



How to Start a Trucking Business Checklist

1. **Create a business plan.**
 - 1.1. Executive summary.
 - 1.2. Business description.
 - 1.3. Market analysis.
 - 1.4. Organization management.
 - 1.5. Sales strategy.
 - 1.6. Funding needs.
 - 1.7. Financial projections.

2. **Name your business.**
 - 2.1. Choose a business name.
 - 2.2. Check name availability.
 - 2.3. Secure the domain name.
 - 2.4. Trademark the name.

3. **Secure financing.**
 - 3.1. Find investors.
 - 3.2. Apply for a loan.

4. **Take care of legal requirements.**
 - 4.1. Open a business bank account.
 - 4.2. Form a legal entity.
 - i. Choose between a partnership, corporation, or LLC.
 - ii. Appoint officers/members.
 - iii. File articles of incorporation.

- 4.3. Meet industry requirements.
 - i. Commercial Driver's License.
 - ii. U.S. Dot Number.
 - iii. Motor Carrier Operating Authority Number.
 - iv. International Registration Plan and Fuel Tax Agreement.

- 5. **Purchase equipment.**
 - 5.1. Research suppliers.
 - 5.2. Purchase trucks.
 - i. Choose new or used vehicles.
 - 5.3. Purchase insurance for your fleet.

- 6. **Hire employees.**
 - 6.1. Define job positions.
 - 6.2. Post jobs online.
 - 6.3. Interview candidates and check credentials.
 - 6.4. Extend employment offers.

- 7. **Market your business and find loads.**
 - 7.1. Set your rates.
 - 7.2. Launch a website.
 - 7.3. Create marketing materials.
 - 7.4. Use load boards.
 - 7.5. Develop business relationships.