

# Key Facts

## JAFZA Free Zone Companies

Established in 1985, the Jebel Ali Free Zone is now the world's largest free zone. JAFZA is located near major trans-emirate road networks in the UAE and serves as a logistics and trade hub in the region. JAFZA's infrastructure includes pre-built facilities for warehouses, factories and light industrial units; as well as land on long-term lease for businesses that want to build their own facilities.

Trident Trust is able to provide services to assist with the incorporation of a JAFZA company and obtaining residency visas for its shareholders and employees.

### Advantages

- 100% foreign ownership
- 0% corporate tax for 50 years (a concession that is renewable)
- No restriction on capital repatriation
- 0% import or re-export duties
- 0% personal income tax
- No currency restrictions
- No restriction on foreign talent or employees
- Ability to mortgage premises to a bank or financing company
- Onsite customs facilities
- Entitled to Tax Residency Certificate
- No public disclosure of information

### Eligible Entities

- Free Zone Establishment (limited liability company with one shareholder)
- Free Zone Company (limited liability company with two to five shareholders)
- Branch of a local or foreign company

- Public Listed Company (limited liability partnership with two to five shareholders)

### Prohibited activities

- Banking business
- Any financial/investment activities on behalf of third parties
- Consultancy (subject to approval by Registrar)

### Residency Visa

A JAFZA Company may apply for shareholder and/or employee residence visas after receiving its licence. The residence permit is valid for three years for the shareholders and for two years for employees. The number of visas that may be applied for by the company depends on the size of the office (one visa per 9 sq. m.). A Flexi Office package offers up to two residence visas.

The minimum age at which a UAE residence visa can be obtained is 21 years old.

The retirement age for expatriates in the UAE is 60 years old; employment residence visas are not issued for those 60 and above. However, the shareholders of the company can still obtain a UAE residence visa regardless of age.

Holders of a residence visa must not remain outside of the UAE for more than 180 consecutive days.

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## JAFZA Free Zone Companies

### Significant Features

Company Legislation	The Jebel Ali Free Zone Companies Implementing Regulations 2016
Time to Incorporate	20-30 working days
Possibility of Migration	Yes
Tax Rate	VAT at 5%
Shareholders	1-50
Residency Requirements	Yes, for Manager only
Share Capital	The Regulations do not prescribe a minimum capital, but require that a company must have a share capital that is sufficient for the activities for which it is licensed
Bearer Shares	No
Beneficial Ownership Disclosure	Shareholder, Director and Manager details are provided to JAFZA, but are not publicly available

Director	One as minimum and no limit for maximum (only individual)
Manager	One (individual)
Secretary	One (only individual)
Local Presence Requirements	Yes, for Manager only
Availability of Shelf Companies	No
Meetings	No
Annual General Meetings	Yes
Annual Accounts	Yes
Filing of Accounts	No
Audit Requirement	Yes, must be provided to the Registrar at time of licence renewal
Registered Office Required	Yes

# Offices

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