

Licensing in Macao

One of the frequent questions asked by clients when establishing business in Macao is that they are not sure of the licenses needed to undertake such business. In most of the businesses, there are no restrictions or constraints and license is not needed. However, some of the industries are required to apply for license before operations commenced. Businesses such as banks, construction companies, factories, hotels, restaurants and transportation operations, special licenses are required before the business commenced. There are difference requirements for applying different license.

Various government departments or bureau are responsible for different license applications. In the assessment and issuance process, the “Civil Procedural Code” was used as the guidance for handing the application. The table below listed the business activities which require special licenses and the respective administrative authorities for approval.

Business Sector	Activities	Responsible Government Authority
Civil Construction	Infrastructure, reconstruction, maintenance projects, etc.	Lands, Public Works and Transport Bureau
Education	All levels of educational institutions and training centers	Education and Youth Affairs Bureau
Financial Services	Banking	Macao Monetary Authority
	Insurance	
Food & Beverage	Restaurant from classes 1 to 3	Macao Government Tourist Office
	Restaurant from classes 4 and 5	Civic & Municipal Affairs Bureau
Foreign Trade	Foreign Trade Operator	Macao Economic Services
Industry	Manufacturing	Macao Economic Services
Professional Services	Accountancy	Finance Services Bureau
	Architectural	Lands, Public Works and Transport Bureau

	Medical	Health Bureau
	Legal	Lawyers' Association
Telecommunications & IT	Operator of Internet services	Bureau of Telecommunications Regulations
	Operator of satellite and cable TV	
	Telecommunications operations	
Trading (Import / Export)	Communications equipment	Macao Economic Services, Bureau of Telecommunications Regulations
	Fresh or Frozen meats and vegetables	Macao Economic Services
		Civic & Municipal Affairs Bureau
	General Products	Macao Economic Services
Pharmaceuticals	Macao Economic Services, Health Bureau	
Transportation	Cargo transportation	Macao Economic Services
	Re-exporting	
Tourism & Entertainment	Hotels	Macao Government Tourist Office
	Tourist agencies	
	Saunas, clubs, massage parlors and karaoke lounges	Macao Government Tourist Office
Civic & Municipal Affairs Bureau		
Wholesaling & Retailing	Fresh or frozen meats and vegetables	Civic & Municipal Affairs Bureau
	Pharmaceutical products, including Chinese medicine	Health Bureau
	Telecommunications equipment	Bureau of Telecommunications Regulations

If you are interest in our professional advice about the specific needs of incorporating Macao companies, please feel free to contact us.

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