

Procedure for Establishment Of Free Zone Development Projects and Enterprises

An investor who wishes to establish as a free zone developer or set up an enterprise in the Ghana Free Zones will require various licences and permits to enable him operate. The Ghana Free Zones Authority provides a “one-stop approval service” to investors to assist them complete formalities for the establishment of free zone investment projects.

The formalities that should be fulfilled by the investor to enable him/her set up a Free Zone enclave or enterprise are stated as follows:

1. Location of Zone Operations

Free Zone enclaves and enterprises can be located anywhere in Ghana upon the approval of the Ghana Free Zones Authority (GFZA).

Procedures/ Requirements

- a. The Ghana Free Zones Authority (GFZA) may identify or make available land for zone creation and development.
- b. An investor may lease properties or propose properties he/she already owns for the development and/ or operation of a free zone.

2. Developer's Licence

Any investor wishing to establish as a zone developer in Ghana must obtain a Developer's Licence.

Procedures/Requirements

- a. The developer should incorporate a company or partnership in Ghana.
- b. The developer should obtain and complete the GFZA Form 4 and submit it with required attachment to the Secretariat of the Board.
- c. The GFZA shall notify the developer of the status of his/her application for license within 28 working days of receipt of application.

- d. A Developer's Licence shall be issued to the successful applicant who should commence activities within six months of approval.
- e. A Developer's Licence fee of US\$ 5,000.00 or its equivalent in cedis shall be charged by the GFZA in the first instance and a renewal fee of US\$ 4,000.00 or its cedi equivalent paid annually by the developer.

3. Enterprise Licence

Investors wishing to set up enterprises (for Manufacturing, Commercial or Service activities) must obtain the relevant Enterprise Licence.

Procedure/ Requirements

- a. The investor(s) should incorporate a company or partnership in Ghana.
- b. The investor(s) should show evidence of possession or lease of real property or intent to acquire such property.
- c. Depending on the activity to be undertaken, the applicant should obtain and complete GFZA Form 3 and submit it with the required attachments to the Secretariat of the Board.
- d. The GFZA shall notify the investor of his/her application for License within 28 working days.
- e. An Enterprise License specifying authorized activity to be undertaken by the applicant shall be issued to the successful applicant who shall commence activities within 6 months of approval.
- f. An Enterprise License fee of
 - US\$3,000 - Manufacturing
 - US\$4,000 - Service
 - US\$10,000 - Commercial
 - US\$5,000 - Developer

or its equivalence in Cedis shall be charged by the GFZA in the first instance and a renewal fee of

- US\$2,500 - Manufacturing
- US\$3,000 - Service

US\$5,000 - Commercial

US\$4,000 - Developer

or its equivalence in Cedis paid annually by the Enterprise Operator.

4. Construction Requirements

- a. Developers and enterprises must erect suitable perimeter fences and enclosures.
- b. Free Zone Enterprises must erect fences and/or enclosures, which shall be at least 2.5m high.
- c. A free zone factory building should be located at least 3mm inside the enclosure

5. Health & Safety Requirements

Free Zone Developers and Enterprises must comply with health, safety and environmental requirements of Ghana.

- a. Free Zone investors should comply with: Factory, Offices and Shops Act (1970) on health, safety and other standard requirements; and environmental regulations, standards, procedures and requirements of Environmental Protection Agency.
- b. The GFZA shall register free zone developers and enterprises with:
 - I. Factory Inspectorate Department
 - II. Environmental Protection Agency
 - III. Town and Country Planning
 - IV. Metropolitan & District Assemblies
- c. Free Zone developers and enterprises are required to permit periodic checks by the afore-mentioned bodies.

6. Electricity Supply

Application may be submitted through the GFZA for approval of Power Distribution Services, Ghana. Total consumption and load requirements in Kw/hr should be indicated.

7. Water Supply

Application for water supply in excess of 20,000 liters/day may be submitted through the GFZA for approval of Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL).

8. Application For Telephone, Telex & Telefax Services

Application(s) may be made through the GFZA for consideration of the Vodafone Ghana.

9. Entry Visa

All Free Zone investors, representatives and employees must secure entry visa to Ghana.

Procedures/Requirements

- a. Entry permit may be obtained from a Ghana Embassy or High Commission abroad.
- b. A temporary entry permit may be obtained on arrival at a point of entry in Ghana, upon prior notification of GFZA.

10. Work & Residence Permits

All foreign employees of Free Zones shall require work and residence permits.

Procedures/Requirements

- a. Application for work and residence permits should be submitted to the GFZA at least 2 months prior to the intended date of employment.
- b. Any such application should be accompanied with a medical certificate of the prospective employee.
- c. Applicable fees are as follows:
 - 1st & 2nd year - US\$ 450
 - 3rd & 4th year - US\$ 800
 - 5th and thereafter - US\$ 1,500

- d. Work permits shall not exceed 24 months in duration, will not be transferable and the fees not refundable.

11. Customs Declaration Form

A Free Zone Customs Declaration Form 9 shall be purchased at the cost of **US\$100.00/US\$50.00** or its equivalent in cedis for importation of goods/services into a single-factory free zone or a free zone enclave. The "Form 9", together with the relevant Bill of Lading or Airway Bill, shall be endorsed by the Ghana Free Zones Authority Secretariat before clearing of goods/services.