Twofour54 Free Zone

Overview

Twofour54 is a dynamic free zone in Abu Dhabi, empowered by a creative and innovative environment. Backed by the **Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED)**, it aims to nurture media and entertainment ventures. With a supportive ecosystem, companies benefit from world-class facilities, training programs, and strong networking opportunities.

What is Twofour54?

Named after Abu Dhabi's geographical coordinates, Twofour54 was established to promote the **media and entertainment industry** in the region. It provides a collaborative platform for networking and business growth.

Three Key Pillars of Twofour54:

• Twofour54 Tadreeb: Training academy

• Twofour54 lbtikar: Innovation and support

• Twofour54 Intaj: State-of-the-art production facilities

Benefits of Twofour54 Free Zone

▼ Financial Benefits

- 30% rebate on production expenses from the Abu Dhabi Film Commission
- No minimum share capital requirement
- No licensing fees
- No security deposit for employee visas

Strategic Location

- Close proximity to **Dubai Airport**
- Easy access to MENA region trade routes
- Convenient transportation options near downtown Dubai

▼ Tax Benefits

- Corporate tax exemption for businesses
- Income tax exemption for individuals

✓ Networking Opportunities

- Frequent events with partners and stakeholders in Abu Dhabi
- Connect with media and entertainment professionals via the freelance relations team

Facilities in Twofour54 Free Zone

- Strong & secure IP framework policies
- Exclusive access to government project briefs
- Customizable modern infrastructure with uplink & fibre connectivity
- Advanced studios and post-production facilities
- On-campus seminars and roadshows
- Sales and marketing support
- Serviced, fitted office spaces at competitive prices

Types of Licenses Offered

1. Commercial License

For activities like trade, import/export, and general commercial operations.

2. Professional License

For service-based businesses that require expertise and professional skills.

3. Freelance Permit

For individuals offering services independently, with no need for physical office space and fewer legal obligations.

How to Set Up a Business in Twofour54

Step-by-Step Procedure:

1. Choose a Business Structure

Based on your business activity and available resources.

2. Reserve a Trade Name & Submit a Business Plan

Send to the media zone authority for review.

3. Complete Required Documentation

Includes signing all legal, regulatory, and commercial forms.

4. Make Payment & Obtain Licenses

Upon payment (if applicable), you'll receive:

- o Business license
- Certificate of incorporation
- Memorandum of Association (MoA)
- Flexi-desk or office rental agreement

Documents Required for Business Incorporation

To successfully incorporate your company in the Twofour54 Free Zone, the following documents are **mandatory**:

- Passport copy of each shareholder
- Passport copy of the General Manager
- Passport-style photo of shareholder and GM
- Business plan
- Copy of valid health insurance
- Signed application form (duly filled)

Additional Information

- Business Structures Available:
 - FZ-LLC (Free Zone Limited Liability Company)
 - o Branch Office
- License Validity:
 - o 2 years
- Rental Agreement Validity:
 - 1 year

Masdar City Free Zone

Overview

Masdar City is a **sustainable urban development in Abu Dhabi** that acts as a thriving hub for companies focused on renewable energy, clean technology, and sustainable innovation. The **Masdar City Free Zone** caters to a wide range of businesses including **SMEs**, **start-ups**, **and international firms**, offering full-fledged free zone benefits.

If you're planning to **launch or expand a green business**, Masdar Free Zone is the ideal location for you.

Focus Areas of Masdar Free Zone

Masdar Free Zone specializes in four primary sectors of the energy and sustainability ecosystem:

Masdar Power

Manages renewable energy projects in **Masdar City**, the **UK**, and the **Seychelles**, including solar, wind, and hybrid energy systems.

Masdar Carbon

Supports initiatives focused on **carbon emission reduction** and the development of **clean technology systems**.

Masdar Venture

Invests in promising sustainable energy and green tech start-ups.

Masdar Institute of Science and Technology (MIST)

A research-oriented academic institution (now part of **Khalifa University**) conducting advanced **renewable energy research**.

Business Structures Available

To set up a company in Masdar City Free Zone, you must adhere to **Masdar City Company Registration Regulations**. Three legal structures are offered:

- Free Zone Limited Liability Company (FZ-LLC)
- Branch of a UAE Registered Company
- Branch of a Foreign Company

Business Activities Allowed

Masdar City Free Zone supports a wide range of sectors, including:

- Clean Technology
- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Energy
- Oil & Gas
- ICT & Clean Tech
- Healthcare Services
- Advertising & Event Management
- Human Resource Development
- Regional Headquarters
- Trading, Holding & Retail
- Food & Beverage
- Business Centres & Data Centres
- Service Providers

Procuments Required for Business Incorporation

To establish a business in the Masdar City Free Zone, the following documents must be submitted:

- W Business Plan
- Articles of Association (AoA) and Memorandum of Association (MoA)
- **V** Passport and Residency Visa Copies of business owners and directors
- **W** Bank Reference Letter (showing proof of share capital)

• Copy of Lease Agreement

How to Set Up a Business in Masdar Free Zone

Follow these 4 simple steps:

1. Decide on a Business Activity

Choose from the permitted activities while complying with the zone's legal framework.

2. Register the Company Name

Complete the name reservation via the **e-services portal** and await approval from the **Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED)**.

3. Submit Documents

Upload all required documentation through the portal for verification. Upon approval, you'll receive the **Resolution**, **AoA**, **and MoA**.

4. Obtain License & Finalize Lease

Once your legal docs are signed, finalize the lease agreement and make the payment through Masdar's one-stop shop or courier. You'll then receive your:

- Wasiness License (visible on the Masdar e-platform)

Why Choose Masdar City Free Zone?

- Y Government-backed green innovation hub
- Global collaboration platform for sustainability
- Premium infrastructure and leasing options
- Ideal for tech and clean energy businesses

FAQs

• What is the Masdar Initiative?

It is a UAE government initiative launched in 2006 to address global challenges like energy security and climate change through innovation and international cooperation.

Is share capital needed for a branch office?

No, it's not required.

Is an annual audit mandatory?

No, annual audits are not required for Masdar Free Zone companies.

• What type of shareholders are allowed?

Both individuals and corporate entities can be shareholders.

Can I get a license without having a physical office?

No, securing a **facility/office lease is mandatory** for obtaining a business license.

Industrial City of Abu Dhabi (ICAD) Free Zone

The **Industrial City of Abu Dhabi (ICAD)**, managed by **ZonesCorp**, is a premier destination for industrial businesses ranging from light manufacturing to heavy industry. Strategically located near **Khalifa Port** and **Abu Dhabi International Airport**, ICAD provides superior infrastructure, a wide range of facilities, and seamless logistics support — making it a top choice for industrial, manufacturing, and logistics companies.

If you're planning to start or expand your industrial operations in the UAE, ICAD offers an ideal environment for growth and efficiency.

Overview of ICAD Zones

ICAD is divided into five specialized zones, each tailored to different types of industrial activities:

- **ICAD I**: Medium to heavy engineering, manufacturing, and processing.
- ICAD II: Light to medium-scale engineering and processing.
- ICAD III: Light to medium-scale manufacturing and processing industries.

- ICAD IV: Light manufacturing, technology-based businesses.
- ICAD V: Specifically focused on the automobile and automotive industries.

Business Activities Allowed in ICAD

ICAD is open to a wide range of industrial and engineering-related activities. Some of the key sectors include:

- Metals and Fabrication
- Engineering Services
- Oil and Gas
- General and Specialized Manufacturing
- Construction Materials
- Factory Operations
- Logistics and Support Services

Business Structures in ICAD

Businesses setting up in ICAD can choose from several legal structures:

- Free Zone Company
- Sole Proprietorship
- Branch of a Foreign or Local Company

Documents Required for Company Formation in ICAD

To establish a business in ICAD, the following documents are typically required:

- Board Resolution
- CVs of the appointed manager(s)
- Passport copies of all shareholders
- Copy of the notarized Power of Attorney
- Lease agreement for the business premises

How to Set Up a Business in ICAD

Follow these steps for company formation:

1. Choose a Business Activity

Select from approved industrial or commercial sectors.

2. Select a Legal Structure

Choose the appropriate entity type that meets operational and regulatory requirements.

3. Reserve and Register a Trade Name

Submit your preferred trade name to the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED).

4. Submit Required Documents

Prepare and submit the necessary documentation for license issuance.

5. Obtain Industrial or Commercial License

After approval, pay applicable fees and receive your license.

Facilities and Services Offered in ICAD

ICAD provides businesses with essential infrastructure and operational support, including:

- Industrial land plots
- Advanced logistics network

- Employee accommodation
- Reliable utility connections
- Proximity to transport hubs (ports, airports)
- Full range of support services (banks, telecom, etc.)

Advantages of ICAD Free Zone

- 100% foreign ownership
- Zero personal and corporate taxes
- Modern industrial infrastructure
- Strategic location near ports and airport
- Quick access to local and international markets
- Government-backed business environment

How Octawiz Can Help

At **Octawiz**, we provide end-to-end support for company formation in ICAD. From trade name registration and document submission to license acquisition and office setup, our consultants ensure a smooth, compliant, and efficient process.

Let us handle the complexities while you focus on growing your industrial business in Abu Dhabi.

FAQs

What business licenses are available in ICAD?

Industrial

- Commercial
- Logistics
- Services

What are the benefits of setting up in ICAD?

- Investor-friendly policies
- Tax exemptions
- Proximity to ports and airports
- Access to world-class infrastructure

How long does the company registration process take?

• Typically, around **4 weeks**, depending on documentation and approvals.

Can foreign investors fully own a company in ICAD?

• Yes, ICAD allows 100% foreign ownership.

Are there residential and social amenities nearby?

 Yes, ICAD provides access to housing, schools, hospitals, and supermarkets for business continuity and staff wellbeing.

Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) Free Zone

Overview

Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) is a **world-class international financial center** located on **Al Maryah Island** and **Al Reem Island** in Abu Dhabi. Designed to support businesses in financial services, fintech, legal, and professional sectors, ADGM offers a modern regulatory framework, full foreign ownership, and access to global markets. It is the **only jurisdiction in**

the region that directly applies English Common Law, providing strong legal certainty and investor protection.

Whether you're launching a **financial services firm**, setting up a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)**, or expanding your **tech startup**, ADGM is a future-ready platform for growth.

Focus Areas of ADGM

ADGM serves as a specialized ecosystem supporting both **financial** and **non-financial** sectors, making it a versatile hub for regional and international businesses.

Financial Services & FinTech

Home to banks, investment firms, digital assets businesses, insurance companies, and payment service providers, all regulated by the **Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA)**.

Professional Services & Legal Firms

ADGM provides a sophisticated platform for legal advisors, auditors, consultants, and corporate service providers operating under global standards.

Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)

ADGM's flexible SPV regime is popular for **asset holding**, **IP protection**, **real estate structuring**, and **private wealth management**.

Startups & Tech Firms

ADGM supports innovation through its **RegLab** for fintech startups and dedicated licenses for **tech**, **Al**, **blockchain**, **and e-commerce** businesses.

Business Structures Available

ADGM allows several legal entities tailored to diverse business needs:

- Private Company Limited by Shares (Ltd)
- Branch of a Foreign or Local Company
- Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)

- Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)
- Foundation (for legacy or philanthropic structuring)

Business Activities Allowed

Businesses in ADGM may engage in a wide array of activities, including:

- Banking, FinTech, Asset Management, and Capital Markets
- Legal & Professional Consulting
- E-commerce, Tech, and SaaS
- Wealth Management & Family Offices
- Holding, Trading & Investment Firms
- Data Centers, Legal Tech, and Virtual Asset Providers

Documents Required for Business Incorporation

To register a company within ADGM, you'll need to submit the following:

- V Business Plan
- V Articles of Association (AoA)
- Passport Copies of shareholders and directors
- Proof of Address and Bank Reference Letter
- V Board Resolution (for corporate shareholders)
- **Signed Lease Agreement** (physical presence is mandatory)

How to Set Up a Business in ADGM

Follow these simple steps to establish your company in ADGM:

1. Select a Business Activity & Legal Structure

Choose an appropriate activity from the regulated or non-regulated list and select your entity type—such as an SPV, Ltd, or LLP.

2. Apply for Name Reservation

Propose a company name through ADGM's portal and receive name clearance.

3. Submit Application & Upload Documents

Complete the online application via the **ACCESSADGM** platform and submit all required documents for approval.

4. Sign Documents & Finalize Lease

Once documents are approved, sign the **AoA**, **Business License Agreement**, and lease a physical office space. Virtual offices are not allowed.

5. License Issuance & Registration

Receive your **Certificate of Incorporation** and **Business License**, fully accessible online through the ADGM portal.

Why Choose ADGM?

- ⊕ English Common Law directly applied
- \hat{m} Fully digital registration and legal processes
- Regulated and non-regulated license options
- 100% foreign ownership & full repatriation of profits
- @ Innovation support through RegLab & SPV models
- Strategic access to Europe, Asia, and Africa

FAQs

Is a physical office mandatory in ADGM?

Yes, all entities must lease a physical space within ADGM. Virtual offices are not permitted.

Can I register an SPV without a local director?

Yes, but you'll need to appoint a **licensed corporate service provider** to act as the registered agent.

• Are ADGM businesses subject to UAE corporate tax?

Yes, starting from June 2023, **mainland corporate tax applies** unless the entity qualifies for exemption.

Can a company in ADGM operate on the mainland?

Yes, through **dual licensing** by applying for an **ADDED license**, allowing operations outside the free zone.

Is ADGM suitable for tech and e-commerce startups?

Absolutely. ADGM offers dedicated licensing, low compliance costs, and startup-friendly regulations.

Khalifa Industrial Zone (KIZAD) Free Zone

Overview

Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi (KIZAD) is a key part of the UAE's long-term economic diversification plan, offering a robust ecosystem for **manufacturing**, **logistics**, **and trade**. Strategically located next to **Khalifa Port**, one of the most advanced deep-water ports in the world, KIZAD provides businesses with seamless access to **global shipping routes** and **regional markets**.

With its world-class infrastructure, fast-track licensing, and investor-friendly policies, KIZAD is a prime choice for businesses aiming to thrive in the UAE.

What is KIZAD?

KIZAD is one of the largest industrial zones in the world, divided into two main areas:

• Area A – Designed for large-scale industrial operations

• Area B – Tailored for commercial and mixed-use developments

It operates under **Abu Dhabi Ports** and offers a highly connected location for companies looking to serve the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

Benefits of Setting Up a Business in KIZAD

- **100%** Foreign Ownership
- No Import/Export Duties
- Visa Processing
- **V** Advanced Customs & e-Administration
- Z Excellent Infrastructure & Utilities
- Access to Skilled Labor
- V Strategic Access to Global Markets
- V Long-term Land Lease Options at Competitive Rates

Available Business Structures in KIZAD

Entrepreneurs can choose from a variety of legal structures, including:

- Free Zone Establishment (FZE)
- Free Zone Company (FZC)
- Limited Liability Company (LLC)
- Branch of a Foreign Company
- Branch of a UAE Company

Types of Licenses Offered

KIZAD supports a broad range of business activities and offers licenses such as:

- Industrial License
- General Trading License
- Service License

★ Documents Required for Business Incorporation

To incorporate a business in KIZAD Free Zone, you must submit:

- V Business Plan
- V Articles of Association (AoA) and Memorandum of Association (MoA)
- V Shareholder(s) Passport and Visa Copies
- V No Objection Certificate (NOC) (if required)
- **V** Passport-Sized Photographs of all shareholders

Steps to Set Up a Business in KIZAD Free Zone

Follow this 6-step process to get started:

1. Choose a Legal Structure

Decide between FZE, FZC, LLC, or a branch structure based on your business model.

2. Select Business Activity

Choose from the allowed business sectors (manufacturing, trading, logistics, etc.).

3. Reserve Trade Name

Register your business name with the Abu Dhabi authorities.

4. Prepare Documents

Compile and notarize the required documents.

5. Register the Company

Submit your application to the KIZAD free zone authority and pay the fees.

6. Apply for a License

Choose the appropriate license based on your operations and obtain final approval.

Why Choose KIZAD?

- Proximity to Khalifa Port and Etihad Rail
- ideal for industrial and logistics businesses
- Integrated warehousing, land plots, and business parks
- Business-friendly policies and government support
- Access to over 4.5 billion consumers across multiple continents

FAQs

• What types of licenses can I obtain in KIZAD?

You can apply for **industrial**, **general trading**, and **service** licenses.

• What legal structures are allowed?

You can set up as an LLC, FZE, FZC, or branch office (local or foreign).

Is there a minimum capital requirement?

Yes, but it varies depending on your business activity and structure.

Can I operate outside the KIZAD Free Zone?

Yes, but an additional license may be required to conduct business beyond the free zone.

Are banking services available within KIZAD?

Yes, KIZAD partners with major banks and offers integrated banking facilities.

Higher Corporation for Specialized Economic Zones (ZonesCorp)

The **Higher Corporation for Specialized Economic Zones**, commonly known as **ZonesCorp**, is a government organization founded in 2004 in Abu Dhabi. It is responsible for developing and managing specialized industrial zones in the UAE and plays a key role in enhancing Abu Dhabi's manufacturing sector and GDP.

If you're considering setting up a business in Abu Dhabi, ZonesCorp offers strategic advantages. Read on to explore the benefits, process, and documentation required for setting up in these industrial zones.

What is ZonesCorp?

ZonesCorp oversees multiple **industrial and manufacturing zones** in Abu Dhabi. These zones are specifically designed to support industrial growth by offering competitive infrastructure, access to skilled labor, and business-friendly policies. It has significantly contributed to Abu Dhabi's industrial GDP and continues to attract a wide range of investors.

Benefits of Business Setup in ZonesCorp

Before initiating the setup process, it's essential to understand the benefits of establishing a company within ZonesCorp:

- Tax-Free Environment: No corporate or personal income tax, and full repatriation of profits and capital.
- **Strategic Location**: Proximity to Abu Dhabi and Jebel Ali airports supports seamless logistics and trade.
- Import/Export Advantages: No duty on importing raw materials and machinery.
- **Business-Friendly Ecosystem**: Clustering of related industries encourages resource-sharing and knowledge exchange.

- Efficient Hiring: Availability of skilled workforce with a simplified hiring process.
- Modern Infrastructure: Well-planned cities with roads, utilities, drainage, and gas lines.

Industrial Zones under ZonesCorp

ZonesCorp manages several specialized industrial areas, each catering to different business needs:

- **ICAD I**: 14 sq. km; ideal for medium to heavy industries, near airports and seaports.
- **ICAD II**: Suited for light to medium engineering and processing; well-equipped with road and gas networks.
- ICAD III: 12 sq. km; supports diverse sectors like chemicals, food, plastics, oil & gas, etc.
- ICAD IV: Located in western Mussafah; focused on light and tech industries.
- ICAD V: Dedicated to automotive industries with improved traffic management.
- Al Ain Industrial City (AAIC I & II): 10 sq. km; well-connected to major Emirates.
- Construction and Building Material Zone: 34 sq. km in Al Faya; ideal for construction businesses.

Activities Permitted in ZonesCorp

Businesses in ZonesCorp industrial zones can engage in:

- Manufacturing of wood and paper products
- Fibreglass and polymer products
- Food & Beverages (F&B)
- Chemical manufacturing

- Metal and engineering works
- Assembling and fabrication
- Construction materials production
- Leather and textile manufacturing
- Oil and gas sector services

Legal Structures Available in ZonesCorp

To establish a company, you can choose from several legal structures:

- Limited Liability Company (LLC)
- General Partnership
- Limited Partnership
- Partnership Limited by Shares
- Branch of Foreign or Local Company
- Local Establishment
- Joint Venture
- Private/Public Joint Stock Company

Process of Business Setup in ZonesCorp

Setting up a business in ZonesCorp involves obtaining an **Industrial License**. Follow these steps:

- **Step 1** Choose a legal structure and specify your business activity.
- **Step 2** Pick a unique trade name and ensure it complies with UAE regulations.
- **Step 3** Fill out and submit the application form to the relevant authority.

- **Step 4** Select a plot and finalize the lease contract.
- **Step 5** Obtain environmental clearance and apply for a construction permit.
- **Step 6** Submit all required documents to apply for the industrial license.
- **Step 7** Pay the necessary registration and licensing fees.

Documents Required for ZonesCorp Industrial License

To obtain an industrial license, you typically need the following:

- Company contract
- Environmental license
- Site plan
- Passport and visa copies of all shareholders
- Lease agreement
- Power of attorney (if applicable)

How Can Octawiz Help?

Octawiz provides end-to-end support for establishing your business in ZonesCorp. From selecting a legal structure and preparing documents to securing licenses and ensuring regulatory compliance, their experienced consultants can streamline your company formation process.

FAQs

What is the maximum land lease period in ZonesCorp?

You can lease land for up to **30 years**, with an option for renewal.

How many industries operate in ZonesCorp zones?

There are currently more than 600 operational industries in ZonesCorp's industrial cities.

Abu Dhabi Ports Company (ADPC) Free Zone

Overview

Abu Dhabi Ports Company (ADPC), established in 2006, is a master developer and regulator for all commercial and trade-related port infrastructure in the emirate of Abu Dhabi (excluding oil & gas and military ports). Its flagship project, **Khalifa Port**, is the UAE's first semi-automated port, located strategically between Abu Dhabi and Dubai in Taweelah.

ADPC plays a crucial role in diversifying and strengthening the economy of Abu Dhabi through the development of infrastructure, industrial zones, and trade facilitation.

Why Set Up a Business in Abu Dhabi Port?

ADPC is more than a port authority — it's a catalyst for sustainable industrial development and trade. Business setup in ADPC offers:

- World-class port and industrial zone services
- Strategic location with access to 52 global maritime ports
- Support for Abu Dhabi Vision 2030
- Ethical governance and operational integrity
- Strong focus on sustainability and local community development
- No compromise on safety and security
- Foreign talent hiring flexibility
- Robust infrastructure and connectivity
- Competitive cost environment

Licenses Available in ADPC Free Zone

Trade License

For companies engaged in import/export activities. Issued to entities incorporated outside the UAE; DED approval not required.

Industrial License

Issued to companies involved in manufacturing and production. Allows import of raw materials and export of finished goods.

Service License

Ideal for businesses offering services such as banking, consulting, and IT. No separate DED approval is needed.

National Industrial License

Grants companies the status of local/GCC entities. Best suited for firms involved in manufacturing operations.

How to Set Up a Business in ADPC Free Zone

Follow these 4 simple steps:

1. Submit Application

Complete the application and submit required documents to the Free Zone Authority.

2. Registration

The registration office records your application submission date.

3. Compliance & License

Upon meeting all criteria and fee payment, the business license will be issued.

4. Appeals (if rejected)

If the application is rejected, the applicant can file an appeal. A decision will be made within 30 days. If no decision is issued, the rejection stands by default.

Khalifa Port: Flagship of ADPC

Location: Taweelah, between Abu Dhabi and Dubai

Size: 2.7 sq. km

Connectivity: Access to 4.5 billion people across 4 time zones

Shipping Lines: Over 20 international lines

Features include:

First semi-automated port in the UAE

Advanced ICT & automated marine services

Seamless multi-modal connectivity

FAQs

When was ADPC established?2006

How many ports does ADPC operate?

11 ports (excluding oil & military ports)

How many awards has ADPC received?

Over 60 awards

• Which is the flagship port of ADPC?

Khalifa Port

Is cruise tourism available under ADPC?

Yes — the Abu Dhabi Cruise Terminal opened at Zayed Port in 2015 and Sir Bani Yas Cruise Beach in 2018.