

A man with a beard, wearing a red and blue plaid shirt over a white t-shirt and blue jeans, stands in front of a large blue semi-truck. He is smiling and giving a thumbs-up gesture. The truck is parked in a lot with other white trucks visible in the background under a clear sky.

upflip

**OWNER-OPERATOR
TRUCKING BUSINESS**

Startup Checklist

Owner-Operator Trucking Business

Startup Checklist

If you want to start a trucking business you'll need to:

- Learn about the trucking industry.
- Get a commercial driving permit.
- Go to truck driving school.
- Write a business plan.
- Prepare your finances.
- Get your commercial driver's license.
- Start an LLC or a Corporation.
- Get an Employer Identification Number.
- Get a business bank account.
- Buy a truck and trailer.
- Get business insurance.
- Get state and local business licenses.
- Fill out [Form 2290](#) and pay the fee.
- Get [DOT number](#).
- Become a [trucking authority](#).
- Join the [International Fuel Tax Association](#).
- Get an [IRP plate](#).
- Create a logo.
- Create a website.
- Create business cards.
- Sign up for [datboard](#).
- Sign up for [truckstop.com](#).
- Establish contracts.
- Manage cash flow and fuel costs.
- Haul loads.
- Allow the DOT to audit your business.
- File IFTA's quarterly tax returns.
- Maintain new or used trucks.