

FAQ:

I am starting a new business within an existing building or tenant space that previously had the same or similar use; do I need a new permit?

Background:

Per [A-301.1.5](#), a use registration permit is required for every new use commenced on any land or in any structure. A use registration permit is required to document a new use. The zoning code does not require a new permit to be issued to document a change in ownership.

Answer:

If the previous tenant had a valid use registration permit for the same use that you are proposing, a new use registration permit is not required. If the previous permit was issued by variance and there is a proviso on the permit, that proviso would apply to the new tenant as well.

Questions?

Call 311 or (215) 686-8686 (if outside Philadelphia) or submit a permit-related question online via <https://form.jotform.com/81494420572154>.

Disclaimer:

This interpretation, policy or code application is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy or code application to specific projects may vary. There may be other ways to comply with the Code. If so, you are not required to use this method. You may want to investigate other options, or consult with a professional identifying an equally code compliant solution.

L&I Permit and License Center

1401 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Municipal Services Building, Public Service Concourse
Open 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Offices close at noon on the last Wednesday of each month.