

Step by Step Process for all Applicants

All applicants go through a similar process. These can include a license, permit, or approval.

To start a process [contact Commercial Space Transportation](#) (PDF).

Initial Discussions

1. Begins with conversations on the applicant's Concept of Operations (CONOP)
2. A Commercial Space Transportation POC is assigned to the applicant
3. A regulatory path is defined based on the applicant's CONOP
4. Movement into Pre-App depends on License/Permit/Approval

1. Pre-Application Consultation

1. A full pre-app team is assigned to the applicant
2. The license documents may be created and submitted to Commercial Space Transportation for feedback and refinement
3. The environmental process (NEPA) begins [if applicable]
4. The airspace and U.S. Coast Guard discussions begin [if applicable]
5. Ends when the application is submitted formally and accepted by Commercial Space Transportation for evaluation

2. Application Evaluation

1. 120 days for permits (statutory requirement)
2. 180 days for licenses (statutory requirement)
3. 180 days for approvals (internal AST requirement)

3. License Issuance/Denial

1. If a license/permit/approval is issued, Safety Inspectors conduct inspections.

Commercial Space Transportation Process — Site/Vehicle Operator License

Licensing Process: Vehicle/Site

