

Company Setup FAQs

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General Inquiries

1. What kind of corporate structures are allowed by DMCC?

The companies can register as limited liability companies, branches, and subsidiaries of local and foreign companies.

2. What is the governing law for all DMCC registered companies?

All registered companies are subject to the laws of the land, DMCC Regulations, Free Zone rules, and regulations in force in DMCC. Any due amendments to the above will be implemented from time to time.

3. Can I be a partner in more than one company?

Yes, you can be a partner/shareholder in multiple companies.

4. Can we reserve or check the availability of the company name before starting the process?

No, unfortunately, we can check the availability of the proposed company name in advance; we need to send it to the approvals team after the completion of online application. However, it is advisable that you check the availability of the name in Dubai through the name check tool on the Department of Economic Development website www.dubaided.gov.ae as well as checking the copyrights online on that name.

Company Shareholders

5. How many shareholders are required to form a limited liability company?

There must be a minimum of one shareholder and a maximum of fifty shareholders.

6. Can the shareholder also act as the appointed officer in the company?

Yes, the shareholder can hold all or any of the officers' positions (Manager / Director / Legal Representative / Secretary).

Company Officers

7. What is the minimum number of company directors?

All types of companies except branches should at least have one director and can have maximum up to six directors.

8. Can I be a manager in more than one company?

Yes, if you provide a No Objection Certificate from your current sponsor.

Office Requirements

9. Is it mandatory to have an office to open a new company?

Yes, it is mandatory, below are the property options:

- Flexi Desk
- Serviced Office
- Physical Office for lease
- Physical Office for sale
- Retail Space (shop) for lease
- Retail Space (shop) for sale

10. What is the minimum office requirement?

One of the advantages of setting up a company with DMCC is the access it provides to a wide range of commercial property choices within JLT, from freehold to leasehold, commercial to retail and even flexi desks. Office requirements depend on the number of employees and type of activity conducted by the company. A company may choose from a range of options starting from a flexi-desk of 20-30sqm, a flexi office of 200-265sqm, through to multiple floors of an office tower which may be up to 2,000sqm each.

For example, a company such as a Management Consultancy with five employees may be required to have an office space of at least 50sqm. In contrast, a retail food and beverage outlet operating multiple shifts would be subject to different requirements. The dedicated Client Relationship Executive handling your company set-up will provide full details upon application.

11. Can a client have an office outside the DMCC Free Zone (JLT) to start the business?

No, it has to be inside the DMCC Free Zone in Jumeirah Lakes Towers (JLT). However, we offer a wide range of office solutions that cater to all your needs ranging from full-fledged office space to flexible office options such as Service Offices and Flexi Desks.

12. Can I take a license without renting any facility?

No, you cannot. However, DMCC has a wide range of Business Centre products to suit all budgets. Please contact DMCC for detailed information.

13. Can I rent an office in JLT with my existing license from DED or another UAE Free Zone Jurisdiction?

No, you must have a DMCC licensed company. This may include a branch of your DED/other Freezone company in DMCC.

14. Can a DMCC licensed company rent a warehouse facility outside the DMCC Free Zone area?

In order to rent a warehouse of any office facility in another area in the UAE, a license will be required from the authority of that jurisdiction. In such case, the DMCC Company can set up a branch company in the jurisdiction where the facilities are located. However, some warehousing companies are offering part time spaces or sublease options, in which case, no branch company will be required to be set up in their jurisdiction.

Share Capital Requirements

15. What is a share capital?

Share Capital refers to the portion of a company's equity that is obtained or will be obtained by a shareholder for cash or an equivalent item of capital value. It is also known as subscribed capital or subscribed share capital. One can calculate the share capital as, Number of total shares divided by Unit value of each share (also known as par value).

16. What is the minimum share capital requirement for a company to be issued a General Trading License?

The company should have a minimum of AED 1 Million share capital to be eligible for a General Trading License. Those existing companies that do not have such amount of share capital should first apply for an increase in share capital before they can apply for a general trading license.

17. What is the minimum share capital required to form the company?

The minimum share capital for a Free Zone company is currently AED 50,000 per company.

18. Does the share capital have to be paid up?

Yes, the share capital needs to be deposited in the company bank account within 3 weeks from the date of the trade license being issued. It may be withdrawn immediately thereafter.

Legal Documents

19. Which name will be displayed on the company's license issued by DMCC (License Holder)?

The appointed Manager will be the only name shown on the company's license.

20. What is the Certificate of Incumbency?

A Certificate of Incumbency is a company's document confirming the identity of shareholders, directors and officers as well as the authorised signatories. It is the certificate that can be used in instances where the authority of a certain officer must be confirmed in writing. A company registrar or its registered agent usually issues this certificate.

21. What is an Operating Name?

The company trade name under which it operates business may differ from the name registered on the license. For example, the company licensee name is Green Desk DMCC while its operating name is Greenery Wood.

22. What is the Ultimate Beneficiary Owner Form?

Ultimate Beneficiary Owner Form captures and identifies the details of the ultimate individual beneficial owner(s) (UBO) of a corporate shareholder applicant.

UBO is an individual who ultimately owns or controls in aggregate directly or indirectly 10% or more shares of the company or a group of companies or on whose behalf a transaction is being conducted.

23. Who should sign the Resolution to establish the DMCC Company?

The authorised signatory on behalf of the parent company needs to sign the resolution for Branch or Subsidiary. The power to sign on behalf of the parent company needs to be evidenced in the parent company's legal documents or through an attested power of attorney document. In the case of an Individual Company, - the resolution needs to be signed by the proposed shareholder(s) / owners of the new DMCC Company itself or by any power of attorney (POA) holder to whom powers have been granted through an attested POA.

24. Who should sign the Memorandum and Articles of Association (MOA) of the DMCC Company?

In the case of Subsidiary, any authorised person of the parent company establishing the DMCC Company can sign this document, powers can be passed through the DMCC resolution, or separate attested POA to an individual to act on behalf of the company.

In the case of an Individual Company, this document can be signed by the shareholder(s)/owner(s) of the DMCC Company itself or by any POA holder to whom powers have been provided through an attested POA or powers can be passed through the DMCC resolution.

25. Can I get the required documents for establishing the DMCC Company notarised and attested abroad or do I have to be present in DMCC Free Zone for the signing of the those documents?

There are three options for the signing of company registration documents:

- 1) Signing in the presence of the assigned DMCC Executive in DMCC Offices
- 2) Signing at your local Notary Public and then attesting the same in the UAE Embassy
- 3) Signing in front of any of the approved DMCC International Service Providers in your country

Please contact us for a list of the approved DMCC International Service Provider.

26. What are the powers of the International Service Providers (ISA)?

They are authorised to verify the passport copy of the applicant against the original, witness signatures on the company formation documents (Specimen Signature form, Resolution, MOA...etc. and receive the documents to submit them to DMCC.