

Hamriyah Free Zone (HFZA)

Hamriyah Free Zone, located in Sharjah, UAE, offers one of the most cost-effective and strategic locations for businesses in the region. Established in **November 1995** by an Emiri Decree, HFZA serves as a vital industrial base, managing **22 million sq. meters** of industrial and commercial land with access to a **14-meter-deep port**.

Known for its ease of setup, tax exemptions, and 100% foreign ownership, Hamriyah Free Zone is attracting global investors—especially SMEs and manufacturers—seeking to expand in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia.

Types of Business Entities Allowed

Hamriyah Free Zone supports the following legal structures for company formation:

- ♦ **Free Zone Establishment (FZE)**

Single shareholder entity (individual or corporate).

- ♦ **Free Zone Company (FZC)**

Entity with 2 to 5 shareholders.

- ♦ **Branch of a Foreign Company**

Extension of a parent company located outside the UAE.

- ♦ **Branch of a Local Company**

Extension of a UAE-registered company.

Zones within Hamriyah Free Zone

HFZA is divided into several specialized business zones to support different sectors:

- **Hamriyah SME Zone**
- **Hamriyah Logistic Village**
- **Hamriyah MB Zone**

- **Hamriyah Industrial Zone**
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Key Benefits of Hamriyah Free Zone

- ✓ 100% foreign ownership
 - ✓ Full repatriation of capital and profits
 - ✓ No personal or corporate income tax
 - ✓ No import or export duties
 - ✓ No currency restrictions
 - ✓ Low cost of living and doing business
 - ✓ Affordable and reliable utilities
 - ✓ Access to pre-built warehouses and office units
 - ✓ 25-year renewable land lease options
 - ✓ Easy recruitment and cost-effective workforce
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How to Set Up a Business in Hamriyah Free Zone

Setting up a business in HFZA is a straightforward process. Here are the key steps:

- 1. Choose Your Business Activity**
Determine the exact nature of your business and the license type it falls under.
 - 2. Register at the Free Zone Portal**
Submit an online application with proposed company details.
 - 3. Submit Required Documents**
Upload and sign legal documents; obtain name and activity approvals.
 - 4. Get License Approval**
Once the application is reviewed, you will be issued your license and incorporation certificate.
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Documents Required

To establish a business in Hamriyah Free Zone, the following documents are required:

- ✓ Passport copies of all shareholders
 - ✓ UAE entry stamp or visa copy
 - ✓ Passport-sized photograph
 - ✓ Signed online application
 - ✓ Legal documents signed in front of HFZA authority
 - ✓ Business name and activity approvals
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License Types & Costs

License Type	Cost (AED)
Commercial License	7,500
Service License	15,000
General Trading License	15,000

Why Choose Hamriyah Free Zone?

- ◆ **100% Foreign Ownership**

No need for a local Emirati partner—complete control of your company remains with you.

- ◆ **Strategic Location**

Situated between three continents and accessible via **land, sea, and air**, HFZA is ideal for international logistics and trade.

- ◆ **Tax Advantages**

No corporate or income tax and no import/export duties, even after the introduction of VAT in the UAE.

- ◆ **Market Access**

Easy access to the **UAE and GCC markets**, serving over 1.5 billion people globally.

FAQs

- ◆ **Is HFZA only for industrial businesses?**

No, HFZA caters to various sectors including trading, logistics, services, and manufacturing.

♦ **How long does the setup process take?**

Typically, less than a week if all documents are in order.

♦ **Do I need a local sponsor?**

No, 100% foreign ownership is permitted.

♦ **Are there pre-built facilities available?**

Yes, warehouses and office units are available for lease.

Sharjah Media City (SHAMS) Free Zone

Sharjah Media City, also known as **SHAMS**, is a dynamic business hub dedicated to fostering creativity in the **media, technology, and entertainment industries**. Established in **2017**, SHAMS is one of the UAE's fastest-growing **free zones**, offering a highly supportive environment for entrepreneurs and business owners.

Located in the emirate of **Sharjah**, SHAMS provides businesses with an ecosystem tailored to the needs of creative industries, making it an ideal destination for startups and established companies alike.

Advantages of Business Setup in SHAMS Free Zone

Setting up a company in SHAMS comes with several benefits:

- Strategic location near **Sharjah International Airport** and **Dubai International Airport**
- Ability to **sponsor family** and apply for **dependent visas**
- **Quick and easy company formation** process
- Multiple **business license options**
- **100% foreign ownership**
- **Cost-effective setup**
- Easy access to major roads and logistics

- **Tax-friendly** jurisdiction
 - **Pro-business** government policies
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Business Activities Permitted under SHAMS Free Zone License

SHAMS permits a broad range of business activities, including:

- Advertising
 - Print Media
 - Freelancing
 - Consultancy
 - E-commerce
 - General Trading
 - Film Production
 - Event Management
 - Information Technology (IT)
 - Fashion and Design Activities
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Business Licenses Available in SHAMS Free Zone

Depending on your activity, SHAMS offers the following license types:

- **Media License**
- **Industrial License**

- **Consultancy License**
- **Freelance License**
- **Service License**
- **Trading License**

💡 **Tip:** Choose the license that best aligns with your business activity. If unsure, business consultants like Octawiz can help you select the right one.

Business Structures Available in SHAMS Free Zone

Entrepreneurs can choose from the following legal structures:

- **Limited Liability Company (LLC)**
 - **Branch of a Foreign Company**
 - **Sole Proprietorship**
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Steps to Establish a Business in SHAMS

Setting up a business in SHAMS is straightforward and efficient. Follow these steps:

1. **Select your business activity**
2. **Choose a legal structure** that suits your business goals
3. **Apply for the relevant license**
4. **Prepare and submit the required documents** to the SHAMS authority
5. **Pay the necessary fees** and receive the **company incorporation certificate**
6. **Open a corporate bank account** to manage your finances

Documents Required for Company Formation in SHAMS

Here are the essential documents required:

- **Memorandum of Association (MoA)**
- **Articles of Association (AoA)**
- **Company details and structure**
- **Passport copies of all shareholders**
- **Board Resolution**
- **Trade License (if applicable)**
- **Certificate of Good Standing** (for existing companies)

Facilities Offered in SHAMS Free Zone

SHAMS offers a range of facilities to support businesses:

- **Flexi-desk** and **dedicated office spaces**
- **Studios** for media and content creation
- **Co-working areas**
- **Modern infrastructure**

Why Choose SHAMS?

- Young, vibrant, and rapidly growing free zone

- Focused on empowering creative and digital industries
 - Cost-effective and flexible company setup
 - Ideal for **startups, freelancers, and media professionals**
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Sharjah Publishing City (SPC) Free Zone

Sharjah, the cultural capital of the UAE, is home to **Sharjah Publishing City (SPC)** – the world's first dedicated **free zone for printing and publishing**. Covering over **400,000 sq. meters**, SPC offers exceptional infrastructure, warehousing, and office space facilities, making it a magnet for publishers, book traders, and media-related businesses.

SPC is managed by the **Sharjah Book Authority (SBA)** under the leadership of **His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi**, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah. With quick license issuance, long-term land lease options, and a fully supportive ecosystem, SPC has become a global hub for the publishing industry.

Benefits of Setting Up a Business in SPC Free Zone

Entrepreneurs and investors benefit greatly from choosing SPC:

- **Affordable office space** starting from AED 1,350 per sq. meter
- **25-year renewable leasing contract** for long-term operational stability
- **Simplified legal procedures** for business setup
- **Trade license issued within 24 hours**
- **100% expatriate employment** permitted
- **Full income and import-export tax exemptions**
- **Low cost of living and operational logistics**
- **100% ownership and repatriation of profits**

- **E-channel visa services and local sponsorship** options for staff
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Amenities Provided by Sharjah Publishing City

SPC offers several high-quality facilities to ensure a smooth start for businesses:

1. Office Space

- Minimum office size: **25 sq. meters**
 - Includes: **car parking, utility bills, and cleaning of common areas**
 - Rental Rates:
 - **Unfurnished office:** AED 1,350 per sq. meter (per year)
 - **Furnished office:** AED 1,550 per sq. meter (per year)
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2. Warehouse Facilities

SPC provides **cost-effective, pre-built warehouses** ideal for storage and business operations:

Warehouse Size	Office Space	Storage Space	Annual Cost
125 sq. m	22 sq. m	103 sq. m	AED 60,000
250 sq. m	60 sq. m	190 sq. m	AED 110,000
400 sq. m	60 sq. m	340 sq. m	AED 160,000

3. Trade Licenses

Licenses are issued within **24 hours**. You can choose between:

- **Commercial License**
For businesses involved in **import/export, distribution, consolidation, warehousing**

● **Cost:** AED 7,500 per annum

- **Professional/Service License**

For individuals offering **professional services** (e.g., publishing, consulting)

● **Cost:** AED 7,500 per annum

Why Choose SPC?

- Exclusive free zone focused on **publishing and content creation**
 - Managed by a reputable cultural authority (SBA)
 - Ideal for **book traders, printers, publishers, and media professionals**
 - Attractive for **local and international investors**
 - Flexible office and warehouse solutions
 - Fast-track licensing and business setup
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Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF Zone)

Established in **1995**, the **Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF Zone)** is one of the most dynamic and business-friendly free zones in the UAE. Located adjacent to the Sharjah International Airport, it provides strategic advantages and a robust infrastructure for over **8,000 businesses** from across the globe.

SAIF Zone offers a variety of business facilities, simplified setup procedures, and investor-friendly policies – making it an ideal choice for startups, SMEs, and multinational corporations.

Benefits of Setting Up a Business in SAIF Zone

Entrepreneurs and investors benefit from a range of offerings, including:

Access to World-Class Facilities

- SAIF Suite and Executive Offices
- Pre-built and custom-built warehouses
- Staff accommodation
- Land for rent and short-term storage options

Quick and Cost-Effective Setup

- Fast-track company registration with minimal steps
- Competitive pricing on packages
- Professional support through business consultants

Visa and Licensing Flexibility

- Multiple license options for various business activities
- Sponsor visas for all shareholders and employees
- Suitable for services, manufacturing, trading, and more

Investor-Friendly Policies

- 100% foreign ownership
- Full repatriation of capital and profits
- Zero corporate or personal income tax
- No import/export duties
- Free fund transfers

Types of Licenses in SAIF Zone

Choose the license best suited to your business:

License Type	Purpose
Service License	For professional services (consulting, legal, accounting, etc.)
Industrial License	For manufacturing and production of goods and raw materials
Trade License	For import, export, distribution, and storage of specific goods
General Trading License	For broad-based trading activities across multiple product categories

Documents Required for Company Setup

Prepare and submit the following:

- Passport-size photo of each shareholder
 - Passport copies of shareholders
 - Copy of Emirates ID (if applicable)
 - Proof of residential address
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Steps to Register a Business in SAIF Zone

Follow these steps to set up your company:

1. **Choose a business structure:**
Options include:
 - **Free Zone Establishment (FZE)** – single shareholder

- **Free Zone Company (FZCO)** – multiple shareholders
 - **Branch Office** – of an existing UAE or foreign company
2. **Define your business activities**
 3. **Select a license type** appropriate to your business scope
 4. **Submit application and documents** to the SAIF Zone Authority
 5. **Pay the required fees**
 6. **Receive your incorporation documents**
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Post-Incorporation Documents Provided

Upon successful company registration, you will receive:

- Certificate of Incorporation
 - Trade License
 - Memorandum and Articles of Association
 - Lease Agreement
 - Share Certificate
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Why Choose SAIF Zone?

- Strategically located next to an international airport
- One of the oldest and most respected free zones in the UAE
- Seamless logistics and global connectivity
- Proven track record of supporting over 8,000 companies

U.S.A. Regional Trade Center (USARTC) Free Zone – Sharjah

Established in **2011**, the **U.S.A. Regional Trade Center (USARTC)** is one of Sharjah's leading free zones, created to promote international business and attract foreign investment into the UAE. With Sharjah's increasing business-friendly environment and strategic policies, USARTC stands out as a vital gateway for **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** looking to expand in the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** region.

Services Provided by USARTC

- Business consultancy
 - Import and export support
 - Logistics assistance
 - Distribution services
 - Conference hosting
 - Business setup and expansion support
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Benefits of Setting Up in USARTC

- **0% Corporate Tax**
- **0% Import & Export Duties**
- **0% Personal Income Tax**
- **No Currency Restrictions**
- **100% Foreign Ownership**

- Support for **US businesses** and startups
 - Customizable services tailored to client needs
 - Low barriers for market entry in MENA
 - Quick regional presence establishment
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Facilities Offered by USARTC

1. Serviced Offices

Fully furnished or unfurnished executive offices ranging from **180 to 480 sq. ft.**, located at USARTC's premium premises. Packages include:

- Dedicated phone line
- High-speed internet
- Mailing address
- Conference rooms
- Reception & security (24/7)
- Secretarial & copy center services
- Kitchen/pantry access

2. Virtual Offices

Ideal for companies that do not require physical space. Includes:

- Call answering and forwarding
- Business mailing address
- Email and fax handling services

3. Meeting & Conference Rooms

Equipped with:

- Flat screens & projectors
- High-speed internet
- Whiteboards & video conferencing tools

4. Exhibition Facilities

A **12,000 sq. ft.** space for U.S. companies to promote products and services across the MENA region.

Why Choose USARTC for Business Setup?

1. Industry Support

Catering to sectors such as:

- Aviation
- IT
- Logistics
- Jewelry
- Pharmaceuticals
- Cosmetics
- Food & Beverage

2. Trade Missions & Delegations

USARTC organizes trade missions, providing:

- Market research opportunities
- New distributor appointments

- Strengthening existing partnerships

3. Regional Experts at Your Service

USARTC provides access to professionals for:

- Legal advice
- Business setup consultation
- Sponsorship and agency services

4. Strong Distribution Network

An expansive logistics and distribution network across the **UAE and 15+ MENA countries** gives businesses easy market access.

? FAQs

Q: What industries can benefit from USARTC?

A: Sectors including IT, aviation, logistics, food & beverage, cosmetics, and more.

Q: Do I need to be physically present in the UAE to operate?

A: No, USARTC offers **virtual office packages** enabling remote business management.

Q: Can non-U.S. companies set up in USARTC?

A: Yes, USARTC is open to global businesses looking to access the MENA region.
