LICENSES, PERMITS & CERTIFICATIONS - CALIFORNIA

California mobile mechanic licenses and requirements

What California requires of these businesses: registration, tax, licenses and the official links to check.

Sources verified 2026-11-21 - Updated 2026-11-21

1 The rules at a glance

- CDTFA seller's permit (labor generally not taxed)
- BAR automotive repair dealer registration ($200 a year)
- Vehicle plate listed on the registration
- EPA 609 for A/C work

Requirements at a glance

Sales tax on parts; labor generally not taxed

Required - State - California Department of Tax and Fee Administration

In California, parts you sell are taxable, and labor for repairs and maintenance is generally not taxable when you list it separately. Fabrication labor (making a part) and installing parts on new vehicles are taxable.

BAR automotive repair dealer registration for mobile repair

Required - State - California Bureau of Automotive Repair

Mobile repair for compensation requires BAR automotive repair dealer registration ($200 a year), listing the vehicle license plate number; ask BAR whether each vehicle needs its own registration.

Fees: $200 a year

Official application: https://bar.ca.gov/apply

EPA Section 609 certification for air conditioning work

Required in some cases - Federal - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Required to repair or service motor vehicle air conditioning systems for payment or bartering.

Official agencies and links

Section 609 Technician Training and Certification Programs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
https://www.epa.gov/mvac/section-609-technician-training-and-certification-programs

Apply for a license
California Bureau of Automotive Repair
https://bar.ca.gov/apply

Publication 25, Auto Repair Garages and Service Stations (June 2026)
California Department of Tax and Fee Administration
https://cdtfa.ca.gov/formspubs/pub25.pdf

Frequently asked questions

Do mobile mechanics need BAR registration in California?

Yes. Mobile repair for compensation requires automotive repair dealer registration; ask BAR whether each vehicle needs its own.

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.

https://nearbycarcare.com/resources/licenses/mobile-mechanic-licenses-permits/california/