

**CONTRACT SPECIAL PROVISION
MANDATORY USE OF ONLINE
PROJECT PAYMENT REPORTING**

A. DESCRIPTION

This Special Provision (SP) replaces Section 109.04 D, "Prompt Payment"

This SP details the requirements for Contractors to document payment to all tiers of DBE subcontractors and suppliers and all non-DBE subcontractors. For the purposes of this SP, the term "payee" will be used to denote all tiers of DBE subcontractors and suppliers as well as all tiers of non-DBE subcontractors.

The Department utilizes the Certification and Compliance System (CCS) for this purpose. The direct web address to this system is <https://dotnd.diversitycompliance.com/>

B. PROMPT PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS

Within 20 calendar days of receiving payment from the Department, pay all payees their portion of the payment less applicable retainage, not to exceed 2 percent. If the Contractor does not make prompt payment, the payee may notify the Engineer.

The Contractor may withhold payment to a payee for just cause. If withholding payment from a payee, immediately provide written notification to the payee and the Engineer with the reasons for withholding the payment. If the Engineer determines the Contractor is withholding payment with just cause, interest will not accrue.

If the Engineer determines the Contractor is withholding payment without just cause, beginning on the 21st calendar day after the Contractor's receipt of payment from the Department interest will accrue for the payee at the rate provided by NDCC 13-01.1-02. Additionally, the Department may withhold all payments to the Contractor until the Contractor properly pays the payee and agrees to make all future payments to payees as required by the contract.

The Department will apply these prompt payment procedures to all payees, in accordance with 49 CFR 26.29.

C. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. General.

Create a vendor account with CCS if one does not exist. Create a user for each employee who will use the system and identify the main user. The main user will receive communications from the Department.

2. Utilization Plan.

Complete a Utilization Plan (UP) and submit it for approval in CSS within 14 days of being notified the UP is available, or contract execution, whichever is later. The Department may grant an extension upon written request from the Contractor.

List all payees with the UP and at the proper tier. Ensure payees are completing their requirements and provide assistance as necessary.

The Department's Civil Rights Division will review the UP, verify the DBE participation is reported correctly, and approve the UP or return it for updates. If the UP is returned it will contain a note describing the necessary updates. Complete changes and resubmit within 7 days of receiving a returned UP.

a. Non-Account Holders.

If a payee does not already have an account within CSS when creating the UP send the information listed below to the compliance officer via CSS:

- Company name;
- Mailing address;
- Phone number;
- Contact person's name; and
- Contact person's email address.

The NDDOT will then set up a vendor account within CCS for the payee and notify the contractor when they are available to add to the UP.

b. Additional Payees.

If a payee is added after the initial UP is approved, submit a request for the payee to be added via the "Subs" tab inside CCS. Complete this process before the payee is due payment.

3. Payments.

Once the UP is approved, the UP is locked in and contractor progress payments will be reported, and the monthly auditing process begins. An audit is the term used in the system to refer to a monthly period while the project is active.

Contractors must report any payments for all payees for each audit period. A payment may be marked as final and if the payee agrees to the final payment no other reporting will be required on that payee. Payments of \$0 must be reported or the audit will be considered incomplete. Audits are available in subsequent months, meaning the January audit period will open in February. Payments not reported within 30 days will be considered past due. Audits containing past due payments must be unlocked by a system administrator.

4. Payment Discrepancies.

Payees are required to confirm payments or open a Discrepancy (dispute original submission) within 30 days of the payment being recorded. Payments not confirmed nor disputed within 30 days will be auto-confirmed by the system administrators and the ability to dispute that payment will no longer be available. Contractors are to ensure the payees on their project are timely confirming/disputing payments.

Attempts should be made to resolve Discrepancies between the two parties. CCS provides functionality for each party to comment publicly or privately (private comments are visible to system administrators only). If the parties cannot come to a resolution, the Department will make a resolution. The Department may request additional information, if applicable, before making a resolution.

5. Certification and Compliance System Assistance.

A user manual for UP's and recording project payments is available within the system. The user manual and other training is offered by navigating to it once logged in. A UP does not have to be assigned to an entity to view the guide or attend system training.

For further assistance, contact the Civil Rights Division for DBE related inquiries and the Construction Services Division for all other inquiries.

01242023