

UNLOCK LASTING SUCCESS WITH THE NEW 3-YEAR WECONNECT INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION!

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SET YOUR BUSINESS APART AND STAND OUT IN THE COMPETITIVE MARKETPLACE?

We are excited to announce the launch of our new **3-year WEConnect International Certification!**

This certification program is designed to recognize and validate the commitment of Women-Owned Businesses to advancing economic development and creating jobs through the support of women entrepreneurs. WEConnect International certification provides an independent third-party verification that your business meets the criteria of a Women-Owned Business and is dedicated to meeting the highest standards of excellence.

With WEConnect International Certification, you can gain access to a broad range of benefits, including:

- Supplier diversity opportunities and procurement opportunities with over 175 Global Member Buyers from Fortune 500 corporations and government entities.
- Networking events, mentoring, executive education, capacity development programs, and other resources.
- Global awards and recognition.
- The use of Women Owned Logo as a marketing tool.
- A supportive community of female entrepreneurs.
- Exposure to new markets, customers, and partners around the world.
- Promotion of your company on the WEConnect International global directory.
- The opportunity to mentor and share your experience with other female business owners.



Access to Member Buyers: By becoming certified, you gain access to WECommunity, our online network of certified Women-Owned Businesses, and have access to a database of supplier diversity and procurement opportunities with Corporate and Government entities. Additionally, there are networking events to create business opportunities between Women-Owned Businesses and Global Member Buyers.

Education & Development: As a certified Women-Owned Business, you are eligible for a range of specialized programs and resources created to help your business succeed. This includes tailored educational programming for capacity building, business, and leadership development programs, sponsorships to attend executive education programs, mentorship, and content and resources for a vast range of industries and stages of entrepreneurship. Through WEConnect International and our network of partner organizations, Women-Owned Businesses get access to opportunities all over the world.

Recognition & Status: WEConnect International certification gives your business the highest level of recognition and status. As a Women-Owned Business, you will be able to display the Women Owned Logo on your marketing brochures, website, packaging, and other branding materials. This will allow you to promote your business within the WEConnect International network through participation in events, contributing to success stories, having speaking opportunities, and more. Additionally, you will be eligible for regional and global awards.

Advocacy & Support: By becoming certified, you join a community of motivated female business owners and advocates. Through a variety of virtual and in-person events, you can network with other women entrepreneurs both locally and globally. By using your voice, you can help us break down the barriers that stand in the way of Women-Owned Businesses and their growth.



We invite you to take advantage of this unique opportunity to achieve recognition and success as a WEConnect International Certified Women-Owned Business. To learn more about the certification process and how to apply, please visit our website.

We look forward to helping you take your business to the next level!

WECONNECT INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1: Who is eligible for the 2023 3-year Certification?

A: All certified WBEs are eligible for the three (3) year certification. For Women Business Owners that gained certification in the following years:

2022 & 2021 - When applying for certification renewal in 2023, the new 2023 certification fee will apply simply fill in the renewal form to gain a 3-year certification. You will also be eligible to apply for renewal in advance.

2020 & earlier - When applying for certification renewal in 2023, the new 2023 certification fee will apply. However, re-certification is required for all Women Business Owners who have not re-certified in 2021 & 2022. Unlike the renewal process, which only requires filling out the form, in this case, re-certification by the business owner requires the business to complete the full certification process.

Please take note that re-certification is an in-depth review of the business and requires undergoing the certification process which may take up to 90+ days. It is the WOB's responsibility to make sure all documents are correct and uploaded, incorrect or incomplete documents will delay the process.

Re-certification prior to 2023 was required every four years. With the new 2023 3-year Certification policy, re-certification is required every three years. Re-certification requires the business to complete the full certification process.

Q2: How to Re-certify to gain 3-year certification in 2023?

A: Simply log back into the WEConnect Business Registration Questionnaire and take the following steps:

- 1) Log back in from this link
- 2) Click blue 'Revise Response'
- 3) Go to Q.7 'Would you like to become certified with WEConnect?' Change your response from 'No' to 'Yes'
- 4) Upload the necessary business documents
- 5) Pay for certification
- 6) Click the blue 'Submit' button to submit your application

Q3: I just renewed my WEConnect International certification in December 2022 at a higher price. Can I get a refund for the difference?

A: The answer is no. The new price for renewing a WEConnect International certification is effective in 2023; no refund is possible. However, if you prepaid your 2024 renewal in 2023, you are eligible to receive a 3-year certification benefit. For more information on eligibility please refer to Q1: "Who is eligible for the 2023 3-year Certification?"

Q4: I paid early, in 2022 for my WEConnect International certification that is due in 2023. Am I eligible for the new fee?

A: The answer is no; you are not eligible for the new fee if you have already paid early in 2022 for your certification that is due in 2023. However, you are eligible to receive a 3-year certification. For more information on eligibility please refer to Q1: "Who is eligible for 2023 three (3) year Certification?"

Q5: My certificate expired in 2022 but I am paying in 2023, within the 90-day grace period, am I eligible for the new fee?

A: In 2023, anyone certified or recertified in 2021 or later gets the three-year certification with the new fee.

If you have an expired certificate from 2022 and are renewing your certification in 2023, you will be eligible for the new fee.

Keep in mind that:

If your business was certified in 2020, you will need to complete a full re-certification.

If the business was certified in 2021 or 2022, you will only need to complete a renewal form and pay the new fee.

It is important to check with your certification support team to determine whether or not you are eligible for the new fee and what documents may be required. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [WEConnect International Certification Support](#) for more information.

Q6: Do I need to do anything in Year 2 to ensure my certificate is still valid?

A: No. When it comes to renewing, the process is simple and straightforward. All you need to do is fill out the renewal form with the correct information (including annual revenue and the number of employees). Confirm on the check box a sworn affidavit that there have been no substantive changes to the business structure or ownership and pay a new renewal fee. The affidavit is a legal document that states you are in fact who you say you are and that you are eligible to hold the certificate. It serves as a way to verify your identity and ensure that all information on the renewal form is accurate. WEConnect International reserves the right to reject your renewal if you have checked the box and the items on the form are not filled out. To ensure your certificate remains valid, be sure to renew it prior to the expiration date.

Q7: Is there a 90-day grace period going into 3-year certification?

A: Yes, the 90-day grace period is a cooling period, designed to give the certified WBE the opportunity to stay certified on the WECommunity platform for a further 90 days while they complete their renewal.

Q8: Are there any exceptions to the 90-day grace period?

A: No, the 90-day grace period applies to all certified businesses regardless of their size or the number of suppliers they work with. After the 90-day period, you may regain your certification by going through the certification process.

Q9: Can I extend the 90-day grace period if needed?

A: Unfortunately, no, the 90-day grace period cannot be extended. It is important to remain compliant with the requirements of the certification in order to keep your business certified.

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