

SOHAR Freezone

Visa Guidelines. Version 1/2017

Introduction:

SOHAR Freezone Authority realises the need of the freezone customers to have clear understanding of Visa requirements to work and live in SOHAR. The One Stop Shop department is responsible to guide and support the processes for obtaining visas as per the applicable laws and regulations.

Purpose of this document: to outline basic general conditions and requirements for obtaining resident visas by SOHAR Freezone working companies.

Application processes:

- All visa applications are processed either electronically via (www.evisa.rop.gov.om/home) or by hand submission to the Royal Oman Police Immigration department offices available in Sohar, Liwa or any other locations across Oman.
- Application can be prepared for submission by local clearance offices widely available in Sohar area or anywhere across the country (you may contact our customer service desk to find your nearest clearance office).
- For obtaining Visas, applicant must have a valid residence ID which is activated for use in government E-Services.

General requirements and conditions by Government Authorities:

- Visa applicant must have no criminal records (a proof of this might be requested by relevant authorities in some cases).
- For all types of visas a **(except family joining visa)** a labour permit is required to be obtained first through the Ministry of manpower.
- A valid Medical certificate is required to obtain visas.
- For some technical specialised jobs an attested academic certificate is required.
- The sponsoring Freezone Company is fully responsible to ensure that visa holders are adhering to the Manpower regulations.
- Employees shall not be allowed to work outside the sponsoring Freezone Company premises without a prior approval by SOHAR Freezone Authority.

General requirements and conditions by SOHAR Freezone Authority:

- The Freezone Company sponsoring a visa must possess a valid Freezone License and a permanent representation in SOHAR Freezone.
- SOHAR Freezone Authority has the right to notify Royal Oman Police Immigration department to cancel any visa once the lease contract or the freezone license have become invalid.

Type of Visas:

1. Employment Visa:

Eligibility: for any employee who has obtained a labour permit from the Ministry of manpower

Validity: 2 years

Approximate total Fees (350 OMR)

2. Temporary Employment Visa:

Eligibility: Issued for a limited period as per a request from the sponsoring Freezone Company with an acceptable justification.

Validity: 6, 9 months and 1 year.

Approximate total Fees: visa (200 OMR)

3. Family joining Visa

Eligibility: For the wife and children (below 21 years old), brothers and sisters (below 18 years old) of an expatriate who is resident in Oman. **(No need for a labour permit from Ministry of Manpower)**

Validity: 2 years

Approximate total Fees: (30 OMR)

4. Investor resident Visa

Eligibility: is issued for an investor who has signed a direct lease agreement with SOHAR Freezone with a minimum share capital of 150, 000 OMR.

Validity: Normally 1 year and can be renewed for 2 years subject to active progression of the project.

Approximate total Fees: (350 OMR)

General rules of Visa provisions for SOHAR Freezone clients:

A) Working Visas: In general can be obtained for all nationalities but with the following restrictions,

1. Omanised positions such as drivers, security jobs, secretary and administrative jobs.

2. Certain nationalities may not be allowed to obtain working visas (as per ROP list which is being reviewed from time to time example (Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya etc.), hence a per-check is highly recommended.

B) Investor Visas:

1. Certain nationalities (subject to ROP) require security approval before PAF approval.
2. No investor Visa is allowed for GTL offices and warehouse sub-lease.

For more information and more types of visas, please send your question to customerservice@soharportandfreezone.com

You may also find more about Visa applications in Royal Oman Police website (www.rop.gov.om)