

ARDOT Newsletter

April 2023



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Construction Management Program
- Business Development Program
- Capability Statement Design
- Business Plan Development
- Technical Assistance



6 Tips for Transitioning Your Bond Program

How to upgrade your bonding capacity from fast-track to standard

Typically, contractors that require small and infrequent or one-off performance bonds apply for a fast-track program. This application process is quick and simple and does not require much financial or underwriting information. It is ideal for contractors that need construction bonds under \$500,000. Approval is based primarily on the applicant's credit score, and a completed application can be approved by the surety company within a day. A standard bond program, however, requires more complex financial information and cost systems from the contractor and takes more time for the surety to approve. So why would a contractor want to upgrade to a larger, more traditional standard bond program?

Firstly, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is anticipated to revitalize America's infrastructure and drive significant job growth in the construction industry over the next few years. It will modernize and upgrade our roads, bridges, ports and other key infrastructure assets desperately in need of repair. A standard program will enable a contractor to take on these larger government projects* which require construction bonds, thus procuring more work for their pipeline.

Secondly, a contractor can save money by securing a lower bond rate. Fast-track bonds are typically charged at a higher rate depending on the surety and can differ in single and aggregate limits. Standard program rates can be remarkably less, allowing the contractor to bid more competitively and improve profit margins.

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4 Steps to Take When a Worker Is Injured on Your Construction Site

The construction industry continues to be one of the fastest-growing labor trades. According to the [Center for Construction Research and Training](#), since 2019, 11.4 million U.S. workers have been employed in construction, a 25% increase from 2011. Amid this growth, the industry has remained one of the most dangerous, and workers are often at higher risk of injuries and deaths due to occupational incidents. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are 150,000 injuries on construction work sites annually.

Under Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) law, employers have a responsibility to provide a safe work environment. That includes providing a workplace that is free of serious recognized hazards. Despite best efforts in implementing risk-mitigation and safety protocols, employers must be prepared with an incident procedure should an incident occur on a jobsite. Taking immediate, clear actions can impact the severity and outcome of injuries from a workplace incident. With this in mind, employers should take the lead in implementing safety procedures for injuries on construction sites and should inform all safety site managers and workers of the steps that should be taken. Below are steps employers should consider following a workplace incident on a construction site:

STEP 1: Keep the injured worker calm and seek immediate medical attention.

First and foremost, it's important to keep the injured worker and all bystanders calm and take steps to control the area. When an incident initially occurs, an injured person may experience feelings of high stress, panic or a wave of emotions such as distress, anger or frustration. It is important that the injured individual and those around them try to remain calm in order to take stock of the surroundings, monitor those injured and help everyone make the best decisions they can in that situation. If the injury hazard is still present in the area where the incident occurred, remove workers from the area and block it off to prevent other staff or bystanders from entering. Unless they are at immediate risk for further injury, do not move the injured individual until medical personnel arrive on the scene.

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About The ARDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on ARDOT contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



CEI DBE Supportive Services
(800) 423-7058
www.arbdesupport.com