



St Lucia Fact Sheet

GENERAL INFORMATION

Company type	International Business Company (IBC)
Timeframe for company formation	2 to 3 days
Governing corporate legislation	St Lucia International Business Companies Act of 1999 and International Business Companies Regulations, 2000
Legislation	Modern offshore legislation
Legal system	Mixed legal system (Civil and Common Law)
Corporate taxation	A St-Lucia IBC is exempt from any form of taxation and withholding taxes in St-Lucia. Local transactions are taxable
Accessibility of records	There is a public registry and the certificate of incorporation and the memorandum and articles are public information. The registers of directors and members are not recorded at the public registry (but may be filed as an option)
Time zone	GMT -4
Currency	East Caribbean dollar (XCD)

SHARE CAPITAL

Standard currency	USD
Standard authorised capital	USD 50,000
Minimum paid up	None

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 (unless the IBC elects to pay income tax on its net gains)
Requirement to appoint auditor	No (unless the IBC elects to pay income tax on its net gains)
Requirement to file accounts	No
Accessibility of accounts	None

DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

Notarised copy of valid passport in colour
Notarised copy of second government issued identification document, eg. national ID
Notarised proof of address (issued within the last 3 months). Document provided should be in English or accompanied with an official translation into English
Two professional reference letters, one from a lawyer and one from an accountant, originally signed and stamped and printed on official headed paper. Documents provided should be in English or accompanied with an official translation into English
One bank reference letter, originally signed and stamped and printed on official headed paper. Document provided should be in English or accompanied with an official translation into English

INCORPORATION FEES

Initial set-up and first year	EUR 1090
Per year from second year	EUR 990

GOOD TO KNOW

St. Lucia's international financial services industry has sprung up as a result of the country's need to diversify its economic base, which — as a beneficiary of the U.S. Caribbean Basin Initiative, a member of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) — is ripe for substantial expansion and growth.



JURISDICTION INFORMATION

Saint Lucia (also known as St. Lucia) is a sovereign island country located in the eastern Caribbean Sea, where it meets the Atlantic Ocean. Part of the Lesser Antilles, the country is located north/northeast of Saint Vincent, northwest of Barbados, and south of Martinique. It covers a land area of 617 kilometres squared and has an approximate population of 183,600 (2014). Its capital is Castries. In 1979, Saint Lucia became an independent state of the Commonwealth of Nations associated with the United Kingdom, and it is also a member of La Francophonie.

POLITICAL STRUCTURE

Part of the Commonwealth realm, the politics of Saint Lucia takes place in the framework of an independent parliamentary democratic constitutional monarchy, with Queen Elizabeth II as its head of state, represented by a Governor General, who acts on the advice of the Prime Minister and the cabinet. The Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party of the house, and the cabinet conducts affairs of state. The Governor General exercises mostly ceremonial functions, but residual powers, under the constitution, can be used at the Governor General's discretion. The actual power in St. Lucia lies with the Prime Minister and the cabinet, usually representing the majority party in parliament. The Legislature has two chambers: the House of Assembly, which has 17 members elected by universal adult suffrage for a five-year term in single-seat constituencies; and the Senate, which has 11 members appointed by the Governor General. St. Lucia has an independent judiciary composed of district courts and a high court. Cases may be appealed to the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeals and, ultimately, to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London.

ECONOMY

Due to its small size and relative lack of geological resources, Saint Lucia's economy previously relied primarily on the sale of banana crops, and the income generated from tourism, with additional input from small-scale manufacturing. However, the recent change in the European Union import preference regime and the increased competition from Latin American bananas have made economic diversification increasingly important in Saint Lucia. More recently, the country has been able to attract foreign business and investment, especially in its offshore banking and tourism industries, which is now Saint Lucia's main source of revenue.

POPULATION

The estimated mid-year population of Saint Lucia in 2014 is 183,600 and it is evenly divided between urban and rural areas, although the capital, Castries, contains more than one-third of the population. The country's population is predominantly of African descent (85.3% of the total population). The next largest demographic group is of mixed African-European (10.8%) descent, followed by East Indian (2.2%), white (0.6%), and Amerindian/Carib (0.6%) minorities. The remaining 0.5% of the population includes people of Chinese and Middle Eastern descent.

LANGUAGE

The official language of Saint Lucia is English, however, Saint Lucian Creole French, colloquially referred to as "Patwah" (Patois), is spoken by 95% of the population. An Antillean Creole, it is used in literature and music, and is gaining official acknowledgement. As it developed during the early period of French colonisation, the creole is derived chiefly from French and West African languages, with some vocabulary from Carib and other sources. Saint Lucia is also a member of La Francophonie, the international organisation representing countries and regions where French is the first or customary language and/or where a significant proportion of the population are Francophones (French speakers).

TAXATION

An IBC is exempt from taxes, duties, and exchange control in St. Lucia. However, it may elect, if it is necessary as part of its tax planning, to pay income tax at the rate of 1% of net gains.

COMPANY FORMATION INFORMATION

INCORPORATION PROCEDURE

Upon receipt of the client's KYC documents (notarised passport copy, notarised proof of address copy 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 St. Lucia-based agent as it is necessary for the registered office of the company to be maintained in St. Lucia at the address of a licensed management company. Note that the below are the additional required documents for incorporation in Saint Lucia and all documents must be provided in English or accompanied with an official translation into English:

- Notarised copy of second government issued identification document, eg. national ID;
- Two professional reference letters, one from a lawyer and one from an accountant, originally signed and stamped and printed on official headed paper; and
- One bank reference letter, originally signed and stamped and printed on official headed paper.

INCORPORATION TIMEFRAME

Two to three days.

TRADING RESTRICTIONS

A St. Lucia IBC cannot trade within St. Lucia or have any kind of business with residents of the country nor can it own real estate other than for purposes of its own operations. The IBC can also not carry on any activity that requires a licence, such as businesses in relation to banking, trust, insurance, or re-insurance sectors, without that specific licence.

NAME RESTRICTIONS

A St. Lucia IBC's name must end with a word, phrase, or abbreviation that indicates Limited Liability, such as "Limited", "Ltd.", "Corporation", "Corp.", "Société Anonyme", "S.A.", "Aktiengesellschaft", or any relevant abbreviation. Restricted names include those suggesting the patronage of Her Majesty, the Royal family, the Government, or any other local authority 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 cannot contain the words "Assurance", "Bank", "Building Society", "Chamber of Commerce", "Chartered", "Cooperative", "Insurance", or "Municipal", unless an appropriate licence has been obtained.

CORPORATE DOCUMENTS LANGUAGE

English