

The documents required include a contract of employment, along with a letter from your employer stating reasons for your employment. Your employer must demonstrate that the company is properly incorporated and/or registered and provide copies of financial statements. You should provide a copy of your résumé to demonstrate your qualifications for the job. If your family accompanies you, marriage and birth certificates are required.

Business Registration

The HKSAR Business Registration Ordinance requires that every person carrying on a business must register with the government within one month of commencing business. A business is defined as any work, profession or activity (other than employment) carried on for the purpose of financial gain.

Foreign corporations can register a branch under this ordinance. Companies incorporated in Hong Kong must register, whether or not they actually conduct business in Hong Kong. A Business Registration Certificate must be displayed at the address where the business is carried on and may be demanded for inspection by officials. Business registration does not relieve the holder of obligations for complying with any other regulations applying to that business or profession.

Applications are submitted to the Business Registration Office, and must include copies of the HKSAR identity cards or passports of the proprietor or all of the partners. If the applicant is not a resident of the HKSAR, an agent who is a resident must be appointed. The appointment letter, along with a copy of the agent's HKSAR identity card, must accompany the application. The agent must sign the application.

Foreigners may create corporations with relatively little bureaucracy. Many Hong Kong accounting firms provide "shelf companies" that have been pre-incorporated and can be activated very quickly. So-called "overseas corporations" owned by non-residents must have an agent in the HKSAR, and there are many companies that offer secretariat services for this purpose. A company can register under the Business Registration Ordinance while the paperwork for incorporation is still pending.

Taxation

Under the Basic Law, the HKSAR maintains its own tax regime independent of the system in other parts of the People's Republic of China (PRC). The HKSAR is specifically authorized to enter into independent tax arrangements with foreign governments under the name Hong Kong, China. The Basic Law further