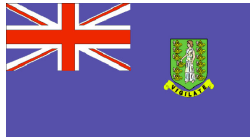




www.ancroftconsultants.com

British Virgin Islands BC Information

- BVI jurisdiction overview
- BVI BC information
- Compliance requirements
- Summary Corporate information



British Virgin Islands jurisdiction overview

The British Virgin Islands is located in the Caribbean, between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, east of Puerto Rico.

The British Virgin Islands (BVI) are a group of 60 islands, which are dependent territory of the UK. English is the official language, and the US dollar is the official currency. The legal system is based on English Common Law.

BVI IBCs (International Business Companies, incorporated under the BVI International Business Companies Act, 1984) became one of the most widely-used offshore corporate entities and are widely recognised by the worldwide financial community.

However, new legislation has recently been introduced to meet the needs of the industry – and a new BVI Business Companies Act ("BVIBC Act") came into effect on 1 January 2005.

Whilst the new Act became effective as of 1 January 2005, there was a two- year transition period during which both the IBC Act and the new Act remained in force.

2007 - On 1st January 2007 all BVI IBCs were automatically re-registered as BVI BCs under the new Act, and the IBC Act was repealed.

The British Virgin Islands BC is still one of the most widely registered company in the world.

BVI BC information

Type of company:

The BVI Business Company (BC)

Procedure to register

Memorandum and Articles of Association are submitted to the Registrar by a licensed Registered Agent to comply with the formation regulations

Time to register

3-5 days

Registered Office Required

Yes and must be maintained in the BVI, at the address of a licensed law firm or licensed offshore agent.

Restrictions on IBC names

Any name that already exists on the Register or is too similar to the existing name, which would cause confusion. Other restricted names include names implicating connections to the Royal family, political party, university, UK or BVI government or any names that may be considered as misleading or offensive.

Language of Legislation and Corporate Documents

English

Type of law

Common law based on English Company Law with local modifications

Principal Corporate legislation

The Companies Act (Cap. 285) and the BVI Business Companies Act, 2004

Restrictions on IBC Trading

Not allowed to trade within the BVI or own real estate in the BVI or undertake the business of insurance, reinsurance, fund management, collective investment schemes, trust, or any activity connected with banking or insurance.

Disclosure of Beneficial Ownership to Authorities

No

Compliance requirements**Taxation**

BVI BC does not pay any tax in the BVI on its worldwide profits to the BVI authorities

Double Taxation Treaties

BVI has treaties with Japan and Switzerland, but the use is restricted in the offshore industry

Authorised and Issued Share Capital

The BVI BC Act abolishes the concept of authorised and issued share capital. This is replaced by a maximum number of shares that the company is allowed to issue. It is a requirement that the Memorandum of the company state the maximum number of shares it is allowed to issue.

Classes of Shares allowed

Registered shares of par value or no par value. Bearer shares are no longer permitted.

Directors

The minimum number of directors is one and they may be natural persons or corporate bodies, and may be of any nationality and do not need to be resident in the BVI.

Company Secretary

Optional, not required; if appointed, can be resident anywhere.

Shareholders

The minimum number of shareholders is one and may be natural persons or corporate bodies, and may be of any nationality and do not need to be resident in the BVI.

Financial Statements/Accounts

There is no official requirement to file accounts with the authorities in the BVI, however a company is required to keep its financial records.

Summary Corporate information

Summary Corporate information	
Type of entity:	BC - Business Company
Type of law:	Common
Time to register the company	3-5 days
Minimum government fees	\$350 USD
Corporate taxation	Nil
Double taxation treaty	Japan and Switzerland
Shelf companies	Available
Share capital	
Standard currency	USD
Minimum paid up	Par value or no par value
Standard authorised	No authorised share capital according to the new Act
Officers	
Directors	One
Local required	No
Shareholders	One
Secretary	Optional
Publicly accessible records	No
Location of meetings	Anywhere
Compliance	
Accounts	Required to prepare but not required to file
Audit	Not required
Annual Return	Not required
Change of domicile	Permitted