



Ohio Revised Code

Section 5525.03 Application for qualification.

Effective: September 30, 2025

Legislation: House Bill 96

(A) All prospective bidders other than environmental remediators and specialty contractors for which there are no classes of work provided for in the rules adopted by the director of transportation shall apply for qualification on forms prescribed and furnished by the director.

(B) The director shall act upon an application for qualification within thirty days after it is presented to the director. Upon the receipt of any application for qualification, the director shall examine the application to determine whether the applicant is competent and responsible and possesses the financial resources required by section 5525.04 of the Revised Code. If the applicant is found to possess the qualifications prescribed by sections 5525.02 to 5525.09 of the Revised Code and by rules adopted by the director, a certificate of qualification shall be issued to the applicant, which shall be valid for the period of one year or such shorter period of time as the director prescribes, unless revoked by the director for cause as defined by rules adopted by the director under section 5525.05 of the Revised Code.

(C) The certificate of qualification shall contain a statement fixing the aggregate amount of work, for any or all owners, that the applicant may have under construction and uncompleted at any one time and may contain a statement limiting such bidder to the submission of bids upon a certain class of work. Subject to any restriction as to amount or class of work therein contained, the certificate of qualification shall authorize its holder to bid on all work on which bids are taken by the department of transportation during the period of time therein specified.

(D) An applicant who has received a certificate of qualification and desires to amend the certificate by the dollar amount or by the classes of work may submit to the director such documentation as the director considers appropriate. The director shall review the documentation submitted by the applicant and, within fifteen days, shall either amend the certificate of qualification or deny the request. If the director denies the request to amend the certificate, the applicant may appeal that decision to the director's prequalification review board in accordance with section 5525.07 of the Revised Code. Two or more persons, partnerships, or corporations may bid jointly on any one



project, but only on condition that prior to the time bids are taken on the project the bidders make a joint application for qualification and obtain a joint certificate qualification.

(E) The director may debar from participating in future contracts with the department any bidding company as well as any partner of a partnership, or the officers and directors of an association or corporation if the certificate of qualification of the company, partnership, association, or corporation is revoked or not renewed by the director. When the director reasonably believes that grounds for revocation and debarment exist, the director shall send the bidding company and any individual involved a notice of proposed revocation and debarment indicating the grounds for such action as established in rules adopted by the director under section 5525.05 of the Revised Code and the procedure for requesting a hearing. The notice and hearing shall be in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. If the bidding company or individual does not respond with a request for a hearing in the manner specified in Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, the director shall revoke the certificate and issue the debarment decision without a hearing and shall notify the bidding company or individual of the decision by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(F) The debarment period may be of any length determined by the director and the director may modify or rescind the debarment at any time. During the period of debarment, the director shall not issue a certificate of qualification for any company, partnership, association, or corporation affiliated with a debarred individual. After the debarment period expires, the bidding company or individual, and any partnership, association, or corporation affiliated with the individual may make an application for qualification if such entity or individual is not otherwise debarred.