



Setting up a Business in a Global Gateway



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INTRODUCTION

A Free Zone in the Heart of the City



An Ongoing Legacy

35 YEARS OF ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

Beginning with the landmark Sheikh Rashid Tower in 1979, Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) has been an integral part of Dubai's economic diversification.

With the establishment of the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre, the city became home to the region's nexus of high-profile events, exhibitions and MICE tourism. As the largest venue in the Middle East, the Centre welcomes more than 3 million visitors from 160 global markets every year.

DWTC is also home to the commercial offices of the Convention Tower, where blue-chip clients choose to have their long-term headquarters. Hospitality is here, too, with the onsite serviced accommodation at The Apartments as well the associate onsite hotels, Novotel and Ibis.

The latest addition to DWTC is One Central, a new masterplanned development of premium commercial offices, hotels, residential and entertainment spaces. DWTC has become a proven platform for international and regional businesses to expand across the Middle East and beyond.

The latest chapter in DWTC's ongoing growth story is the establishment of the Dubai World Trade Centre Authority.

With the decree in 2015 establishing the Authority, the campus is now a 'new' free zone in the heart of Dubai's central business district.

A DIVERSIFIED FREE ZONE FOR A DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY

In step with DWTC's overall commitment to growing industry sectors, the free zone regulated by the DWTC Authority provides an ideal environment for leading companies and is open to businesses across a multitude of industry sectors that require world-class commercial offices.

It is the DWTC Authority's focus to create the regulatory framework and policies to create and sustain a business-friendly and enabling destination.



A New Free Zone

The DWTC Authority understands the needs of modern-day corporations and businesses.

- ◆ No restrictions on industry or business types
- ◆ A single point of contact for all business set-up services, from registration to immigration
- ◆ Straightforward, personalised process

It has adopted the best policies and practices of implementing free zone services across the board, allowing companies to pursue and execute opportunities rather than be bogged down by unnecessary bureaucratic processes.

The Authority's one-on-one, personalised approach to free zone licencing and procedures, coupled with a superior location and unmatched operational standards, makes setting up in the free zone seamless, straightforward and flexible.

For businesses that are already established onshore and wish to set up new offices in the free zone, the DWTC Authority can offer special business operating permits for an easy, no-fuss move to get companies up and running.

A Free Zone in Dubai's Central Business District

Companies establishing themselves within the DWTC Authority regulated free zone are setting up in the middle of Dubai's main business hub. This is where the major economic and governmental established areas like DIFC, Emirates Towers and Downtown Dubai are located. Highly connected via Dubai's main arterial highways and metro, the DWTC campus is just a 15-minute drive from Dubai International Airport. And with the onsite accommodation and hotels, the fully integrated free zone provides added convenience for tenants and their clients.

JOIN OTHER LEADING INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES ON THE DWTC CAMPUS:



FREE ZONE BENEFITS INCLUDE:



100% FOREIGN OWNERSHIP
100% REPATRIATION OF CAPITAL



FREEDOM TO INITIATE
MULTIPLE OPTIONS FOR LEGAL
OPERATING STRUCTURES



ZERO INCOME TAX FOR 50 YEARS
AND RENEWABLE

ZERO CORPORATE TAX FOR 50 YEARS
AND RENEWABLE

NO EXPORT TAX



FLEXIBILITY TO DETERMINE
PRICES OF SERVICES OR PRODUCTS
AND THE PROFIT MARGIN DESIRED



NO RESTRICTION ON CURRENCY
AND REPATRIATION OF FUNDS

NO RESTRICTION ON HIRING
FOREIGN EMPLOYEES

NO RESTRAINTS OVER
CAPITAL NATIONALITY



STABLE AND
CLEAR REGULATION



- 01. Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre
- 02. One Central
- 03. Dubai International Financial Centre
- 04. Dubai Mall
- 05. Burj Khalifa


 IN THE HEART OF DUBAI'S
 CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT


 HIGHLY CONNECTED VIA
 MAIN ARTERIAL HIGHWAYS


 A GLOBAL GATEWAY, WITH 3 MILLION
 ANNUAL VISITORS FROM 160 COUNTRIES



 ONSITE ACCOMMODATION
 AND HOTELS

Sheikh Zayed Road

Dubai Creek

Dubai Creek

Al Khail Road

DXB Airport 

Dubai's Advantages

Located at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East, South Asia and Africa, Dubai is recognised globally as a critical springboard for business expansion in the region and beyond.

The city has firmly established itself as a leading commercial and trade hub with state-of-the-art infrastructure and a world-class business environment.

As a platform to new markets in the heart of a region that is emerging as a major global economic force, Dubai is the place for companies to compete most effectively, expand successfully and reap the benefits of a talented, diverse workforce.

Home to more than 200 nationalities, it's the Middle East's fastest-growing, most dynamic and exciting cosmopolitan city, and a real melting pot of cultures and lifestyles. It's one of the world's busiest transit hubs and one-third of the world's population is within a four-hour flight.

The UAE is well known for its liberal outlook and commitment to free trade, which is exemplified with the opportunities offered through the DWTC Authority. One-hundred-percent foreign-owned businesses and tax-free repatriation of revenue earnings are two of the main reasons for operating in this environment, where businesses are given the tools to thrive.

A Gateway to the World



1/3 OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION WITHIN 4-HOUR FLIGHT RADIUS



48 NATIONALITIES ARE QUALIFIED FOR 'VISA ON ARRIVAL', SIMPLIFYING TRAVEL



CONNECTED TO 270 DESTINATIONS WORLDWIDE VIA AIRPORTS SERVED BY 140 AIRLINES



DWTC IS 15 MINUTES FROM DUBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND 5 MINUTES FROM THE DUBAI INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE AND DOWNTOWN DUBAI

A man in a dark suit and a woman in a black sleeveless dress are standing at a counter, looking at a document together. The man is pointing at the document. A black suitcase is on the floor in the foreground. The background is a modern office with large windows and a grey wall.

Free Zone Services

Your Single Point of Contact

Registering as a free zone entity in Dubai is a seamless process with the DWTC Authority. The Authority is a one-stop shop and single point of contact for individuals going through the process of setting up a new company or establishing a branch.

The Authority's team assists prospective tenants in navigating all related processes and details, from company registration and licencing to immigration services.

As the single point of contact for tenants, the DWTC Authority works directly with companies to find the best options to meet their individual needs. And with all services under one roof, no time is lost in executing every checklist to get businesses off the ground.

ONE-STOP-SHOP SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ◆ Registration Services
- ◆ Licence Services
- ◆ Immigration Services
- ◆ General Administration Services; including registration maintenance and issuing certificates for any purposes as well as No Objection Certificates



Types of Companies Formed Under the DWTC Authority



**Free Zone
Establishment (FZE)**

A SINGLE SHAREHOLDER



**Free Zone
Company (FZCO)**

MULTIPLE SHAREHOLDERS



A UAE Branch



A Foreign Branch

Registration Services

SET-UP

- ◆ Formation of a new legal entity as a FZE and a FZCO
- ◆ Formation of a branch of an entity lawfully existing outside of the DWTC free zone (whether existing in the UAE or abroad)

OPERATIONAL

- ◆ Amendment of registrations
- ◆ Attestation of documents by registrar
- ◆ Ownership changes and transfer of shares and share capital amendment

Flexible Licencing

The DWTC Authority offers exclusive incentives for branches and new companies who wish to establish themselves in a free zone. Business Operating Permits are also available for existing onshore companies who wish to relocate to the DWTC free zone.

DWTC AUTHORITY LICENCE SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ◆ Issuance and renewal of Licences and Business Operating Permits
- ◆ Amendment of Licence or Business Operating Permit Terms
- ◆ Personalised and seamless procedures throughout the process

The DWTC Authority issues licences under the following broad categories:

COMMERCIAL LICENCE:

Carrying out commercial activities limited to those specified in the licence, which allow the import, export, sale, distribution and storage of items permissible within the licence.

GENERAL TRADING LICENCE:

Carrying out commercial activities across an unrestricted range of activities, products and/or items using this licence, and as such allows for the holder to import, export, sell, distribute and/or store all such categories under this licence.

PROFESSIONAL LICENCE:

Carrying out the services specified in the licence within the Free Zone and elsewhere in the UAE (subject to local licences and permits that may be required in other jurisdictions). These include services such as advisory, general consulting, software implementation, training, human resource services and other services.

EVENT MANAGEMENT LICENCE:

Organising of Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) as well as any Business and Leisure events and the provision of all related goods and services being hosted by an organiser.

BUSINESS OPERATING PERMITS

One of DWTC Authority's unique selling points is the option for locally licenced onshore entities to either relocate or obtain a lease within the Free Zone. This is achieved through the issuing of a Business Operating Permit to entities already licenced by the Dubai Department of Economic Development that want to obtain a lease and operate in the Free Zone.

Immigration Services

The DWTC Authority is here to answer any questions and assist in the process of employment visas, visa cancellation and entry permits – including helping to organise medical examinations for the employee and owner residency permits.

DWTC AUTHORITY IMMIGRATION SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ◆ Issuance of Entry Permits
- ◆ Issuance of Residence Visas
- ◆ Issuance of Visit Visas
- ◆ Issuance of Dependent Residence Visas
- ◆ Medical/Fitness Arrangement/Examination



Commercial Offices



Campus Overview

Commercial office leasing options for new tenants include Dubai's heritage high-rise, Sheikh Rashid Tower, Grade-A office spaces at the Convention Tower and The Offices at One Central.

One Central, the newest addition to the DWTC campus, is located between the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre and Jumeirah Emirates Towers and includes five LEED Gold office buildings. The high-end integrated mixed-use real estate development has premium commercial and retail spaces and boasts seamless connectivity with the existing integrated convention facilities and amenities.

The DWTC campus also includes the fully onsite serviced accommodation at The Apartments as well as the associate onsite hotels, Novotel and Ibis. In the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre, a range of dining, retail and business services provide employees and visitors everything from car rentals and pharmacies to coffee shops and banks.



Office Leasing Overview

DWTC Authority offers some of Dubai's best office leasing options, combined with comprehensive high-end property management and services to tenants.

Offices can come the way you would like them to be: 'shell and core' allows for complete customisation of the space, while 'fitted' and 'ready-to-move-in' options facilitate the relocation process.



One Central



LEED Gold Certified

PREMIUM A-GRADE STRUCTURES



Flexible Floor Plans

PLANNING GRID OF 1.5 X 1.5 M
(4.9 FT X 4.9 FT)



Large Office Spaces

UP TO 5,000 M² (53,820 FT²) PER FLOOR



High Occupational Density

1 PERSON PER 9 M² (97 FT²)

The Offices at One Central are LEED Gold-certified, premium A-Grade structures that have already begun providing exceptional office space in the city's CBD.

Operating within the free zone administered by the DWTC Authority and the flexible floor plans allows companies to optimise the space to suit their needs.

The largest floor plans offer up to 5,000 m² (53,820 ft²) within the LEED Gold-accredited, BCO-compliant office complex. A series of green rooftop gardens is planned for the commercial offices' tenants and occupants, with The Offices 3 building including a signature rooftop restaurant and private terrace. The large floor plans are designed to accommodate one to four tenants and can easily house headquarters, executive offices, sales office or back-of-house service centres.

Each of the five office buildings has its own drop-off area and ample underground parking at a 1-to-46 m² (10-to-500 ft²) ratio. By occupying large, flexible floor plans that benefit from an efficient planning grid of 1.5 m x 1.5 m (4.9 ft x 4.9 ft), companies can achieve a high occupational density of 1 person per 9 m² (97 ft²).

One Central also boasts seamless connectivity with the existing integrated convention and exhibition facilities and amenities, as well as being within a 4-minute walk to the Dubai Metro.

HIGHEST QUALITY STANDARDS AND FLEXIBILITY

- ◆ International Grade-A specifications and LEED Gold Certification
- ◆ International Management Regime in accordance with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- ◆ High quality of common area finishes and green roof terraces
- ◆ Flexibility to hand over as shell-and-core, CAT A or fully fitted

Sheikh Rashid Tower

Dubai's first pioneering high-rise was built in 1979 and remained the region's tallest building for 20 years. Today, the iconic 39-storey tower offers configurable office spaces ranging from 50 m² (538 sq ft) to 1,160 m² (12,486 ft²). The Sheikh Rashid Tower is an integral living piece of Dubai's history and is commemorated on the Dhs100 note.

- ◆ Dubai's iconic and historic first skyscraper, built in 1979
- ◆ Offices from 50 m² (538 sq ft) to 1,160 m² (12,486 ft²)
- ◆ Configurable offices spaces available

Convention Tower

Built in 2003, this Grade-A office building delivers highly desired office spaces with floor-to-ceiling windows with plenty of natural light. The attractive work environment has offices that range from 230 m² (2,476 ft²) to 1,820 m² (19,590 ft²) for the whole floor. Currently, the vast majority of tenants take up one floor per company, as they require extensive facilities.

- ◆ Grade-A office building
- ◆ Floor-to-ceiling windows
- ◆ Offices from 230 m² (2,476 ft²) to 1,820 m² (19,590 ft²)




Getting Started

How It Works

Opening your business with the DWTC Authority is straightforward and simple. The streamlined five-step process begins with you submitting an application along with your initial documents. After receiving approval, we'll then work with you to gather and submit final papers to complete your file. Finally, you'll find your business's new office space, sign the lease and commence operations. We're here to help at every step — and make the process as easy as possible.





Interested in starting the process to relocate to a free zone or establish your business with the DWTC Authority? We're here to help with every step. Contact our team to make your next big move.

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