

Federal Regulations

Depending on the type of business you plan to operate, you may face federal regulatory requirements. Listed below are a few federal agencies and the types of business activity that they oversee.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) - www.atf.gov

ATF enforces the federal laws and regulations relating to alcohol, tobacco, firearms, explosives, and arson by working directly and in cooperation with other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

Alcohol, Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau - www.ttb.gov

The Bureau reviews domestic and imported product formulations for alcohol beverage products, and reviews labeling and packaging applications. It enforces existing federal laws and tax code provisions related to the production and taxation of alcohol and tobacco products. The Bureau collects all excise tax on the manufacture of firearms and ammunition.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services - www.uscis.gov

All U.S. employers are responsible for completion and retention of Employment Eligibility Verification (Form I-9) for each individual they hire for employment in the United States. This includes citizens and noncitizens. On the form, the employer must verify the employment eligibility and identity documents presented by the employee and record the document information on the Form I-9. The form is available electronically or by calling 1-800-375-5283.

Federal Communication Commission (FCC) - www.fcc.gov

The FCC enforces regulations designed to ensure competition among cable companies, satellite companies, and other entities that offer video programming services to the general public. The FCC issues broadcast licenses specifying the community of license, the channel and operating power of a station.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) - www.ftc.gov

The FTC promotes competition and protection of the public from unfair and deceptive practices in the advertising and marketing of goods and services. These include:

- Packaging and Labeling Act
- Truth in Lending Act
- Debt Collection Practices
- Telemarketing Rule
- Telephone and Internet Rules
- Mail Order Merchandise Rule
- Children's Online Privacy Prevention Law

Department of Commerce, Trade Export - Office of Bureau of Export

Certain products, because of both their civilian and military purposes, may require an export license. Exporters should find out if the items or services they are planning to export are classified on the Commerce Control List (CCL). If a product appears on this list, it may require a license. In general, this list contains items controlled by the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) because they are considered to be "dual use" items.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – www.usda.gov

The Agricultural Marketing Service includes six commodity programs—Cotton, Dairy, Fruit and Vegetable, Livestock and Seed, Poultry, and Tobacco. The programs employ specialists who provide standardization, grading, and market news services for those commodities, and helps ensure open markets for U.S. agricultural products.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for protecting and promoting U.S. agricultural health, administering the Animal Welfare Act, and carrying out wildlife damage management activities. APHIS provides the nation with safe and affordable food. It protects America’s animal and plant resources from agricultural pests, diseases and threats to our food supply. The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products, and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture.

U.S. Customs Service - www.customs.ustras.gov

The agency outlines requirements for importing specific commodities depend on a wide variety of things. It is advisable to call your local port for specific guidance in importing your particular commodity.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - www.fda.gov

FDA ensures that the food we eat is safe and wholesome, that the cosmetics we use won’t harm us, and that medicines, medical devices, and radiation-emitting consumer products, such as microwave ovens are safe and effective. The FDA also oversees feed and drugs for pets and farm animals. It enforces the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and several other public health laws. The agency monitors the manufacture, import, transport, storage, and sale of \$1 trillion worth of goods annually.

International Trade Administration (ITA) – www.ita.doc.gov

The ITA offers assistance in dealing with foreign governments and complex regulations through an “Advocacy Center.”