

Key Facts

Dubai Airport Free Zone

The Dubai Airport Free Zone (DAFZA) was established in 1996. Located near Dubai Airport, DAFZA serves as a logistics and trade hub in the region. It offers high-class infrastructure, a strategic location, tax exemptions and no currency restrictions, making it an attractive destination for high-growth businesses.

Trident Trust is able to provide services to assist with the incorporation of a DAFZA company and obtaining residency visas for its shareholders and employees.

Advantages

- 100% foreign ownership
- 100% repatriation of capital and profits allowed
- No personal income tax
- No corporate tax
- No currency restrictions
- Proximity to the Dubai International Airport
- Dedicated logistic centre
- Entitled to Tax Residency Certificate
- No public disclosure of information

Eligible Entities

- Limited liability company as a newly formed entity with single or multiple shareholders
- Limited liability company as a wholly owned subsidiary of local or foreign company
- Branch of local or foreign company

Prohibited activities

- Any financial/investment activities on behalf of third parties

Residency Visa

A DAFZA company may apply for shareholder and/or employee residence visas after receiving its licence. The residence permit is valid for three years for the shareholders and for two years for employees. The number of visas that may be applied for by the company depends on the size of the office (one visa per 9 sq. m.). A Flexi Office package offers up to two residence visas.

The minimum age at which a UAE residence visa can be obtained is 21 years old.

The retirement age for expatriates in the UAE is 60 years old; employment residence visas are not issued for those 60 and above. However, the shareholders of the company can still obtain a UAE residence visa regardless of age.

Holders of a residence visa must not remain outside of the UAE for more than 180 consecutive days.

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Significant Features

Company Legislation	Law No. 2 of 1996 and its amendment No. 2 of 2000
Time to Incorporate	14-20 working days
Possibility of Migration	No
Tax Rate	VAT at 5%
Shareholders	1- 50
Residency Requirements	Yes, for Manager only
Share Capital	AED 1,000 (minimal)
Bearer Shares	No
Beneficial Ownership Disclosure	Shareholder, Director and Manager details are provided to DAFZA, but are not publicly available
Director	One minimum and no limit for maximum (individual)

Manager	One (individual)
Secretary	One (individual)
Local Presence Requirements	Yes, for Manager only
Availability of Shelf Companies	No
Meetings	No
Annual General Meetings	Yes
Annual Accounts	Yes
Filing of Accounts	No
Audit Requirement	Yes, must be filed with Registrar at time of licence renewal
Registered Office Required	Yes

Offices

The Americas/Caribbean

Bahamas

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Barbados

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Cayman Islands

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Nevis

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