

# California Security Company Startup Checklist

Everything you need to launch a licensed private security business in California, step by step.

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## 1. Plan & form your business

- Choose your niche (retail, construction, events, patrol, etc.)
- Decide armed vs. unarmed services
- Write a simple business plan and set your hourly pricing
- Register an LLC or corporation with the CA Secretary of State
- Get a federal EIN from the IRS
- Open a business bank account and get your local business license

## 2. Get your PPO license (BSIS)

- Confirm you (or a Qualified Manager) meet the age and experience rules
- Complete Live Scan fingerprinting (DOJ + FBI background check)
- Study for and pass the 2-hour PPO qualifying exam
- Submit the PPO application via BreZE and pay the \$550 fee

## 3. Insurance & finances

- Buy general liability insurance (\$1,000,000 minimum)
- Set up workers' compensation insurance
- Set up payroll and overtime tracking

## 4. Hire & license your guards

- Recruit your first guards
- Ensure each guard completes the 40 hours of required training
- Confirm every guard holds a valid BSIS guard card before their first shift

## 5. Operations & first clients

- Set up scheduling, GPS clock-in, and reporting software
- Sort uniforms, a website, and a service-agreement template
- Pitch your first local clients and sign your first contract