

Small Business Issues

A primary purpose of SEMA's Government Affairs Office is to help our members thrive. Most SEMA members are, by definition, small businesses. The federal government provides a number of resources to help small businesses become more productive and successful. This webpage supplies links to those portals of information. The page also includes some links to state materials as well.

Another primary purpose of SEMA's Government Affairs Office is to consolidate the strength and maximize the influence of SEMA member businesses on legislative and Federal policy issues of importance to the small business community. One way to achieve that goal is to disseminate information that directly impacts our companies. This page contains lots of links on legislative or regulatory issues of daily relevance. These matters include taxes, antitrust enforcement, warranties, employment issues, government procurement, environment, and small business financing mechanisms. The webpage will be expanded on a periodic basis to include other issues as well.

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

- [Small Business Administration Home Page](#) -- The SBA aides, counsels, assist and protects the interests of small businesses.
- [SBA's Website In Spanish](#)
- [SBA Office of Advocacy](#) – The SBA's Office of Advocacy is an independent voice for small business within the federal government. It pursues regulatory, legislative, and other policy initiatives to support small businesses before federal and state policymakers. It also conducts research and provides an outreach to the small business community.
- [Small Business Development Centers](#) -- the SBDC Program is designed to deliver up-to-date counseling, training and technical assistance in all aspects of small business management.
- [State Business Information Centers](#) — provides information and contacts on state regulatory requirements for operating a small business.
- [Definition of a "Small Business"](#)
- [Starting Your Business](#)
- [Financing Your Business](#)
- [Managing Your Business](#)
- [Business Opportunities](#)

U.S. Department of Labor's Major Laws & Regulations

- [General Question & Answer Guide to Employment Law](#) -- overview of employment laws, providing assistance for workers & small businesses
- [Compliance Assistance](#) -- easy-to-access information on how to comply with federal employment laws.

Wages & Work Hours

- [Consumer Credit Protection Act](#)
- [The Fair Labor Standards Act \(FLSA\)](#)
- [The Fair Labor Standards Act \(FLSA\)/Child Labor](#)
- [The Family and Medical Leave Act \(FMLA\)](#)
- [Information about the Family & Medical Leave Act](#)
- [The Minimum Wage](#)
- [Minimum Wage Laws in the States](#)
- [State Labor Offices and State Laws](#)
- [Statutes and Executive Orders Administered by Wage-Hour](#)

- [Overtime Pay](#)
- [Wage and Hour Division's Home Page](#)

Foreign Workers

- [The Immigration and Nationality Act](#)
- [INS Alien Employee Visa Classification eTool](#)

Workplace Safety & Health

- [OSHA Stuff.com](#) – Business-friendly website by Amboy Associates, providing comprehensive overview of OSHA activities
- [OSHA Small Business Web Page](#)
- [The Fair Labor Standards Act \(FLSA\)/Child Labor](#)
- [The Occupational Safety and Health \(OSH\) Act](#)
- [Occupational Safety & Health Standard Industrial Classification Search](#)
- [Occupational Safety & Health Regulations & Compliance Links](#)
- [Occupational Safety & Health Reading Room](#)
- [OSHA Recordkeeping Requirements](#)

Retirement & Health Benefits

- [Employee Retirement Income Security Act \(ERISA\)](#)

Veterans' Protections

- [Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act \(USERRA\)](#)
- [Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act \(VEVRAA\)](#)

Other Workplace Issues

- [The Employee Polygraph Protection Act \(EPPA\)](#)
- [Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act \(LMRDA\)](#)
- [Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act \(WARN\)](#)
- [Consumer Credit Protection Act](#)
- [Consumer Price Indexes](#)
- [Links to other Major Labor Laws/Regulations Not Listed Above](#)
- [INS I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification Form](#)
- [Create an Emergency Evacuation Plan for your Business That Complies With OSHA](#)

Other Federal Laws & Regulations

- [Advertising Guidelines](#)
- [Antitrust -- Guidance to the Business Community](#) (Department of Justice)
- [Antitrust – Plain English Guide to Antitrust Laws](#) (Federal Trade Commission)
- [BusinessLaw.gov](#) -- BusinessLaw.gov is an online resource guide designed to provide legal and regulatory information to America's small businesses.
- [Compliance Assistance Directory](#) -- Locate federal compliance assistance resources and small business liaison contact information.
- [Environmental Compliance -- Online Clearinghouse](#)
- [EPA – Home Page](#) – Environmental Protection Agency: links to regulations and programs
- [EPA – Clean Air Act in Plain English](#)

- [EPA – Small Business Ombudsman](#)
- [EPA – Small Business Environmental Home Page](#)
- [FTC – Home Page](#) -- Federal Trade Commission
- [FTC Info for Businesses](#)
- [FTC Guides On Buying Automobiles](#)
- [FTC Guides on Auto Repairs](#)
- [Patents, Trademarks & Copyright](#) -- Intellectual Property Rights:
- [Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights By Customs](#)
- [Motor Carrier Safety Regulations](#) -- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations governing the operation of most commercial vehicles.
- [NHTSA – Home Page](#) -- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- [NHTSA – Regulations & Standards](#)
- [NHTSA – Safety Problems & Issues](#)
- [Warranties](#) – Understanding Warranties & the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act

State Laws & Regulations

- [State and Local Gateway](#) -- Provides links to the laws, regulations, tools, resources, services and online transactions offered by your state and local government.
- <http://www.statelocalgov.net/index.cfm> - one-stop access to the websites of thousands of state agencies and city and county governments.
- <http://www.prairienet.org/~scruffy/f.htm> - links to sites containing full-text state constitutions, statutes, legislation, and administrative rules

Taxes - Federal

- [Businesses](#)
- [Individuals](#)
- [Charities & Non-Profits](#)
- [Retirement Plans](#)
- [e-file](#) -- Electronic services information
- [Forms and Publications](#) (General)
- [Small Business Publications](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions for IRS](#)
- [W-2 Employer Reporting Responsibilities](#)

Business Planning

- [Starting a Business](#)
- [Conducting Business](#)
- [Growing the Business](#)
- [Getting Out of Business](#)
- [Apply Online for Federal Employer Identification Number \(EIN\), Form SS-4](#)

Financial Assistance

- [Small Business Administration Guides to Business Financing Issues](#)
- [Employer Tax Incentives](#) -- Information on tax breaks for employers
- [Export.gov](#) -- Quick reference guides on financing and working capital for your exporting business.

International Trade: Import/Export

- [Export.Gov](#) -- the U.S. Government's one-stop shop for exports
- [The Export Basics](#)
- [Partners & Trade Leads](#)
- [Market Research](#)
- [Counseling & Advocacy](#)
- [Trade Events](#)
- [Export Finance](#)
- [Shipping Documentation & Requirements](#)
- [Pricing, Quotes, Negotiations](#)
- [Help With Trade Problems](#)
- [Buying U.S. Products](#)
- [About Export.Gov](#)
- [www.buyUSA.com](#) -- U.S. Department of Commerce program to connect U.S. companies with thousands of qualified international buyers, distributors and agents. (modest subscription)
- [Trade Information Center](#) -- Answers & Information on export issues
- [Trade Compliance Center](#) -- Helps American exporters overcome foreign trade barriers and works to ensure that foreign countries comply with their commitments to the United States.
- [U.S. Commercial Service](#) -- A team of more than 1,800 trade professionals in 105 U.S. cities and 151 U.S. Embassies, Consulates and Trade Centers around the world is there to help companies navigate the complex international trade process.
- [Export-Import Bank of the U.S.](#) -- the official export credit agency of the United States, the bank assists in financing the export of U.S. goods and services to international markets.
- [Export America Magazine](#) -- The official magazine of the International Trade Administration (ITA) in the U.S. Department of Commerce, offers practical export advice and resources for small and medium-sized exporters.
- [U.S. Customs -- Home Page On Importing](#)
- [U.S. Customs Guide To Importing](#)
- [Country of Origin Marking Rules](#)
- [NAFTA Rules of Origin](#)
- [Customs Administrative Enforcement: Fines, Penalties, Etc.](#)
- [NHTSA's Vehicle Importation Guidelines](#)
- [EPA's Vehicle Importation Guidelines](#)

Selling to the Government

- [Federal Acquisition Jumpstation](#) -- Federal acquisitions on the Internet, listing procurement and acquisition sites by contracting activity
- [Federal Government Business opportunities](#): FedBizOpps.gov is the single government point-of-entry (GPE) for Federal government procurement opportunities over \$25,000.

Classifications & Registrations

- [Bar Code Assignments](#)
- [Domain Name Registration](#) -- Internet domain name registration services
- [North American Industry Classification Codes](#) -- replaces the U.S. Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system.
- [Vehicle Identification Numbers \(VIN\)](#)

Standard Setting Organizations & Test Laboratories

- [American National Standards Institute \(ANSI\)](#)
- [British Standards Institution \(BSI\)](#)
- [Commission Internationale de L'Eclairage \(CIE\) \(lighting standards\)](#)
- [European Standards Information](#)

- [Illuminating Engineering Society of North America \(IESNA\) \(lighting standards\)](#)
- [International Standards Organization \(ISO\)](#)
- [Japanese Industrial Standards \(JIS\)](#)
- [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#) (U.S. Government)
- [National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\)](#) (U.S. Government)
- [Society of Automotive Engineers \(SAE\)](#)
- [Independent Testing Laboratories](#)
- [NHTSA Test Compliance Procedures](#)

Federal Government

- <http://firstgov.gov/> -- Search engine for thousands of federal government online web sites.
- [Federal Legislation](#) -- Use this link to find legislation and track bills.
- [United States Code](#) -- Compilation of U.S. laws
- [U.S. Code of Federal Regulations](#) -- Compilation of federal regulations
- [United States Senate](#) -- Identifies Senators, Committees, etc.
- [United States House of Representatives](#) -- Identifies Representatives, Committees, etc.
- [The White House](#)
- [U.S. Supreme Court](#)
- [Federal & State Courts](#)
- [U.S. Government Printing Office](#) -- Publications and information from all three branches of federal government: executive, legislative and judiciary