

JEBEL ALI OFFSHORE COMPANY (JAFZA OFFSHORE)

The Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority (JAFZA) – Jebel Ali Free Zone Offshore Companies Regulations 2003 has promulgated regulations for incorporating of offshore companies in Jebel Ali Free Zone through approved registered agents.

In January 2018, the Jebel Ali Free Zone Offshore Companies Regulations 2018 (“New Regulations”) issued by JAFZA repeal and replace the Jebel Ali Free Zone Offshore Companies Regulations 2003.

About

JAFZA Offshore Companies can be suitably used as holding companies for holding investments, shares of UAE LLC’s and/or properties located in the Emirate of Dubai, particularly those which are developed by Nakheel and Emaar. For holding other properties, the developers are required to pre-approve their properties with Jebel Ali Free Zone Authorities before the offshore companies are given permission to hold these properties.

An Offshore Company has the capacity and rights and privileges of a natural person. The capacity of an Offshore Company is not limited by anything in its memorandum and articles of association or by any act of its members.

Features of the JAFZA offshore companies:

- Limited Liability Company
- No minimum capital requirement
- Requirement to have an approved registered agent either within the Free Zone or in the Emirate of Dubai
- Minimum one shareholder, no upper limit on maximum number of shareholders
- Minimum one director
- Corporate directors and secretary
- Appointment of secretary compulsory
- Bearer shares not permitted
- No personal or corporate income tax
- Create different classes of shares (subject to the consent of the Registrar).

JAFZA Offshore companies are allowed to:

- Engage with legal consultants, accountants, management companies or other similar persons carrying on business within the United Arab Emirates
- Prepare and maintain books and records within the United Arab Emirates
- Hold meetings of its Directors or members within the United Arab Emirates
- Hold a lease of property for use as a registered office in any designated freehold area in the United Arab Emirates approved by the Authority;
- Own a property in one of the designated freehold areas in the United Arab Emirates approved by the Authority;
- Own a stake in another operating Company within the United Arab Emirates; or
- Hold an account in a bank in the United Arab Emirates without prejudice to the restrictions under Regulation

JAFZA Offshore companies are not allowed to:

- Directly carry out any commercial activity in the United Arab Emirates
- Hold a lease of a property situated in the United Arab Emirates, other than a lease referred to in Regulation
- Carry out banking business
- Carry out any insurance or re-insurance, insurance agent or insurance broker type business; or
- Carry out any other business which may be prohibited by the Authority from time to time

Beta Consultants is approved as Registered Agent by the Jebel Ali Offshore Authority

For more information, please email us at info@betaconsultants.ae

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