

What is Certification?

Certification as an Ethnic Minority Business (EMB) by MSDUK verifies that the business is majority owned (51%), controlled and managed by person or persons of ethnic minority origin. The goal of MSDUK is to assist bona fide ethnic minority-owned businesses in becoming long term, qualified entities capable of competing in the national and international economic mainstream.

Defining Ethnic Minority Business:

In order to be certified as a bona fide MSDUK certified EMB, a firm must be a for profit enterprise, regardless of size, physically located in the United Kingdom, which is owned, operated and controlled by an ethnic minority group.

“Ethnic Minority” for the purposes of this application shall mean individuals whose ethnic origin is:

- Asian– (a) Bangladeshi (b) Indian (c) Pakistani (d) Asian Other;
- Black– (a) Black African (b) Black Caribbean (c) Black Other;
- Chinese or other ethnic group
- Mixed Heritage- (a) White &Asian (b) White & Black African (c) White and Black Caribbean (d) Mixed Background Other

provided that such individuals are British Nationals and/or with permanently settlement status (with indefinite leave to remain status) in the United Kingdom.

“**Ownership or Owned**” by Ethnic Minority individuals means the business is at least 51% owned by such individuals or, in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51% of the stock is owned by one or more such individuals. Further, that Ethnic Minority individuals control the management and daily business operations.

Benefits of certification

Becoming a MSDUK certified supplier provides EMBs with greater opportunities to compete for business in the corporate and government sectors. Below are the benefits of becoming a MSDUK Certified EMB:

- Validation of EMB status
- MSDUK Certified businesses will only be referred for any contract opportunities
- Only MSDUK certified EMBs will have access to one-to-one meetings with buyers at MSDUK ‘Meet the Buyer’ event.

Certification criteria

To be eligible for MSDUK certification, applicant suppliers must meet the following criteria:

Your business is a for profit enterprise

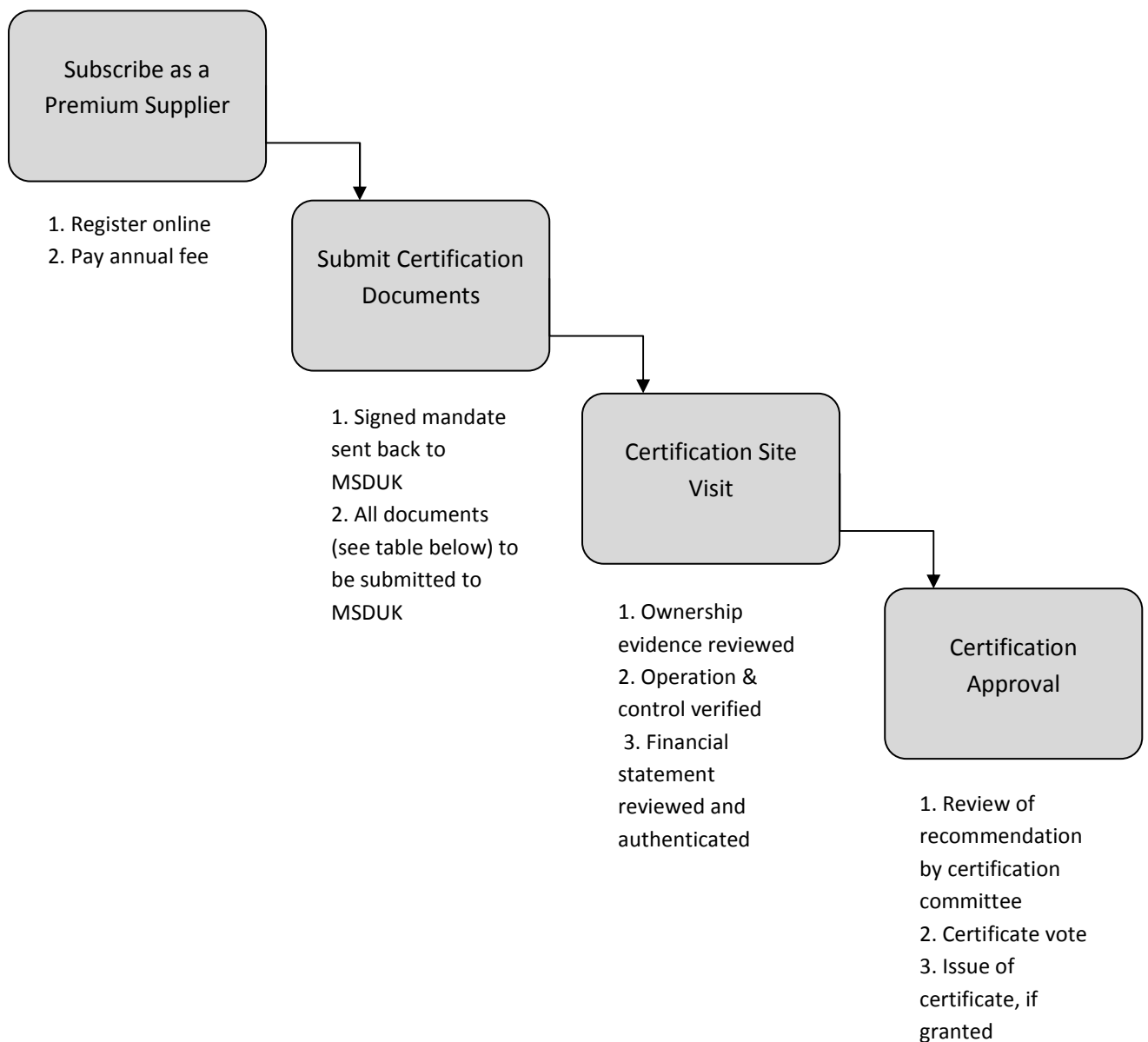
Your business is physically located in the UK

Your business is at least 51% ethnic minority owned

The minority/ethnic owner(s) of the business must be active in management and daily business operations

The minority/ethnic owner(s) of the business are UK citizens or permanent residents with indefinite leave to remain status in the UK

Certification Process



Documents Required for Certification

Documents	Sole Proprietor	Partnerships	Company
Proof of UK Citizenship (copy of passport or birth certificate) of all owners	√	√	√
If not a citizen, copy of passport with indefinite leave to remain stamp for all owners	√	√	√
Audited Financial Statements (P&L, statement of cash flows, balance sheet)*of last completed year of operation	√	√	√
Letter from Bank identifying signatories of the account	√	√	√
Copy of Applicable Operating Business License and/or permits	√	√	√
Copy of Partnership Agreements or Letter from accountant or auditor declaring the names of partners and their shares in the firm	x	√	x
Copy of Buy Out Rights Agreements	x	√	x
Copy of Profit Sharing Agreements	x	√	x
Article of Incorporation and amendments	x	x	√
Certificate of Corporation	x	x	√
List of Directors and Shares owned	x	x	√

All documents need to be sent back to MSDUK via post within 90 days of registration. If certification is not completed within 90 days of registration all your premium supplier benefits will be suspended until the process has been completed.

The documents will vary depending on whether you are a sole proprietor or a partnership or a company. The table above indicates the documents required.

*If the business is in its first year of operation, please provide a copy of an opening balance sheet and projection of income.

*All financial statements must show applicable date of information given and must be signed and dated by owners/partners or authorised office unless prepared and signed by an independent certified public accountant.

Why we are asking for supporting documents?

EMBs are required to submit a list of documents including their financial statements to help us establish that the business is owned, controlled and managed by people of ethnic minority origin and also develop a comprehensive and accurate profile of their business for regular referrals to corporate members.