



CEI Notice 2026.3
Frequently Asked Questions

This document provides purchasing entities with clear, uniform guidance on Notice 2026.3. The notice applies to all applicable procurements subject to the BEP Act and the Illinois Procurement Code published on or after April 1, 2026. The FAQs and examples included in this document are designed to help purchasing entities apply Notice 2026.3 consistently and ensure that its requirements are administered accurately throughout the procurement process.

Question: If a contract resulting from a procurement published after Notice 2023.3's effective date, but before Notice 2026.3's effective date, requires changes to a Utilization Plan (U-Plan), does the new BEP-certified or VBP-certified subcontractor have to be registered in a specific solicitation commodity code?

Answer: No. The new subcontractor only needs to be certified in BEP or VBP.

Question: What if a certified firm's profile in the Supplier Diversity Management Portal doesn't have any of the solicitation commodity codes? What if the commodity codes in their profile don't match the solicitation commodity codes?

Answer: Effective April 1, 2026, if the firm is certified in BEP and VBP and will perform a commercially useful function on the contract, then it no longer matters whether the firm is registered under any or specific solicitation commodity codes.

Question: Does CEI Notice 2026.3 apply to solicitations that were published before April 1, 2026?

Answer: No, CEI Notice 2026.3 applies to applicable procurements published on or after April 1, 2026.

Question: If a solicitation has not yet been awarded but the U-Plans have already been reviewed, can a non-responsive determination on a U-Plan involving deficiencies due to the contents of CEI Notice 2023.3 be reconsidered?

Answer: No.

Question: Can I continue using the policy outlined in CEI Notice 2023.3?

Answer: No.