

Business Name Registration FAQs

This document provides general information on registration of a business name. It is not intended to convey legal or tax advice. You should consider consulting a lawyer and/or an accountant for such advice.

Am I legally required to register my business name?

Yes, according to *The Business Names Registration Act* every person who carries on business under a business name or who intends to carry on business under a business name may cause the business name to be registered under the Act. For a full list of exceptions, please refer to *The Business Names Registration Act*.

What's the difference between registration of a business name and incorporation?

Registering a business name protects the name and complies with *The Business Names Registration Act* but a separate legal entity is not created. The assets and personal debts are the owner's responsibilities and the owner is taxed personally.

Incorporating a company creates a separate and distinct legal entity that can carry on business under its own name. The assets are owned by the corporation and generally the liabilities are the responsibility of the corporation, not its shareholders.

Is a corporation required to also register a business name?

If the corporation is carrying on business under a name that is not identical to its corporate name, that business name must also be registered.

Will registering my business help me to get a business loan?

Some government organizations and financial institutions may require a business to be registered before they will enter into any formal arrangements with them.

Will registering my business name mean no one else can use it?

Yes, as long as your business name is registered no one can register a similar name that would be likely to confuse or mislead the public, without your written consent.

Does registering my business name make it easier for people to find out about my business?

Yes, registering your name can help to distinguish your business name from others in your industry. It can also help to increase customer confidence in your business and recognition.

How do I register my business name?

You can register your business name online through Business Registrations Saskatchewan (www.isc.ca/businessregistrations). You can also choose to do it manually by submitting the Name Search & Reservation forms through Corporate Registry via fax, e-mail, mail or in person. The forms can be found at www.isc.ca/corporateregistry.

How much does it cost to register a business name?

Online name registration is \$55 and paper registration is \$65. Online applications also have a shorter processing time.

Do I need to renew my business name once it is reserved?

Yes, every three years you will need to renew your business name. Once you have registered your business name you will automatically be mailed a renewal notice to both the registered office address and the mailing address approximately 4-6 weeks before the renewal is due. You can also choose to be notified by e-mail.

The cost to renew is \$50 if filed on paper or \$40 if filed online.