

## Afghanistan Business Registration Procedures for U.S. Companies

(As of June 2009)

### *How do I register my Company in Afghanistan as a Foreign Business?*

1. A company must first be licensed and in good standing in the U.S. to be licensed as a U.S./foreign company in Afghanistan. You must also have a physical address, telephone # and contact for your office in Afghanistan. Provided this has been obtained, you may begin by having notarized a copy of your U.S. Business License, Articles of Incorporation (if incorporated) and any Powers of Attorney<sup>1</sup> and have each of these documents attested by your local County, State and Federal Government authorities in the U.S.<sup>2</sup>
2. Have any Powers of Attorney translated into Farsi (Dari) or Pashto and include along with your original U.S. attested documents (from Step 1 above) to the Consulate Section of the Embassy of Afghanistan in Washington, D.C. for attestation of the final set of documents by the Afghan Government in the U.S.<sup>3</sup>
3. Take the final set of Consulate attested documents along with your company's IRS tax ID # and a copy of U.S. passports of key Principals of the company (President, V.P.) to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul (Economic Section) for issuance of a referral letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan in Kabul.
4. Bring your U.S. Embassy referral letter together with all documents to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul (the Trade, Transit and Investment Directorate) who will then issue a final referral letter either to the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) or the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI) depending on the nature of your work.
5. If your company deals with investment-related sectors including Services, Consulting, Logistics, Transport (see [www.aisa.org.af](http://www.aisa.org.af) for full list and information), take all documents from above steps together with the license application to AISA to obtain an "Investment License". In order to obtain a "Trade" Business License (for Import/Export activities) follow all the above stated procedures except that you should go to the MoCI Business Licensing Department for final processing of your license. In some cases you will need to register in both places, depending on the nature of your company's work.

<sup>1</sup> A Power of Attorney is needed only if you are granting authority to another person (foreign or domestic) in Afghanistan to manage your daily company operations on a day-to-day basis.

<sup>2</sup> There are third-party processing companies that can manage the entire process for you and work with our Consulate to complete the necessary paperwork.

<sup>3</sup> The Consulate of Afghanistan in Washington, DC charges a fee of \$100 (money order only) for each State Department seal being attested and typically can return all documents within 48 hours to your company.



**Key Contacts for Business Licensing in Afghanistan:**

- U.S. Embassy in Kabul - Economic Section
  - Website: ([http://kabul.usembassy.gov/econ\\_section.html](http://kabul.usembassy.gov/econ_section.html))
  - Telephone: 0093 (0) 700-10-8001
  - Email: [KabulEcon@state.gov](mailto:KabulEcon@state.gov)
  - Address: Embassy of the United States – Kabul, Afghanistan
  
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Trade, Transit and Investment Directorate
  - Website: ([www.mfa.gov.af](http://www.mfa.gov.af))
  - Telephone: +93(0)20-210-0377
  - Address: Malik Azghar Road, Kabul, Afghanistan
  - Email: [contact@mfa.gov.af](mailto:contact@mfa.gov.af)
  
- Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)
  - Website: ([www.aisa.af.org](http://www.aisa.af.org))
  - Telephone: 0093(0) 20-210-3404
  - Address: Opposite Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kabul, Afghanistan
  - Email: [invest@aisa.org.af](mailto:invest@aisa.org.af)
  
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)
  - Website: ([www.commerce.gov.af](http://www.commerce.gov.af))
  - Telephone: 0093-(0)700 225 718
  - Address: Darul Aman Road, Karte Se, Kabul, Afghanistan

**For all further inquiries please contact:**

- **Consulate Section of Afghanistan (Office Hours Mon. – Fri, 9:00am – 1:00pm)**  
Address: (Georgetown Plaza) 2233 Wisconsin Ave. NW Suite # 216  
Washington, D.C 20007  
Telephone: 202-298-9125 Fax: 202-298-9127  
Website: [www.embassyofafghanistan.org](http://www.embassyofafghanistan.org)  
Services: Visas, legalization of documents, attesting, powers of attorney, etc.  
*Note: Other official Afghan Consulates are located in New York and Los Angeles.*
  
- **Embassy of Afghanistan, Washington, D.C.,**  
Economic, Trade & Investment Department  
Website: [www.afghanistanbusinessgateway.com](http://www.afghanistanbusinessgateway.com)  
Telephone: (202) 483-6410 exts. 8013 or 8029  
Email: [commerce@embassyofafghanistan.org](mailto:commerce@embassyofafghanistan.org)  
Services: All other general business inquiries nation-wide for the U.S. & Latin America