



April 8, 2025

UNDERSTANDING WHETHER OR NOT YOU NEED A FEIN OR SEIN NUMBER

FEIN/SEIN

FEIN: FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

If your business is organized as a corporation or partnership, or if you engage or plan to engage employees, you will need a Federal Identification Number (FEIN) for the purpose of withholding FICA taxes and Social Security taxes. The FEIN number is a 9-digit number assigned by the IRS to all business entities operating within the United States. You need a FEIN number if you:

- Have employees
- File your business as a corporation or partnership
- File employment, excise alcohol, tobacco, and/or firearm tax returns
- Withhold taxes on income paid to a non-resident alien
- Have a tax deferred pension plan or KEOGH plan

To obtain a FEIN, contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) at 1(657) 247-3438.

SEIN: STATE EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

If your business is organized as a corporation or partnership in the State of California, or if you engage or plan to engage employees in the State of California, you will need a State Employer Identification Number (SEIN) for the purpose of withholding State Income Tax, Disability and Unemployment Insurance.

- The SEIN number is also known as your State Tax ID number
- You need a SEIN number if you are operating a business in the State of California and pay more than \$100.00 in wages to employees per quarter of the calendar year.

To obtain a SEIN, contact the State Employment Development Department (EDD) or call (888) 745-3886.



THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS LEGAL ADVICE. THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE GENERAL BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF DIFFERENTIATING FACTORS BETWEEN AN FEIN AND SEIN NUMBER. AT WILL, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR OWN LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE AND/OR TAX PROFESSIONAL FOR EXHAUSTIVE CONTENT INFORMATION.