

Business Development Session 15 - Finish Registering Your Business: Federal Licenses, Permits and Regulations

Offices and What They Regulate

Federal Trade Commission

Protects consumers, enforces antitrust laws, and prohibits price fixing. The FTC has regulations regarding mail order, granting credit, offering layaways, offering warranties, handling customer complaints, labeling textiles, and telemarketing. It offers free (or nominal charge) publications to help businesses comply with regulations in these areas. You can also request a copy of the FTC's regulations regarding antitrust and price fixing. The FTC also has consumer publications to help deter fraudulent practices involving: sales, telemarketing, credit, hiring professional services, buying cars and homes, and offers to earn money by working at home.

Call 415-356-5270 or 310-824-4300 for more information.

U.S. Customs Office

Importing and Exporting: The U.S. Government publishes two books to guide you through the process and the regulations. They are: "Basic Guide to Exporting" and "Importing into the U.S.". These books are available by mail or direct purchase at U.S. Government Publications Bookstores. Call 415-512-2770 or 213-239-9844 for more information. Also, the California Chamber of Commerce publishes books to help businesses participate in international trade. Call 800-331-8877 for information.

Department of Agriculture Food Inspections

Meat and Poultry: 510-337-5074

Grain: 916-654-0743

Vegetables: 916-654-0813

Livestock feed: 916-654-0574

Livestock: 916-225-2140

Ask for the nearest office to you.

Tobacco and Firearms

Regulates tobacco and firearms (part of the Federal Alcohol regulating group). For phone numbers and addresses, contact your local Chamber of Commerce.

Environmental Protection Agency

Environmental Hazards: The EPA works with county and state agencies, so usually businesses contact their county and state agency instead of the EPA directly. For air pollution and noise pollution regulations, call your county. For water or hazardous waste, call the State at 916-657-9900.

Food and Drug Administration

Food labeling, cosmetics, medical devices, drugs, etc. If you manufacture drugs, medical devices, are starting a blood bank, or are canning low acid foods (like vegetables), you must get a permit from the FDA.

For food labeling requirements, the FDA recommends that you purchase Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, part 100-169 at the U.S. Government Bookstore. You can order by phone at 415-512-2770 or 213-239-9844. The FDA can be contacted at 510-337-6700.

Securities and Exchange Commission

Securities dealers: Investment advisors, brokers, dealers, and investment companies must register with the SEC. Contact them directly at 213-965-3998 or 415-705-2500.

Federal Highway Administration

Truck and other vehicle safety. For automated information contact 202-358-7000. For the FHA directly,

contact 415-744-3088, 916-498-5050, or 909-653-2299.

Interstate Commerce Commission

Interstate trucking and licensing. Contact them at 202-358-7096 or 202-358-7106.

THE ABOVE IS A PARTIAL LIST ONLY! FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS ARE COMPLEX AND EVER-CHANGING! YOUR ATTORNEY OR TAX CONSULTANT CAN ADVISE YOU ABOUT OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND NEW REGULATIONS.

There is no homework for this session.