

# Before You Buy a Business License

**Choose your business name carefully.**

**The Line of Business assigned to a business license cannot be changed. To change your line of business you must purchase a new business license.**

**Decide whether you want your business to be a sole proprietor, Corporation LLC, or partnership. The words Corporation, Corp. Inc. Incorporated, Limited Liability Company, LLC, or Limited Liability Partnership, LLP must be part of the business name.**

**A business license is not transferable or assignable. A change of business name or a change in ownership is considered a separate entity and a new business license is required.**

- A business license costs \$50.00 per year unless you qualify for an age related discount.
- License fees are not refundable.
- Refund policy - If a refund is determined necessary, a credit will be issued to the originating credit card.
- If your business sells tobacco products, or if your business conducts activities associated with a code for which a professional or occupational license is required, you cannot use the online filing to obtain a business license. Please Print and mail the application to the division.
- **Change of Mailing Address:** To update the mailing address for your business license, you must submit a Business License Change of Mailing Address form. This form is available to download at the website listed below. There is no filing fee required to change the mailing address of your business.
- **Request a Duplicate Business License:** There is a \$5.00 filing fee to obtain a duplicate Business License. The necessary form is available at the website listed below.
- **Amend Name of Business Owner** You may change the name of the owner only if the owner's legal name has changed. There is a \$5.00 fee for this filing. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can call our office at 907-465-2550 and make a request to have the form mailed or faxed to you.

[http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/occ/apps/BLEC\\_Start.cfm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/occ/apps/BLEC_Start.cfm)

## Alaska Small Business License Act

Sec. 43.70.020. Application for license.

(a) For the privilege of engaging in a business in the state, a person shall first apply, upon forms prescribed by the commissioner, and obtain a license, and pay the license fee provided for in AS 43.70.030. A license issued to a firm for a particular line of business covers all its operations in the state in the line of business regardless of the number of its establishments. A license issued under this subsection must include

- (1) the name and address of the licensee;
  - (2) the line of business to be conducted;
  - (3) the dates for which the license is issued; and
  - (4) the business name to be used by the licensee.
- (b) [Repealed, Sec. 10 ch 45 SLA 1988].
- (c) [Repealed, Sec. 10 ch 45 SLA 1988].

(d) A person engaging in a business subject to licensing provisions of a regulatory nature (for example, the requirement of posting a bond before beginning business as a collection agency) must, in addition to filing the regular application required by this section, comply with those regulatory provisions before being entitled to a license under this chapter.

History -

(Sec. 4 ch 43 SLA 1949; am Sec. 44 ch 113 SLA 1980; am Sec. 71 ch 14 SLA 1987; am Sec. 7, 10 ch 45 SLA 1988)

AG Opinions -

Subsection (d) of this section of the Alaska Business License Act is clearly regulatory, even though the other provisions of the act are not. The rest of the Alaska Business License Act is a revenue raising law and is not designed for purposes of regulation of business. 1960 Op. Att'y Gen., No. 27.

Subsection (d) of this section reaffirms the legislature's intent to make fulfillment of the bond requirement a condition precedent to acquiring or retaining a business license. 1960 Op. Att'y Gen., No. 27.

AS 43.70.110 and this section make no provision for the exemption from the license requirement of a religious corporation which is doing business. 1960 Op. Att'y Gen., No. 25.

A religious corporation receiving rents from the renting of an apartment or apartments must obtain an Alaska business license as a condition precedent to engaging in such business. 1960 Op. Att'y Gen., No. 25.

The state may revoke the license of a collection agency which does not have a proper bond on file with the tax commission. 1960 Op. Att'y Gen., No. 27.

A guide to a workable procedure for license revocation is found in chapter 2 of the Alaska Administrative Procedure Act. 1960 Op. Att'y Gen., No. 27.

Decisions -

A license confers no right of property. *Thlinket Packing Co. v. Harris & Co.*, 5 Alaska 471 (1916).

It merely authorizes the holder to carry on a certain business, but does not grant to the holder any place of business, any more than the issuance of a saloon license grants to the holder a building in which to conduct a saloon, or the issuance of a mercantile

license, a building in which to conduct a store. *Columbia Salmon Co. v. Berg*, 5 Alaska 538 (1916).

Purpose of tax. - Although this section requires a license for the "privilege" of engaging in a business in Alaska, this language does not render it invalid nor destroy the legislative intent that the purpose of the tax is to raise revenue, and not to regulate any business. *Territory of Alaska v. Journal Printing Co.*, 15 Alaska 676, 135 F. Supp. 169 (D. Alaska 1955).

Applied in *State, Dep't of Educ. v. Nickerson*, 711 P.2d 1165 (Alaska 1985).

### **Lines of Business Code Changes**

The Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing recently updated the Line of Business Codes previously used. The codes have been converted to the current version of North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). This is a 6-digit code system that is maintained by the U.S. Census Bureau.

In recent years Corporations and Business Licensing used different versions of industry codes. This change allows the use of the same codes throughout the Division.

You can search the NAICS database by key word at the site below:

<http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/naico602.htm>

Many of the codes listed may require a professional license prior to obtaining a business license. The codes that are highlighted in the list of NAICS Codes for Business Activity of the State of Alaska have many of the codes highlighted. If the line of business requires a professional license, you will not be able to purchase your business license online.

You can view and print the NAICS codes and titles at the link below:

<http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/naico602.htm>

The first two digits of the NAICS code determine the Line of Business. A single license enables your business to engage in any business activity within the assigned Line of Business.

If your business works in more than one line, you will need to more than one business license.

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If you have questions regarding your Line of Business or NAICS codes, you can contact the Business Licensing Section at:

Email: [License@commerce.state.ak.us](mailto:License@commerce.state.ak.us)

Juneau Office: 907-465-2550

Anchorage Office: 907-269-8173

Please visit our website at <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/occ/home.htm>