

MISA Investment Registration Checklist for Foreign Investors in Saudi Arabia

Prepare the right application.
Identify the conditions that apply to your investment.

An independent Arabian Horizon resource

Purpose and terminology

Use this checklist to identify your investor route, organise application information and documents, and confirm activity-specific conditions before applying. Investment registration replaces the investment licensing procedure under the updated Investment Law.

How to complete it

Tick an item when the stated task is complete. Retain the evidence or authority’s response. A tick on a conditional item means you have confirmed whether it applies and dealt with it accordingly.

Classification	Meaning
Official Requirement	A rule confirmed in the cited official source, within its stated scope.
Conditional Requirement	A confirmed requirement applying only to the stated investor, activity or route.
Recommended Preparation	A practical preparation step; not a universal government filing requirement.
Requires Confirmation	Obtain a case-specific answer or clarification before relying on it.

Sources checked and last updated: 09 October 2026 (Saudi Arabia).
Original Arabian Horizon guidance. Not government-issued, government-approved or an eligibility decision.

1. Investor route and eligibility

- ☐ **Official Requirement** Register with MISA before engaging in investment where the registration requirement applies. Investments in securities governed by the Capital Market Law are excepted.
- ☐ **Conditional Requirement** Identify your applicant category: legal entity, foreign company or Premium Residency holder. Confirm whether a special registration route applies.
- ☐ **Conditional Requirement** For a GCC investor, check the full ownership chain. GCC citizens and wholly GCC-owned companies apply through the Ministry of Commerce; foreign ownership in a GCC company changes its treatment.
- ☐ **Requires Confirmation** If your investor status is not covered by the standard categories, ask MISA to confirm your applicable route before preparing an application.

2. Business activity, ownership and restrictions

- ☐ **Recommended Preparation** Write the actual Saudi activities, products/services and revenue model; match them to the official activity descriptions before choosing a category.
- ☐ **Conditional Requirement** Confirm the applicable capital, Saudi participation and other activity-specific conditions with MISA.
- ☐ **Requires Confirmation** Obtain MISA's current available/restricted/prohibited classification and the applicable approval route for each proposed activity.
- ☐ **Conditional Requirement** Apply through MISA for approval before investment in an excluded activity. MISA refers the application to the competent authority; approval must not be assumed.
- ☐ **Conditional Requirement** Apply through MISA for approval before changing ownership in a restricted activity. MISA refers the application to the competent authority.

Recommended Preparation

Record the chosen activity/category, proposed shareholders and percentages, any required Saudi participation, applicable capital condition and additional approval authority. Keep MISA's clarification with this record.

Your route record

Applicant category: _____
Proposed activity / code: _____
Ownership structure: _____
MISA clarification reference / date: _____

3. Information required for registration

Conditional Requirement - provide the information applicable to your applicant type. Eligibility must be assessed separately.

Applicant	Information to prepare
☐ Natural person	Name, residence, nationality, economic activity, capital, expected contribution and other information/documents required for the selected service.
☐ Legal person	Enterprise name, incorporation/residence locations, business/activity scope, capital, expected contribution and owner/shareholder/controller or ultimate-beneficial-owner particulars, plus other information/documents required for the selected service.

4. Documents for the applicable route

Each row below is a **Conditional Requirement**. Apply the stated scope and confirmed exemptions; this is not a universal attachment list.

Document / check	Confirmed scope and source
☐ Foreign commercial register	Participating foreign establishment's register: Saudi Embassy certification specified.
☐ Financial statements	Applying foreign company's last fiscal year: Saudi Embassy authentication specified.
☐ GCC partner ID	GCC individual partner's identity copy if their data is not registered in Absher.
☐ Relevant exemption	Premium Residency holders are exempt from submitting the foreign commercial register and financial statements. Confirm the exemption's scope, including any GCC partner ID requirement, and the residency evidence needed for your application.
☐ Activity / category evidence	Supply the applicable activity and special-category requirements.

Authentication and translation

Requires Confirmation

Confirm translation and authentication requirements for your selected service and receiving authority. Certified translations are required for the specified documents under the non-Saudi company real-estate ownership registration service. Do not assume the same language requirements apply to every route.

- ☐ **Requires Confirmation** Confirm the certification/authentication route with the relevant Saudi mission for your issuing country. Use the requirements of the selected service.
- ☐ **Recommended Preparation** Reconcile names, ownership and figures; keep clear scans. Gather any representative authority, board decisions or other records only as required for your selected route.

5. Application preparation and submission

- ☐ **Recommended Preparation** Review the chosen service and its current attachment list. Use the Invest Saudi portal linked in the official references for electronic applications.
- ☐ **Official Requirement** Complete the Ministry's declarations, including the validity of the submitted information and documents.
- ☐ **Recommended Preparation** Save the application reference and submission copy. Assign one person to monitor messages and maintain a response log.
- ☐ **Conditional Requirement** Supply additional information MISA requests when your submission is insufficient or incorrect.

6. Fees, deadlines and processing

Topic	What is supported / what to confirm
Fees	Requires Confirmation The registration fee is determined by MISA upon approval. Obtain the official charge and payment instructions for your application.
Payment deadline	Requires Confirmation Published payment instructions contain differing deadlines. Obtain written confirmation of the deadline for your application and record the payment notification date. Do not assume the longer period applies.
Registration notification	Conditional Requirement For available activities, MISA must notify the applicant of registration within 10 working days after all registration requirements are satisfied. This is not a full business-setup timeline.
Incomplete application	Conditional Requirement MISA must give the applicant at least 15 working days to provide requested information or documents. Respond by the notified deadline; failure to provide them results in cancellation.
Restricted / special route timing	Requires Confirmation Ask for your approval sequence and applicable service timing. Do not apply the available-activity notification period to every route.

Recommended Preparation

Before payment or submission, record the official instruction, date, application/service reference, response deadline and responsible person. Distinguish registration charges from formation, permits and professional-service costs.

7. Formation, approvals and ongoing duties

- ☐ **Conditional Requirement** After registration notification, complete commercial registration and obtain the necessary licences from competent authorities. These are separate stages.
- ☐ **Requires Confirmation** Identify the appropriate company/branch route, sector approvals and operational permissions with the relevant authorities. Confirm any tax, employment or premises registrations for your project; this document does not prescribe their detailed requirements.
- ☐ **Official Requirement** Submit annual updates of registration declarations, any additional declarations required by MISA and changes to registered information. Assign a calendar owner.
- ☐ **Requires Confirmation** For an expansion, confirm the applicable ownership, activity or entity-data amendment service before changing registered details.

8. Final application readiness assessment

Recommended Preparation - tick one status per row. Record the evidence, action owner and next step in the notes. Mark a non-applicable conditional item in the notes with its reason.

Readiness item	Why it matters	Status	Notes / action
Applicant route confirmed	Avoids an unsuitable application.	☐ Not started ☐ In progress ☐ Completed	
Activity / ownership checked	Identifies conditions and restrictions.	☐ Not started ☐ In progress ☐ Completed	
Approval route established	Addresses excluded or regulated activities.	☐ Not started ☐ In progress ☐ Completed	
Information and documents ready	Supports complete, consistent filing.	☐ Not started ☐ In progress ☐ Completed	
Authentication / language settled	Uses the correct service requirements.	☐ Not started ☐ In progress ☐ Completed	
Fees and deadlines confirmed	Establishes the payment and response schedule.	☐ Not started ☐ In progress ☐ Completed	
Submission and response owner set	Keeps correspondence controlled.	☐ Not started ☐ In progress ☐ Completed	
Post-registration plan assigned	Prepares formation and ongoing compliance.	☐ Not started ☐ In progress ☐ Completed	

Assessment: Prepare to submit when the applicant route, activity conditions, filing evidence and payment/response instructions are established. Resolve outstanding approval or document questions first. A completed checklist does not establish official eligibility or authorise operations.

Official references

The official publications used for this checklist are linked below. Relevant sections were checked on **09 October 2026 (Saudi Arabia)**.

MISA Investor Guide, 13th edition 02-2026

Sections 3.1.1-3.1.2 and 5: documents, translation, exemptions, differing payment periods and activity conditions. Sections 3.2.4, 3.2.7 and 3.2.8: amendments.

MISA official FAQs

Applicant categories, GCC treatment, documents, electronic application and authentication/translation guidance.

Updated Investment Law

Articles 7 and 8: registration and excluded activities. Q&A; 1.4 and 2.2: registration terminology and subsequent permissions.

Investment Law Implementing Regulations

Articles 11-13: application information, declarations, notification and annual updates. Articles 15-20: excluded activities.

Invest Saudi application portal

Use the electronic application portal and confirm the live filing list for your chosen route.

Scope

This checklist covers the cited public guidance. Detailed authenticated application screens were not reviewed. Confirm the filing list and case-specific instructions with MISA before submission.

Next steps

- ☐ **Recommended Preparation** Send MISA your investor category, ownership structure and proposed activity when requesting a clarification. Retain its written answer and check the live requirements before submission.

Arabian Horizon

For help understanding the registration and business setup process, share your proposed activity, applicant profile and document questions.

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Informational disclaimer

This checklist is provided for general informational purposes and is not legal, tax, financial or regulatory advice. Applicable requirements depend on the investor's circumstances, business activity and current regulations. Verify the latest requirements with the relevant Saudi authorities before making decisions or submitting applications.

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