



Business Gateway

“Making It Easier for Businesses to do Business”



What is Business Gateway?

Business Gateway (“BG”), a Presidential E-government Initiative, provides businesses with a single access point, www.business.gov, for businesses to easily find government information, including forms and compliance resources and tools. Business Gateway also reduces the regulatory paperwork burden on businesses through easier data submission. To accomplish its mission, www.business.gov offers the following:

- “Issue-based” search and organized agency links to answer business questions
- Links to resources to help businesses understand what regulations to comply with and how to comply
- Easy, online access to government forms to reduce the time it takes for businesses to find forms.
- Streamlined submission process to reduce the amount of data businesses submit to the government

Why do we need Business Gateway?

According to statistics compiled by government agencies, complying with laws and regulations costs American businesses billions of dollars each year. Business Gateway will reduce this burden on the business community by eliminating the need to search through multiple web sites to locate and access government information, services, and legal/regulatory requirements and forms.

Value to Businesses. Business Gateway saves businesses time and money by:

- Providing a one-stop site to answer businesses’ questions with an on-line “issue-based” search and information organization capability
- Providing access to information and resources (organized links to plain language, regulations, forms, agency guidance) about how to comply with rules and regulations
- Making it easier to understand the rules and regulations applicable to specific businesses.
- Reducing the time it takes to get answers from a myriad of government resources
- Reducing compliance burden that can inhibit small and medium-size businesses from succeeding

Businesses are Excited about How Business Gateway Can Help. As revealed during recent focus groups with businesses, the idea of *business.gov* is exciting to businesses: it promises to be a powerful search engine/portal that allows access to government, plain language assistance, and the right contacts within government to help them deal with their regulatory compliance issues. *Businesses want to more easily find, understand, and comply with laws and regulations.*

Value to Federal Government. Not only does BG deliver value to businesses, it also provides value to Federal agencies. Business Gateway improves customer service to businesses by:

- Serving as translator between the business community and the Federal Government
- Reducing the number of “misdirected” calls, saving time responding to unnecessary inquiries
- Helping to reduce the paperwork burden on small businesses in response to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002



Progress to Date

Business Gateway accomplishments include the following:

- May 2004: Launched www.business.gov, which receives approximately 200,000 unique visitors per month.
- Merged/consolidated Federal cross-agency legal and regulatory information into the new www.business.gov site
- Built a catalog of 6,000+ Federal forms
- Launched a pilot for a streamlined data collection interface in the Surface Coal Mining Industry, which can be used as a model to streamline data collection throughout Federal (and state and local) government

Next Steps

Over the next few years, Business Gateway will build and enhance www.business.gov to better address the business community's needs. Throughout the remainder of FY 05 and beyond, BG will:

- Conduct ongoing conversations with the business community and modify www.business.gov based on feedback
- Improve www.business.gov to answer business questions with an on-line “issue-based” search and information organization capability
- Provide more comprehensive information and resources about how to comply with the most burdensome rules and regulations (i.e. organized links to plain-language, regulations, forms, agency guidance, tools)
- Provide more comprehensive and better organized contact information and frequently asked questions
- Enhance the search-ability of electronic government forms available from www.business.gov
- Continue to test and pilot ways for agencies to share data across agencies to simplify the reporting process for businesses

A Cross-Agency, Collaborative Effort

Business Gateway is a collaboration of 22 partner agencies:

- Dept. of Agriculture
- Dept. of Commerce
- Dept. of Defense
- Dept. of Education
- Dept. of Energy
- Dept. of Health and Human Services
- Dept. of Homeland Security
- Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
- Dept. of Justice
- Dept. of Labor
- Dept. of State
- Dept. of the Interior
- Dept. of the Treasury
- Dept. of Transportation
- Dept. of Veteran Affairs
- Environmental Protection Agency
- General Services Administration
- Nat'l Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Nat'l Science Foundation
- Office of Personnel Management
- Small Business Administration (managing partner)
- Social Security Administration