

Umm Al Quwain Free Zone (UAQFZ)

Overview

The Umm Al Quwain Free Zone offers a **strategic and business-friendly environment** ideal for startups, SMEs, and global traders. Located near **Dubai International Airport**, **Sharjah International Airport**, and the **UAQ seaport**, the zone offers unmatched logistics and trade accessibility.

Managed by the **Umm Al Quwain Free Zone Authority** and backed by the local government, it ensures a smooth and secure incorporation process for international and local investors alike.

Key Highlights

- **Location:** West Coast of the UAE (Ahmed Bin Rashid Port Free Zone)
 - **Established:** 1988
 - **Focus Industries:** Trade, export/import, manufacturing, services, freelance/consultancy
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Benefits of Setting Up in UAQ Free Zone

-  **100% Foreign Ownership**
-  **No Minimum Capital Requirement**
-  **Full Repatriation of Capital & Profits**
-  **Zero Corporate and Personal Taxes**
-  **Business-Friendly Incorporation Process**
-  **No Customs Duty (within the free zone)**
-  **Seaport Trading Concessions**
-  **Flexible Regulatory & Legal Framework**

Available License Types

1. Commercial License

- For trading up to 3 different product lines or 10 similar items.

2. Consultancy License


- For professionals like lawyers, teachers, and artisans offering services.

3. Industrial License

- For businesses involved in manufacturing, production, or transformation of raw materials.

4. Freelance Permit

- For individual professionals in media, art, film, and other creative sectors.

 *Note: All license fees are subject to a 5% VAT.*

Types of Legal Structures

- Free Zone Establishment (FZE)
 - Free Zone Company (FZC)
 - Branch of Local Company
 - Branch of Foreign Company
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Company Formation Process in UAQFZ

1. Choose Business Activity

Define your business scope (e.g., trading, manufacturing, consultancy).

2. **Select Legal Structure**
Pick the most suitable structure (FZE, FZC, Branch).
 3. **Register Business Name**
Must be unique and approved by UAQFZ authorities.
 4. **Submit Documents**
Includes MoA, AoA, passport copies, and other standard requirements.
 5. **Apply for License**
Choose and pay for the appropriate trade license.
 6. **Open Bank Account**
Set up a business account for transactions and capital deposit.
 7. **Visa Application**
Apply for employee or investor visas through the Free Zone Authority.
 8. **Budget Planning**
Estimate total costs including licenses, visas, office/facility rent, etc.
 9. **Comply with Regulations**
Ensure ongoing operations align with UAQFZ rules and UAE laws.
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FAQs

Q: What is the difference between a Free Zone and Mainland setup?

A: Free Zone companies cannot directly trade in the UAE mainland without a local agent.

Q: Is physical office space required?

A: Yes, though **flexi-desk** and **shared office** options are available for smaller businesses.

Q: Are there any activity restrictions?

A: Most are allowed, but some may need special approvals (e.g., finance, education).

Q: Can I own multiple businesses under one license?

A: Yes, as long as the activities fall under the same business category.

Q: What banking options are available?

A: UAQFZ offers access to both **local and international banks**, supporting trade finance, investment services, and corporate accounts.