



## **Qatar Licensing Procedures**

### **How to Setup Business in Qatar**

#### **Foreign Companies involved in business contracts in the State act no (13) For the Year 2000 on article (3)**

1. Submitting an application to the Minister of Economy & Commerce.
2. Attach 2 copies of the signed contract between the Foreign Company and the Government.
3. Attach 2 copies of the certificate of association and/or memorandum of certificate of the Foreign Company (should be approved/legalized).
4. Power of attorney for the nominated manager in Qatar. (Should be approved/legalized).
5. Attach 2 copies of the contract for the service agent (if appointed).
6. Attach 2 copies of the commercial registration for the service agent (if appointed).
7. Any document in non Arabic language should be translated to Arabic language. All the procedures done through Commercial Affairs Department in Ministry of Commerce. To know more about the Law no: 13 of 2000. Please visit the website [www.mec.gov.qa](http://www.mec.gov.qa)

#### **The procedures for Industrial Companies**

1. Attach a copy of the Industrial License issued by the Ministry of Energy and Industry.
  2. Fill the certificate of association application and deposit the capital in any local bank.
  3. Fill the commercial registration application and attach the documents requested and pay the fee (in case its 51% owned by a Qatari and 49% owned by the foreigner). In case it's 100% owned by the foreigner, it needs a Ministerial Decree.
- All the procedures done through Commercial Affairs Department in Ministry of Commerce. To know more about the Law no: 13 of 2000. Please visit the website [www.mec.gov.qa](http://www.mec.gov.qa)

#### **Companies With Limited Liability**

1. Fill up the draft of memorandum contract and type it and deposit the capital in any local bank
2. To document/legalize the memorandum contract in the Ministry of Justice - Real Estate Department.
3. Fill up the commercial application form and present all documents requested with it and pay all fees.

#### **Education Institution**

Must have approval from the Ministry of Education

#### **Health Care**

Must have approval from the Ministry of Health

#### **Tourism Companies**

Must have approval from Qatar Tourism Authority

#### **Law Office Companies**

Must have approval from the Ministry of Justice

#### **Engineering Consultancy Office**

Must have approval from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Agriculture



## **The State of Business Entities**

These are various types of business entities in Qatar:

### **Partnership Company:**

This is the most basic form of commercial arrangement for two or more individuals to combine together for the purpose of commercial activity in Qatar. The partners have unlimited liability and the trade name of the partnership company will reflect the names of the partners. (Read Law (5) of the year 2002 articles (19)-(43).

### **Joint Venture Company:**

An entity comprised of two or more persons that combine to carry out a project. The joint venture company provided for in the law is an unincorporated entity without legal personality. (Read Law (5) of the year 2002 articles (52)-(60).

### **Public Shareholding Company:**

Also known as a joint stock company or Qatari shareholding company. The law recognizes different variants of the public shareholding company including: 1- Public shareholding company-open. 2- Private or closed public shareholding company. (Read Law (5) of the year 2002 articles (61)-(205).

### **Limited Share Partnership Company:**

This type of company has at least one or more joint partners and at least four trustee shareholding partners. The minimum share capital of the company is 1,000,000 QR. (Read Law (5) of the year 2002 articles (206)- (224).

### **Limited Liability Company:**

Is the most commonly used business entity in Qatar. (Read Law (5) of the year 2002 articles (225)-(260).

### **Holding Companies:**

A holding company must be a shareholding company or limited liability company which has financial and management control on the companies by owning at least 51% of that company. The minimum capital should be 10 million QR. (Law (5) of the year 2002 articles (261)-(266).

For more information please view:  
[www.qcb.gov.qa](http://www.qcb.gov.qa)



## Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the function of Qatar Investment Promotion Department?

Qatar Investment Promotion Department (IPD) operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Economy and Commerce. IPD provides extensive information and support to businesses, investors, and entrepreneurs' in setting-up businesses in Qatar. (For more info, please contact us)

2. Can I register a business in Qatar without a local partner?

In accordance to Qatar Investment Law No. 13 of 2000, any natural or juristic non-Qatari persons are allowed to directly invest in the sectors of agriculture, industry, healthcare, education, tourism, exploitation and development of natural resources, energy or mining provided that these projects are compatible with the development scheme of the State.

In addition, foreign investors can have up to 49 % stake in all other sectors of the national economy provided that they have one or more Qatari partners whose share is not less than 51 %, and provided that company is properly incorporated in agreement with the provisions of the Law (except Real Estate). (For more info, please contact us)

3. Who to contact if I want to set-up a business in Qatar?

The Investment Promotion Department at the Ministry of Economy and Commerce acts as primary contact of information to foreign investors. Proper commissioning of business may refer to the respective government agencies. (For more info, please contact us)

4. What is the size of the economy?

Qatar GDP purchasing power parity and per capita purchasing power parity is one of the highest in the world, ballooning to 28.45 billion USD (2004 est.) and 36,476 USD (2004 est.) respectively also, GDP growth rate is extremely remarkable at 8.7% (2004 est.)

Oil and Gas took a record of more than 55% of Qatar GDP's, roughly an 85 % of export earnings and 70% of government revenues giving Qatar GDP per capita at 80% that of the leading European countries. (For more info, please contact us)

5. What is the business environment in Qatar?

Its key business potential majority relies on oil and gas sectors which include production of natural gas and crude oil, petroleum refinery, petrochemicals, steel, cement manufacturing and fertilizers making a very high earning percentage on Qatar GDP.

On the other hand the non-oil sectors are building and construction, real-estate, communications, agriculture, fishing, water and electricity, tourist, and banking. (For more info, please contact us)

6. What are the different business forms in Qatar?

The existing business forms in Qatar are:

- Partnership Company



- Partnership in Commendams Company (Joint Partnership)
- The Limited Liability Company
- Joint Stock Company
- Closed Stock Company
- Joint Venture Company (For more info, please contact us)

7. Does the Government of Qatar provide any incentives for investors?

State of Qatar provides smart incentives to foreign investors, which include securing loans from Qatar Industrial Bank (QIB), no quantitative quotas on imports, no income tax on salaries of expatriates, no export duties, and no taxes on corporate profits for pre-determined periods. (For more info, please contact us)

8. What are the regulations on imports and exports in Qatar?

As per Qatar Investment Law No. 13 of 2000 regulates, foreign investor may imports whatever is needed to establish, operate, or expand his project in accordance with laws and procedures in force in the State.

Qatar government provides no custom duties on imports of equipment, machineries, spare parts and intermediary goods. Also it provides no custom duties on exports. (For more info, please contact us)

9. What is the foreign trade policy?

Foreign Trade plays a crucial role in the State of Qatar's economy, with exports and imports of goods accounting a 15 billion USD (2004 est.) and 6.15 billion USD of GDP (2004 est). (For more info, please contact us )

The state of Qatar has registered an account of 15 billion USD (2004 est.) on its exports commodities which are liquefied natural gas (LNG), petroleum products, fertilizers and steel. Wherein, its exporting partners are Japan at 43.8%, South Korea at 16.1% and Singapore at 10.8% (2004).

While on imports it's reported an account of 6.15 billion USD (2004 est.) on machinery and transport equipment, food and chemicals whose importing partners are France at 24.4%, UK at 8.9%, Germany at 8.8%, Japan At 8.7%, US at 6.2%, Italy at 5.5 % and UAE at 4.1% (2004). (For more info, please contact us)

10. What are the current major projects in the State of Qatar?

State of Qatar is currently facilitating major project in the following sector:

- Liquefied Natural Gas Company (Qatargas)
- Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Company (RasGas)
- The Dolphin Project
- Enhanced Gas Utilization (EGU) Project
- Natural Gas Liquids (NGL)
- Gas to Liquids Projects (GTL)
- Arab C Gas Recycling
- Qatar Fertilizer Company (QAFCO)



**Government of Qatar**  
**Ministry of Economy & Commerce**

- Qatar Fuel Additives Company (QAFAC)
- Qatar Petrochemical Company (QAPCO)
- Qatar Vinyl Company (QVC)
- Qatar Chemical Company (Q-Chem.)
- Qatofin
- Ras Laffan Ethylene Cracker (RLEC)
- Qatar Petroleum Refinery (formerly NODCO)
- Ras Laffan Independent Water and Power Project (IWPP)
- Doha International Airport
- Friendship Bridge Health, Education and Tourism Projects (For more info, please contact us)

11. Is there any publication that can help me in investing in Qatar?

Qatar Investment & Promotion Department provides all the necessary information and data to investors in facilitating their business ventures. You can inquire on the department offices for publications on print publications or try the download section for downloading of publications on PDF format. (For more info, please contact us)

For more info, please contact us

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