



Fact Sheet

IBC's – International Business Companies

Following the introduction of the International Business Companies Act in 1990, Belize has become one of the most competitive centres for the incorporation of international business companies (IBC's) - which offer unparalleled advantages in terms of tax and investment planning, business management and cost-effectiveness.

What can IBC's be used for?

An IBC can be used for a wide range of applications, such as:

- financial management
- investment holdings
- ship or property ownership
- share ownership
- leasing of assets
- intellectual property
- copywriting and licensing revenues
- international trading
- consulting services
- financial services (with license)

Why Belize?

Although there are several offshore centres in which IBC's can be incorporated, Belize ranks highly when applying all of the relevant criteria:

- political stability.
- modern and flexible legislation.
- sovereign and independent country.
- full exemption from taxes.
- fast and efficient incorporation.
- experienced professional support staff.
- excellent telecommunications.
- a sound system of courts based on English Common Law similar to the British model but with the Caribbean Court of Justice as the final Court of Appeal.
- Westminster style parliament.
- fast and efficient incorporation.

Key features of a Belize IBC:

The Belize legislation offers some of the most flexible features available today with very minimum requirements for incorporation.

These include:

- only one subscriber/shareholder (which may be corporate).
- may have only one director (which may be corporate and reside outside Belize).
- no public record of directors, shareholders or beneficial owners.
- registered or bearer shares allowed.
- shares can be issued with or without par value.
- no statutory accounting or audit records need be kept or filed in Belize.
- no minimum capital requirements.
- annual Government fee is only \$100 (when authorised share capital is \$50,000 or less).

Restrictions on IBC activities:

There are very few restrictions on the activities of a Belize IBC. At present, an IBC may not:

- carry on business with residents of Belize.
- own real estate in Belize.
- carry business as a bank or insurance/ re-insurance company, agent or broker or any other activity that requires a special license.
- provide a registered office for other companies.

Note: All IBC's must maintain a Registered Agent and a Registered Office in Belize.



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Requirements for Company Names:

The word "Limited", "Corporation", "Incorporated", "Society Anonyme", or "Sociedad Anonima", or "Aktiengesellschaft" or the abbreviation "Ltd.", "Corp", "Inc", or "S.A." or "A.S." or "A.G." must be part of the name of every company incorporated as an international business company, but a company may use and may be legally designated by either the full or the abbreviated form.

No company shall be incorporated with a name that:

- (a) is identical with that under which a company in existence is already incorporated under this Act or registered under the Companies Act or so nearly resembles the name as to be calculated to deceive, except where the company in existence give its consent; or
- (b) contains the words "Building Society", "Chamber of Commerce", "Chartered", "Cooperative", "Imperial", "Municipal", "Royal", ".com" or a word conveying a similar meaning, or any other word that, in the opinion of the Registrar, suggests or is calculated to suggest; or
 - (i) the patronage of Her Majesty or that of a member of the Royal Family; or
 - (ii) a connection with the Government of Belize or a department thereof,

Except with the approval of the Registrar in writing; or

- (c) is indecent, offensive or, in the opinion of the Registrar, objectionable; or
- (d) contains the word "Assurance", "Bank", "Insurance", "Trust", "Fund", "Investment Management", "Foreign Exchange", "Forex" or any or their derivatives or cognate expressions, unless it is licensed under an enactment authorizing it to carry on such business activities.