



home > faqs > company formation & incorporation

## FAQs

### Company Formation & Incorporation FAQs

#### Why incorporate in the BVI?

By incorporating in the BVI, a company gains a wide range of competitive advantages, including:

- Exemption from all local taxes and stamp duty asset security;
- Ability to transfer domicile;
- Protect assets from expropriation or confiscation orders from foreign governments;
- Transfer assets to another company, trust, foundation, association or partnership;
- Merge or consolidate with any other BVI or foreign company in an accommodating jurisdiction;
- Maximum confidentiality and anonymity - availability of bearer shares;
- No requirements to file organizational or accounting information with the Registrar of Companies (except the Memorandum of Articles of Association);
- Share registers available for inspection only by registered shareholders or by order of the BVI Court Statutory flexibility in filing Registers of Directors or Members at their own option [and in their de-registering at any time];
- An incorporation process that takes one or two days;
- Excellent and flexible post-incorporation follow-up services are offered by the BVI government;
- Customized certificates and document verification geared to meet the unique business needs of individual IBCs;
- No disclosure or minimum capital requirements;
- Highly competitive fees and costs

The BVI facilitates an appropriate balance combining anonymity with the option to file such business information as determined by the business needs of the IBC Ease of Operation, Maintenance and Control.

top

#### What functions are IBCs authorized to perform?

Under the International Business Corporations



The Legislative Council  
Chambers of the British  
Virgin Islands

**Are there any activities for which an IBC would require a license in the BVI?**

The following activities, performed by an IBC, would require a license in the BVI:

- Banking or trust business;
- Insurance or re-insurance business including insurance agent or insurance broker;
- Company management

top

**How does a company establish an IBC?**

The IBC registration process is quick and easy. For most companies, the documentation is simple and brief, and the official review and approval are completed in approximately 24 hours. The process for banks, trust companies and insurers is governed by additional, specific laws, and requires more detailed documentation (please see relevant FAQs or legislation related to these subjects).

*in 24 hours*

The first step is to engage a Registered Agent in the BVI. Registered Agents are licensed by the BVI Government specifically to handle the affairs of offshore companies, including company formations. There are more than 70 Registered Agents to choose from, and contact information can be found at: [reg agents](#). For additional information please contact the Registrar of Companies, Mrs. Myrna Herbert.

Once a registered agent is engaged, the next step for companies seeking incorporation is to officially apply. Registered Agents are able to facilitate a quick and easy application. If the applicant is registering a bank, trust company or insurer, local facilities may be needed: the application will require more detailed documentation including a business plan and approval of the appropriate supervisor within the Financial Services Inspectorate. The approval time will depend on the quality of the information provided in the application.

The final step is the payment of statutory fees, which are based on the company's authorized share capital. The fee to incorporate a company with capital up to \$50,000 is \$300; for an IBC with capital of more than \$50,000, the fee is \$1,000.

*US \$ 300*

In addition, the BVI requires an annual license fee, as detailed below:

Authorized Capital	Fee
Up to \$50,000	\$300
Over \$50,000	\$1,000
No authorized capital	\$350
Up to \$50,000 and some or all of the shares have no par value	\$350

top

### **Does the BVI offer any post-incorporation services?**

The following are the standard post-incorporation services provided by the Companies Registry:

- Good standing certificates;
- Certified copies of all corporate documents on file Customized certificates to meet specialized business needs;
- Continuation and/or redomiciliation into or out of BVI;
- Mergers of IBCs and foreign companies;
- Quick searches of all companies registered in the BVI;
- Voluntary dissolution and winding up of IBCs;
- Necessary follow up services in so far as they conform to existing BVI law

A list of fees and service charges for procedures and services such as mergers, consolidations and dissolutions, and the documentation of such procedures, may conveniently be obtained from a Registered Agent.

top

### **Where may I find more information on IBCs?**

A list of Registered Agents can be found on this site in the Financial Services Directory.

For additional information, please contact:

Mrs. Myrna Herbert  
 Registry of Companies, Trademarks & Patents  
 Government of the British Virgin Islands  
 PO Box 418  
 Road Town, Tortola  
 British Virgin Islands  
 Tel: 284 494 5355 or 284 494 5356  
 Fax: 284 494 6331  
 Email: [compreg@fsdbvi.org](mailto:compreg@fsdbvi.org)

top

Act of 1984, IBCs are authorized to perform all the normal corporate functions including:

- Reacquire and reissue their own share(s);
- Issue shares for consideration other than cash, with or without par value, denominated in any currency;
- Have only one subscriber and thereafter only one shareholder;
- Have a single directorate;
- Have corporate directors or shareholders;
- Hold shareholders' or directors' meetings, and maintain books of account, records and minutes outside the BVI (There is no statutory requirement to hold annual general meetings)

top

### **Are there any activities an IBC is not authorized to Perform?**

The BVI government does NOT authorize IBCs to perform the following activities:

- Conduct business with BVI residents;
- Provide registered office or agent facilities for BVI-incorporated companies;
- Own an interest in real property in BVI apart from office leases

However, an IBC may engage in all the following activities, which do not constitute doing business in the BVI:

- Make or maintain deposits with a person carrying on banking business within the BVI;
- Make or maintain professional contact with solicitors, barristers, accountants, bookkeepers, trust companies, administration companies, investment advisers or other similar persons carrying on business within the BVI;
- Prepare or maintain books and records within the BVI;
- Hold meetings of its directors or members in the BVI;
- Hold a lease of property for use as an office from which to communicate with members or where books and records of the company are prepared or maintained;
- Hold shares, debt obligations or other securities in a company incorporated under this ordinance or under the company act;
- Hold shares, debt obligations or other securities in the company owned by any person resident in the BVI or by any company incorporated under this ordinance or under the Companies Act

top