



WHICH FREE ZONE FOR WHICH PURPOSE?

Over the past decade, the UAE has established itself as one of the most competitive and versatile structuring hubs worldwide (see also our fact sheet: *The Constant Evolution of UAE's Structuring Environment*)¹. A combination of factors has contributed to this ascension – e.g. no corporate and personal income tax, access to a broad network of double tax and investment protection treaties, no restriction on profit repatriation, no foreign currency control, increasingly sophisticated regulatory framework and corporate tools, worldwide connectivity – but perhaps none more than the concept of “free zone”.

Free zones are geographically segregated areas operating their own set of laws and administrative regulations, under the supervision of an autonomous body. Their prominent objective is to reduce taxes, by allowing goods to be received and stored without the payment of customs duties. In the UAE however, the free zones' USP is that they allow 100% foreign ownership – unlike companies registered in the UAE mainland which are subject to foreign ownership restrictions (see our fact sheet: *Which vehicle for which purpose*). Most traditional free zones are so-called “multipurpose”: they allow a wide variety of activities with a core focus on logistic and trade. Dubai's Jebel Ali free zone (“JAFZA”) was UAE's original free zone. Over time, its model was first replicated, then expanded and reinvented.

The “new wave” of free zones are so-called “themed”: they are limited to companies the business plan of which is in line with the zone's title theme, be it media, internet or financial services.

Selecting an appropriate free zone depends on a number of criteria, chief among which:

- Availability of suitable license
- Location – one may favour being close from its main customers or supply chain. Location should also be considered in relation to employees' projected domicile;
- Price – the costs of constitution and maintenance of an entity will vary from zone to zone. An important factor to take into consideration is the cost of the premises. As a rule of thumb, the farther the zone from an urban area – i.e. Dubai or Abu Dhabi City – the cheaper the premises. Some zones offer cost-effective versatile options in the form of flexi-offices/smart-offices/ shared offices.
- Administrative/logistic facilities – the quality of support offered by the zone – i.e. for license processing, visa processing, etc. – may vary.

- Branding/credibility – one may favour an established zone (or “premium”) over relative newcomers, for branding and market awareness purpose. The internal ratings of banks of the most credible free zones are relevant when financing is required.

Other topical factors notably consist of the availability of efficient telecommunications, energy suppliers, port handling facilities, warehouses and laboratories, proximity to the company's core markets, presence of competitors and facilities tailored towards the specific needs of the industry.

There are now over 30 free zones in the country spread across all seven emirates, each having different reasons for and against why one should consider them. How to navigate all this offering?

By popular demand, M/HQ's structuring team has compiled a comparison of UAE's major free zones, their core focus, key features and USPs. This guide will help you and/or your clients determine which free zone is most suitable for every specific business concept.

Need more help still? Please do contact one of our relationship managers.

Who we are

We are a multi-services platform catering to a broad spectrum of clients – from individual entrepreneurs and local SMEs to wealthy international families, to established blue-chip companies and multinationals. Our one-stop-shop offering is unique in the Middle East: a holistic and cross-disciplinary combination of a market-leading corporate services firm, a law firm's specialist expertise and a regulatory & compliance services practice, all through one single platform.

We have broad experience in facilitating entry-to-market for businesses across all major fields of activities. We have a one-of-a-kind practical expertise understanding and handling complex corporate structures.

We are an entrepreneurial firm for entrepreneurial clients.

Who will assist you



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¹. One of the only 4 structuring centers amongst the top 12 rated jurisdictions worldwide to grow in importance year to year [Source Vistra].



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	DUBAI								ABU DHABI			
	Dubai Airport Free Zone Authority (DAFZA)	Dubai Creative Clusters (DCCA - formerly TECOM)	Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)	Dubai Multi Commodities Center (DMCC)	Dubai Silicon Oasis (DSO)	Dubai World Central (DWC) Dubai South	Jebel Ali Free Zone (JAFZA)	Meydan Free Zone	Abu Dhabi Airport Free Zone (ADAFZ)	Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM)	Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi (KIZAD)	TwoFour54 Abu Dhabi (2454)
Free zone in a nutshell	Generalist free zone with core focus on logistics and aviation sectors. Modern infrastructure (offices and warehouses) Premium option	Themed multi-cluster free zone with core focus on services relevant to the industries of IT, Media, Healthcare, Fashion, Movie and Production, Science and Technology. Each industry organized by geographical cluster. Modern infrastructure (offices)	Themed free zone with core focus on Financial services. Common law regulatory framework. Modern infrastructure (offices) Premium option	Generalist free zone with core focus on oil & gas, precious metals and diamond trading. Modern infrastructure (70+ commercial and residential towers). UAE's largest free zone (12,000+ registered entities) Premium option	Themed free zone with core focus on hi-tech industry, technological, electrical and engineering sectors. Modern infrastructure (offices and warehouses)	Generalist free zone with core focus on logistics and aviation sectors. Modern infrastructure (offices and warehouse). Direct connection to port (JAFZA) and airport (DWC). Value option (for Dubai; attractive license rates)	Generalist free zone with core focus on trading, manufacturing and logistics. Region's first established and second largest free zone. State-of-the-art logistic facilities – operated by DP World. Direct connection to airport (DWC) Premium option	Generalist free zone. Modern infrastructure (offices)	Generalist free zone with core focus on logistics and aviation sectors. Modern infrastructure (offices and warehouses)	Themed free zone with core focus on Financial services. Common law regulatory framework. Modern infrastructure (offices) Premium option	Generalist free zone with core focus on Manufacturing, logistics and trading. Direct connection to Khalifa Port	Themed free zone with core focus on services relevant to the industries of IT & Media. Modern infrastructure (offices)
Mostly suitable for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logistics and Aviation (core) Commodity trading Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services within the core sectors of Healthcare, IT, Media & Production, Science & Technology and Fashion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial services (regulated or nonregulated) Ancillary support services Proprietary investment Holding/Regional HQ SFO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commodity trading (core) Services Holding SFO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services, trading and light manufacturing within the core sectors of high tech, electrical and engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logistics and Aviation (core) Commodity trading Services Holding not permitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commodity trading Manufacturing Logistic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commodity trading Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logistics and Aviation (core) Commodity trading Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial services (regulated or nonregulated) Ancillary support services Proprietary investment Holding/Regional HQ SFO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial Manufacturing Logistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services within the core sectors of IT & Media
Types of Licenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (services) Commercial (trading) General Trading no longer available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial (covers different sectors i.e. Media, Arts, Education, Science & Technology etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (services – regulated/non-regulated) Other (e.g. NPIO, SFO) Retail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (services) Commercial (trading, including general trading) Industrial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (services) Commercial (Trading) Industrial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (services) Commercial (trading, including general trading) Industrial Services licenses no longer issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial (trading, including general trading) Industrial General Trading no longer available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (services) Commercial (trading) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (services) Commercial (trading, including general trading) Industrial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (services – regulated/non-regulated) Other (e.g. SFO) Retail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (Service) Commercial (trading, including general trading) Industrial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial (covers different sectors i.e. IT & Media)



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	DUBAI								ABU DHABI			
	DAFZA	DCCA	DIFC	DMCC	DSO	DWC	JAFZA	Meydan	ADAFZ	ADGM	KIZAD	2454
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjacent and connected to airport • Central location • High credibility vis-à-vis banks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of available licenses • Central location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of available licenses • Common law regulatory framework • High credibility vis-à-vis banks • Central location (in Dubai) • Sophisticated back office; able to handle sophisticated structures • Pragmatic immigration² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of available licenses • Central location • High credibility vis-à-vis banks • Sophisticated back office; able to handle sophisticated structures • Virtual offices options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of available licenses state of the art IT infrastructure and facilities • Industrial units available • Virtual offices options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of available licenses • Adjacent and connected to port and airport • Cost effective • Virtual offices options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad range of available licenses • Own port facilities • Adjacent and connected to airport • High credibility vis-à-vis banks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High end buildings and facilities • Central location • Cost effective • Virtual offices options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of licenses across different market sectors including aviation • Adjacent and connected to airport • Broad range of facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of available licenses • Common law regulatory framework • High credibility vis-à-vis banks • Central location (in Abu Dhabi) • Sophisticated back office; able to handle sophisticated structures • Pragmatic immigration² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of available licenses • Own port facilities • Cost effective (industrial) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of the art facilities • Central location (in Abu Dhabi)
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive license • Expensive facilities • Strict compliance requirements (even for non-regulated entities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long(er) set-up time frame 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Far from Dubai city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Far from Dubai city • High capital requirement • Expensive facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Below average registrar responsiveness • Below average after-sale service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Far from Dubai City (90 min) • Expensive facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive license • Expensive facilities • Strict compliance requirements (even for non-regulated entities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Far from Dubai City (90 min)

2. General rule is individuals 21- and 60+ cannot be employed; exception can be sought on a case by cases basis for qualified employee visas for individuals over 60+ (1 year visa).



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	DUBAI								ABU DHABI			
	DAFZA	DCCA	DIFC	DMCC	DSO	DWC	JAFZA	Meydan	ADAFZ	ADGM	KIZAD	2454
Minimum Share Capital Requirement	From AED 100,000.00 (appr. USD 27,400.00) Capital pay-up: required at inception	From AED 50,000.00 (appr. USD 13,700.00) Capital pay-up: required at inception	From USD 10,000.00 depending on activity Regulated Activities: capital adequacy requirements based on projected burning rate Capital pay-up: Required at inception; not required for SPCs	From AED 50,000.00 (appr. USD 13,700.00) General Trading: AED 1 Mio Capital pay-up: to be deposited within 30 days of registration	From AED 10,000.00 (appr. USD 2,780.00) Capital pay-up: not required at inception but must be paid up post-licensing	From AED 300,000.00 (appr. USD 82,200.00) Capital pay-up: not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation	From AED 200,000.00 (appr. USD 137,000.00) [2+ shareholders] and AED 1,000,000.00 (approx. USD 274,000.00) [1 shareholder] Capital pay-up: not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation ³	From AED 100,000.00 (appr. USD 27,800.00) Capital pay-up: not required at inception; recommended	From AED 500,000.00 (appr. USD 137,000.00) [corporate shareholder] and AED 1,000,000 (appr. USD 274,000.00) [individual shareholder] for core activities. From AED 150,000.00 (appr. USD 41,100.00) for non-core activities; from AED 500,000.00 (appr. USD 137,000.00) for core activities Capital pay-up: not required at inception; recommended	From USD 50,000.00 depending on activity; SPVs: none Regulated Activities: capital adequacy requirements based on projected burning rate Capital pay-up: Required at inception for regulated entities, not required for non-regulated entities	From AED 150,000 (appr. USD 41,300.00) Capital pay-up: not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation	None AED 50,000.00 recommended (to be paid up within the first year of operation)
Timeframe ⁴ to set-up	6-8 weeks	6-8 weeks	Regulated: 4-6 months Non-Regulated: 6-8 weeks SPC: 2 weeks	8 weeks	2-3 weeks	4-6 weeks	6-8 weeks	4-6 weeks	6-8 weeks	Regulated: 4-6 months Non-Regulated: 6 - 8 weeks SPV: 2-3 days	6-8 weeks	6-8 weeks
Available Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices: fitted and shell & core options Warehouses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide range of facilities across Dubai [depending on specific cluster] Virtual Offices, flexi desks [subject to availability] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serviced Offices Offices: fitted and shell & core option Retail Spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices: fitted and shell & core options Virtual Offices, flexi desks offices options Light manufacturing units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Offices, flexi desks and offices Warehouses Retail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Offices, flexi desks and offices Warehouses Open land Custom Built Units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices: fitted and shell & core options Warehouses (including for manufacturing purpose) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Offices, flexi desks and (fitted) offices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Offices, flexi desks and offices Warehouses Open land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serviced Offices Offices: fitted and shell & core option Retail Spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices: fitted and shell & core option Warehouses Open land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serviced Offices Offices: fitted and shell & core option

3. Share capital of AED 1,000,000 and above must be deposited to the company's bank account prior to the issuance of the license.

4. Time-frame includes mandatory CID Police [background] check. Process takes appr. two weeks (standard); may take (much) longer depending on circumstances (nationality, place of birth).



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	DUBAI								ABU DHABI			
	DAFZA	DCCA	DIFC	DMCC	DSO	DWC	JAFZA	Meydan	ADAFZ	ADGM	KIZAD	2454
Submission of Audited Financial Report	Required annually (at the time of license renewal) Exemption for branch of a foreign co	Not required as part of license renewal process Recommended (as part of best practice). Proper books of accounts must be maintained	Required annually Exemption for SPCs, foundations; proper books of accounts must be maintained	Required annually	Required annually (at the time of license renewal)	Required annually (with grace period during year 1; 2 year audited to be submitted at year 2 anniversary)	Required annually	Required annually	Required annually	Required annually Exemptions for small ⁵ and micro entities ⁶ ; proper books of accounts must be maintained	Required annually	Required for renewal
Legalization⁷	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
UBO Identification⁸	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Resident Director/ Manager	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Required for regulated activities; not required at inception for unregulated activities; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Required The Manager must obtain a residence visa sponsored by the company within the first year of operation	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Required The Manager must obtain a residence visa sponsored by the company within the first year of operation	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Required for regulated activities; not required at inception for unregulated activities; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)
Standard Corporate Documents	License Cert. of Incorporation Mem & Arts Shares Certificate	License Cert. of Incorporation Mem & Arts ⁹ Share Certificate	License Cert. of Incorporation Mem & Arts Shares Certificate	License Cert. of Incorporation Mem & Arts Shares Certificate	License Mem & Arts Shares Certificate	License Cert. of Incorporation Mem & Arts Shares Certificate	License Cert. of Incorporation Mem & Arts ¹⁰	License Cert. of Registration; Mem & Arts	License Cert. of Incorporation Mem & Arts	License Cert. of Incorporation Mem & Arts Shares Certificate	License Cert. of Incorporation Mem & Arts Shares Certificate	License Mem & Arts Shares Certificate
Tax Status	Total tax and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption:	Total tax and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption

5. Turnover < 13,5 Million USD, no more than 35 employees; some exclusions.

6. Turnover < 2,5 Million USD, no more than 9 employees; some exclusions.

7. For POA and corporate documents; standard legalization: each document to be notarized by the Notary Public, legalized by the supervising authority [i.e. apostille], legalized by the UAE Embassy abroad and super-legalized by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

8. Identification of individual Shareholder(s) [for double/multiple layer structures].

9. Not issued as standard for FZE but may be requested.

10. Not issued for FZE.



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NORTHERN EMIRATES								
	Ajman Free Zone (AJZ)	Creative City Free Zone (Fujairah)	Fujairah Free Zone	Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA)	RAKEZ (consolidation of RAKFTZ and RAKIA)	Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF)	Sharjah Media Free Zone (SHAMS)	Umm Al Quwain Free Zone (UAQFZ)
Free zone in a nutshell	Generalist free zone with core focus on trading and services. Modern infrastructure (offices) Value option	Themed free zone with core focus on services relevant to the industries of IT, Media, consulting education, communication, marketing, music, entertainment and design. Modern infrastructure (offices) Value option	Generalist free zone with core focus on trading, manufacturing and logistics Value option	Generalist free zone with core focus on trading, manufacturing and logistics. Direct connection to port Value option	Generalist free zone with core focus on trading, manufacturing and logistics. Modern infrastructure (offices and warehouses) Value option	Generalist free zone with core focus on trading, manufacturing and logistics. State-of-the-art logistic facilities. Direct connection to port	Themed free zone with core focus on services relevant to the industries of IT & Media. Modern infrastructure (offices) Value option	Generalist free zone with core focus on trading and services. Modern infrastructure (offices) Value option
Mostly suitable for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commodity trading Manufacturing Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services within the core sectors of IT, Media, consulting education, communication, marketing, music, entertainment and design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commodity trading Logistics Manufacturing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commodity trading Logistics Manufacturing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commodity trading Logistics Manufacturing Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logistics and Aviation (core) Manufacturing Commodity trading Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services within the core sectors of IT & media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commodity trading Manufacturing Services
Type of Licenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (services) Commercial (trading, including e-commerce and general trading) Industrial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial (covers different sectors i.e. IT, Media consulting education, communication, marketing etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial (trading, including general trading) Professional (Service) Industrial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (Service) Commercial (trading, including general trading) Industrial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (Service) Commercial (trading including general trading) Industrial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (services) Commercial (trading, including general trading) Industrial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (covers sectors of IT & Media) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional (services) Commercial (trading, including general trading) Industrial
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast set-up process Cost effective Visa requirements [medical test + Emirates ID biometrics] can be undertaken in Dubai 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Straight forward set-up process Cost effective (Virtual offices options) Visa requirements [medical test + Emirates ID biometrics] can be undertaken in Dubai 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide range of licenses across different market sectors including aviation Adjacent and connected to airport Straight forward set-up process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide range of licenses across different market sectors including aviation Adjacent and connected to airport Straight forward set-up process Virtual offices options Visa requirements can be undertaken in Dubai 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide range of licenses Straight forward set-up process Virtual offices options Visa requirements can be undertaken in Dubai 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide range of licenses across different market sectors including aviation Adjacent and connected to airport Straight forward set-up process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Straight forward set-up process Cost effective (Virtual offices options) Corporate director allowed Visa requirements [medical test + Emirates ID biometrics] can be undertaken in Dubai 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Straight forward set-up process Cost effective (Virtual offices options) Visa requirements can be undertaken in Dubai
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Far from Dubai City (45 min) Low(er) credibility Below average after sale service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Far from Dubai (90 min) Low(er) credibility Slow after-sale service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Far from Dubai (90 min) Slow after-sale service Visa requirements must be completed in Fujairah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Far from Dubai City (30 min) Low(er) credibility Below average after sale service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Far from Dubai City (90 min) Low(er) credibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Far from Dubai City (30 min) Slow post-sale service Visa requirements must be completed in Sharjah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Far from Dubai City (30 min) Low(er) credibility Unproven after sale service (zone is new) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Far from Dubai City (90 min) Low(er) credibility



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	NORTHERN EMIRATES							
	AJZ	Creative City	Fujairah Free Zone	Hamriyah	RAKEZ	SAIF	SHAMS	UAQFZ
Minimum Share Capital Requirement	From AED 185,000 (appr. USD 50,000) Capital pay-up: not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation	None AED 50,000.00 recommended (to be paid up within the first year of operation)	From AED 150,000.00 (appr. USD 41,100.00) For "Investment Activity": AED 1mio Capital pay-up: not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation	From AED 150,000 (Appr USD 41,000) AED 50,000.00 recommended (to be paid up within the first year of operation)	Not specified (registrar can demand capital adequacy VS activity) AED 50,000.00 recommended (to be paid up within the first year of operation)	From AED 150,000.00 (appr. USD 41,100.00) Capital pay-up: not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation	None AED 50,000.00 recommended (to be paid up within the first year of operation)	From AED 300,000.00 (appr. USD 82,200.00) Capital pay-up: not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation
Timeframe ¹¹ to set-up	1 week	1 week	3-4 weeks	1 week	3-4 weeks	2-3 weeks	1 week	1 week
Available Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared desks and (fitted) offices Warehouses (including for manufacturing purpose) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual desks, flex desk and offices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Offices, flexi desks and offices Warehouses Open land Custom Built Units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual desks, flex desk and offices Warehouses (including for manufacturing purpose) Open land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Offices, flexi desks and offices Warehouses Open land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared desks and (fitted) offices Warehouses (including for manufacturing purpose) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual desks, flex desk Physical offices (not available as of writing; coming soon) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual desks, flex desk Physical Offices (fully serviced) Warehouse Units Plots of Land available for lease (to be built on)
Submission of Audited Financial Report	Not required as part of license renewal process. Recommended (as part of best practice). Proper books of accounts must be maintained	Not required as part of license renewal process. Recommended (as part of best practice). Proper books of accounts must be maintained	Not required as part of license renewal process. Recommended (as part of best practice). Proper books of accounts must be maintained	Required but can be waived for a fixed fee of AED 1,000.00. Recommended (as part of best practice). Proper books of accounts must be maintained in any event	Not required as part of license renewal process. Recommended (as part of best practice). Proper books of accounts must be maintained	Required annually	Not required as part of license renewal process. Recommended (as part of best practice). Proper books of accounts must be maintained	Not required as part of license renewal process. Recommended (as part of best practice). Proper books of accounts must be maintained
Legalization ¹²	Not required	Not required	Not required	Required	Not required	Required	Required	Required
UBO Identification ¹³	Required	Required	Required	Not Required in practice	Required	Required	Required	Not Required in practice
Resident Director/ Manager	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)	Not required at inception; recommended within the first year of operation (as part of best practice)
Standard Corporate Documents	License Cert of Incorporation Mem & Arts	License Cert of Incorporation Mem & Arts Shares Certificate	License Cert of Incorporation Mem & Arts	License Cert of Incorporation Mem & Arts Shares Certificate	License Cert of Incorporation Mem & Arts Shares Certificate	License Cert of Incorporation Mem & Arts	License Cert of Incorporation Mem & Arts	License Cert of Incorporation Mem & Arts
Tax Status	Total tax and duty exemption	Tax exempted and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption	Tax exempted and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption	Total tax and duty exemption

11. Time-frame includes mandatory CID Police [background] check. Process takes appr. two weeks (standard); may take (much) longer depending on circumstances (nationality, place of birth).

12. For POA and corporate documents; standard legalization: each document to be notarized by the Notary Public, legalized by the supervising authority [i.e. apostille], legalized by the UAE Embassy abroad and super-legalized by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

13. Identification of individual Shareholder(s) [for double/multiple layer structures].