LICENSES, PERMITS & CERTIFICATIONS - MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts salvage yard licenses and permits

The local Class 3 motor vehicle junk license, tax and safety rules for salvage yards in Massachusetts.

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

1 The rules at a glance

- Form the business and register for sales tax
- City or town Class 3 motor vehicle junk license (Boston: police commissioner)
- Expires January 1; local fee no more than $200
- Forklift operator training

Requirements at a glance

Form the business (Secretary of the Commonwealth or city or town clerk)

Required - State - Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth; your city or town clerk

LLCs file a Certificate of Organization with the Secretary of the Commonwealth and exist only once it is approved. Sole proprietors and partnerships using a trade name file a business certificate with the city or town clerk, which the RMV and DPU ask for.
Fees: LLC Certificate of Organization: $500.

Register for sales tax with the Department of Revenue

Required - State - Massachusetts Department of Revenue

Massachusetts sales tax is 6.25% of the sales price of taxable goods. Register with the Department of Revenue before you sell taxable items such as parts.

City or town Class 3 motor vehicle junk license

Required - Municipal - Your city or town licensing authority (Boston: police commissioner)

A person whose principal business is buying second hand vehicles to take apart or rebuild, or buying or selling used vehicle parts or tires, may be granted a Class 3 motor vehicle junk license by the city or town licensing authority. Licenses expire on January 1.
Fees: Set locally, no more than $200 (c. 140, s. 59).

Sales tax on parts you sell

Required - State - Massachusetts Department of Revenue

Used parts and other goods are taxable at 6.25%.

Forklift operator training (OSHA)

Required in some cases - Federal - Occupational Safety and Health Administration

If employees use forklifts, the employer must train and evaluate each operator before they operate one (29 CFR 1910.178(l)).

Official agencies and links

29 CFR 1910.178, Powered industrial trucks (operator training, paragraph (l))
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.178

Sales and Use Tax
Massachusetts Department of Revenue
https://www.mass.gov/guides/sales-and-use-tax

M.G.L. c. 140, section 58 (dealer license classes)
Massachusetts General Court
https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXX/Chapter140/Section58

Starting a limited liability company (LLC) in Massachusetts
Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth, Corporations Division (Mass.gov)
https://www.mass.gov/info-details/starting-a-limited-liability-company-llc-in-massachusetts

Frequently asked questions

Is a Massachusetts junk license statewide?

No. It is issued by your city or town licensing authority.

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.