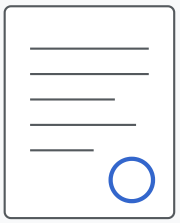
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Articles of incorporation

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Articles of incorporation



Also called	Certificate of incorporation, articles of association, charter
Filed with	Business registry
Purpose	Creates the company and sets its basic rules

Articles of incorporation are the document filed with a government registry to create a Corporation. They typically state the company's name, purpose, registered address or agent, authorised shares and the names of the incorporators.

Terminology differs between countries. In the UK, the equivalent rules are set out in the **articles of association**; for a US LLC the founding filing is the **articles of organization**.

Frequently asked questions

Are articles of incorporation the same as bylaws?

No. In the US, articles are filed with the state to create the corporation, while bylaws are internal rules that are not usually filed.

Can the articles be changed later?

Yes. In the US an amendment is filed with the state; in the UK the articles are changed by a special resolution of the shareholders.

References

1. Set up a limited company . GOV.UK. Accessed November 2026.
2. Business structures . Internal Revenue Service. Accessed November 2026.
3. Launch your business . U.S. Small Business Administration. Accessed November 2026.

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