LICENSES, PERMITS & CERTIFICATIONS - CALIFORNIA

California vehicle wrap business 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)
- Materials taxed; list installation separately
- USDOT marking rules

We found no state wrap installer license.

Requirements at a glance

California seller's permit

Required - State - California Department of Tax and Fee Administration

Get a seller's permit from CDTFA and collect sales tax on parts and merchandise you sell.
Form your LLC or corporation with the California Secretary of State first. Fees not verified here.
Official application: https://cdtfa.ca.gov/formspubs/pub25.pdf

Sales tax on wraps; ask about installation

Required - State - California Department of Tax and Fee Administration

Wrap materials are taxable. Installation labor is generally not taxable when listed separately, but fabrication labor and installing on new vehicles are taxable; ask CDTFA about your invoices.

USDOT number marking on commercial motor vehicles

Required in some cases - Federal - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Vehicles that need a USDOT number show the carrier's name and USDOT number on both sides, readable from 50 feet in daylight (49 CFR 390.21).

Official agencies and links

49 CFR 390.21, Marking of self-propelled CMVs and intermodal equipment
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (eCFR)
https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-B/chapter-III/subchapter-B/part-390/subpart-B/section-390.21

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 wrap installers need a license in California?
We found no state license beyond the seller's permit.

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.