



GCC COMPANY SERVICES

Our dedicated company services team provides a full range of company incorporation and company administration services across the GCC. We take a pro-active approach and use our dedicated company services team's significant experience of operating in the GCC region to provide services of an excellent standard at a cost effective basis to timescales which exceed our clients' expectations.

Our GCC company services team supports our clients with a full range of legal services, including company incorporations (both onshore and free zone), branch establishments, applications to renew commercial licences, filing of annual returns and annual accounts, preparing and filing documents in connection with changes to directors, managers, secretaries, shareholders, share transfers and allotments of shares, providing translation and document storage services and providing general advice in connection with corporate governance matters.

Company services and corporate governance

We recognise that incorporating and operating corporate entities across the GCC region can be complex and time consuming for our clients, leaving them with less time to focus on their commercial objectives. We use our significant experience in this field to advise clients on key aspects of their day-to-day GCC operations to lessen the burden on them and to ensure that they are in compliance with local law and that they are adequately protected. We achieve this through the following:

- ▶ **A highly experienced team of experts** – The members of our company services team will work closely with you to ensure that our advice is delivered in a timely manner and is of the highest quality;
- ▶ **Local insight** – The members of our company services team and our wider corporate team have been resident in the region for a number of years and have advised some of the region's most well-known companies;
- ▶ **Quality and pricing** – We are able to offer a superior level of quality of legal advice at a price that is highly competitive in the markets in which we operate. We strive to provide fee solutions which allow our clients to manage their legal spend with confidence and certainty; and
- ▶ **Arabic language skills** – In each of our three GCC offices we have several members of our company services team who are bilingual Arabic and English speakers.

The Addleshaw Goddard corporate team has an impressive depth of regional experience and are well-trusted in relation to complex transactions.

International standards and local expertise

Our GCC company services team comprises lawyers who combine impressive regional and international experience of advising on company services with the advantage of being located on the ground. Our GCC corporate team is thoroughly conversant with local laws and practices.

With offices in Dubai, Doha and Muscat, a close relationship with a highly regarded local law firm in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and an established network of leading law firms in all other key jurisdictions in which we operate throughout the region, we are able to provide company services on behalf of our clients in an efficient and seamless manner through a single point of contact.

In a competitive MENA market, we recognise that technical ability is a given. We develop a deeper understanding of how our clients operate (from both a commercial and legal perspective) and identify ways that genuinely add value.

Typical services which our company services team provide to our clients include:

- ▶ **Incorporations** – we specialise in incorporating onshore, offshore and free zone companies in the region and converting sole establishments to limited liability companies;
- ▶ **License renewals** – we have assisted clients with the renewal of their trade licenses and the addition of activities to their trade licenses;
- ▶ **Powers of attorney** – we frequently assist clients with the issue of new powers of attorney and the formal revocation of outdated powers of attorney;
- ▶ **Directors** – we have advised local clients frequently on the scope of directors' and general managers' duties;
- ▶ **Training** – we have provided bespoke induction and update training to boards, general counsel and legal teams. We have presented locally to a number of clients on anti-bribery and anti-corruption regimes in the region;
- ▶ **Compliance** – we have assisted with the processes of changing general managers, directors and other common governance matters that occur on an annual basis;
- ▶ **General meetings** – we have advised on the law, conduct, procedure and practice in relation company meetings and general managers attending all such meetings where support is required;
- ▶ **Liquidations** – we have advised on the formalities and successfully undertaken many solvent liquidations of corporate entities as part of wider restructuring programmes; and
- ▶ **Reviews** – we have advised on company constitutions, governance procedures (including board committee terms of reference), codes and policies and the adequacy of governance systems and controls.



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