

## Which Licenses and Permits Does My Business Need?

It can be difficult to determine which municipal, county, state, federal, and occupational licenses and permits your small business needs to comply with government regulations.

Bearing this in mind, the federal government has developed a search tool designed to make this process easier for you. The tool will fetch business licensing and permitting data tailored to your specific geographical location.

To use this tool, point your Internet browser to:

<http://www.business.gov>

Next, look for the tool labeled “Permit Me” or “Search.” In spring 2008, the tool looked like this:



The screenshot shows a search interface titled "PERMIT ME" with the subtitle "Search for Permits, Licenses & Registrations". It features two input fields: "Enter:" with a text box containing "City & State or Zip Code", and "Choose:" with a drop-down menu containing "Business Type". The two fields are separated by the word "AND". Below the fields is a blue "Search" button.

Enter your city and state or your zip code inside the “Enter” box. Next, select your business type from the drop-down list in the “Choose” box.

Click “Search” and a list of requirements tailored to your location and profession will be displayed.

You can print the page of results or visit each hyperlink one by one to receive specific instructions for each type of license and permit.

Keep in mind that many licenses and permits must be updated annually, and laws governing business licenses and permits can change often, so it is a good idea to review your company’s regulatory compliance requirements on a regular basis. The search tool at [www.business.gov](http://www.business.gov) will allow you to check your local, state, federal and occupational license and permit requirements using one consolidated, time-saving web portal.

This information is provided to you by Government Certification Specialists Inc. of Leesburg, Virginia. The staff of GCS Inc. wishes you and your company great success as you participate in the SBA 8(a) system. Please contact us at 240-529-2501 or [info@get8acertified.com](mailto:info@get8acertified.com) if you need help during any phase of the 8(a) program.