



Compliance

Regardless of the type of business you are in, you're always going to face some compliance costs to make sure your business is legal and operates within the law. This not only protects you as a business, but also protects your customers, staff and suppliers.

The trick is to minimise the amount of time you spend on compliance tasks – this means it is really important to understand the legal requirements and what you have to do. This section covers the main requirements for being in business, from tax and employing staff, to the rights of consumers and applying for resource consents.

If you are just starting a business, then we recommend three initial steps to get you on the right track:

1. Access the excellent [Tool for Business](#) on the Inland Revenue website. It has useful free tools, templates, animations, FAQs and information to help get you started, covering everything you need to know about business tax.
2. Visit the [Companies Office website](#) to identify what business structure is best for your business, and learn how easy it is to [start a company](#), if that is the structure you choose.
3. Finally, if you have a new idea or process or are worried about someone stealing your idea, then find out about your [intellectual property rights](#).

[Business tax](#)

Every business in New Zealand has to meet certain tax obligations. Find out more registering your business for tax and GST and work out your likely tax obligations.

[Business structures](#)

The structure you choose for your business will depend on your needs and business goals, but will also have implications on the amount of tax you pay. Find out more about company structures and which is best for your business.

[PAYE and employment regulations](#)

There is a lot to learn about becoming an employer. Find out more about employment contracts or agreements, and your obligations as an employer.

[Consumer laws](#)

There are a number of regulations governing business trade. Find out more about the rules for setting prices and dealing with customers in New Zealand.

[Intellectual property](#)

Intellectual property and trade marks are important to your business. Find out more about copyright, and how to protect your intellectual property and trade marks.

[Financial reporting](#)

Businesses in New Zealand need to comply with the Financial Reporting Act. Find out more about your obligations to keep financial records and the financial reports that are required from small businesses.

[Environment](#)

Businesses in new Zealand need to comply with the Resource Management Act. Find out whether you need resource consent to start your business.

[Other regulations](#)

There are a number of other regulations that businesses should be aware of. Find out more about your occupational Health and Safety obligations and how to comply with the Privacy Act.