

UAE FREE ZONES STIMULUS PACKAGE TRACKER [7.0]



As of August 11, 2020

In response to the UAE Government's efforts to provide relief to businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of free zones have announced major relief packages including fee waivers, rent holidays and waiver of penalties.

M/HQ has compiled – and will be updating on an ongoing basis – a "Stimulus Tracker" highlighting key incentives provided by UAE various free zones and registrars.

The Stimulus Tracker complements M/HQ's "Which Free Zone for Which Purpose" guide – [see here](#) –, a comparison of UAE's major free zones, their core focus, key features, and USPs.

These two sources will help you and/or your clients determine which free zone is most suitable for every specific business concept.

Should you require any further information regarding the options available to you, please feel free to contact us!



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| Who? | Registration and Licensing | Lease | Other incentives | Immigration |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1 Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) | <p>New applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration fee¹: 50% off on all fees associated with the registration of new ADGM companies (LLC and branches), financial, non-financial and retail licenses [for the period 03/05/2020 to 31/12/2020] <p>Existing firms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • License renewal fee²: Full waiver until 25/03/2021 (including activity and data protection fees); • Refund for licensees that renewed license [for period 25/03/2020 to 31/3/2020] <p>Supervisory fees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% waiver [for period 01/04/2020 to 31/12/2020]; • 50% Refund for fees paid [for period 25/03/2020 to 31/3/2020] • Fund fees: Full waiver until 31/12/2020; 100% Refund of Annual Fund fees paid [for period 25/03/2020 to 31/3/2020] | Deferment of rental payments / service charges for tenants at ADGM Square for 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redomiciliation Fee: 100% waiver for companies transferring from a foreign jurisdiction [for the period 03/05/2020 to 31/12/2020] • Extension of filing of annual accounts for ADGM companies and Limited Liability Partnerships. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of UAE Residence visas until 31/12/2020 applicable on visas expired from 01/03/2020, applies for both residents inside and outside country • Extension of Visitor visas until 31/12/2020, applicable on visitors inside UAE with visas expired from 01/03/2020 • Extension of Nationals' Identification Card until 31/12/2020, applicable on ID cards expired from 01/03/2020, for nationals inside and outside UAE |
| 2 Dubai Airport Free Zone Authority (DAFZA) | <p>New applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration/License fee: 100% waiver [period to be specified] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 months deferment of rental payments for all businesses operating in DAFZA [period to be specified] • Flexible installment options on case by case basis • Refund of security deposits on the leased spaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penalties/Fines: 100% waiver [period to be specified] • Refund of labour guarantees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of UAE Residence visas until 31/12/2020 applicable on visas expired from 01/03/2020, applies for both residents inside and outside country • Extension of Visitor visas until 31/12/2020, applicable on visitors inside UAE with visas expired from 01/03/2020 • Extension of Nationals' Identification Card until 31/12/2020, applicable on ID cards expired from 01/03/2020, for nationals inside and outside UAE |
| 3 Department of Economic Development (DED Dubai) | Updates to follow | Commercial licenses can be renewed without mandatory renewal of lease contracts | Updates to follow | UAE residence visas expiring 01/03/2020 onwards extended for renewable period of 3 months without additional fees upon renewal |
| 4 Dubai Development Authority (DDA) – Dubai Internet City | <p>New applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration fee: Full waiver [for period 01/04/2020 to 30/06/2020] (excluding license fees) | Updates to follow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid up Share Capital: Full waiver [for period 01/04/2020 to 30/06/2020] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of UAE Residence visas until 31/12/2020 applicable on visas expired from 01/03/2020, applies for both residents inside and outside country • Extension of Visitor visas until 31/12/2020, applicable on visitors inside UAE with visas expired from 01/03/2020 • Extension of Nationals' Identification Card until 31/12/2020, applicable on ID cards expired from 01/03/2020, for nationals inside and outside UAE |
| 5 Dubai Health Care City Authority (DHCA) | Updates to follow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 months free rent for F&B outlets in DHCA properties [period to be specified] • Up to 3 months base rent payment in DHCA properties [period to be specified] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial and clinical fees and penalties for all directly-impacted segments: up to 100% waiver [period to be specified] • Commercial and clinical licensing fees and penalties for directly-impacted segments: up to 50% off [period to be specified] • Commercial and clinical fees and penalties for other segments: up to 50% waiver [period to be specified] • Commercial and clinical licensing fees for other segments: up to 25% off [period to be specified] • Admin fees in DHCA properties: 100% waiver [period to be specified] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of UAE Residence visas until 31/12/2020 applicable on visas expired from 01/03/2020, applies for both residents inside and outside country • Extension of Visitor visas until 31/12/2020, applicable on visitors inside UAE with visas expired from 01/03/2020 • Extension of Nationals' Identification Card until 31/12/2020, applicable on ID cards expired from 01/03/2020, for nationals inside and outside UAE |
| 6 Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) | <p>Existing firms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • License renewal fee: 10% off [for period 01/04/2020 to 30/06/2020] [not incl. Data Protection and other DFSA fees] <p>New applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration fee, Domestic funds: Full waiver until 31/12/2020 • Application fee: 50% waiver until 31/12/2020; Full waiver of registration fee if application made [between period 01/04/2020 to 30/06/2020] | 3 months deferment (for leases signed with DIFC Investments Ltd located in The Gate Building, Gate District Building 2 to 5, Gate Village Buildings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11 or Gate Avenue) | <p>Existing [authorized] firms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application fee relating to Authorized Individuals: 100% waiver • Application fee for waivers and modifications: 100% waiver • Late return: 100% waiver of penalties • Listing fees for new SME issuers: 100% waiver • Extension on filing/submission returns and reports (excl. Reporting Entities) • Flexibility in meeting Authorized Individual obligations • Temporary relief from Capital Requirements for firms not holding/controlling Client Assets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the free movement of labour in and out of the Centre between other free zones |
| 7 Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) | <p>New applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total company setup fee: 80% off if shareholders are residents of JLT 50% off for non-JLT residents <p>[offer valid till 31/08/2020]</p> <p>Existing firms:</p> <p>License renewal fee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33% off on 3 years license renewal • 25% off on 2 years license renewal • 20% off on 1 year license renewal <p>[offer valid till 31/08/2020]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing firms: 2 months rent holiday for flexi desks and DMCC Business Centre tenants or monthly/quarterly instalments [offer valid till 31/08/2020] • New applicants: Option to rent a flexi desk for AED 222 [offer valid till 31/08/2020] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional license fee: 30% off • License reinstatement fee: 50% off • Dormancy fee: 50% off • Late license renewal: 100% waiver of penalties • Late Flexi-desk and DMCC Business Centre renewal [until end of 2020]: 100% waiver of penalties • Office sharing permit fee for existing firms: 100% waiver • Change of address fee when moving from a physical office to a DMCC Business Centre: 100% waiver <p>[offer valid till 31/08/2020]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of UAE Residence visas until 31/12/2020 applicable on visas expired from 01/03/2020, applies for both residents inside and outside country • Extension of Visitor visas until 31/12/2020, applicable on visitors inside UAE with visas expired from 01/03/2020 • Extension of Nationals' Identification Card until 31/12/2020, applicable on ID cards expired from 01/03/2020, for nationals inside and outside UAE |
| 8 Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority (DSO) | <p>Existing firms:</p> <p>Updates to follow</p> <p>New applicants:</p> <p>Registration / License fee: 100% waiver [for period 10/05/2020 to 30/06/2020]</p> | <p>Existing firms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewal of Tenancy Contracts / Flexi-desk / Fixed desk: Option to pay rent in up to six (6) instalments OR 5% off an annual rent – if paid on time and in one deposit <p>New applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace period on rent payments and up to 10% off on monthly rent for applications until 31/05/2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late renewal of lease: 100% waiver of penalties until 31/08/2020 • Cheque retrieval fee: 100% waiver • Bounced check fee (1st offender): 100% waiver | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of UAE Residence visas until 31/12/2020 applicable on visas expired from 01/03/2020, applies for both residents inside and outside country • Extension of Visitor visas until 31/12/2020, applicable on visitors inside UAE with visas expired from 01/03/2020 • Extension of Nationals' Identification Card until 31/12/2020, applicable on ID cards expired from 01/03/2020, for nationals inside and outside UAE |
| 9 Dubai South (DS) formerly Dubai World Central (DWC) | <p>Existing firms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • License renewal fee: 20% off [period to be specified] <p>New applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration/License fee: 100% waiver for aviation, logistics and e-commerce and Business Park licence [period to be specified] | <p>Existing firms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dubai South Business Park: 6 months deferment of lease payments on case by case basis [for period 03/05/2020 to 31/10/2020] • Dubai South Business Centre: 25% off [for period 03/05/2020 to 31/10/2020] • Flexible installment options in rental fees of up to 4 instalments <p>New applicants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% off [for period 03/05/2020 to 31/10/2020] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penalties on late renewal: 100% waiver [period to be specified] • Cancellation fees (contracts and licenses): 100% waiver [period to be specified] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of UAE Residence visas until 31/12/2020 applicable on visas expired from 01/03/2020, applies for both residents inside and outside country • Extension of Visitor visas until 31/12/2020, applicable on visitors inside UAE with visas expired from 01/03/2020 • Extension of Nationals' Identification Card until 31/12/2020, applicable on ID cards expired from 01/03/2020, for nationals inside and outside UAE |
| 10 Dubai World Trade Center Authority (DWTCA) | <p>Existing firms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • License renewal fee: 70% off on Commercial, Professional and Events Licenses and 50% off on General Trading Licenses [for period 01/04/2020 to 30/06/2020] <p>New applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration fee: 70% off on Commercial, Professional, Events and General Trading Licenses [for period 01/04/2020 to 30/06/2020] • License fee: 70% off on Commercial, Professional and Events Licenses and 50% off on General Trading Licenses [for period 01/04/2020 to 30/06/2020] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 6 months rent free period for impacted retailer tenants [period to be specified] • Up to 3 months base rent deferment for commercial tenants [for period 01/04/2020 to 30/06/2020] | <p>Existing firms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment card fee: 30% off [for period 01/04/2020 to 30/06/2020] <p>New applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment card fee: 33.5% off [for period 01/04/2020 to 30/06/2020] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visa renewal: 68% off [for period 01/04/2020 to 30/06/2020] • Extension of UAE Residence visas until 31/12/2020 applicable on visas expired from 01/03/2020, applies for both residents inside and outside country • Extension of Visitor visas until 31/12/2020, applicable on visitors inside UAE with visas expired from 01/03/2020 • Extension of Nationals' Identification Card until 31/12/2020, applicable on ID cards expired from 01/03/2020, for nationals inside and outside UAE • Visa application: Inside country application: 9% off Outside country application: 8.5% off Transfer: 55% off [for period 01/04/2020 to 30/06/2020] |
| 11 International Free Zone Authority (IFZA) | <p>New applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration/License Fee³: 20% off [for period 04/05/2020 to 15/05/2020] and; • 15% off [for period 16/5/2020 to 31/05/2020] | Updates to follow | Updates to follow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of UAE Residence visas until 31/12/2020 applicable on visas expired from 01/03/2020, applies for both residents inside and outside country • Extension of Visitor visas until 31/12/2020, applicable on visitors inside UAE with visas expired from 01/03/2020 • Extension of Nationals' Identification Card until 31/12/2020, applicable on ID cards expired from 01/03/2020, for nationals inside and outside UAE |
| 12 Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority (JAFZA) | <p>Existing firms and New applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration / License renewal and other administration fees: Between 50% to 70% off | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 months deferment of rental payments for all businesses operating in JAFZA [for period 01/04/2020 to 30/05/2020] • Flexible installment options on case by case basis | Updates to follow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of UAE Residence visas until 31/12/2020 applicable on visas expired from 01/03/2020, applies for both residents inside and outside country • Extension of Visitor visas until 31/12/2020, applicable on visitors inside UAE with visas expired from 01/03/2020 • Extension of Nationals' Identification Card until 31/12/2020, applicable on ID cards expired from 01/03/2020, for nationals inside and outside UAE |
| 13 Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • License renewal fee: 15% off on total renewal package [for renewals until 30/06/2020] | Updates to follow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late license renewal: 100% waiver of penalties • Cheque postponement fees: 100% waiver of penalties • Activity change fees: 100% waiver • Flexible installment options on case by case basis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of UAE Residence visas until 31/12/2020 applicable on visas expired from 01/03/2020, applies for both residents inside and outside country • Extension of Visitor visas until 31/12/2020, applicable on visitors inside UAE with visas expired from 01/03/2020 • Extension of Nationals' Identification Card until 31/12/2020, applicable on ID cards expired from 01/03/2020, for nationals inside and outside UAE • 100% waiver of security deposit for new visa requests |
| 14 Ras Al Khaimah International Corporate Centre (RAK ICC) | <p>New applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration fee: 50% off [for period 20/04/2020 to 30/06/2020] • Premium Package: 25% off [for period 20/04/2020 to 30/06/2020] | N/A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstatement fee: 100% waiver until 31/12/2020 • Late renewal: 100% waiver of penalties until 31/12/2020 | N/A |
| 15 Sharjah Media City Freezone (SHAMS) | <p>Existing firms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • License renewal fee: 20% off on 2 years package, 25% off on 3 years package and 35% off on 5 years package [for period 22/03/2020 to 23/04/2020] | Updates to follow | Updates to follow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visa application / renewal fee: 20% off on all visa packages [for period 22/03/2020 to 23/04/2020] • E-channel deposit: Waiver of AED 5000 for all visa packages on new licenses • Extension of UAE Residence visas until 31/12/2020 applicable on visas expired from 01/03/2020, applies for both residents inside and outside country • Extension of Visitor visas until 31/12/2020, applicable on visitors inside UAE with visas expired from 01/03/2020 • Extension of Nationals' Identification Card until 31/12/2020, applicable on ID cards expired from 01/03/2020, for nationals inside and outside UAE |
| 16 Umm Al Quwain Free Trade Zone (UAQ FTZ) | <p>Existing firms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • License renewal fee: 3 months free bonus on license validity⁴ | 3 months free bonus on lease validity for business centre registered companies renewing until 14/07/2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late license renewal: 100% waiver of penalties for 3 months until 15/07/2020 • Business Centre Packages: Upgraded with an additional visa eligibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of UAE Residence visas until 31/12/2020 applicable on visas expired from 01/03/2020, applies for both residents inside and outside country • Extension of Visitor visas until 31/12/2020, applicable on visitors inside UAE with visas expired from 01/03/2020 • Extension of Nationals' Identification Card until 31/12/2020, applicable on ID cards expired from 01/03/2020, for nationals inside and outside UAE |

1. Excluding SPVs, Foundations, Venture Capital Firms, Tech Start Ups, Accelerators and Incubators and Professional Associations
 2. Excluding SPVs and Foundations
 3. valid only for licenses with visa package
 4. Applicable only for companies registered in the business centre renewing until 14/07/2020