

What do you have to comply with as a church?

As a church in the Netherlands you have to deal with quite a few laws and regulations that you have to comply with. In this article we give a short overview of important things to watch out for as a church. In the table below we indicate whether these things are mandatory, can be useful or are sometimes necessary, but depend very much on the situation.

Clicking on the item will give you more information about that particular item.

Required parts	
Registration with the Chamber of Commerce	The moment you want to officially register your church and take care of legal matters, it is necessary to register the denomination with the Chamber of Commerce (CoC). This can be done as a foundation or a denomination. Read all about it in this article. Registering with the Chamber of Commerce is not 100% mandatory, but it is necessary when you want to rent a building, apply for funds or open a bank account.
Drawing up bylaws	To register with the Chamber of Commerce you need bylaws. In this article you can read about how to draw up bylaws.
Opening a bank account	Having a bank account is necessary for participating in business legal transactions. In this article you will read about how to open a bank account as a church.
Keeping accounts	In doing so, it is necessary to keep good records of finances so that it is clear in what way money comes in and goes out. Read more about it here .
UBO registration	Since March 2022, it is mandatory for every church to register who the UBOs are. This article explains what this is and how to register.
Law on Management and Supervision of Legal Entities (WBTR)	The Law on Management and Supervision of Legal Entities (WBTR) is a law about preventing mismanagement and undesirable activities within the management. As a church, you must also comply with it. Read all about it in this article.
General Data Protection Regulation (AVG)	It is important to handle personal data carefully. In the Netherlands there is the General Data Protection Regulation (AVG) to which churches must also comply. In this article from SKIN Rotterdam you can read all about it (English below).
Copyright music	In church, singing and music is an important part. In the Sunday celebration you are allowed to play and sing music. When the service is broadcast online you have to take copyright into account. This also applies when you use music at other times than during the Sunday celebration. Read more about it here (Article in Dutch).
Safety in the building	It is important that the building be safe. This applies both in the situation when the building is your property, but also when you rent it. For example, you can think about the presence of a FAFS

	<p>officer. The Occupational Health and Safety Act before 2007 stated that at least 1 FAFS officer had to be present for every 50 employees. When the Occupational Health and Safety Act was amended in 2007, this rule was dropped. It now states that organizations are required to take effective measures in the area of in-house emergency response. What you need to think about can vary quite a bit by building type, but this checklist (in Dutch) will easily help you through it. And the recently published Church Buildings Manual (in Dutch) describes everything in much more detail.</p>
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Useful parts	
ANBI Status	<p>An ANBI status is convenient but not mandatory. This status shows that as a church you are an Institution for General Benefit (ANBI) and therefore a "good cause," or relevant to society. When you have this status, it provides tax benefits. In this article you can read more about this status and what it takes to apply for it.</p>
VOG/Being a Safe Church	<p>VOG stands for Certificate of Good Conduct, which the government can issue. This is done for various job applications. As a church, you can also use this for employees and volunteers. This is an additional check on who has responsibility. Combined with signing rules of conduct, this makes it clear from the beginning what is (not) expected of volunteers. Read more about how to be a safe church for everyone? Then click here for an article about this theme by Annet Speelberg-Alagbe. The PKN's topic page (in Dutch) is also a handy resource to read more about being a safe church, such as when it comes to appointing confidants.</p>
Insurances	<p>As a church, you also run into risks. It is possible to take out various insurances. Here you can read which insurances may be relevant to you as a church. When you buy your own building as a church, some insurances are not only convenient, but also mandatory.</p>

Sometimes relevant sections	
Buildings	<p>Depending on your situation as a church, you may want to rent or buy a building. In that case, a variety of issues come into play such as the vision for a building, the zoning of the building you want to buy or rent, the lease or purchase process and the</p>

	question of financing . Take the time to read these articles slowly in the process of looking for a building. If after reading these articles you have any questions about your personal search, you can always contact our housing advisor Gaetan Mbwete at gaetan@skinkerken.nl
VKB	You can find much more information about buildings, money, people and organization through the knowledge base of the Association for Church Management (VKB). However, this knowledge base is in Dutch.
Staff	When you want to employ staff as a church, all kinds of laws and regulations come into play. On this page you can read what options there are for hiring a pastor. If you want to do this as a church, we advise you to contact the KKA so that this can be arranged properly. It is important to deal well with paid and unpaid volunteers in the church. You can read more about this in this article (in Dutch).