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How Businesses Determine if a Worker is an Employee or Independent Contractor

The degree of control and independence of workers fall into three main categories, and each must be considered when determining if a worker is an employee or independent contractor.

Behavioral Control

Does the business control or have the right to control how the worker does their job?

Factors to consider include:

- > Type of instructions given
- Degree of instruction
- Evaluation systems
- Training

Financial Control

Does the business have the right to control the economic aspects of the worker's job?

Factors to consider include:

- > Significant investment
- > Unreimbursed expenses
- > Opportunity for profit or loss
- Services available to the market
- > Method of payment

Relationship

How does the worker and the business see their relationship with each other?

Factors to consider include:

- > Written contracts
- > Employee benefits
- > Permanency of the relationship
- Services provided as key activity of the business

Form SS-8 can help employers determine the status of their workers. Learn more about businesses classifying workers and contractors and related topics.