



Bahamas Fact Sheet

GENERAL INFORMATION

Company type	International Business Company (IBC)
Timeframe for company formation	10 days
Governing corporate legislation	Companies in Bahamas are regulated under the IBC Act 2000. The Securities Commission of the Bahamas is the governing authority
Legislation	Modern offshore legislation
Legal system	Common Law
Corporate taxation	A Bahamas IBC is exempt from any form of taxation and withholding taxes in Bahamas
Accessibility of records	Yes (applies to company director/officers only)
Time zone	GMT -5
Currency	Bahamian dollar (BSD)

SHARE CAPITAL

Standard currency	USD (with other currencies permitted)
Standard authorised capital	USD 50,000
Minimum paid up	USD 1

SHAREHOLDERS, DIRECTORS AND COMPANY OFFICERS

Minimum number of Shareholders	1
Minimum number of Directors	1
Locally-based requirement	No
Requirement to appoint Company Secretary	Optional

ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS

Requirement to prepare accounts	No, however as per Section 67. (1) of the IBC Act, a company shall keep such financial statements, accounts and records as the directors consider necessary or desirable in order to reflect the financial position of the company
Requirement to appoint auditor	No
Requirement to file accounts	No
Accessibility of accounts	None

DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

Certified copy of valid passport (or national identity card)
Proof of address (issued within the last 3 months) in English or translated into English

INCORPORATION FEES

Initial set-up and first year	EUR 1590
Per year from second year	EUR 1400

**COUNTRY INFORMATION**

The Bahamas is an English-speaking island country that makes up part of the Caribbean area and is located on an archipelago of 700 islands in the Atlantic Ocean, to the east of Florida and north of Cuba. Its capital is Nassau and the country has approximately 382,000 inhabitants. The Bahamas is an internationally-recognised and renowned offshore centre and it has a large number of banks and financial institutions established there. Offshore companies that are registered in the country are widely used around the globe and benefit from a high level of confidentiality.

POLITICAL STRUCTURE

The Bahamas is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy headed by Queen Elizabeth II in her role as Queen of the Bahamas. Political and legal traditions closely follow those of the United Kingdom and the Westminster system. The two main parties are the Free National Movement and the Progressive Liberal Party. The Bahamas is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations as a Commonwealth realm, retaining the Queen as head of state (represented by a Governor-General). Legislative power is vested in a bicameral parliament, which consists of a 38-member House of Assembly (the lower house), with members elected from single-member districts, and a 16-member Senate, with members appointed by the Governor-General, including nine on the advice of the Prime Minister, four on the advice of the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, and three on the advice of the Prime Minister after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. The House of Assembly carries out all major legislative functions.

ECONOMY

One of the most prosperous countries in the West Indies, the Bahamas relies on tourism to generate most of its economic activity. Tourism as an industry not only accounts for over 60% of the Bahamian GDP, but provides jobs for more than half the country's workforce. After tourism, the next most important economic sector is financial services, accounting for some 15% of GDP. The economy also has a very competitive tax regime. The government derives its revenue from import tariffs, license fees, property and stamp taxes, but there is no income tax, corporate tax, capital gains tax, value-added tax (VAT), or wealth tax. The Bahamas Dollar is on a par with the US Dollar.

POPULATION

The Bahamas has an estimated population of 382,825, of which 25.9% are under 14, 67.2% are 15 through 64, and 6.9% are over 65. The ethnic makeup of the country is African (85%), European (12%), and Asian and Latin Americans (3%).

LANGUAGE

The official language of the Bahamas is English though many residents speak the Bahamian Dialect, a dialect of English known as Bahamian English. Bahamian Creole, an English-based creole language, is also spoken by approximately 400,000 people in the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

COMPANY FORMATION INFORMATION

INCORPORATION PROCEDURE

Upon receipt of the client's KYC documents (passport copy and proof of address issued within the last 3 months) and description of the intended business activity, and after our legal department's due diligence checks, SFM will incorporate the IBC via our Bahamas-based agent as it is necessary for the registered office of the company to be maintained in Bahamas at the address of a licensed management company.

INCORPORATION TIMEFRAME

Ten days.

TRADING RESTRICTIONS

A Bahamian IBC can conduct business with Bahamians and may own real estate in the Bahamas, but local exchange controls and stamp duties are applicable for such cases. IBCs cannot conduct the business of banking, insurance, fund or trust management, collective investment schemes, investment advice, or any other banking or insurance industry-related activity (without an appropriate license or government permission). Moreover, a Bahamian IBC cannot sell its own shares nor solicit funds from the public.

NAME RESTRICTIONS

A Bahamian IBC's name must end with a word, phrase or abbreviation that indicates Limited Liability, such as "Limited", "Ltd.", "Société Anonyme", "S.A.", "Corporation", "Corp.", "Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung" or any relevant abbreviation. Restricted names include those suggesting the patronage of the Royal Family or the Bahamas Government such as, "Imperial", "Royal", "Republic", "Commonwealth", or "Government". Other restrictions are placed on names that have already been incorporated or names that are similar to those that have been incorporated to avoid confusion. Additionally, names that are considered indecent or offensive are also restricted in the Bahamas.

CORPORATE DOCUMENTS LANGUAGE

English