START A BUSINESS - VIRGINIA

How to start a roadside assistance company in Virginia

Form the business and register for sales tax; if you drive a tow truck, register with DCJS. We found no separate state roadside assistance license.

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1 Is roadside assistance right for you?

Roadside companies help stranded drivers with jump starts, tire changes, fuel delivery, lockouts and winch-outs. It suits people who like driving and stay calm next to traffic.

2 Form the business and register for sales tax

1. Choose a structure. LLCs and corporations register with the State Corporation Commission (SCC).
2. Register with Virginia Tax to collect sales tax. The rate depends on where you are: 5.3% in most of Virginia, 6% in Central Virginia, Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia, and higher in a few localities.
3. Check your city or county for a local business license and zoning.

3 Licenses

We found no Virginia State license for roadside assistance. Check your city or county for a business license and zoning.

4 Sales tax on repairs

List parts and labor separately: parts are taxable and labor is not. If the invoice shows one lump sum, the whole charge is taxable, labor included. Since July 2017, a separately listed shop supplies charge is taxable too.

5 If you tow

Anyone who drives a tow truck must be registered with DCJS. Service calls in a regular vehicle do not need it.

6 Your first steps

1. Form the business and register for sales tax.
2. Register with DCJS if you will drive a tow truck.
3. Sign up with motor clubs or insurers.
4. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

Sales tax on parts; itemize labor

Required - State - Virginia Department of Taxation

Separately billed parts are taxable and separately stated labor is not (Tax Bulletin 17-7). If the invoice shows one lump sum, the whole charge is taxable, labor included (Ruling 21-92). Since July 1, 2017, separately stated shop supplies charges are taxable. The rate depends on the locality: 5.3% in most of Virginia, 6% in Central Virginia, Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia, and higher in a few localities.

If you drive a tow truck: DCJS registration

Required in some cases - State - Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Anyone who drives a tow truck must be registered with DCJS. Service calls in a regular vehicle do not need it.

We found no separate state roadside assistance license.

Fees: $100 per driver

Official agencies and links

Tax Bulletin 17-7: Shop supplies charged by auto repair shops

Virginia Department of Taxation

https://www.tax.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/tb-17-7-auto-shop-supplies_0.pdf

Code of Virginia section 46.2-116, Tow truck driver registration with DCJS

Virginia General Assembly (LIS)

https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter1/section46.2-116/

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a license for roadside assistance in Virginia?

We found no state license; tow truck drivers must register with DCJS.

This guide is general information, not legal advice. Rules change and can depend on your city or county, so confirm with the official agencies linked below before you apply.