

HOW CAN I TELL IF MY COMPANY IS A STARTUP?



WHAT IS A STARTUP?

A startup is a company created to **innovate, scale rapidly, and operate effectively in uncertain and changing environments.**

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Knowing whether your company qualifies as a startup can give you access to:

- **Legal and tax incentives**
- **Broader financing opportunities**
- **Greater visibility within the entrepreneurial ecosystem**

KEY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE STARTUP LAW

Your company may be classified as a startup if it meets the following criteria:

Company age

- Less than 5 years since incorporation
- Less than 7 years if operating in strategic sectors or using technology developed in Spain

Innovation and scalability

- A new or significantly improved product or service
- A business model with strong potential for sustained growth

Presence in Spain

- Registered office or permanent establishment in Spain
- At least 60% of the workforce employed under Spanish contracts

Financial and legal status

- Not publicly listed
- No dividends distributed
- Annual revenue below €10 million



If your company meets these conditions, it may qualify as a startup under the Startup Law.

ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Beyond legal requirements, startups typically share several defining traits:



Scalability.
The ability to grow without costs increasing at the same pace.



Innovation.
New solutions that transform products, services, or processes.



Sound business model.
Sustainable and repeatable revenue streams.



Technology-driven.
Use of digital tools to optimize operations and support growth.

DOES YOUR COMPANY QUALIFY AS A STARTUP?

Find out by using the self-assessment tool "[Requirements for Certification as an Emerging Company](#)", developed in collaboration with ENISA. This free tool helps you evaluate your business model, technological foundation, and growth potential, and determine whether you are ready to apply for startup certification and access the associated benefits.



OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON THE ONE PLATFORM

- Post [How can I tell if I'm a startup?](#)
- Post [Everything you need to know about startup certification](#)
- Post [Make the most of the Startup Law's tax benefits](#)
- Procedure [Innovative entrepreneurship certification](#)

Register at one.gob.es!