Guernsey Companies FAQs

Which Law Governs Guernsey Companies?
The Companies (Guernsey) Law, 2008

What Types Of Company Are Available?
Companies Limited by Shares, Companies Limited by Guarantee, Incorporated Cell Companies, Protected Cell Companies, Unlimited Companies, Mixed Liability Companies (hybrids).

What Type Of Company Is Preferred For International Transactions?
Any and all types are used (depending on the circumstances) but most commonly a Company Limited by Shares.

What Are The Capital Requirements?
Any currencies are permitted. There is no minimum authorised capital and shares of no par value are permitted.

What Is The Minimum Share Issue?
One share, but see the next question.

Are Shareless Companies Allowed?
Guarantee Companies do not usually have shares, although they may.

What Are The Costs Of Incorporation?
This will vary, depending on your requirements. Please contact us at info@albecq.com for more information.

What Fees Are Paid To The Authorities To Incorporate?
This will depend on your required speed of incorporation, but they start at GBP 100.

What On-Going Fees Are Paid To The Authorities?
The Annual Validation Fee depends on the type of company, but can start at GBP 250 (unless a charity) for Companies with a locally resident director. Companies using a registered Corporate Service Provider, such as Albecq, as their registered agent pay an AVF of GBP 500.

How Are Companies Incorporated?
As a licensed Corporate Services Provider, we incorporate on-line directly with the Guernsey Registry.

Are Ready Made/Shelf Companies Available?
No, but using the fast-track on-line registration service we can incorporate a company in 15 minutes (for a fee), so carrying a stock of shelf companies is unnecessary.

How Long Does It Take To Incorporate A Company?
One day maximum, once all the required information is available. We find that the most common delaying factor is collecting the background information required by the Guernsey regulatory codes. Please look at our 'Guide to Information Requirements' on our website for further details.

What Is The Minimum Number Of Members Or Shareholders Of A Guernsey Company?
Only one shareholder is required, or one member of a shareless company.

Must There Be A Resident Director And Secretary?
There must be a resident agent - either a locally resident director or a Corporate Service Provider such as Albecq. There is no longer any legal requirement for a Guernsey Company to have a Company Secretary, but we normally use Albecq Management Limited as the Secretary of Companies under our administration.

Are Corporate Directors Allowed?
Yes. We normally use Albecq Directors Limited as a director of Companies under our administration.

Are The Details Of The Directors Kept At The Registry?
Yes, each Director is registered and has their own Registered Director code. It is then a simple process for them to become a Director of further companies.

Are "Shadow" Directors Allowed And Are They Also Required To Be Registered?
No, shadow directors are not permitted.

Are Annual Shareholder Meetings Required?
No, provided that a resolution waiving the requirement has been passed. It is common practice to waive the requirement for an AGM, unless the members decide otherwise.

Is There An Annual Filing To The Registry, With Details Of Directors And Members?
Yes; it is an on-line submission by the registered agent. Albecq will manage this process for you.

Must Financial Statements Of A Company Be Audited?
Yes in principle, but there are very broad exemption provisions and many companies elect to be unaudited.

Are Annual Accounts Filed At The Registry?
No.

Are There Any Exchange Control Or Other Financial Restraints?
No.

Is migration of companies permitted?
Yes, and this is a process which we are very familiar with.

Must foreign companies which are administered in Guernsey be registered at the Guernsey Registry?
No.

Are Protected Cell And Incorporated Cell Companies Permitted?
Yes. Guernsey has been at the forefront of developing cellular entities and the Registry has excellent systems for the registration of PCCs and ICCs.

Are Civil Type Foundations Available?
Yes, please see our separate Foundations FAQ sheet.

Are The Regulators Empowered To Request The Production Of Information On The Identity And Background Of Beneficial Owners And Officers?
Yes, via the Resident Agent, under certain circumstances.

Are The Regulators Empowered To Request The Production Of Accounting Information On Companies?
Yes, from the company directly, under certain circumstances.

Can Such Information Be Exchanged With Other Jurisdictions?
Only upon official request or order, only where legal gateways exist, and strictly subject to the rules of those gateways.

For fees for bespoke vehicles such as cell structures, partnerships and foundations, please contact us directly at info@albecq.com.