

SOHAR FREEZONE VISA GUIDELINES

Version 2/2020

Introduction:

SOHAR Freezone Authority recognises the need to provide Freezone customers with a clear understanding of the visa requirements for working at SOHAR. The One-Stop-Shop department is responsible for guiding and supporting customers through the processes for obtaining visas, as per the applicable laws and regulations.

Purpose of this document: To outline the basic general conditions and requirements for obtaining resident visas for companies in SOHAR Freezone.

Application processes:

- All visa applications are processed either electronically (via www.evisa.rop.gov.om/home) or by physically submitting the documents to the Royal Oman Police Immigration department offices situated in Suhar, Liwa or any other locations across Oman
- Applications can be prepared for submission by local clearance offices, located in Suhar or anywhere across the country (you may contact our customer service desk to find the clearance office closest to you)
- To obtain a visa, the applicant must have a valid residence ID, which must be activated to use government E-Services

General requirements and conditions of government authorities:

- The visa applicant must have no criminal record (proof might be requested by relevant authorities in some cases)
- A Labour Permit is a preliminary requirement for all types of visas (except family joining visa), which can be obtained from the Ministry of Labour
- A valid medical certificate
- An attested academic certificate for technical / specialised jobs
- The sponsoring Freezone Company is responsible to ensure that visa holders adhere to the regulations stipulated by the Ministry of Labour
- Employees shall not be allowed to work outside the premises of the sponsoring Freezone Company without prior approval by the SOHAR Freezone Authority

General requirements and conditions of the SOHAR Freezone Authority:

- The Freezone Company sponsoring a visa must possess a valid Freezone License and permanent representation at SOHAR Freezone
- The SOHAR Freezone Authority has the right to notify the Royal Oman Police Immigration Department and/or any other government authorities to cancel any visas, once the lease contract or the Freezone License has become invalid

Type of visas:

1. Employment visa:

Eligibility: For any employee who has obtained a Labour Permit from the Ministry of Labour Validity: 2 years
Approximate total fees: OMR 405.95

Visa application per person	Fees (OMR)	7.5% OSS Fee (OMR) Services	Total (OMR)
Work permit clearance	301	22.575	323.575 OMR
Entry visa	20	1.5	21.5
Medical test	30 - 40	N/A	30
Medical report attestation	5	0.375	5.375 OMR
SANAD office - documents printing	15	N/A	15
Resident card	11	N/A	11
			405.95

2. Temporary employment visa:

Eligibility: Issued for a limited period upon a request from the sponsoring Freezone Company, with an acceptable justification

Validity: 4, 6 or 9 months

Visa fees: OMR 200

Note: The temporary working clearance fees are as follows:

4 months: OMR 60

6 months: OMR 90

9 months: OMR 135

Note: Application can be done only through SANAD offices

3. Family joining visa

Eligibility: Issued for the wife and children (below 21 years), brothers or sisters (below 18 years) of an expatriate who is resident in Oman

(No Labour Permit needed from the Ministry of Labour)

Validity: 2 years

Approximate total fees: OMR 30

4. Investor visa

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

Validity: 2 years

Approximate total fees: OMR 405.95

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, secretaries and administrative jobs
2. Certain nationalities may not be allowed to obtain working visas (as per the ROP list which is being reviewed regularly, for example, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya, etc.). Hence a pre-check is highly recommended

C. Note:

1. Certain nationalities (subject to ROP) require security approval before PAF approval
2. No investor visas are allowed for GTL offices and warehouse sub-leases
3. The visa application will go through a security check/approvals as per the General Directorate of Passport & Residence (Royal Oman Police) procedures. Only after approvals will the visa be issued

For more information and details on other types of visas, please send your queries to

o customerservice@soharportandfreezone.com

You can find out more about visa applications on the Royal Oman Police website (**www.rop.gov.om**)

