



CORP SERVICE | COMPLIANCE | HR ADVISORY

# BVI VS CAYMAN COMPANY SETUP

Prepared by AVA in Jan 2026



# BVI COMPANY REGISTRATION BENEFITS



## Tax Advantages

Offshore operations are exempt from corporate income tax, capital gains tax, and value-added tax. Only an annual licence fee is payable. If operating locally, corporate income tax is levied at 15%.



## Privacy Protection

Very high level of confidentiality. Beneficial owner information is registered only with regulatory authorities and is not publicly disclosed. Shareholder information is not required to be made public.



## Ease of Incorporation

No strict restrictions on industry or nationality. A single individual may act as both shareholder and director. No paid-up capital is required, and the entire process can be completed remotely.



## Operational Flexibility

No mandatory requirements for annual general meetings or board meetings. Corporate governance rules can be customized independently, with convenient daily maintenance.



## Legal Environment

Based on English common law, with a well-established, flexible, and streamlined legal system that enjoys strong international credibility.



## Suitable Business Uses

Highly suitable for holding structures, international trade, intellectual property holding, and family wealth management structures.





# HOW TO ACHIEVE IT



## REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Legal Entity:** The company has independent legal personality, with shareholders bearing limited liability.
2. **Company Structure:** At least one director and one shareholder are required (they may be the same individual or corporate entity), with no restrictions on nationality or place of residence.
3. **Capital Requirements:** No minimum registered capital is required. Shares may be issued in any currency.
4. **Company Name:** Flexible naming rules. Both English and Chinese names are permitted (with corresponding translations).
5. **Business Scope:** The company may engage in any lawful business activities. Special government approval is required for regulated industries such as finance, banking, and insurance.
6. **Local Requirements:** Applications must be submitted through a licensed BVI registered agent, and a local registered office address in the BVI is required.

## COMPANY INFORMATION

- ☐ Proposed company name(s) (at least 3 options recommended)
- ☐ Brief description of the company's business activities  
\*The more detailed and clear, the better. E.g. nature of business, type of trade, products involved
- ☐ Countries and regions where the business will operate
- ☐ Source of funds  
\*Must be traceable, e.g.
  1. Salary earned from XX company in XX position over XX years;
  2. Investment income obtained from XX industry in XX country
- ☐ List of directors and shareholders of the company

## ULTIMATE BENEFICIAL OWNER (UBO) INFORMATION

- ☐ By default, the UBO is the shareholder.  
\*If there are alternative arrangements, please contact us for further handling.

## DIRECTOR & SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION

- ☐ Scanned copy of passport
- ☐ Proof of address issued within the last 3 months (Only utility bills or bank statements are accepted)
- ☐ Email address and phone number
- ☐ Current occupation and employer

### Additional Requirements for Corporate Shareholders

- ☐ Certificate of Incorporation
- ☐ Memorandum and Articles of Association
- ☐ Register of Members (ROM) and Register of Directors (ROD)
- Ultimate Beneficial Owner (UBO) information, including:
  - ☐ Passport copy, proof of address, email address, phone number, and source of funds

# BVI COMPANY REGISTRATION PROCESS



# ADVANTAGES OF REGISTRATION



## Well-Established and Familiar Common Law System

Based on English common law, the legal framework is stable and predictable, and is highly trusted by the international business community.



## High Level of Confidentiality and Flexibility

The company's constitutional documents are private and not publicly disclosed. Shareholder information is also not open to the public. Share structures are highly flexible, including the ability to issue no-par-value shares.



## Simple Maintenance and Flexible Governance

Unless the company is a regulated entity (such as a bank or fund), exempted companies are not required to file audited accounts or hold mandatory annual general meetings. Meeting locations are not restricted.



## High International Recognition

As a world-renowned offshore financial hub, Cayman companies are recognized by major exchanges like NASDAQ and New York Stock Exchange, and serve as a preferred vehicle for cross-border listings and international investment & financing structures.



## Highly Attractive Tax-Neutral Regime

The Cayman Islands operates a comprehensive zero-tax system, with no corporate income tax, capital gains tax, dividend tax, or inheritance tax. Companies may apply to the government for a tax undertaking, guaranteeing tax-exempt status for up to 30 years.



## Free Movement of Capital

There are no foreign exchange controls. Funds may be freely remitted in and out in any currency, facilitating global capital operations.



## → REQUIREMENTS, DOCUMENTS

# HOW TO ACHIEVE IT



## REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Company Type:** Mainly Exempted Companies, designed for operations outside the Cayman Islands. They are the preferred vehicle for international investment, holding structures, and listings. The company has independent legal personality, with shareholders bearing limited liability.
2. **Company Structure:** At least one director and one shareholder are required (they may be the same individual or corporate entity), with no restrictions on nationality or residence. (The registered agent may also serve as a director if needed.)
3. **Capital Requirements:** No minimum paid-up capital is required. The standard authorized share capital is usually USD 50,000.
4. **Company Name:** 1–3 English alternative names should be prepared for name reservation. Company names usually end with "Limited" or "Ltd."
5. **Registered Office:** A registered office in the Cayman Islands is required, provided by a licensed registered agent.

## COMPANY INFORMATION

- ☐ Proposed 2–3 company names (e.g., XXX Ltd.)
- ☐ Company business activities
  - \*Description of business activities: approximately 100 words outlining your project
- ☐ Countries/regions where the business will operate
- ☐ Source of funds
  - \*must be traceable, e.g.:
    - 1. Salary earned from previous employment in a specific position for several years;
    - Investment income from a specific industry in a certain country
- ☐ Registered capital

\*if no special requirements, default is USD 50,000

## DIRECTOR & SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION

- ☐ Copy of passport
- ☐ Proof of address issued within the last 3 months (bank statement or utility bill)
- ☐ Email address and phone number
- ☐ Background information (most recent/current work experience)

### Additional Requirements for Corporate Shareholders

- ☐ Certificate of Incorporation
- ☐ Memorandum and Articles of Association
- ☐ Register of Members (ROM) and Register of Directors (ROD)
- ☐ Ultimate Beneficial Owner (UBO) information: passport, proof of address, email, phone number, and source of funds

# REGISTRATION PROCESS



## 01 Appoint a Licensed Registered Agent

- Choose and appoint a licensed agent to handle the registration process.



## 02 Confirm Company Structure & Details

- Determine the company name, type, capital structure, and director/shareholder details with the agent. The agent also provides company secretary services and a local registered office.



## 03 Prepare and Sign Registration Documents

- The agent drafts the full set of statutory documents, including the Articles of Association, board/shareholder resolutions, and registration forms, for client review and signature.



## 04 Submit Application & Pay Fees

- The agent submits the signed documents to the Cayman Islands Registrar of Companies and pays the first-year government licence and related official fees on behalf of the client.



## 05 Receive Complete Registration Documents

- Upon successful registration, the client receives the full set of company documents, including the Certificate of Incorporation, Articles of Association, register of members, share certificates, company seal, and records of the first meeting.

# COMPARISON OVERVIEW

BVI Company	VS	Cayman Islands Company
Offshore income is tax-free; 15% corporate tax if operating locally	<b>Tax Policy</b>	Fully tax-exempt; government can guarantee up to 20 years of tax exemption
Very high; beneficial owner information not disclosed	<b>Privacy</b>	High; shareholder information not public; constitutional documents are private
Relatively difficult; requires strong business background	<b>Bank Account Opening</b>	Relatively difficult; suitable for funds, holding structures, and structured entities
Annual licence renewal; no audit required, but simple financial reporting needed	<b>Annual Compliance</b>	Annual licence fee + Economic Substance Reporting (ESR) if applicable
Holding, trading, IP holding, family asset management	<b>Suitable Business</b>	Funds, SPVs, listing structures, trusts, large holdings
English common law; flexible and streamlined	<b>Legal System</b>	English common law; mature financial legal framework

- **BVI:** If your focus is low cost, high privacy, and simple holding structures.
- **Cayman:** If you plan for fund establishment, cross-border listing, complex structures, or need stronger international credibility.





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