAM) only on April 4, 2022. The federal government will stop using the DUNS Number at that time. The CAGE code is managed by and obtained from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and is not changing at this time.

About the Unique Entity ID

What is the Unique Entity ID (SAM)?	The Unique Entity ID (SAM) is a 12-character alphanumeric value managed, granted, and owned by the government. It is used to identify unique entities.
What's EVS?	Entity Validation Service: A service that independently verifies the uniqueness of an entity.
Are there certain characters that will not be used in the Unique Entity ID? Like zero (0) or the letter O?	Please see our Unique Entity ID (SAM) technical specifications for this information: https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/federal-acquisition-service/office-of-systems-management/integrated-award-environment-iae/iae-systems-information-kit/uei-technical-specifications-and-api-information
What is the difference between DUNS, the Unique Entity ID (SAM), and the CAGE/NCAGE Code?	The DUNS Number is issued by Dun & Bradstreet. Unique Entity ID (SAM) is issued by SAM.gov. CAGE/NCAGE are issued by DoD.
How will the Unique Entity ID (SAM) work for parent and child entities? Will they have multiple ID numbers?	Each SAM registration will be assigned the Unique Entity ID (SAM). A Unique Entity ID (SAM) will not be shared across registrations.
How will the Unique Entity ID (SAM) work for	Federal entities registered in SAM.gov will use the Unique

federal departments, sub-tiers, and offices? Will they have multiple ID numbers?	Entity ID (SAM).
If I change information on my DUNS record, like my legal business name or address, between now and April 4, will the UEI-SAM be updated, too?	The Unique Entity ID (SAM) is associated with the SAM registration. Updates to name or address will require re-validation of the entity.
Does the Unique Entity ID (SAM) expire? Will I need to renew it annually?	No, once issued, the Unique Entity ID (SAM) will not expire.

Transition Timing

Which identifier is authoritative and when?	The DUNS Number is the authoritative identifier until 4/3/2022. The Unique Entity ID (SAM) is the authoritative identifier on and after 4/4/2022.
With a new vendor, do they still register with Dunn and Bradstreet first and then go to SAM.gov to register?	This is the current process to register an entity on SAM.gov. Starting on April 4, 2022, entities will no longer need a DUNS Number; they will only go to SAM.gov to register and be assigned a Unique Entity ID (SAM).
Effective 4/4/22, will we begin receiving notices of award with the UEI on them?	Award notices on SAM.gov already use the Unique Entity ID (SAM) as well as the DUNS Number.
Given the delay in some software vendors providing a UEI patch, have there been any discussions on the possibility of pushing out the April 2022 deadline date?	The April 4, 2022 transition date is firm.
Is there a determined date for when testing the posting/transmission of UEI to FPDS will be available in FPDS beta?	The detailed schedule for FPDS transition activities will be published shortly.
What are the timelines for FPDS starting to accept UEI from interfacing CWS?	The detailed schedule for FPDS transition activities will be published shortly.

Why is the Unique Entity ID changing?

Why is the government transitioning from using the DUNS Number to a new Unique Entity ID (SAM)?	The move from DUNS to the Unique Entity ID (SAM) is a federal government-wide initiative. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) directed federal agencies/systems to complete their transition to the Unique Entity ID (SAM) no later than April 4, 2022. Agencies across the federal government are implementing plans and changes now and up until April 4, 2022. GSA's role in the transition to using the Unique Entity ID (SAM) is to assign the ID to active and inactive entity registrations, to provide a process for subawardees to request an ID without registering, to populate our data extracts and APIs with the new ID field, and to update our award systems to display and accept the ID.

Data Services and the Unique Entity ID

Will you be covering APIs government to government and assisting those of us using the API to validate the DUNS to obtain the new UEIs?	Agency system owners are encouraged to join the Technical Interface Community to obtain updates on IAE APIs. Email newSAMtesting@gsa.gov to join.
I support state-wide federal grants. Can I get a full extract/download of UEIs/DUNS Numbers for all schools in my state to upload/incorporate into our state grant management system?	There are various resources, such as SAM.gov Data Extracts, APIs, and DataBank reports where the public can obtain data to download.
Would there be a SAM service to view DUNS to UEI mapping? Or do I need a plan user account API to run that query?	There will not be a service. If you are a federal contract writing system, a crosswalk for federal awards has been provided and can be found on the FPDS.gov website.
Are the GSA REST APIs, for example, Entities API or Exclusions APIs, input parameter ueiSAM can take "UEI+EFT Indicator" or "UEI only" or both work?	For assistance with technical issues, please contact FSD.gov.
Will DUNS remain in the new versions of the SAM extract files after April 4 for any entities that previously had DUNS assigned before the switch to UEI?	No. The DUNS Number will be blank as of April 4, 2022.

Changes to Saved Searches and Reports

If I currently have contract data ad hoc reports which use the DUNS as filter or data element (need right term), do I need to take any action before April 4, 2021, to continue to run my report?	Ad hoc reports will have a Unique Entity ID (SAM) in Q4 FY 2021. Standard and administrative reports will have a Unique Entity ID (SAM) at the end of October. To ensure no interruption to your work, we advise you to update your reports when the Unique Entity ID (SAM) is available.
When should I edit my saved searches and ad hoc reports to stop using DUNS Numbers and start using the Unique Entity ID (SAM)?	You can change your saved searches in SAM.gov now; the Unique Entity ID is available. Ad hoc reports will have a Unique Entity ID (SAM) in Q4 FY 2021. Standard and administrative reports will have a Unique Entity ID (SAM) at the end of October. To ensure no interruption to your work, we advise you to update your searches as soon as possible.