



GLOBAL COMPANIES AND INVESTORS EXPANDING INTO THE MIDDLE EAST? A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO SETTING UP AND DOING BUSINESS IN SAUDI ARABIA

AMICORP GROUP

The Middle East continues to establish itself as a prime investment destination, driven by its strategic geographic location, abundant natural resources, and bold reform initiatives aimed at economic diversification beyond oil. As countries like Saudi Arabia implement Vision 2030 and other forward-looking frameworks, international businesses are finding significant opportunities for growth and partnership.

The Kingdom is positioning itself as a global investment hub. Yet, despite this momentum, navigating the region's diverse sets of regulations, cultural expectations, and licensing requirements can still pose challenges.

MANAGING YOUR BUSINESS SETUP IN SAUDI ARABIA

Amicorp's Riyadh office provides end-to-end support for business establishment and ongoing management:

- **Company Formation:**

Full setup support, including Ministry of Investment ("MISA") licensing, name reservation, Commercial Registration ("CR") issuance, and registration with government authorities.

- **Local Management & Administration:**

Corporate or personal directorships, registered office services, and operational compliance.

- **Premium Residency Assistance:**

Helps attract international executives and investors.

- **Accounting & Reporting:**

Bookkeeping, financial statement preparation, consolidation, and audit support.

- **Corporate Secretarial:**

Entity governance, board meeting support, and statutory documentation.

- **Tax Compliance:**

Assistance with corporate income tax ("CIT"), value-added tax ("VAT"), and withholding tax filing in partnership with licensed tax advisors.

WHY SAUDI ARABIA?

Full Foreign Ownership

Available across a wide range of sectors, with no requirement for a local partner or minimum capital (though SAR 25,000 to 50,000 is typically recommended).

Streamlined Setup

A clear, phased registration process supports efficient, predictable timelines for market entry.

Young, Skilled Workforce

Over 30% of the population is under 29, supported by national investments in education, innovation, and workforce development.

Strategic Global Access

Located at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa, Saudi Arabia offers unmatched regional connectivity and access to over 2 billion consumers.

Diversified Growth Agenda

Driven by Vision 2030, the Kingdom is actively reducing its dependence on oil by investing in tourism, renewable energy, technology, and logistics.

Investor-Friendly Reforms

Special Economic Zones*, corporate tax incentives, 100% repatriation of profits, and regulatory modernization are opening unprecedented opportunities for international investors.



*Access is subject to government invitation and strategic alignment under Vision 2030.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO SET UP IN SAUDI ARABIA

COMPANIES SEEKING 100% FOREIGN OWNERSHIP MUST SUBMIT:

- Secure MISA License
- Reserve Company Name
- Draft and attest Articles of Association ("AOA")
- Obtain CR
- Register with the Chamber of Commerce ("COC")

Note: All documents must be attested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the parent company's country and legalized at the Saudi Embassy or be apostilled.

SETUP TIMELINE: ESTABLISHING A FOREIGN ENTITY IN SAUDI ARABIA

PHASE 1: INITIAL LICENSING & REGISTRATION (3–4 WEEKS)

- Secure MISA License
- Reserve Company Name
- Draft and attest Articles of Association ("AOA")
- Obtain CR
- Register with the Chamber of Commerce ("COC")

PHASE 2: OPERATIONAL READINESS (5–6 WEEKS)

- Issue Company Seal
- Register with the Ministry of Labor
- Enroll with the General Organization for Social Insurance ("GOSI")
- Complete National Address Registration
- Application for General Manager Visa
- Register with Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority for CIT and VAT

PHASE 3: ACTIVATION & COMPLIANCE SETUP (6–10 WEEKS)

- Activate Chamber of Commerce account
- Provide Health Insurance and conduct Medical Check-up
- Issue General Manager's Iqama (residence permit)
- Register on government portals:
 - Muqem (residency services)
 - Absher (e-services platform)
 - QIWA (workforce services)
 - MUDED (employment contracts)
- Assist with Corporate Bank Account Opening

ONGOING COMPLIANCE & SUPPORT

- Portal Management: QIWA, MUDED, Muqem, COC, Absher, GOSI
- Post-Setup Services: HR advisory, payroll, immigration, Saudization compliance
- Office Requirement: A physical presence is required to register and operate in KSA
- Labor Law: Companies must employ a Saudi national professional as the first hire after the GM to remain compliant

TAXATION IN SAUDI ARABIA

- **VAT:** 15%
- **Withholding Tax:** 5–20%
- **Corporate Income Tax:** 20% on net profit



AMICORP SIMPLIFIES SETTING UP AND DOING BUSINESS IN SAUDI ARABIA

From company registration and local compliance to post-setup support, our Riyadh team helps you establish and maintain a fully foreign-owned entity in Saudi Arabia, efficiently and with full transparency.

With more than 30 years of experience supporting international clients, and a growing presence in Saudi Arabia and across the Gulf region, Amicorp ensures your expansion in the Middle East is compliant, operational, and aligned with regulatory frameworks.

To find out how Amicorp can help your company to set up or operate from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, scan the QR code or contact our team [here](#)



PUBLISHED BY AMICORP GROUP – ENGLISH 05/25

Disclaimer: This flyer is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute tax, legal or professional advice. Nothing herein is to be considered as creating a service provider-client relationship between the recipient and Amicorp. Recipients should not act or rely on any information contained in this memorandum without seeking appropriate legal, tax, or other professional advice on the particular facts and circumstances at issue. The information is "AS IS" and Amicorp makes no express or implied representations or warranties or guarantees the completeness, accuracy or timeliness of this information. Your use of this information is at your own risk and responsibility.