



While we can provide a checklist, please note that specific requirements may vary based on your location and the type of business you're starting. Always refer to official government websites or consult with a legal professional to ensure compliance. Here's a general checklist with links to relevant federal or commercial resources:

1. Business Name Registration:

- Choose a unique business name.
- Check name availability on your state's business registry.
- Register the business name with your state.
 - [Search your local State Government site. Pick your State](#)

2. Legal Structure:

- Choose a legal structure (e.g., LLC, corporation).
- Register the legal structure with the state.
 - [Legal Structure Information \(SBA\)](#)

3. Employer Identification Number (EIN):

- Obtain an EIN from the IRS.
 - [Apply for an EIN \(IRS\)](#)

4. Business Licenses and Permits:

- Identify required licenses and permits.
- Apply for licenses and permits from relevant authorities.
 - [SBA License and Permit Tool](#)

5. State Registration:

- Register your business with the state.
- Comply with state-specific requirements.
 - [Search your local State Government site. Pick your State](#)



6. Sales Tax Permit:

- Check if you need a sales tax permit.
- Apply for a sales tax permit.
 - [Search your local State Government site. Pick your State](#)

7. DBA (Doing Business As) Registration:

- Register your DBA name if operating under a different name.
- Follow state and local regulations.
 - [DBA Registration Information](#)

8. Trademark Registration:

- Consider trademark registration.
- File a trademark application with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).
 - [USPTO Trademarks](#)

9. Insurance Policies:

- Identify required insurance coverage.
- Obtain business insurance.
 - [SBA Insurance Guide](#)

10. Corporate Bylaws or Operating Agreement:

- Draft and adopt bylaws (for corporations) or an operating agreement (for LLCs).
- Keep a copy for internal use.

11. Bank Account:

- Open a business bank account.
- Use the EIN obtained from the IRS during account setup.
 - [Guide to Opening a Business Bank Account](#)



12. Contracts and Agreements:

- Draft and execute necessary contracts and agreements.
- Ensure compliance with legal requirements.

13. Intellectual Property Documentation:

- Document patents, copyrights, or other intellectual property.
- File patents or copyrights as needed.

14. Health and Safety Compliance:

- Ensure compliance with health and safety regulations.
- Check OSHA requirements if applicable.
 - [OSHA Compliance Assistance](#)

15. Employee Documentation:

- Comply with employment laws.
- Prepare employment agreements and other necessary documents.

16. Accessibility Compliance (if applicable):

- Ensure compliance with accessibility regulations.

17. Environmental Compliance (if applicable):

- Comply with environmental regulations relevant to your business.

18. Recordkeeping System:

- Establish a system for maintaining and organizing business records.
 - Blog: [Choosing the Right Accounting Software for Your Startup \(shoestringstartup.org\)](#)