

Issued by Ministerial Resolution No. 186 dated 25/01/1444 AH



**Brief:** This brief is related to highlights of the provisions of The Implementing Regulations for Licensing Foreign Law Firms issued by Ministerial Resolution No.186 dated 25/01/1444 AH.

## Licensing Submission Requirements



- Having an outstanding international reputation.
- Being in business for more than **10** years from incorporation.
- Having a representation or partnership authorizing the practice of the profession in **3** or more different countries; or **5** regions within one country; of the economically developed countries.
- Having an office for the firm where there is representation or partnership, and there should be **3** or more employees engaged in work of a legal nature.
- Appointing **2** or more partners for representation in Saudi Arabia; whose stay therein should be **180** days or more, a year.
- The representative partner must be licensed according to the local or foreign regulations, and should have experience of **10** years or more, **3** years of which should be after obtaining the practice license.
- Payment of the license fees.
- The absence of a final judgment issued against the firm or the representative partner in a crime against honor or trust in any country.
- The absence of a final decision issued against the firm or the representative partner in a serious professional violation in any country.

## Requirements for submitting a license application



- Authorization for the legal representative to submit the application.
- Licensing documents for the head office and branches.
- License and experience of the representative partner and proof of his partnership.
- An acknowledgment that there is no final judgment issued against the firm or the representative partner in a crime against honor or trust in any country.
- An acknowledgment that there is no final decision issued against the firm or the representative partner in a serious professional violation in any country.
- A foreign investment license in Saudi Arabia.

## The conditions of the professional company with a practicing Saudi lawyer



- Having a Saudi partner with 7 years' experience or more.
- Having a Saudi director whether a partner or shareholder.
- Having representation for the Saudi partner or shareholder with (1/4) votes or more in the board of directors or the board of managers in the event of having a non-Saudi manager.

## Requirements after the licensing phase and before practicing the profession



### Temporary license

- Exclusive to specific and specialized projects' consultancy.
- One temporary license is granted during the year, for more, the approval of the Minister will be required.
- License conditions apply except for residence and legal form.
- Proof of a request for specific or specialized project's engagement.
- Adherence to the rules of professional conduct for lawyers and the professional ethics.
- Commitment to the scope of the license, and assigning 10% or more of the work to a licensed Saudi, and submitting a report to the Ministry at the end of the project.



### Obligations

- Compliance with the Saudization percentages.
- Having an annual work plan for knowledge transfer and training, including:  
providing **20** hours of annual training for each employee engaged in work of a legal nature; Having a policy for seconding Saudis to the head office or branches; Implementation of a program for preparing Saudi employees for technical and administrative career development; Implementation of a training program for university graduates and recent graduates; Participation in conferences, seminars and scientific and professional events in Saudi Arabia.
- Not exceeding **30%** annually of the work referred outside Saudi Arabia.
- Providing the Ministry of Justice with approved financial statements and an annual report on knowledge transfer and training, upon request.

