

DEBES Tip Sheet

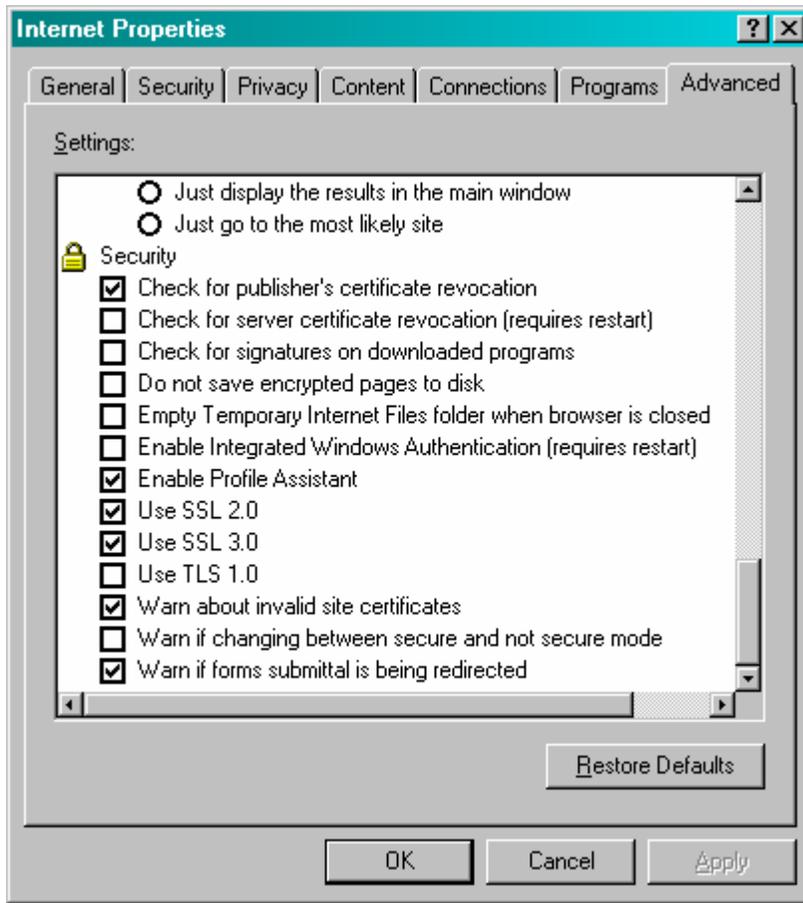
Test Your System Prior to Bidding – Prevent bidding issues by going to the DEBES Practice site and making sure your computer software works smoothly with our system. The DEBES practice site will allow you to submit practice bids to ensure any recent software update has not affected the ability to submit electronic bids through DEBES. We suggest going to the DEBES Practice site (<https://pcsd.usda.gov:3050/mdbc1000.exe?>) a few days before bids are due. If you have a problem, please notify CPB immediately for assistance.

If you have upgraded your computer's operating system to Microsoft VISTA or have upgraded your internet browser in the last few months, we highly recommend you test your new system on the DEBES Practice site. AMS will NOT update DEBES to meet the requirements of newer operating systems or browsers in anticipation of the new Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) system. We recommend you keep or use lower versions of operating system software and browsers that you know work with DEBES in order to submit bids.

Internet Browser – The internet browser you use does matter. Our IT department supports the functionality for Internet Explorer 5.0 and higher and Netscape 4.07 to 6 with 128 bit encryption. However, bidders using higher versions of Netscape have encountered issues, so we recommend using a lower version. Bidders have also had issues using Mozilla Firefox and we do not recommend using this browser. Again, test your system, well before bids are due, so issues can be resolved before the bid deadline date and time. AMS is not responsible for any failure of a bidder's software to communicate with DEBES.

Internet Explorer 7.0 issues – After upgrading to IE 7.0, bidders have had issues placing bids in DEBES. The issue has to do with a browser setting. To fix, take the following steps:

1. Open Internet Explorer 7.0
2. Click on **Tools** in the taskbar
3. Click on **Internet Options**
4. Click on the **Advanced** tab
5. Scroll down until you see the **Security** section
6. Be sure the **Use SSL 2.0** and **Use SSL 3.0** boxes are checked, and that the **Use TLS 1.0** is not checked. When you're finished, it should look like the screenshot below.



7. When finished click the **Apply** button and then the **OK** button.

Submit Button – Once you enter your bid, make sure you press the “submit” button. A validation will take place and, if successful, the following message will be received: “This bid was successfully submitted and will be considered at bid evaluation time unless it is resubmitted or withdrawn.” The acknowledgement will show the date and time of submission. In addition, the status bar will show “Submit Successful.”

Constraints

Maximum Quantity: The total amount a vendor can deliver for different combinations (delivery period, plant location, and product). This field is entered in units (trucks) and not cases. Commas are not used.

Minimum Quantity: The minimum amount a vendor can deliver for different combinations (delivery period, plant location, and product). This field is entered in units (trucks) and not cases. The allowable minimum amounts are between 1 and 3.