

Introduction

Panama, officially the **Republic of Panama**, is the southernmost country of Central America. Situated on an isthmus, Panama is a transcontinental nation which connects North America and South America. It borders Costa Rica to the northwest, Colombia to the southeast, the Caribbean Sea to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the south.

The Panamanian currency is the Balboa, fixed at parity with the United States dollar. In practice, however, the country is dollarised; Panama mints its own coinage but uses US dollars for all its paper currency. Panama is one of three countries in the region to have dollarized their economies, with the other two being Ecuador and El Salvador.

General Information.

Type of Company:	Panama Non Resident.
Currency:	\$ US Dollar.
Minimum Capital:	US \$10,000 divided into 100 shares of \$1.00 each.
Capital duty:	The minimum paid up duty is \$1.00.
Availability of shelf Co's:	Yes.
Bearer / nil par value shares:	Bearer shares are not permitted. Non-voting shares, preferred shares and registered shares.
Shareholders:	A minimum of one shareholder is required.
Directors:	A minimum of three directors are required, natural persons or corporate bodies are permitted.
Secretaries:	A Secretary is required in this jurisdiction, natural persons or corporate bodies
Registered Office:	A Registered Office must be maintained in Panama.
Statutory Submissions:	Although Panamanian companies must keep financial accounts, there is however no requirements to file an annual return or company accounts with the Panamanian authorities.
Double Taxation Treaties:	Panama is not party to any double taxation agreements.
Directors Meetings / AGM's	AGM's can be held anywhere outside of Panama.
Public Records:	Details of the Registered Office, registered agent and a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association,
Annual Government Fees/Duties:	Annual Franchise tax of US \$250 is payable.

Advantages:

Companies can be registered in 24 hours. No corporation tax is due on non-Panamanian source of income.

Disadvantages:

Panama is not considered to be a popular jurisdiction due to more popular jurisdictions available. A minimum of three directors is required which would not suit most.

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