

Guidance on completing the Contract Security Program's Application for Registration form (PSPC 471)

The Contract Security Program's (CSP) Application for Registration (AFR) form is used to collect detailed information on your organization's structure, ownership and legal status. This step-by-step guidance will assist you with the completion of the AFR, which is required for the security screening of your organization.

Section A – Business information

Box 1: Enter the legal name of your organization. This would be the legal name that is registered with federal, provincial or territorial authorities.

Box 2: If your organization has a business name that is different than its legal name, enter it here. Otherwise, leave this box blank.

Box 3: Indicate your business type and provide supporting documentation to prove that your organization is legally registered to do business in Canada.

If you check sole proprietor, it means that you are the owner of a registered business, who acts alone, and has no partners. In this case, you must provide the most recent copy of your provincial certificate. The exact term of this document varies by province. For example, in Ontario it is called a Master Business Licence.

If you check partnership, it means that your organization is a partnership. In this case, you must provide a copy of your partnership agreement and partnership registration documentation, as well as ownership structure chart.

If you check corporation, it means that your organization is incorporated at the federal, provincial or territorial level. In this case, you must provide a copy of the most recent certificate and Articles of Incorporation. You must also specify whether your corporation is private or public.

Note: if you are the sole owner of an incorporated business and act alone with no partners, you are still considered a corporation. Do not, in this case, check sole proprietor.

For all other types of business you check "other" and specify the type (universities, financial institutions, unincorporated organizations, Assembly of First Nations, etc.). To substantiate the type of organization, you must provide evidence of legal status such as acts, charters, bands etc., and an ownership structure chart and a management structure chart.

Box 4: Provide a brief description of your organization's general business activities. For example, if you are a consultant, you must briefly describe the type of consultancy work you do.

Box 5: Provide your organization's Procurement Business Number (PBN), if you have one. A PBN is not mandatory to register with the CSP. However it is used when needed to positively identify organizations with similar names or that may have amalgamated.

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A PBN is required to do business with the federal government. It is based on your Canada Revenue Agency business number and uniquely identifies your organization in Public Services and Procurement Canada's (PSPC) procurement and payment systems. If you do not have a PBN, leave this field blank. To obtain a PBN, your organization needs to register in the PSPC's Supplier Registration Information System. Visit [Register as a supplier](#) for more information.

Box 6: Self-identify if you are a diverse supplier. This includes businesses owned or led by Canadians from underrepresented groups, such as women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and visible minorities.

Box 7: Enter the physical address of your head office. Virtual locations, mail boxes, receiving offices or coworking spaces etc. will not be accepted.

Box 8: Enter the physical address of your organization's principal place of business if it is different than head office. The business must be located and operated in Canada only. This is also where you must provide the physical address of any additional sites that require a [document safeguarding capability](#).

Box 9: Enter the mailing address of your head office if it is different than its physical address.

Box 10: Enter your organization's website if applicable.

Boxes 11 and 12: Enter the telephone number and fax number of your head office including the country code and any extension number. If your organization does not have a fax, leave box 12 blank.

Box 13: Enter the total number of employees in your organization.

Box 14: Enter the approximate number of employees who will require access to sensitive information, assets or worksites to perform work on the government contract.

Section B – Appointment of security officers

Organizations screened by the CSP must appoint a company security officer (CSO) and alternate company security officer (ACSO). The only type of businesses not required to appoint an ACSO are sole proprietors.

It is important to identify the appropriate individuals you intend to nominate as your organization's CSO and ACSO(s). These individuals will be responsible for organization and personnel security.

Being a CSO can be demanding and time consuming. When identifying the CSO of your organization, it is very important to keep in mind what it takes to be effective in the role. You must also ensure that the individual in question has the capacity to invest the required time to fulfill their obligations. As such, it is vital to identify the appropriate individuals.

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Security officers must meet all of the following criteria:

- be an employee of the organization;
- physically located in Canada;
- a Canadian citizen or on a case by case basis, a permanent resident of Canada; and
- security screened at the same level as the organization (in some cases the ACSO(s) may require a lower level).

The CSO should also be:

- a person of trust
- knowledgeable about all activities of the organization related to federal government contracts
- directly accessible to senior members of the organization
- able to influence an organization's internal policies and procedures

The CSO plays a vital role in the organization's ability to meet the security requirements of federal government contracts. They are the official point of contact with the CSP and are responsible to notify the CSP of any changes within the organization. Additionally, they are accountable to the program for all contract security matters. The ACSO shares the responsibilities of the CSO and replaces them as required.

To see the full list of CSO and ACSO responsibilities, please consult [Annex A: Guidelines on company security officer and alternate company security officer responsibilities](#) of the Contract Security Manual.

Information that must be entered in Section B:

Identify the individual you intend to appoint as your organization's CSO and those you intend on appointing as ACSOs.

Complete the table accordingly and make sure to identify at least one ACSO at the facility where the CSO is located.

If your organization requires [document safeguarding capability](#) (DSC) at one or more sites, ensure to identify at least 2 security officers per site and to indicate the physical address of these sites. This is required as DSC is site-specific and two security officers are needed where sensitive documents will be safeguarded. If you run out of rows, provide on a separate sheet of paper attached to the form, all the required information on the additional alternates.

Section C – Officers

List all of your organization's officers, including those in management and leadership roles, as well as executives, managing partners and authorized signatories that are responsible for the day to day operations of its business.

In addition to their position titles, you must provide their names, their citizenship and the country where their true, fixed, principal and permanent home is located, even if currently residing elsewhere. If you run out of rows, provide on a separate sheet of paper attached to the form, all the required information for the additional officers.

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As supporting documentation, you must provide a management structure chart to demonstrate the reporting structure.

Note: Sole proprietors are **not** required to provide a management structure chart since they are the sole officer of their organization.

Section D – Board of Directors

List information on all members of your organization's board of directors. Be sure to indicate all board titles including the chairperson if there is one. If your organization does not have a board of directors, do not leave this section blank. Simply indicate Not Applicable in the first row.

For each row you complete, make sure to complete all the columns. If you run out of rows, provide the required information on a separate sheet of paper attached to the form.

Section E - Ownership information

Section E relates to your organization's ownership. You must complete this section regardless of the percentage of ownership. If you leave this section blank, the form will be returned to you.

This section includes tables for up to three levels of ownership. If your organization has more than three levels of ownership, you must provide all the required information for each additional level on a separate sheet of paper attached to the form.

As supporting documentation, you must provide an organizational or legal chart that includes the percentages of ownership.

Note: Sole proprietors are not required to provide an organization or legal chart, however, they must still complete this section.

Subsection E-1

List all of your organization's direct owners. You must also indicate which entities hold a valid facility security clearance from the CSP or from another country.

If your organization is a publicly traded corporation, you must also provide the stock symbol and stock market.

Subsection E-2

Provide the ownership information for each direct owner you listed in subsection E-1. In other words, you must list the direct owners of your organization's direct owners, and complete all the required fields.

If your organization only has one level of ownership, indicate Not Applicable in the first row and move on to the next section of the form.

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If your organization has more than one direct owner, you must provide all the required information on these additional owners on a separate sheet of paper, attached to the form.

Subsection E-3

Provide the organization's third level of ownership. This is where you must provide information on the direct owners of the entities you listed in subsection E-2. If your organization does not have a third level of ownership, indicate Not Applicable in the first row and move on to the next section of the form.

Section F – Justification

This section must only be completed by organizations that are undergoing a renewal process.

List all of your organization's active federal contracts, subcontracts, leases, supply arrangements, standing offers and purchase orders that have security requirements. In the table, you must provide all the required information for each procurement vehicle, including the name of the contracting department, the contracting officer's contact information, the security level, for example, Protected B or Reliability Status, and the expiry date.

The CSP requires this information to validate that it has copies of your procurement vehicles on file, and to obtain as needed, those that may be missing from the program's system of records.

Section G - Certification and consent

This section must be completed, signed and dated by one of the officers listed in Section C.

The signature must either be signed by hand or a valid e-signature. Script fonts will not be accepted.