

Branch Offices for Foreign Companies

A foreign company may set up a branch office in Lebanon. In order to do so, the foreign company must appoint a resident as its representative. The representative may be an employee of the company. He/she must also be its attorney-in-fact with full power to legally represent and have specific power to register the company.

To establish a branch office of a foreign company, a minimum capital is not required. There is also no requirement for a minimum number of partners or shareholders and no requirement for local equity participation; but this branch office must have the same activity as the foreign parent company.

The application for registration must be made in Arabic to the Companies Office at the Ministry of Economy and Trade.

The application to the Ministry of Economy and Trade and to the Register of Commerce must be accompanied by the following documents:

1. Legalized copy of the articles of incorporation of the parent company
2. Legalized decision of the proper corporate authority authorizing the opening of the branch office and appointing its manager.
3. Legalized Power of Attorney granting the appointed manager full authority to manage the branch office
4. Legalized Power of Attorney empowering a local attorney to apply for the registration of the branch office

A branch of a foreign company established in Lebanon is subjected to the Lebanese laws and regulations such as labor, social security and income tax law.