

- **Regulation of Business**

- **Definition:** regulation of businesses by state, federal and local governments. Businesses are subject to varying levels of regulation by governmental entities, depending on the type of business.

Permit Information Center

State agencies issue hundreds of different permits and licenses to businesses and individuals throughout Wisconsin. The Permit Information Center helps coordinate and expedite the often-complex permitting process. By calling a toll free number (1-800-HELP-BUS), new, expanding, or existing businesses can quickly get the permitting information they need. The center also strives to quickly resolve delays, miscommunications, and other permitting problems facing a business. Often, the Permit Information Center staff members function as a first point of contact for a business, cutting through the layers of bureaucracy and red tape. In addition to general permitting assistance, the Permit Information Center also helps businesses understand and comply with the 1990 Federal Clean Air Act Amendments. A business may call the center with questions on air operating permits, air emissions calculations, or air permit deadlines. The Permit Information Center does not issue any permits, but it acts as a clearinghouse for businesses, answering an array of regulatory questions. Businesses may contact the center with such questions as:

- Do I need a permit or license to operate my business?
- What forms are required?
- How much will the permit cost?
- What are the filing deadlines?

The center's staff will provide answers and referrals to other state agencies for more detailed information. Each state agency works with the Permit Information Center, updating the center on any changes in their regulations or deadlines. This ensures that the businesses gets complete and accurate information. Since 1984, the Permit Information Center has assisted over 23,000 businesses, in addition to playing a key role numerous economic development projects. If you have permitting questions or would like more information on the center's activities, please call 1-800-HELP-BUS or write to Business Development Assistance Center, Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 7970, Madison, WI 53707.

Bureau of Entrepreneurship

www.commerce.state.wi.us

Provides entrepreneurial assistance for small businesses. Advises small businesses on Federal Clean Air Act compliance issues. Staffs the Small Business Ombudsman and Technology Transfer functions.

Programs:

- Business Development Assistance Center and Business Help Line
- Clean Air Assistance
- Permit Information and Regulatory Assistance

- Small Business Ombudsman
- Small Business Assistance
- Technology Transfer - Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs

Bureau of Entrepreneurship, 5th Floor

PO Box 7970

Madison, WI 53707

608-264-6141 (phone)

608-267-0436 (fax)

Business Wizard

www.wisconsin.gov/state/app/wizard/LoadIntro

Welcome to the State of Wisconsin Business Wizard. Using a series of five question-and-answer pages, the Wizard provides customized information to help you start and operate a Wisconsin-based business. By investing a few minutes of your time, the Business Wizard will help you to:

- Determine licensing, permitting and regulatory requirements
- Obtain necessary application forms
- Identify available state resources
- Access other valuable business-related information

Your customized information will be contained in a results page that can be saved, printed or bookmarked for future reference. In order for the Wizard to work properly, session cookies are used to create a customized result page based on responses to questions in the Business Wizard. (See [Help](#) for more information.)

Important: The Business Wizard covers licensing, permitting and regulatory requirements for the State of Wisconsin. It also covers certain federal and local regulations. When reviewing your results page, be aware that the list of licensing, permitting and regulatory requirements may not be complete. Depending on your specific business type and geographic location, additional federal and local regulations may apply.

Wisconsin Small Business Ombudsman

<http://commerce.wi.gov/BD/BD-SBO.html>

This site links to the web page of the state's Small Business Ombudsman office. This office assists small businesses with regulatory concerns, by, among other things, providing monthly e-mail notifications on rules being developed by state agencies, assisting small businesses with specific complaints about state laws, administrative rules, or agency interpretations, providing information and referrals on special programs, and acting as a small business advocate. Information about these services is found on this site.

Wisconsin Entrepreneur Network

www.wenportal.org/getting_help/

This site includes resources, marketing, financing/grants, business plans, and much more.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

www.dnr.state.wi.us

The DNR has staff members devoted to the different environmental programs all around the state. Detailed information on the different environmental programs is available at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/environmentprotect/>.

Business Sector Specialists – WI Department of Natural Resources

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cea/assistance/bsector/whoare.htm

Within the Department of Natural Resources, Business Sector Specialists act as conduits into the DNR through their work with various industrial and commercial sectors. They will often serve as a first point of contact for these businesses, providing coordinated, cross-media technical, and compliance assistance.

Environmental Permit Primer

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/environmentprotect/>

The DNR has designed a Website to take you through the various DNR regulatory programs to determine what environmental requirements apply to your business. The site also guides you through the application process for air, stormwater, wastewater, solid, and hazardous waste, and water supply permits.

Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC)

<http://www4.uwm.edu/shwec/>

The staff of the UW-Extension, Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center provide quality environmental education, information, and technical assistance for industry and communities throughout Wisconsin.

Small Business Clean Air Assistance Program

<http://commerce.wi.gov/BD/BD-CA-SBCAAP.html>

The Small Business Clean Air Assistance Program (SBCAAP), housed in the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, helps small businesses understand and comply with state and federal air pollution regulations.

WisCon Onsite Safety & Health Consultation in Wisconsin

<http://www.slh.wisc.edu/wiscon/>

The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene WisCon Program – a part of the University of Wisconsin-Madison – in conjunction with the U.S. Department of labor currently offers on-site consultation services to assist Wisconsin employers in meeting the obligations and responsibilities covered under the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act. There is no charge for consultation to private sector employers and the program is voluntary.

***Wisconsin Labor Standards**

The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) administers a number of labor standard laws which vary considerably in their coverage and requirements. The DWD Labor Standards Bureau provides employers interpretative materials on the following labor laws:

Prevailing Wage Rates	Hours of Work and Overtime
Records Open to Employee	One Day of Rest in Seven
Street Trades	Child Labor
Minimum Wage	Private Employment Agencies
Business Closing/Mass Layoff	Wage Payment & Collection
Cessation of Health Care Benefits	

Employers covered by these standards also may be subject to similar federal laws and regulations. In cases where the laws contain different requirements, and the state regulations are more stringent, DWD is required by law to enforce the state regulations.

***Labor Poster**

Wisconsin and federal laws require employers to display certain posters and notices at their worksites. For a complete poster packet with all the DWD produced posters, contact Document Sales at 1-800-DOC Sale. Ask for poster packet #1402. Online state and federal poster information is available at www.dwd.state.wi.us/dwd/posters.htm.