

A BRIEF ABOUT CERTIFICATION, PROCUREMENT, AND PERMITTING PROCESSES

Asian Contractors Association
DBA Asian Contractors and Engineers Association

What is a business certification?

Business certification is the determination of a business owner's eligibility to participate in procurement programs such as Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), or Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE). [Reference 1.](#)

In the City of Austin (COA), certification is a designation for eligible business owners that allows their participation to count toward meeting project and procurement goals. [Reference 1.](#)

What is a procurement process?

Procurement is the process of buying or otherwise obtaining goods or services, typically for business or government purposes and usually on a relatively large scale. Unlike purchasing, procurement is more strategic and less purely transactional. [Reference 2.](#)

In COA, the procurement process is managed by **Central Procurement**, which acquires goods, services, construction, and construction-related professional services from the most responsive and responsible vendors using the appropriate procurement methodology. The process includes locating, purchasing, receiving, and paying for goods or services. [Reference 3.](#)

What is a permitting process for construction?

The permitting process for construction involves obtaining official permission from local authorities before beginning work. Permits ensure the project complies with zoning laws, building codes, and other regulations. [Reference 4.](#)

In COA, construction permits are required for plumbing, electrical work, HVAC relocation, structural or concrete work, or the removal of more than 64 square feet of drywall. [Reference 5.](#)

References

1. **City of Austin (COA).** “MBE/WBE Certification,” SMBR Overview, Austin, Texas, August 2015.
Web Link: [City of Austin MBE/WBE Program](#)
2. **Investopedia.** “What Is Procurement? Definition, Types, vs. Purchasing,” reviewed by Caitlin Clarke, fact-checked by Katrina Munichello, updated October 2024.
Web Link: [What is Procurement – Investopedia](#)
3. **City of Austin.** “COA Procurement Process - Central Management,” Financial Services Department, Austin, Texas, 2024.
Web Link: [City of Austin Procurement Process](#)
4. **Building Radar.** “Permitting Process for Construction Project: Step by Step Guide,” Munich, Bavaria, August 2024.
Web Link: [Permitting Process – Building Radar](#)
5. **City of Austin.** “What is the Permitting Process in COA,” Development Services Department, Austin, Texas, 2025.
Web Link: [City of Austin Permitting Process](#)