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Company director

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In short: A director manages a company on behalf of its shareholders and is legally responsible for running it properly: keeping records, filing accounts and returns, and acting in the company's interest. Most countries let foreigners be directors; some require at least one locally resident director.

Directors are appointed by the shareholders, usually at formation and then by resolution. Their main duties, as set out for example in the UK Companies Act 2006, are to act within the company's constitution, promote its success, exercise independent judgment and reasonable care, avoid conflicts of interest and not accept benefits from third parties. In the UK a director must be at least 16, and since 2025 must verify their identity with Companies House.

Names differ: a *Geschäftsführer* manages a German GmbH, a *gérant* a French SARL, and a *member of the management board* an Estonian OÜ. Residence rules vary: Singapore requires one locally resident director, while the UK, Germany and Estonia do not. The country guides list the rule for each country; see the comparison table.

See also

- Company secretary
- Nominee director and nominee shareholder
- Comparison of company formation by country

References

1. Appoint directors and a company secretary . GOV.UK. Accessed November 2026.
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3. Companies Act 2006, section 171: General duties of directors . legislation.gov.uk. Accessed November 2026.

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