



REQUIREMENTS FOR A BUSINESS VISA

(This is a Permit issued to Foreigners who intend to Establish or Invest in a Business in South Africa in which they may be employed)

Foreigners who are contemplating Investing in the South African economy by establishing a business or by investing in an existing business in the country must apply for a business permit. As an applicant, you will be required to invest a prescribed financial capital contribution. The capital requirements above may be reduced or waived in respect of the following types of industries/businesses:

- Information and Communication Technology
- Clothing and Textile Manufacturing
- Chemicals and Biotechnology
- Agro Processing
- Metals and Minerals Refinement
- Automotive Manufacturing
- Tourism
- Crafts

Requirements: (all forms to be completed in black ink)

Please submit your application in the order outlined below:

- A **Printed Copy** of the '**Confirmation of Appointment**'.
- **Completed DHA-1738** signed by applicant.
- **Machine Readable Valid Passport** with minimum two (2) unused visa label pages. Passport must be valid for minimum 30 days after the intended date of departure from South Africa.
- **Non-Refundable** Application Fee (if applicable) in the form of a money order/cashier's check: **\$160.00**
- Two (2) passport photos.
- A Certified/Notarized copy bio page of your passport.

- A Certified/Notarized copy of valid Proof of Residence in the USA (Green Card/H1 B/J1/L1 etc) (Proof of Residence must be valid for duration of stay in South Africa) ***(B1/B2 USA visa holders are not eligible to apply in WDC and must apply in your Country of Residence)***.
- A Certified/Notarized Unabridged Birth Certificate.
- A pre-paid, self-addressed mailing label and envelope for the return of your passport after processing. **Prepaid Return Envelope Requirements:**
 - **Single passport:** A5-size envelope
 - **Multiple passports:** A4-size envelope

The envelope must be **sturdy (padded or cardboard-backed), suitably sized to prevent bending**, and include a **trackable prepaid courier label**. Kindly ensure that the **full return address is clearly indicated**.
- Proof of **Tentative Travel Itinerary** for round-trip air tickets. ***Do not purchase air tickets prior to obtaining your South African visa.***
- Proof of **Tentative Accommodation**.
- **Proof of Financial Means** in the form of bank statements for the last three (3) months, **stamped** by your bank **OR** in the absence of the stamp, a bank-issued verification letter for the account holder. ***Notarized statements will not be accepted.***
- **A Yellow Fever Certificate** is required for applicants traveling through *Yellow Fever Belt* areas en route to South Africa.
- **Medical Report** on prescribed form – **DHA-811**(physical). The Certificate must not be older than six (6) months at the time the applicant submits an application.
- The original **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Clearance Certificate** (full criminal background check report), together with **original Police Clearance Certificates** from each country in which the applicant has resided for a period of 12 months or longer after the age of 18 (within the past five (5) years), confirming the applicant's criminal record status or character. All certificates must not be older than six (6) months at the time of submission.

For Accompanying Spouse, include the following:

- Marriage Certificate **OR** in the case of a Foreign Spousal Relationship please provide:
 - proof of official recognition thereof issued by the authorities of the foreign country of the applicant (where applicable).
 - Divorce Decree, where applicable.

For Accompanying Children, include the following:

- A Court Order granting full or specific parental responsibilities and rights, where applicable.
- Death Certificate, in respect of late spouse, where applicable.
- Written consent from both parents and full parental responsibilities, where applicable.
- Proof of Adoption, where applicable.
- Legal Separation Order, where applicable.

In Respect of an Application by a Person who is the Spouse OR Dependent Child of the holder of a visa issued in terms of Section 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 22 of the Act, include the following:

- A certified/notarized copy of the visa holder's visa, together with an Affidavit confirming financial responsibility for the applicant.

Additional documents in respect of a Business Visa by a Foreigner who intends to establish a Business or Invest in a Business that is not yet established in the Republic:

- **A Statement or Documentation** detailing the purpose and duration of the visit.
- **Proof of Financial/Capital Contribution equivalent to R2.5million.**
- **Chartered Accountant certifying the Investment and that it is available and originated from abroad.**
- **A Business Plan** outlining the Feasibility of the Business.
- **A Certificate issued by a Chartered Accountant registered with the South African institute of chartered accountants or a professional accountant registered with the South African Institute of Professional Accountants to the effect that:**
 - at least an amount in cash to be invested in the republic as determined from time to time by the minister, after consultation with the minister of trade and industry, by notice in the gazette, is available, OR
 - at least an amount in cash and a capital contribution as determined from time to time by the minister, after consultation with the minister of trade and industry, by notice in the gazette, is available (5 million Rand)
- **Undertaking by the Applicant that at least 60% of the total staff compliment to be employed in the operations of the business shall by South African citizens or Permanent Residents employed permanently in various positions.** (provided that proof of compliance with this Undertaking shall be submitted within 12 months of issuance of the visa.

- **Undertaking to Register with the:**
 - South African Revenue Service.
 - Unemployment Insurance Fund.
 - Compensation Fund for Occupational Injuries and Diseases.
 - Companies and Intellectual Properties Commission (CPIC).
 - **Where legally required:**
 - Relevant professional body, Board or Council recognized by SAQA in Terms of Section 13(1)(i) of the National Qualifications Framework Act where applicable (*provided that upon Registration, all Certificates shall be submitted to the Director-General*).

- **A Letter of Recommendation from the Department of Trade and Industry stating:**
 - the Feasibility of the Business; and
 - the Contribution to the National interest of the Republic.

Additional supporting documents in respect of a business visa application by a foreigner who has established business or invested in an existing business in the Republic.

A Certificate issued by a Chartered Accountant registered with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants or a Professional Accountant registered with the South African Institute of Professional Accountants to the effect that a foreigner who Invests OR has Invested in an existing business shall submit:

- Financial Statement in respect of the preceding year; and
- Proof of Investment.

Processing Time:

For Long Term Visas exceeding 90 days: 4-6 Weeks.

WHERE TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

For Residents of: Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Wisconsin:

- **The South African Embassy in Washington, DC**
3051 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20008
Tel: (240) 937 5760

Email: info.saembassydc@dirco.gov.za

Website: <https://www.saembassy.org>