

E-2 Business Bookkeeping

A Practical Overview

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Important Notice

The information in this guide does not constitute legal or tax advice. It reflects the practical experience of an E-2 status holder and a bookkeeping firm that serves E-2 business owners. Every situation is unique. Bookkeepers maintain your financial records; only a licensed tax professional — such as an Enrolled Agent (EA) or Certified Public Accountant (CPA) — can provide tax advice, tax planning, or prepare and file tax returns, and only a licensed attorney can provide legal or immigration advice. Always consult the appropriate licensed professional about your specific circumstances before acting.

How to use this guide

This guide focuses on one thing: the bookkeeping, tax, and financial-recordkeeping side of setting up and running an E-2 business. It is not a full immigration or legal manual. Where a step falls outside bookkeeping and tax — choosing an immigration attorney, licensing, insurance, and so on — we point you to the right professional and list those items together in Appendix B so nothing falls off your radar.

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Introduction

This guide helps you navigate the financial side of starting and maintaining an E-2 business in the United States — specifically the bookkeeping, tax, and recordkeeping steps that support both a strong E-2 petition and a compliant, well-run company afterward.

Your books and your tax filings do more than keep you compliant. They are evidence. An E-2 petition must show a real, active, at-risk investment in a genuine operating enterprise, and later a renewal must show the business has performed and supported you. Clean, well-documented financial records are what make that case, so treating bookkeeping and tax as a priority from day one pays off at every stage.

As a reminder, not every item below will apply to your business, and some may never apply. For example, if you sell only digital products and your state does not tax them, you will not collect sales tax. We still encourage you to read through so you are aware of what could apply as your business grows.

Two ways to obtain E-2 status. You can apply for an E-2 visa at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate (a visa stamp for entry and re-entry while your visa and I-94 are valid), or apply for an E-2 change of status with USCIS if you are already in the U.S. Throughout this guide, “E-2 visa” refers to both unless noted. Your immigration attorney will advise on which path fits you — our focus begins once there is a business to set up and fund.

Talk with us

For a no-obligation conversation about your E-2 bookkeeping and tax needs, email hello@springbooks.biz or schedule a free call at www.springbooks.biz. Consultations are available in English and German.