



Setting Up a Mainland Company in Dubai

If you're looking to trade within the UAE market or prefer not to be restricted to a free zone, establishing a mainland company is the ideal path for you. Mainland companies offer greater flexibility in conducting business across the entire UAE, providing access to local markets and the ability to engage directly with government entities and UAE-based clients.

Mainland Business Licences

The UAE offers a comprehensive range of business licences tailored to different sectors and operational requirements. Selecting the right licence type is crucial for legal compliance and optimal business operations in Dubai.



Industrial Licence

For manufacturing, production, and industrial activities within Dubai's mainland.



Commercial Licence

For trading activities, import/export operations, and retail businesses.



Professional Licence

For service providers, consultants, and professional practitioners.



E-trader Licence

Specifically designed for home-based online businesses and digital entrepreneurs.



Dual Licence

Combines multiple business activities under a single licence for operational flexibility.

Live. Invest. Grow.

Dubai stands as a global hotspot for innovation and exponential growth, attracting the world's best talent and sharpest innovators. As the foremost pro-business hub globally, Dubai offers unparalleled access to critical economies across continents, strategically uniting east and west. This is where visionary entrepreneurs transform ambitious ideas into thriving enterprises, where the future of global commerce is being written today.

There's No Better Place to Grow Your Business

Dubai's remarkable fast-paced growth trajectory, coupled with world-class infrastructure and a genuinely business-friendly regulatory environment, creates an ideal ecosystem for entrepreneurs and established corporations alike.

The emirate's commitment to innovation, strategic geographic location, and pro-business policies consistently rank it among the world's top destinations for business setup and expansion.



[Learn Why Businesses Choose Dubai](#)

[Explore Living in Dubai](#)

Trade Name Guidelines

Selecting an appropriate trade name is a critical first step in establishing your mainland company. The Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) has established clear guidelines to ensure trade names are professional, culturally appropriate, and legally compliant.

Proper & Appropriate Naming

Your trade name should be a proper name, free from obscene or indecent words, and must not be offensive to the general public or religious sentiments.

Religious Considerations

Do not include Allah's name, 'God', or His divine attributes in your trade name. This is a strictly enforced regulation.

Personal Names Restrictions

Refrain from using family names, tribe names, or other individuals' names unless the name belongs to the licensee personally.

Uniqueness & Distinctiveness

Your trade name must be distinct and not similar to existing brands in Dubai, government projects, or internationally recognized brands.

Literal Translation Rules

Names should be written literally and not translated. For example, 'السماء العالية' must be 'Al Samaa Al Aalya', while 'هاي سكاى' must be 'High Sky'.

Activity Relevance

The trade name must logically reflect and indicate your business activity. For instance, you cannot use 'Al Madina Contracting' for a building material trading licence.

Restricted Names

You cannot use restricted names which include global political organizations or religious sectarian organizations.

DET Authority

The Department of Economy & Tourism reserves the right to cancel or change a trade name if it finds that a similar name already exists or violates guidelines.

Documents Required

You will require a valid **national identity card** (Emirates ID) to complete your trade name registration request.

Registration Fees

The total cost of issuing the trade name is **AED 620**.

Payment accepted via direct debit at Dubai Islamic Bank, Commercial Bank of Dubai, or Emirates Islamic. Cash or cheque payments can be made at Aafaq Islamic Finance, Noor Bank, Commercial Bank of Dubai, or Emirates Islamic.

Comprehensive Business Services

Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism provides a full spectrum of business services to support entrepreneurs throughout their business journey, from initial setup to ongoing operations and eventual closure if needed.



Issue a Trade Licence

Service for new businesses

Obtain an official approved document that enables you to legally conduct business activities in Dubai. Available in normal, instant, and eTrader formats.



Amend Trade Licence

Service for existing businesses

Modify your existing licence to reflect changes in partners, location, activities, capital, or other business structure elements.



Cancellation of Trade Licence

Service for existing businesses

Permanently cancel your trade licence when closing your business, with complete guidance through the liquidation process.



Renew Trade Licence

Service for existing businesses

Stay ahead with proactive renewal reminders via SMS, ensuring your business remains legal without interruption.



Issue Commercial Permit

Service for existing businesses

Obtain permissions for promotional campaigns, exhibitions, conferences, commercial tents, and various temporary business activities.



Request for Intelaq Licence

Service for new businesses

Special entrepreneurship licence for UAE and GCC nationals with minimal annual fees, designed to support emerging entrepreneurs.



Request for Licence Exemption

Service for SMEs

Emirati and GCC national entrepreneurs can apply for fee exemptions, paying minimal annual fees for up to five years.

Types of Licence Modifications

As your business evolves, you may need to modify your trade licence to reflect changes in your company structure, operations, or strategic direction. The DET provides comprehensive amendment services to accommodate your business growth.

	<h2>Partners & Parties</h2> <p>Amend ownership structure and partnership arrangements</p>
	<h2>Business Location</h2> <p>Change your registered business address or premises</p>
	<h2>Manager Details</h2> <p>Update manager or authorized signatory information</p>
	<h2>Business Activities</h2> <p>Modify or expand your licensed business activities</p>
	<h2>Company Capital</h2> <p>Adjust your company's registered capital structure</p>
	<h2>Trade Name</h2> <p>Change your registered business trade name</p>

 **Note:** Your authorized service centre can provide detailed information on specific modification requirements and processes tailored to your business structure.

Required Documentation

The specific documents required vary based on the type of modification and your company's legal structure. Common requirements include:

Modification Type	Required Documentation
Sale of a shop	Contract of sale
Civil/Solidarity Works/Simple Recommendation/Public and Private Contribution	Appendix to Incorporation Contract
Capital reduction	Auditor's report on capital reduction
Partnership approval	Resolution of the Board of Directors/Resolution of the General Assembly approving partnership
Joint stock company amendments	Original and duly authenticated appendix to the contract

Request for Cancellation of Trade Licence

This service allows you to permanently cancel your trade licence for a company or branch. Prior to cancellation, you must complete all necessary clearances with local and federal government entities to ensure full regulatory compliance.

Required Documents by Business Type

Sole Proprietorship

- Cancellation of labour cards through the Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratization (MOHRE)

Civil Company

- Cancellation of labour cards through MOHRE
- A duly notarized partnership termination contract

Commercial Companies (All Legal Forms)

Phase 1 Requirements:

- Notarized minutes of the General Assembly meeting confirming company liquidation and liquidator appointment
- Letter issued by the liquidator accepting to liquidate the company with supporting documents (licence copy, auditor registration certificate, notarized signature specimen)
- Payment of AED 520 for certificate of company dissolution and liquidator appointment
- Announcement of liquidation in two Arabic local newspapers for one day, allowing debtors 45 days to submit claims

Phase 2 Requirements:

- Original newspaper announcement and company's final report
- Declaration letter from liquidator and partners stating no objections received within 45 days
- Cancellation of labour cards through MOHRE
- Copy of General Assembly meeting minutes and dissolution certificate

Special Cases & Cancellation Fees

Different business structures require specific documentation and follow distinct cancellation procedures. Understanding these requirements ensures a smooth and compliant closure process.

Branch of a Foreign Company

- Ministry of Economy decision to liquidate from register
- Attested Board Resolution for company cancellation
- Cancellation of labour cards through MOHRE

Branch of a Local Company

- Board of Directors decision to cancel the company
- Cancellation of labour cards through MOHRE

Branch of a Free Zone Company

- Deletion decision for free zone branches registered with Ministry of Economy
- Attested parent company decision (for companies not registered with Ministry of Economy)
- Cancellation of labour cards through MOHRE

Licence Expired More Than Two Years

Phase 1:

- Undertaking by local partner for company debts liability
- Documents supporting cancellation reason (proof of partner's absence or unknown whereabouts)
- Liquidation announcement in Arabic newspapers with 15-day grace period
- Completed undertaking form stating no recorded liabilities

Phase 2:

- Original newspaper announcement
- Cancellation of labour cards through MOHRE

Cancellation Fee Structure

AED 1,020

Licence Cancellation Fee

Standard fee for cancelling your trade licence

AED 2,520

Company Dissolution Fee

Fee for complete company de-registration and dissolution

Payment methods: Direct debit at Dubai Islamic Bank, Commercial Bank of Dubai, or Emirates Islamic. Cash or cheque payments accepted at Aafaq Islamic Finance, Noor Bank, Commercial Bank of Dubai, or Emirates Islamic.

Commercial Permits & Special Licences

Request to Renew Trade Licence

Stay ahead with this proactive service where you receive timely SMS reminders to renew your licence near its expiry date. You can request renewal through all available delivery channels, ensuring your business remains legal and operates without any interruption.

Fees: The licence renewal fee depends on your specific business activity and legal structure. Consult your service centre for accurate fee information.



Request to Issue Commercial Permit

This versatile permit grants legal permission for various temporary business activities including promotional campaigns, sales events, exhibitions, conferences, commercial tents, advertising signage, kiosks, ATMs, additional offices, and warehouses.

Commercial Permit Fee Structure

- **Promotional campaigns:** AED 500-20,000 (varies by store location and area)
- **Sales events:** AED 2,500-13,500 (depends on sale type)
- **Special offers & liquidation:** AED 2,500
- **Exhibitions:** AED 500-1,000 (based on duration)
- **Conferences:** AED 250-1,000 (varies by type)
- **Commercial tents:** AED 5,000-15,000 (based on tent area)
- **Banners:** Starting from AED 250 (depends on size)

Entrepreneurship Support Programs

Intelaq Licence

Annual Fee: AED 1,050

Special entrepreneurship licence for UAE and GCC nationals. Designed for home-based businesses with minimal annual fees and streamlined application process.

Eligibility: 100% UAE/GCC ownership, maximum five total licences, residence located in Dubai.

Application: Apply via Dubai SME by emailing info@services4u.ae with required documents (Emirates ID, passport or decree copy).

Licence Exemption

Years 1-3: AED 1,000 annually

Years 4-5: AED 2,000 annually

Emirati and GCC national entrepreneurs can apply for exemption from special project-related fees, valid for up to five years total with graduated fee structure.

Required Documents: Emirates ID copy, passport or decree copy addressed to DET.

Note: Excludes fees for federal authorities and certain other entities.

Legal Forms & Contact Information

Dubai offers diverse legal structures to accommodate different business models and ownership requirements. Select the structure that best aligns with your business objectives and operational needs.



Public Joint Stock Company



Private Joint Stock Company



Private Joint Stock – One Person Company (OPC)



Limited Liability Company (LLC)



Limited Liability One Person Company (OPC)



General Partnership



Limited Partnership



Civil Company



Sole Establishment



Branch of Local Company



Branch of Company in Another Emirate



Branch of Free Zone Company



Branch of GCC Company



Branch of Foreign Company

Ready to Start Your Business Journey?

Our expert team is ready to guide you through every step of your business setup process in Dubai. From initial consultation to licence issuance, we provide comprehensive support tailored to your specific needs.

[Get a Free Consultation](#)

[View Our Plans](#)

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