
*Instructional Guide for Robotic Process Automation Capability for Confirming Section 889
Prospective Offeror Responses in the System for Award Management*

Background:

Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) provision 52.204-26, Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services (October 2020) includes representations in paragraph (c) that collect data from prospective offerors used by the government to implement Section 889(a)(1)(A) and (a)(1)(B) of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Per FAR subpart 4.1202(a), this provision is included in the System for Award Management (SAM) as part of a vendor’s annual representations and certifications. FAR subpart 4.2103 provides government users procedures when making contract awards based on the vendor’s representations in this provision.

To ease the implementation of these new requirements on the DoD workforce, Defense Pricing & Contracting (DPC) has developed a simple SAM lookup robotic process automation (RPA) capability specifically for provision 52.204-26.

The guide for leveraging this capability includes the following sections:

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I. Instructions

1. Locate the Commercial and Government Entity Code (CAGE) code or Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) for the vendor in question. Note that as of April 4, 2022, the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number will no longer be used in federal-level procurement or financial assistance pre-and post-award processes. Beginning 4/4/2022, the Section 889 Bot will no longer be able to respond to DUNS number requests.
 - a. Note that shoppers in FedMall can identify the supplier’s CAGE as the first five characters of the Item ID or in the Supplier CAGE field. See the CAGE code identified in red outline below in the image below:



HVAC Tape Duct Tape Type

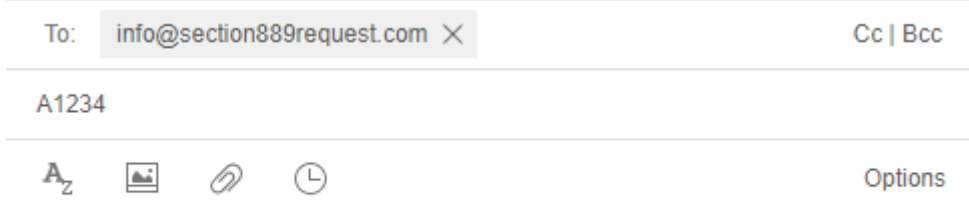
CC

Item ID: **32GY7** GS21F0057V-10A411
Supplier Name: SPS Industrial Inc.
SPRS Rating: PURPLE ⓘ
FedMall Rating: (3 Ratings) ★★★★★

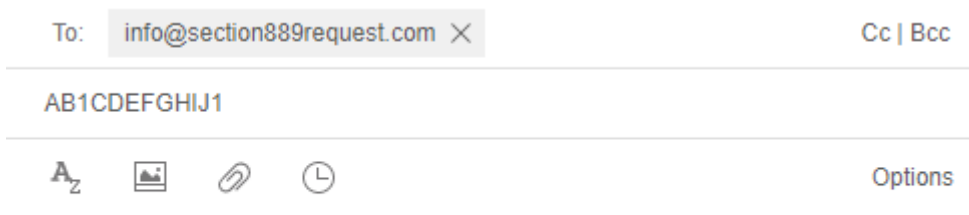
Supplier CAGE: 32GY7
Contract Number: GS21F0057V
Min.Contract Order Dollar Value:
Max.Contract Order Dollar Value:
Supplier Part Number: 10A411
Unit of Issue: EA
Quantity per Unit Pack: 1
Days ARO: 5 Days

2. Send an email to info@section889request.com with **only** a valid CAGE code or UEI in the subject line. Avoid including additional text in the subject line of an email to avoid potential error messages. Consult the examples below for reference.

a. **CAGE Code Request:** Ensure that the email subject line is exactly **5** characters long. An example of an acceptable CAGE code request is shown in the image below:



b. **UEI Request:** Ensure that the email subject line is exactly **12** characters long. An example of an acceptable UEI request is shown in the image below:



c. Only Section 889 email requests should be sent to info@section889request.com, as this email inbox is not monitored for questions or concerns regarding technical issues. In order to remind users, each response from info@section889request.com contains the following text:

“This is not a monitored email address. If you have any questions, please reach out using the ‘Contact Us’ feature on the DoD Procurement Toolbox and select ‘Section 889 Request’ as the ‘Subject’. The ‘Contact Us’ feature is available at: <https://dodprocurementtoolbox.com/contact-us>”

3. After sending a request, wait for a response. Generally, you will receive a response within 5 minutes. However, the response time can vary depending on the volume of requests at a given time, variation in internet speeds, and the potential for technical issues.
 - a. If you find that you do not receive a response within 1 hour of sending a request, please submit your issue via the ‘Contact Us’ feature on the DoD Procurement Toolbox and select ‘Section 889 Request’ as the ‘Subject’. The ‘Contact Us’ feature is available at <https://dodprocurementtoolbox.com/contact-us>.
 - b. Any technical issues with the Section 889 email request will be addressed during our support team’s business hours (Monday-Friday 8am-5pm EST).

II. Responses to Section 889 Requests

In order to provide users with relevant information, the bot returns vendor information in response to valid CAGE code or UEI requests. A typical email response received from the Section 889 Request Bot includes the pieces of information shown in the image below:

The screenshot shows an email response with the following content:

- 1** The vendor information associated with CAGE code 49EQ3 is listed below:
- 2** Legal Business Name: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION
Legal Business Address:
6710 ROCKLEDGE DR
BETHESDA, MD, USA, 20817-1834
UEI: GKURBKCK28R2
Status: Active
Expiration Date: 2023-03-29
- 3** The vendor associated with this CAGE has answered 'Does Not' to FAR provision 52.204-26(c)(1) Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services-Representation.
The vendor associated with this CAGE has answered 'Does Not' to FAR provision 52.204-26(c)(2) Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services-Representation.
- 4** FAR 52.204-26 also requires the offeror to review the list of excluded parties in the System for Award Management (SAM) at the link below for entities excluded from receiving federal awards for "covered telecommunications equipment or services".
<https://sam.gov/data-services/Exclusions/Public%20V2?privacy=Public>
A gray box that says 'Exclusion' will also appear in the SAM Entity Information search if the vendor is on the Exclusions list. Please visit the SAM Entity Information search to confirm that the vendor does not have an exclusion.
<https://sam.gov/content/entity-information>
- 5** This is not a monitored email address. If you have any questions please reach out using the 'Contact Us' feature on the DoD Procurement Toolbox and select 'Section 889 Request' as the 'Subject'. The 'Contact Us' feature is available at:
<https://dodprocurementtoolbox.com/contact-us>

- 4** Link and instructions on how to determine if the offeror is on the excluded parties list in SAM
- 5** Reminder that this email addressed is not monitored and additional contact information for support

Successful requests return the vendor information followed by the appropriate combination of responses for the two subparagraphs of FAR Provision 52.204-26(c) listed below.

Scenario	Response to Requests	52.204-26(c)(1) Compliant 889(a)(1)(A)?	52.204-26(c)(2) Compliant 889(a)(1)(B)?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAGE/UEI number is found, Entity is active on SAM.gov, FAR provision 52.204-26(c)(1) is answered affirmatively. 	“The vendor associated with this CAGE/UEI number has answered “Does” to FAR provision 52.204-26 (c)(1) Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services-Representation.”	NO	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAGE/UEI number is found, Entity is active on SAM.gov, FAR provision 52.204-26(c)(2) is answered affirmatively. 	“The vendor associated with this CAGE/UEI number has answered “Does” to FAR provision 52.204-26(c)(2) Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services-Representation.”		NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAGE/UEI number is found, Entity is active on SAM.gov, FAR provision 52.204-26(c)(1) is answered negatively. 	“The vendor associated with this CAGE/UEI number has answered “Does not” to FAR provision 52.204-26 (c)(1) Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services-Representation.”	YES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAGE/UEI number is found, Entity is active on SAM.gov, FAR provision 52.204-26(c)(2) is answered negatively. 	“The vendor associated with this CAGE/UEI number has answered “Does not” to FAR provision 52.204-26(c)(2) Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services-Representation.”		YES

NOTE: Negative responses to the FAR 52.204-26 (c)(1) and 52.204-26 (c)(2) provisions must be received for the vendor to be fully compliant.

Additional bot scenarios and responses are listed below:

Bot Scenario	Bot Response
The UEI/CAGE code is found, and the entity is active on SAM.gov, however the FAR provision 52.204-26(c)(2) was left unanswered.	<p>“The vendor associated with this UEI/CAGE code has not completed the October 2020 version of the provision. The vendor must update their registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) to complete this version of the provision.</p> <p>As noted above, the vendor associated with this UEI/CAGE code has not completed FAR provision 52.204-26(c)(2) Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services-Representation because it is present only in the October 2020 version.”</p>

Bot Scenario	Bot Response
<p>Vendors on SAM.gov can be registered for various purposes including Federal Assistance Awards and IGT awards. The UEI/CAGE code is found, and the entity is active on SAM.gov, however the vendor is not registered for “All Awards” on SAM.gov.</p>	<p>“The vendor associated with this UEI/CAGE code only has an active registration for ____*, not contracts. Therefore, the vendor has not completed any annual representation and certification, including FAR provision 52.204-6 Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services-Representation.”</p> <p>*The blank would be filled in based on the vendor’s purpose of registration which could include 1)"Federal Assistance Awards" 2) "IGT" or 3)"Assistance Awards & IGT"</p>
<p>The UEI/CAGE code is found, and the entity registration has expired and is inactive on SAM.gov.</p>	<p>“The registration for the vendor associated with this UEI/CAGE code has expired and is therefore no longer active.”</p>

III. How to Troubleshoot Error Messages

Common error messages in response to a request and the appropriate actions necessary to resolve the error are listed below.

Error Message	Action Required
<p>Sorry, ' _____ ' is not a valid UEI or CAGE code.</p> <p>Please resend your request with a valid UEI or CAGE code in the subject line.</p> <p>A valid CAGE code is 5 characters long and cannot contain any special characters. A valid UEI code is 12 characters long and cannot contain any special characters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double check that the UEI/CAGE code that you entered is correctly formatted and resend your request. • Ensure that there is no other text in the subject line. • Resend an email with a correctly formatted UEI or CAGE code in the subject line.
<p>SAM.gov cannot be accessed at this time, therefore, your request cannot be completed. Please attempt your request at a later time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This error occurs if the SAM.gov website encounters an error, is down for maintenance, or cannot be accessed. If you receive this message, please wait and re-attempt your request after an hour. • If this message is recurring, you can contact the DoD Procurement Toolbox (see slide 20).
<p>There are no vendors registered on SAM.gov that are associated with the provided UEI/CAGE code: ' _____ ', It is possible that access to this entity registration is restricted, and it cannot be displayed through public search. If you are a U.S. government user and would like to view the responses with the requested entity, you will need to log into SAM to verify the entity’s completed registration and provision 52.204-26.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm that the UEI/CAGE code being requested is up to date and associated with an existing vendor. • The SAM.gov system only provides access to publicly available data unless you are registered for an FOUO, or Sensitive account associated with a government agency. Check to confirm if access to this entity is restricted to government users.

IV. Additional Tips

1. **DO** Forward responses from the bot to colleagues as necessary, all the information the bot provides is publicly available.

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2. **DO NOT** carbon copy (CC) the bot on emails or sending any attachments to the bot. This bot is on a public domain therefore it is not safe to include the bot email on message threads.
3. **DO NOT** reach out via the DoD Procurement Toolbox asking for vendor representations if the bot indicates that access to that vendor is restricted to government account holders
4. **DO NOT** ask for an 889 Form or through the DoD Procurement Toolbox. This contact feature is only for questions about the bot. Functional or policy-related questions can be directed to the Federal Service Desk (fsd.gov).

V. **Resources**

Section 889 Interim Rule Announcement:

- https://www.acquisition.gov/FAR-Case-2019-009/889_Part_B
- https://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/889_clause.html

Section 889 Interim Rule Federal Registrar Entry:

- <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/27/2020-18772/federal-acquisition-regulation-prohibition-on-contracting-with-entities-using-certain>

GSA Implementation of Section 889 Frequently Asked Questions:

- <https://www.gsa.gov/cdnstatic/Section%20889%20-%20FAQs%2030.pdf>

GSA Transition from DUNS Number to UEI:

- <https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/federal-acquisition-service/office-of-systems-management/integrated-award-environment-iae/iae-systems-information-kit/unique-entity-identifier-update>