

Introduction

The BVI (British Virgin Islands) are situated in a sub-tropical climate just 60 miles east of Puerto Rico and adjacent to the US Virgin Islands. Road Town on the main island of Tortola is the Capital. The B.V.I. are a dependent territory of Britain. The Islands' Governor is appointed in London and presides over the Executive Council which consists of an elected chief minister, his attorney general and three other ministers. The islands are largely self governing with a 12 member legislative council.

With 17,000 inhabitants the islands run boasts two thriving economies, tourism and offshore Investment. Major world banks and state of the art communications make the B.V.I. an ideal offshore financial centre.

General Information.

Currency:	The US Dollar is the general currency in circulation.
Minimum Capital:	There are no exchange controls or restrictions upon movement of funds. US\$ 50,000
Capital duty:	Capital of US\$ 50,000 = US\$ 300 payable US\$ 50,001 and over = US\$ 1,000 payable.
Availability of shelf Co's:	Yes
Bearer / nil par value shares:	Nil par value shares and bearer shares are permitted.
Shareholders:	Minimum of one shareholder. No maximum number.
Directors:	Minimum of one Director. Corporate Directors are permissible. No residential restrictions apply to Directors.
Secretaries:	Whilst not a legal requirement, Company Secretaries are permissible and can be corporate entities. No residential restrictions.
Company Registers / Records:	A Register of Members and a Register of Directors are optional, Copies of these should be kept at the Registered Office, together with an impression of the company seal.
Registered Office:	A Registered Office and a Registered Agent must be maintained within the BVI.
Statutory Submissions:	There is no requirement to file annual accounts or any form of Annual Return.
Double Taxation Treaties:	None to date.
Directors Meetings / AGM's	No restrictions or requirements upon where meetings are held.
Public Records:	Details of the Registered Agent and Registered Office are available for public scrutiny, together with copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association.
Annual Government Fees/Duties:	US\$ 300 on companies with Authorised Capital of less than US\$ 50,000.
Advantages:	Highly popular jurisdiction for holding company. There is no income, capital gift or estate taxes. One of the oldest of the Caribbean jurisdictions, therefore a tested legal system.

No accounts are required for BVI companies, and names can be approved in approximately three days

Disadvantages:

British Colonial status is perceived to allow exchange of Information with UK Authorities. Previous financial scandals have tainted its reputation in certain quarters (particularly in the US). Lack of Public Registers means that clear beneficial ownership can be difficult to establish in the event of dispute.

Other useful Information:

Bearer Shares:

Immobilisation. As of 31st December 2004, bearer shares shall be held by authorised or recognised custodians, who will be persons approved by the Financial Services Commission ("FSC) in accordance with the Financial Services Commission Act2001.

Increase in registration and annual fees. IBC's that may issue bearer shares as per their M&A's shall pay an annual license fee of US\$1,000.00.

MURPHY THOMPSON MOORE LLP

++44 161 835 2080

WWW.MTMLEGAL.CO.UK

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