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Provincial Regulations



BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATION (Master Business Licence)

If you plan to operate your business under any name other than your own legal name (ie. John Smith) registration of your business name (Master Business Licence) is mandatory under the [Business Names Act](#). This registration is also required by your bank to open a business bank account. The registration fee is \$60.00 and will expire in 5 years. You can also have a name search done (this is optional) conducted on the spot for \$8.00/ name.

Unincorporated businesses, sole proprietorships and partnerships must register their business name, before they start using it, with Ministry of Government Services Companies and Personal Property Security Branch.

Please be aware that registering a business name in Ontario does not provide you with any inherent protection of the name; it simply makes the name legal, for your use in Ontario.

The Business Names Act does not prohibit registration of identical names, but if you decide to use the same name or if you use a name that is confusingly similar to that of an existing business, it could result in a lawsuit. The person registering the name also assumes full responsibility for any risk of confusion with an existing corporation, business name or trademark.

For information on intellectual property including trademarks, copyrights and patents please refer to [Step # 2 - Points of Consideration](#)

Upon registration, businesses are issued a Business Identification Number (BIN) and a Masters Business Licence (MBL) by Companies and Personal Property Security Branch.

Registration costs \$60.00 (payable by Mastercard or Visa) and you receive the Master Business Licence by mail within two weeks. You can also do a name search over the Internet, the cost is \$8.00 per name searched.

Register on the Internet at:

- <http://www.serviceontario.ca/>

Register in person at:

- ServiceOntario Counter
1400 1st Avenue West
Owen Sound, ON N4K 6Z9
(519) 371-6226
Toll Free: 800-267-8097
- Centre for Business & Economic Development
450 Hume Street, Unit # 2
Collingwood, ON L9Y 1W6
(705) 445-8410
Toll free: 1-877-876-7908
- Saugeen Economic Development Corporation
515 Mill Street, PO Box 177

Neustadt, ON N0G 2M0
(519) 799-5750

OTHER PROVINCIAL BUSINESS LICENCES

Certain types of businesses may require provincial licences. Some of the more common ones include:

- **Liquor Licence** - contact the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) at:
1-800-522-2876
<http://www.agco.on.ca/>
- **Garage Licences** - Under the Highway Traffic Act, garages wishing to issue Vehicle Safety Certificates must be certified as a Motor Vehicle Inspection Station by the Ministry of Transportation. Contact the MTO Motor Vehicle Inspection Station Unit:
1-800-618-4686
<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca>
- **Day Care Services** - Under the Day Nurseries Act, there are circumstances that require a Day Care to be licensed.
For more information contact the Ministry of Children and Youth Services at:
(416) 325-5315
<http://www.gov.on.ca/children>

For other types of business licences visit BizPal for information more specific to your industry.

<http://www.owensound.ca/business/bizpal.htm>