

## **. What are the types of entry visas to the Kingdom?**

There are four types of entry visas to the Kingdom:

- Investor visas
- Business visit visas
- Employment visas
- Family visit visas.

## **2. Is it necessary for an investor or his representative to visit the Saudi Embassy/ Consulate to apply for a visa? Or is it possible to obtain the visa via post?**

Yes, it is necessary for the investor or his representative to visit the Saudi Embassy/Consulate to apply for a visa. And it is also possible to obtain the visa via post in some countries like USA and some European countries.

## **3. Is it possible to speed-up the visa requirement formalities in emergency cases?**

Generally yes, but it depends upon the nature of each case.

## **4. What is the percentage of partnership required for becoming an investor, and accordingly, benefit from all services and incentives provided to the foreign investors?**

The Foreign Investment Act provides equal rights to the investment license holders regardless of their partnership percentage. The Foreign investor can own a larger percentage than his Saudi partner, however not less than the minimum percentage required under the Act governing the companies in Saudi Arabia which is minimum 5%.

## **5. What are the charges of Foreign Investment License?**

New License fee = SR. 2,000.  
Modification of License = SR. 1,000.

## **6. Do the GCC nationals have more incentives compared to other foreigners?**

Yes, GCC nationals are allowed to practice wholesale and retail trade, which falls within the exception list, and thereby not open for foreign investment.

## **7. Is there a limit to the number of partners at the registration of a foreign investment company?**

No, there is no limit.

## **8. Is SAGIA License Regulation controlled by the company registration in the Kingdom?**

Yes, it is.

**9. Should the foreign owned company also have to comply with the Saudization percentage directed by the Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs?**

Yes, it should comply.

**10. What are the sectors of economy available for investors and can be licensed by "SAGIA"? And what is the minimum capital requirement needed for each activity.**

The law permits foreigners to invest in all sectors of economy, except for specific activities contained in the negative list.

In respect to the capital requirements needed, these are as follows:

SR.100,000 for individual establishments

SR. 500,000 for companies

SR.1,000,000 for industrial projects

SR.25,000,000 for agricultural projects.

**11. How much time is needed to complete the formalities for obtaining a visa?**

Investor visas - one to two days

Business visit visas - one to two days

Employment visas - three weeks

Family visit visas - one day.

**12. What are the documents required for obtaining family visa?**

Following documents are required:

a) Duly filled Visa Request Form

b) Copy of Investors License

c) Photocopy of all the pages of valid passport and Iqama (identity card)

d) Original passport and iqama for verification.

**13. Is it permissible to use Business visa for employment purposes?**

No, it is not permissible to use a Business visa for employment purposes.

**14. Is there any minimum wage?**

At present there is no such law.

**15. Are there trade unions and worker associations in the Kingdom?**

Labor authorities have passed a new regulation allowing workers in different sectors to form their associations and committees to handle various labor issues in cooperation with their employers.

**16. How can workers/professionals be hired?**

Through newspaper advertisements, internet job sites or recruitment agencies spread all over in the Kingdom.

**17. Can the foreign investor sponsored by his licensed project, keep his passport and finalize the procedures for himself and his family members at the passport department by himself ?**

Under the new Foreign Investment Act, the owner or the foreign partner in a licensed project has the right to keep his passport and himself finalize the procedures for himself and his family members at the passport department.

**18. If the resident owns two (or more) investment licensed projects, will his sponsorship be on one or both of these?**

His sponsorship will be on the first project and may be transferred to the second project in case of cancellation of the first one.

**19. What are the percentage of taxes imposed on the foreign investor and the Saudi partner? Are there any tax incentives offered to the foreign investor in case of establishing a joint venture with a Saudi national or company?**

According to the New Tax Law, the percentage is fixed at 20% on profit while indefinite losses are carried forward to the next year. The Saudi partner will have to pay 2.5% zakah as tax.

**20. How to fulfill the capital requirements, should it be monetary or in kind? Is the resident foreign investor required to bring capital from outside the Kingdom?**

The capital manifested in the license is assigned for the construction and operation of the project. The annual budget and the Settlement of Zakat and Income Tax Department can verify it. Its source is left for the investor to decide.

**21. Is the company commercial naming process, controlled by the regulation in effect at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry?**

Yes, the company commercial naming process is controlled by the regulation in effect at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.